

**BORDERS ON BUTTONS #7:
MULTIPLE BORDERS**

Seventh in a Series Concerning Borders on Buttons
by Claudia Chalmers and Joy Journey

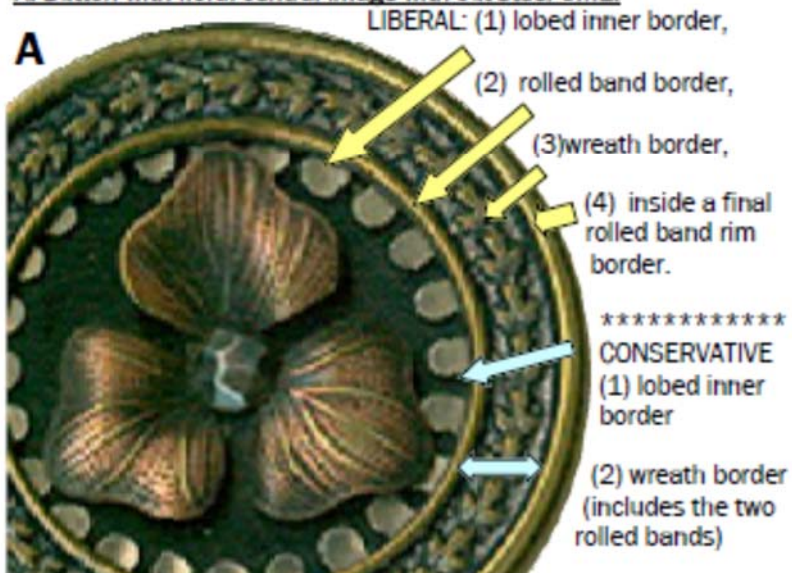
You would think that multiple borders would be easy to determine and count, but opinions vary and it is wise to consider different opinions and reach a consensus if you are considering competition. This article is written not to provide a definitive assessment of how to count multiple borders on buttons, but to stimulate discussion.

One method of counting borders would be to consider each band, rim, pattern or repeated sequence/image individually as a separate border. Another, conservative method would be to count distinct groups together as one border.

Let's consider a few buttons with borders. In the examples, borders are listed from button interior to the button edge. How many borders do you see? Discuss the possibilities with your button friends, so that you can agree on parameters if necessary prior to competing or judging.

This is a fascinating topic that can be very interesting and needs exploration and understanding by button collectors.

A. Button with floral central image with cut steel OME.



NBS defines borders as, "That portion of a button's face design which lies between the center and the outer edge. It may be any width, but it must "border" a plain or decorative center of any size or shape." Consider each element in these examples to determine how many borders exist. For discussion purposes in this article, Journey suggests that we ask ourselves if the element were extracted from the button, would it be a border in itself. If, so, then it could be counted as a border.

