

# French Tight Buttons

## Paris Back Buttons with a Tight Grip



### French Tights

Early button collector Jane Ford Adams suggested the term "French Tight" to describe these tightly assembled French brass backmarked buttons.

Looking at this type of button and feeling it one can not help from noticing that the construction is impeccable. These stunning, two piece buttons, appear to be one piece in construction and are fun to collect.

1

#### IDENTIFY

A Paris backmark must identify the button to its French origin.

2

#### CONSTRUCTION

A very tight two-piece construction that looks like a one piece button

3

#### BEWARE OF FAKES

Cast fakes are rare but do exist. The mold seam on side is a dead giveaway.



#### AP & C<sup>ie</sup>

AP & C<sup>ie</sup> backmark with a brazed shank.



#### SOLIDAIRE AP&C PARIS

AP&C<sup>ie</sup> backmark with a cone-like hump shank.



#### TW&W PARIS BREVETE

TW&W with H & M has a brazed loop



#### INDUSTRIE PARISIENNE

INDUSTRIE with a cone-like hump shank.

## “Mighty Tights”

How tight is tight? A P & C<sup>ie</sup> examples appear to be less tight than their other French counterparts, especially the large ones.

French Tights stand alone from other buttons in their construction and is something that cannot be seen. It is a formation of two parts of the button tightly pressed together so that the two pieces of compressed material completely fills the space between the front and the back. This may indicate that a fluid-like substance was used as the compression of the two pieces took place.

Compressed materials in French Tights appear to be, plaster, gesso (plaster & glue mixture), paper maché (pulp & glue) or card-stock in combination with glue that hardened after the button was pressed together.

Obviously, some of the filler would be squeezed into the sewing hole during compression.



Hence, the cone-like humped shanks were drilled or punched through after it set up.

## “Unique Features”

French Tights can be found with other material embellishments. These added materials took place after the button was tightly affixed to its front or back facing counterpart. Cut steel rivets and escutcheons, pass completely through the body of the button from front to back. The detail on these gems is impeccable. Added embellishments are rather rare.

A circular button with a detailed embossed design of a cherub-like figure holding a bow and arrow, surrounded by foliage.

### DATING FRENCH TIGHT BUTTONS

The various backmarks help determine the time period in which French Tights date. According to the National Button Society Blue Book, 2019 - 2022, “French Tights made in the late 19th century, appear to be one piece but are actually very tight two piece construction. They may have a brazed ring shank, cone shank or occasionally sew-thru. All have French back marks.”

Trelon, Weldon & Weill and after they joined by Hartog, Marchand & Cie (TW&H with H M on sides) date from 1865 -1902. Albert Parent & Co. (AP&C<sup>ie</sup>) date from 1894 -1912.