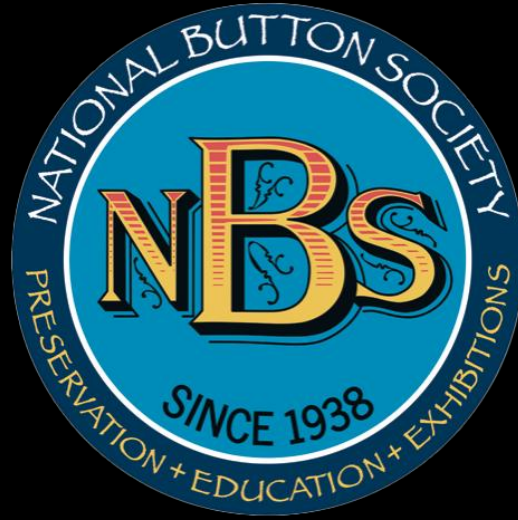


The World *of* Antique Buttons

Collecting and Enjoying Them



Brought to you by the National Button Society
nationalbuttonociety.org

182 buttons!



Militia Company of Captain Roelof Bicker, Command of Captain Roelof Bicker,
Bartholomeus van der Helst, c. 1640 - c. 1643. Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam

*“... in their collecting they represent
our ever-present **desire** to **find**
the **extraordinary** in
the commonplace.”*

Diana Epstein and Millicent Safro, authors of *Buttons*

Button origins



England



**18th century
Battersea
enamels**



**19th century
Birmingham Trade**



France



18th century

19th century
French shell and
metals



Czechoslovakia

Currently Czech Republic

20th century
vintage Czech
glass

19th century lacy glass



Italy



19th century lava
cameo



19th century
micromosaic



19th century pietra dura

Japan

**19th and 20th
century gin bari**



19th century Shakudo



**19th and 20th
century Satsuma**

United States



**Vintage Pearl
Button Cards**



**Vintage
Navajo**

Buttons teach us history

- Social and cultural
- Political
- Art
- Fashion



Social and cultural history

Courtship and
love



Social and cultural history



Loss and grieving

Social and cultural history

Status and
wealth



Social and cultural history



Sporting

Political history

United States



Send Your Sammy
A Liberty Locket Button
with your picture in

An exact duplicate of the regulation soldier's button, to be used by officers and privates alike.

This button when sewed upon the uniform, has every appearance of a regulation soldier's button, and in fact it is just that, except that the LIBERTY BUTTON is made in locket form and on the inside there is ample space for two photographs. Every mother, wife, sister and sweetheart should send her beloved soldier one of these priceless tokens of love.

For sale at Department Stores, Photo Supply Houses, Jewelers, Military Supply Stores and Druggists.

If your dealer cannot supply you, we will mail button postpaid upon receipt of 75c in postage stamps, or otherwise.

LIBERTY MANUFACTURING COMPANY,
908 WASHINGTON BUILDING, LOS ANGELES, CAL.
New York 11 Maiden Lane Chicago 29 E. Madison St.



Political history



French revolution
1789-1799

Fashion design history

Women's stomacher,
1760-1780, Italy,
V&A Museum



Fashion design history

Men's court coat and waistcoat, 1800, England, V&A Museum



Fashion design history

Women's riding coat,
1750, English, V&A Museum



Fashion design history

Men's coat,
1800, French,
V&A Museum



Fashion design history

Evening Jacket,
Jeanne Lanvin, 1936,
Paris,
V&A Museum

© National Button Society, 2024



Fashion design history

Elsa Schiaparelli,
Evening Jacket,
1937, Paris, Musée
des Arts Décoratifs



Art History

Rococo 1740-1770

Antoine Watteau, *Pilgrimage to
Cythera*, 1718-1719, Charlottenburg
Palace, Berlin



Art History

Neoclassical
period 1750-
1850

Diana and Cupid, Pompeo
Batoni, 1761, Metropolitan
Museum of Art.



