BORDERS ON BUTTONS #5: CONVENTIONAL
Fifth in a Series of Articles Concerning Borders on Buttons
by Claudia Chalmers and Joy Journey

The most common borders are conventional designs. These are non-pictorial, but could be frequently classed as patterns because of the obvious repetition as the border progresses around the button.

For example, circles, domes and balls appear very frequently in borders, whether as the entire border, an inner border, or as part of a more complicated border. The balls or domes may be faceted or smooth, touching or spaced apart, or included to enhance additional elements in the border design.

ABOVE: Bakelite with blue glass and pierced brass OME.

LEFT: Watercolor on ivory under glass set in silver with a silver ball border. 1-3/8” diameter.

BELOW: Silver, foo dog with an outer border of silver ball shapes.

The Western Regional Button Association is pleased to share our educational articles with the button collecting community. This article appeared in the May 2009 WRBA newsletter, *Territorial News*. Enjoy! And consider joining WRBA! Go to www.WRBA.us
Balls, domes and circular shapes appear everywhere in borders!

CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE: (1) 18th Century pierced steel button with cut steel domes as an inner & outer border. (2) Plique a jour with brass setting and ball border. (3) Celluloid shield over a habitat and four borders: inner white metal rim, brass scallop, spaced ball border, and alternating ball and diamond border. (4) Sew through celluloid button with cut steel OME. Outer border of stamped brass domes. Inner border of six cut steels. (5) Celluloid button with domed and lozenge shaped cut steel OME. Inner border of brass domes at ends of scalloped brass and an outer border of touching domed shapes. (6) Celluloid set in brass with pierced brass border including grids of nine squares, each with a dome. (7) Cameo carved shell in pierced brass with domed cut steel OME in the border. (8) 18th Century Jasperware set in steel with domed cut steel border.

Scallops also appear frequently in borders, alone or as an element of a more complicated border.

Repeated shapes also create borders: diamonds, squares, lozenges, ovals, circles, scrolls, swirls, etc.

The many conventional border manifestations would take an entire book to classify.


Lozenges or ovals in the border.
Left: Celluloid background in brass.
Right: 18th Century Steel with Riveted cut steels
Shapes in borders.
Right: Comma shape. Celluloid perforate with basketweave gilt brass background.
Left: Heart shape. Stamped brass with pewter OME

Below Left: Celluloid background. Below Center: Celluloid background under three original tints on tinned brass. Below Right: Stamped brass.

THE BUTTON CALENDAR


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Sandhill Cranes. Shimbaya inlay in wood of coral, ebony, smokey pearl, oyster pearl, and abalone.