These terns can be confusing, so let’s start at the top!

**CAMEO**—a high relief design

**EMBOSSED**—low relief design (more like a hive rash)

**RECESSED CAMEO**—included with cameo/embossed (a tricky item)
NOT to be confused with an INTAGLIO.
INTAGLIO—design is totally in low relief, opposite of a cameo

IMPRESSED
Easily confused with intaglio is “Impressed.” At least part of the design must be flush with the surface. The rest of the design is recessed and has sharp cuts. If the button has a flat border, only, which is minimal and the design is totally below the surface, the button is a recessed cameo and belongs in the embossed category (see previous buttons).
Most of the impressed have some sort of border, but the design is made by deep cuts and a flat surface. Once in a while, the border is cut away entirely and the button looks like a cameo. The key distinction here is that the DESIGN IS FLAT.

INCISED & VICTORIANS

INCISED
Incised buttons feature a fine line design.

VICTORIAN — refers to a period design with particular decorative look, a particular body type, and usually a type of opaque glass. These buttons may have fine lines (incised) and are usually combined with embossing or cameos. (See

LACY GLASS AND IMITATION FABRIC
Many a measle has been given because a button is judged to be imitation fabric and NOT lacy, especially in Black Glass Lacy competition.

LACY GLASS — delicate designs of line designs and embossing

IMITATION FABRIC—If imitation fabric or facets are PROMINENT, no matter how delicate, the button is NOT a lacy. The button is then considered imitated fabric.
Included in molded surface designs are:

FACETED

BACK MOLDED

PAINTED BACK

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