

Virtual Museum of Celluloid House Yokohama

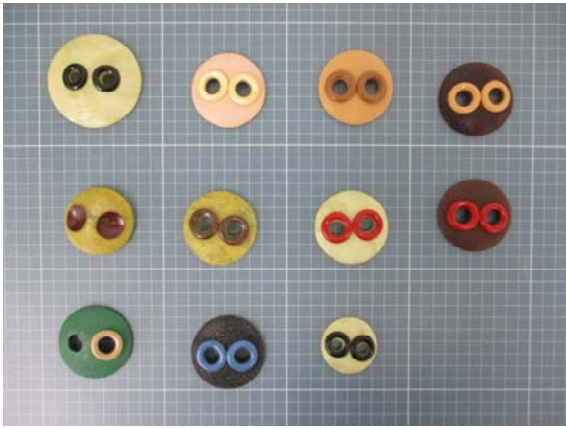


Celluloid House Yokohama Collection Introduction Series 2

Introduction to Iwai Button Collection (2/3)

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(Continued from the previous report dated April 2025)

- A. Celluloid button
- a-1. Component: "Celluloid only"

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| Front hole buttons: Face button, Bowl shape | |
| Front hole – Face button (raccoon hole) 13 pieces – Tray 30, 23 (partial) – Front and back sides | Bowl type 71 pieces – Tray21.32.33 |
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|  |  |

Front hole Bottom with flat bottom + surface pattern: some have a luster like natural material (rock or wood)
 146 pieces – Tray 26, 27, 28, 29, 23 (partial)








Front hole Button flat curved bottom + surface pattern 71 pieces – Tray31,32,33





a-2. Components: "Celluloid + Backed metal":

In case of the button made of **celluloid + back metal**, since the strength to maintain the button hole is secured by the back metal, the celluloid part can be thinner. The thin bulged form, called as bubble, creates a unique luster by a coloring.

| | |
|--|--|
| * Back metal is a metal structure that forms the buttonholes on the back side of the button and supports the overall shape of the button. | |
| Back metal (front side) | Back metal (back side) which the celluloid cover will put on. |
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|---|---|---|
| <p>* Structure of "celluloid + back metal button": the following structure can be observed by disassembling the broken button:</p> <p>The components of this button is celluloid surface cover + fluff / felt + back metal. It is judged that the celluloid surface is attached to the backing metal by a caulking works using the thermoplastic properties of celluloid. (Heat and compress – no adhesive is used)</p> | | |
|  |  |  |

| | |
|---|--|
| *As reference, following is a comparison between 2 buttons, that have a same shape but with different Components. Shape: Bulged shape. Components: "Celluloid only" and "Celluloid + Backing metal" | |
| <p>Components: Celluloid only</p> <p>To maintain the functionality of the buttons, both the celluloid top(cover) and celluloid bottoms need to be thick. Lightweight and cute like a toy as celluloid products.</p> |  |
| <p>Components: Celluloid and Backing metal</p> <p>The metal backing ensures the strength of button, then the celluloid part as "exterior protection + decoration", can be thinner and have a bubble-like bulge shape that creates a sense of luxury with an unique luster.</p> |  |

Bubble patterns buttons 63pieces- Tray 17, 18, 22 (partial), 23 (partial)



Center pattern buttons (no bubbles) 83 surfaces - Tray12,13 (partial)

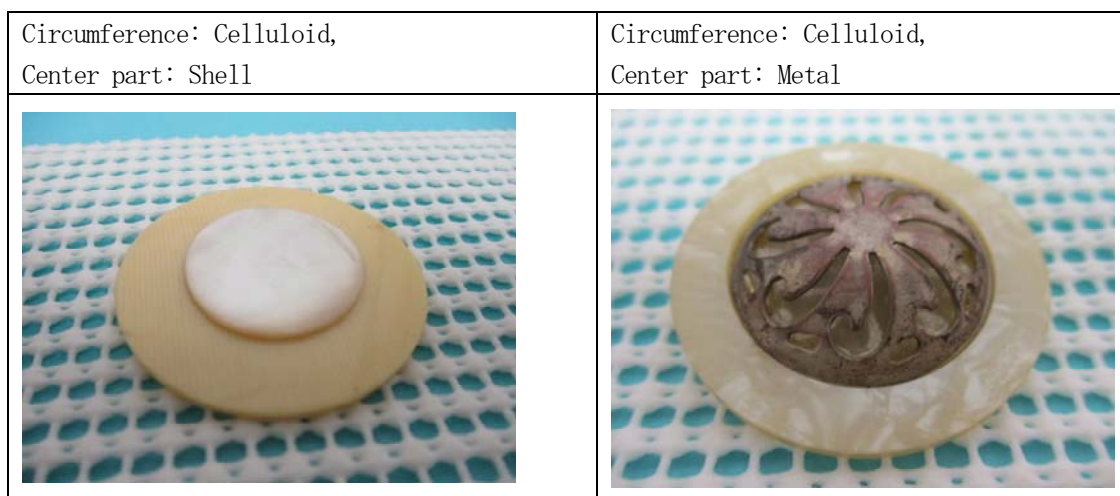


a-3. Components: "Metal structure + celluloid decoration" 42 pieces - Tray20, 21, 24 (partial)

The functional properties of the button are ensured by metal, that's why **celluloid is used as decoration**.
When used with decorative stones, the button has a jewel-like taste.



a-4. Components: "Celluloid + other materials (including natural materials)" 10 pieces
Tray25, 24 (partial)



(To be continued to the series No.3/3)

Currently, the Celluloid House Yokohama does not have a permanent exhibition of its collection, but the Button Collection can be viewed as an exception.

In addition, we welcome the exchange of information and joint research with button professionals, clothing professionals, related collectors, and the others who are interested in this theme, and we invite you to contact us by e-mail at the following address: celluloidhouse@aol.com