

# Who First Used B

There are so many different kinds of buttons, and the history of buttons is so interesting, that they are collected just like coins and stamps. Did you know there is even a National Button Society, and that it publishes a magazine?

Buttons have been made from almost every material imaginable. Just to give you an idea, here are some of them: gold, silver, steel, copper, nickel, brass, pewter, bronze, bone, horn, hoof, hair, leather, ivory, shells, cloth, glass, rubber, wood, sawdust, and even birds' feathers!

Buttons date back to the beginning of history, perhaps even 40,000 years ago. But since there are many other ways of fastening clothing, there are some places where buttons have never been used. And sometimes buttons go out of style for long periods. For example, from pre-Roman times until almost the end of the Middle Ages, buttons were not worn in Italy, Spain, France, and the neighboring countries.

In the 14th century they became popular in Europe and they have been fashionable ever since. In the 17th and 18th century, men and boys wore buttons for jewelry. Many of these buttons were works of art, and famous artists and goldsmiths made buttons for kings and their followers.

Millions upon millions of buttons have been worn by people, not to fasten clothes, but as a decoration or to mark some special event or person.

When George Washington

became the first president in 1789, patriots wore buttons to honor him. They were large metal buttons that looked like copper coins stamped with such slogans as "Long Live The President, G. W." Since that time, buttons have been used in political campaigns and by every kind of club and society.

Some of the oldest buttons known, dug up in ancient ruins, were worn in Persia more than 5,000 years ago. They were used to print signs on certain objects. The signs had an important meaning for all who saw them.

Every rich person owned a button that was different from any other. It was made of carved stone. When the button was pressed down upon wet cement or potter's clay, its design made a mark that was permanent when dry. In this way people marked their property with buttons 5,000 years ago!

## Guest at Coffee 12<sup>th</sup>

Guest of the Hutchinson Button Club at a coffee Monday morning in the home of Mrs. B. H. Moon, 613 East D, was Mrs. W. H. Neighbors. *July 1959*

## Miss Clarinda Morse

Clarinda Morse, 700 South Adams, died at her home Wednesday afternoon after an illness of