© National Button Society, 2024

Art History

Gothic revival 1840-1940

Background painting: NEED TO
SOURCE



Art History

Art Nouveau
1890-1910



Art History

Art Deco 1919-1939

Modern Harlem Renaissance
Revival art by Yori Design, 1980s



© National Button Society, 2024

Buttons
depict
every
imaginable
subject



Material Close-up: Celluloid

Ivoroid

Glow Bubble



Wafers

Celluloid shield
over lithograph

Material Close-up: Pearl



**Carved shell riveted to
engraved and gilded shell
base**



**Engraved shell with metal
decoration with cut
steels**



Carved shell



Applied transfer

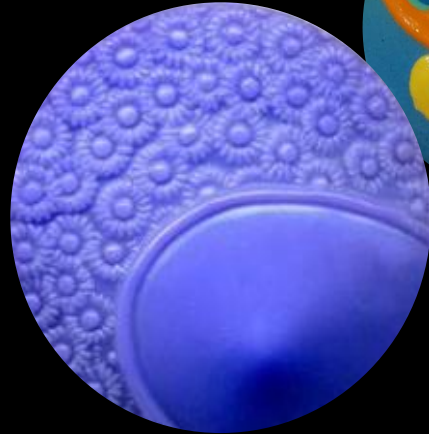


**Carved and pierced
shell with enamel**



**Pearl mounted in
metal**

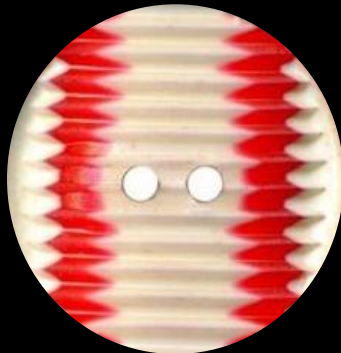
Material Close-up: Plastic



Casien



Amino resin



Polyester

Amino resin



Bakelite

Materials

Celluloid



Ceramic



China



Enamel



Fabric



Black glass



Colored glass



Glass in metal



Horn



Metal



Shell



Plastic



Vegetable ivory



Wood



Bone



Ivory



Papier-maché



Techniques & Types

Hollow body glow
bubble



Painted porcelain with 4-way back