B. White metal button with moon, star and woman, inner image appears on a textured background.

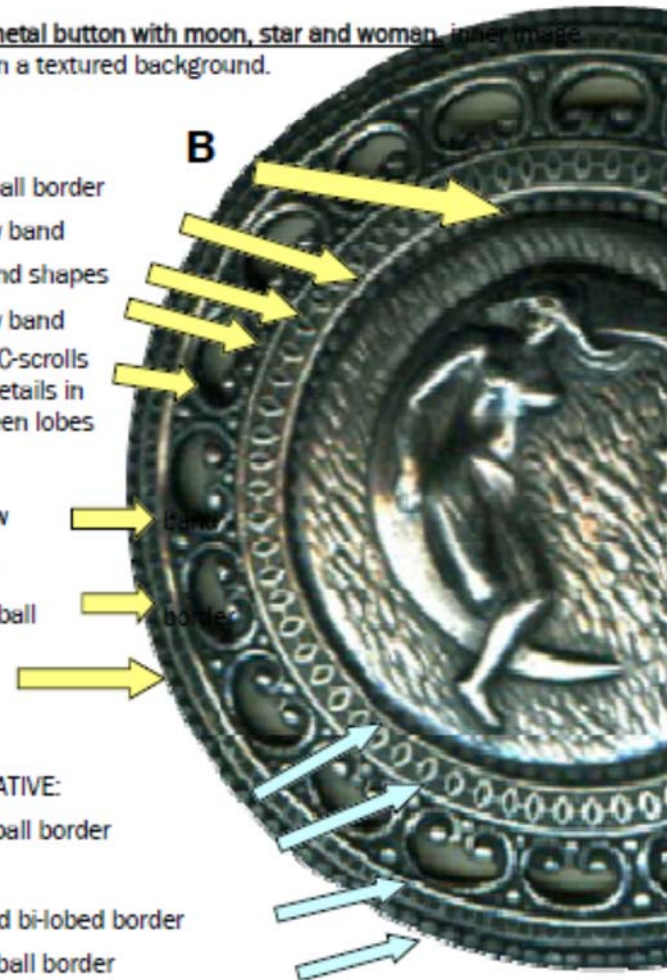
LIBERAL

- (1) inner ball border
- (2) Narrow band
- (3) Diamond shapes
- (4) Narrow band
- 5 Pierced C-scrolls with ball details in and between lobes

- (6) Narrow
- (7) Loops
- (8) Outer ball

CONSERVATIVE:

- (1) Inner ball border
- (2) Ovals
- (3) Pierced bi-lobed border
- (4) Outer ball border



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Cameo shell portrait prong set in brass.
BORDER PARTS

How many borders do you count?

- (1) Prongs
- (2) Smooth band
- (3) Border of small brass balls
- (4) Lobed border with 4-lobed centers holding cut steel OME
- (5) Rope border rim.



C

Stamped brass floral pierced button.

- (1) Rope inner border
- (2) Intricate border of conventional design Open-work.
- (3) Rope border
- (4) Rope border
- (5) Floral outer border
- (6) Rim border of stamped balls.



D

Pearl set in stamped and engraved brass.

- (1) Brass ball inner border
- (2) Engraved line
- (3) Engraved double wavy lines
- (4) Stamped chain outer border



E

Stamped brass.

- (1) Serated pierced inner border over white metal background.
- (2) Narrow band border
- (3) Outer scroll and detailed border.



F

Now, let's examine buttons with VERY SIMILAR borders.

G and H are common buttons featuring stamped white metal subject matter surrounded by multiple borders. G features a stag and H depicts an architectural subject. How many borders do YOU count on each?

From the OUTSIDE, moving towards the center, each features

- (1) a ribbon border (over a single band/rib around the button)
- (2) A pierced serated border over a white metal background
- (3) Next, a shaped original tint flat band transitions into a raised rolled band. (For H, these three borders complete the button. However, H has additional border elements.)
- (4) Our deer button contains an additional border as part of the stamped white metal element. This border contains a smooth inner band encircled with a ring of ball accents.

Do you see how complicated a discussion of borders can become? They can be a fascinating topic for any group discussion or study!



G

H

Multiple Border Buttons (clockwise from center top)

Brass Hector. A common picture button with a brass inner border in the shape of a quatrefoil around the head, inside an unusual outer border of etched steel. Large. 19th C.

Couple. Transfer on ceramic, mounted in brass with inner and outer conventional design borders. Large. 19th C.

Brass picture button of Mona Lisa. Square inner border, floral middle border, and finished with a rope border on the rim. . Large. 19th c.

Portrait of a woman with a brass inner border, abalone, white metal collet and stamped brass outer border.

Metal Filigree with many multiple borders, including molded flowers and white metal inserts. Large. 19th C.

Pierced cut steel centered upon a pearl disc with two inner engraved line borders finished with a toothed pie crust border on the pearl, set into the outer border

Rectangular small jewel (front & back). Black glass border around an inner micro-mosaic border, around a plain diamond center. Small. 19th C.

Glass set in metal - molded white glass butterfly with paint decorative finish, mounted in brass with painted inner border and smooth brass outer border. Medium. 19th C.

Lithograph of a pretty lady under glass (instead of the usual celluloid) with a bright cut pewter inner border, white metal and brass outer border.

Litho mounted in brass with pearl inner border and rolled brass outer border. Small. 19th C.

