BORDERS ON BUTTONS #4: SYMBOLS
Fourth in a Series of Articles Concerning Borders on Buttons
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22-2 Symbols
A symbol is defined as something that stands for something else—because of a relationship, association, convention, or accidental resemblance. It can be a visible sign of something invisible, i.e., the lion is a symbol of courage.

A symbol can also be an arbitrary or conventional sign used in writing or printing that relates to a particular field to represent operations, quantities, elements, relations, or qualities.

A great on-line source to research symbols by either the symbol itself or by word is www.symbols.com. It is a bit overwhelming, as under the letter "a" there are 565 different symbols!

22-2.1 Letter / Word (verbal)
Letters or words as symbols are straightforward. Keep in mind that the letters or words can be those from any language.

22-2.2 Numerical
You might think that numbers are also straightforward. A number is a symbol used in counting and measuring and any of these symbols are called numerals. We generally use the word “number” for both the abstract object and the symbol. Remember that numerals can be roman numerals, our usual numerals, or symbols of other numbering systems in the world.

22-2.3 Pictorial
This is by far the largest section of symbols on borders.

22-2.3 Pictorial SHAMROCKS:
Symbol of good luck and perpetuity, or Ireland.

SHELLS:
Symbolizing baptism. Scallop represents the Apostle James.
According to WIKIPEDIA, birds have long been a symbol of the soul. They represent the soul, flying free of the earth-bound body and seeking the heavens. The birds represent a passage between the physical world and spiritual worlds.

Following is a brief sampling of symbolism associated with birds:

- **Blackbird**: Omens, mysticism, fear, promise
- **Bluebird**: Happiness and fulfillment, color of north or east
- **Blue jay**: Power, tenacity
- **Bobwhite Quail**: Awareness, action
- **Canary**: Healing, sensitivity
- **Cardinal**: Colors of life, relationship, giving
- **Catbird**: Communication potential, new lessons, opportunity
- **Chickadee**: Sacred number is seven, truth, knowledge
- **Crow**: Intelligence, watchfulness, magical, past-life connections
- **Dove**: Peace, gentleness, purity, the Holy Spirit
- **Ducks**: Respect, graceful, comforting, protective
- **Eagle**: Strength, authority, power, the United States, imperial Rome, the god Jupiter, and was associated from the earliest antiquity with military victory
- **Falcon**: Liberty, freedom, victory (in Egyptian hieroglyphs, the falcon represents God)
- **Finch**: New experiences and encounters, summer solstice
- **Goldfinch**: Potential, expansion
- **Golden Eagle**: Messenger to the great spirit, communication
- **Goose**: Story telling, fertility and fidelity, symbol of eight and infinity
- **Great Horned Owl**: Seeing in the darkness, all knowing
- **Grosbeak**: Heals old wounds, family values, past loves significance
- **Hawk (Red-tailed)**: the Creator’s messenger
- **Hawks**: Light, loyalty, power, the sun, the heavens, primal life force, fulfillment, spring and fall equinoxes
- **Hummingbird**: Love, joy, beauty, stopper of time
- **Kestrel Falcon**: Grace, agility, mental agility
- **Kingfisher**: Halcyon days, peace and prosperity, linked to north, blue
- **Loon**: Dreams, haunting, imagination
- **Love Bird**: Shared love
- **Magpie**: Occult knowledge, doorway to new realms, willfulness
- **Meadowlark**: Cheerfulness, sublimation, inner journey, linked to moon
- **Merlin Hawk**: Visionary
- **Mourning Dove**: Mourning, the past, memories
- **Nuthatch**: Applying wisdom to natural world, grounding, ethereal
- **Oriole**: Positive energy, inner sunshine, nature spirits
- **Owl**: Silent wisdom and nocturnal vision, healing powers, magical
- **Peacock**: Vanity, wisdom and vision, ostentatious, protective and powerful
- **Pelican**: Atonement, redemption, self-sacrificing, non-competitive, buoyant, rising above trials
- **Phoenix**: Resurrection, eternity, pride
- **Pigeon**: Loyalty, bravery, love and security of home, fertility, archetypal energies
- **Raven**: Shape shifting, messenger or omen, blending human and animal
- **Robin**: Spring, new growth, territorial, color link to throat center
- **Ruff Grouse**: Natural rhythm, tranquility, peaceful order
- **Snowy Owl**: Wisdom, knowledge
- **Starling**: Sociable, communicating diversity, forceful
- **Swift**: Feminine and psychic energies, speed and agility
- **Turkey**: Spiritual connection to Earth Mother, shared blessings
- **Vulture**: Purification, never-ending vigilance, guardian of mysteries
- **White Tail Hawk**: Message bearer
- **Woodpecker**: Weather prophet, drumbeats

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**22-2.3 Pictorial BIRDS**

Oriole: Positive energy, inner sunshine, nature spirits
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22-2.4 Rebus

Our NBS classification defines a rebus as “A puzzle consisting of pictures of objects, letters, signs, etc. which when pronounced suggest a word or phrase. Keep in mind that in the BORDERS category, to qualify the rebus must appear in the border, and not the central portion of the button.

22-2.5 Unlisted (ideographs, hieroglyphics, pictographs, etc.)

Ideogram/ideograph: A character or image representing an idea or thing without expressing the pronunciation of a word or words for it. For instance, the “No Smoking” symbol, the image signifying the Men’s or Women’s bathroom, or the traffic sign symbol for “No Parking.”

Ideograms are also such graphic symbols: $, &, %, @, +, etc.

Hieroglyphics are a form of writing, as in ancient Egypt, which used pictures or symbols to represent objects, ideas or sounds.

The Greek Key design symbolized infinity and unity; many ancient Greek temples incorporated the sign of this meander. In addition, the meander (also known as the “Greek Key” symbolizes the eternal flow of things. The Greek Key is the symbol of eternal life, eternal love and eternal friendship.