Calico



Champlevé with
openwork



Passementerie with pearl facia and
thread back



Molded lacy-like with
blue luster



Swirl back with brass
impression inlay



Glass shield over en
cliché



Impression inlay
with pearl and
metal



Twinkle



Cameo with
glass eyes



Casein Brooks



Pierced, carved and
dyed



Laminated



Repoussé with catgut and bone back



Carved

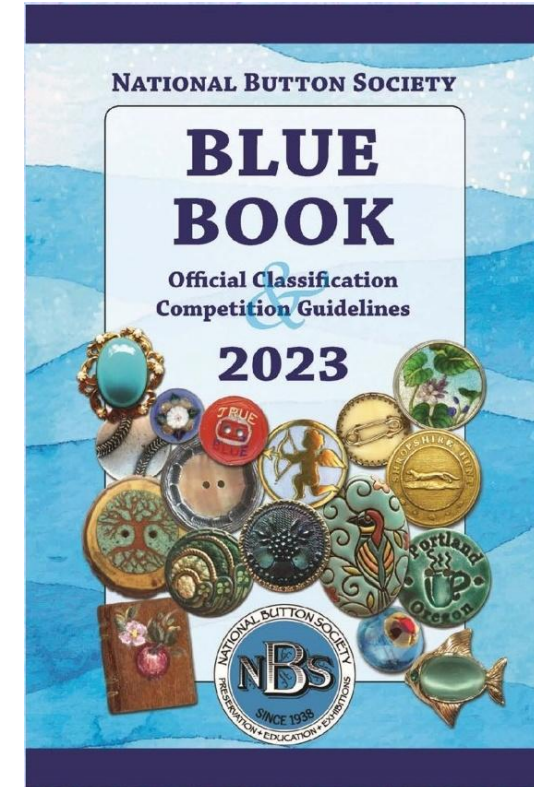


Painted



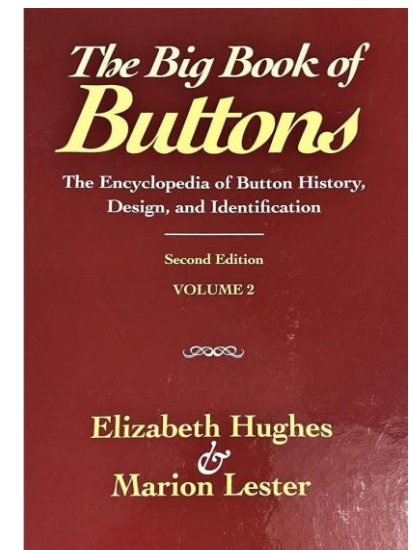
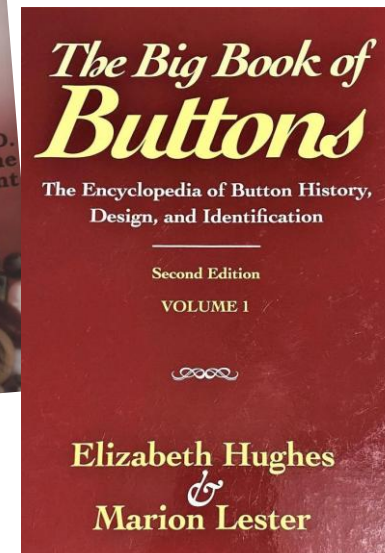
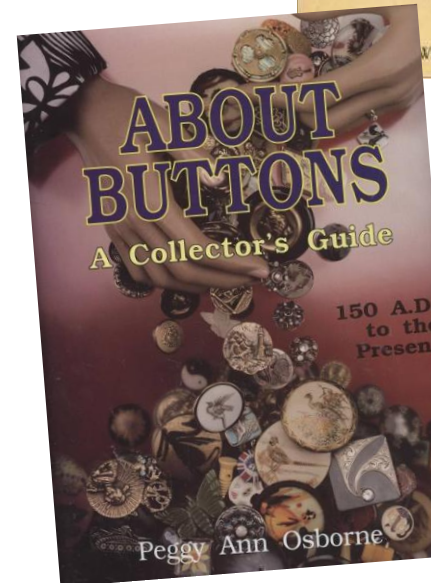
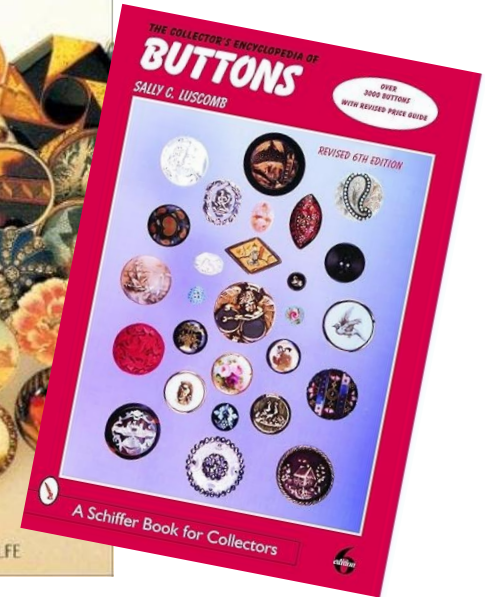
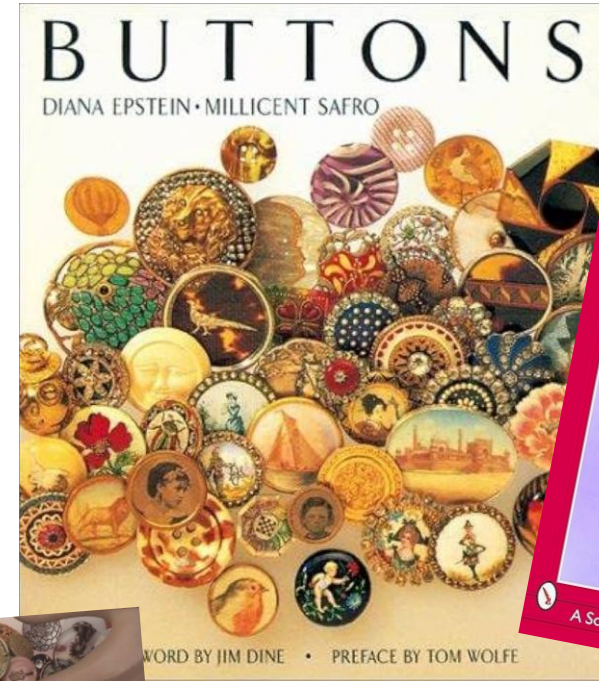
How to learn more

- Refer to the NBS Blue Book and Button Country
@ nationalbuttonociety.org
- Attend a local or national button show
@ nationalbuttonociety.org/events



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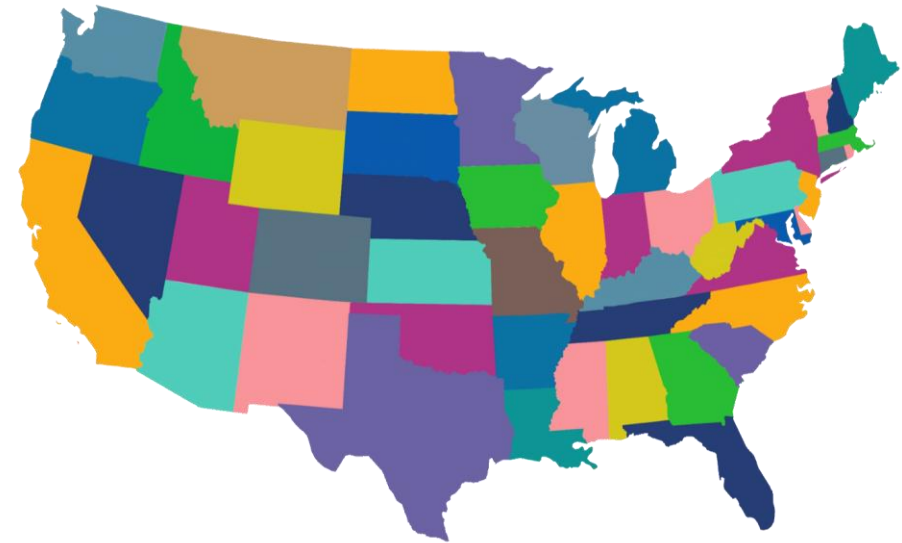
NH BUTTONS



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- Join a local button club
@ nationalbuttonociety.org/connect

There are state and local clubs in most states.



Buttons will surprise you!

