Western Regional Button Association is pleased to share our educational articles with the button collecting community.

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BE AWARE THAT THE BORDERS CLASSIFICATION SECTION HAS BEEN RE-WRITTEN AND THESE TERMS ARE NOT NECESSARILY APPLICABLE.

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

**Stamped brass floral pierced button.**

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

**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

**Stamped brass.**

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

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!
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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.
Coupée. 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.