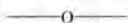


general officer, applied on dark blue enamel. No. 2, the insignia of the Hospital Corps, outlined Maltese cross of white enamel applied to dark blue enamel field, with brass rim. No. 3 has a rimmed background of transparent enamel over crimson foil. Device is gilt with arms of cross originally white enamel. Inscription within ring reads, "Premio La Constancia Militar." Identification uncertain. No. 4 carries silvered device of the Army Telegraph Corps against dark blue enameled field. No. 5 is like No. 2 except for its unique convex background of exposed black velvet. No. 6, a distinctive all-gilt Naval subject. No. 7, also gilt, represents the Dep't of Military Justice. No. 8 is an officer of the General Staff, gilt on dark blue enamel. The bottom row shows typical numbered buttons, all gilt except the silvered "4." All back imprints indicate French make except 9 and 12, which are blank.



AUTHOR TO SAIL

Mrs. Grace Horney Ford, author of *The Button Collector's History* sails soon for Germany. She will join her husband, Brigadier General E. L. Ford who is now stationed in Germany for two or more years. Their daughter, Mrs. James R. Brown will continue the sale of her mother's book. Mrs. Ford has left with us an 18th century coat, Dutch silver buttons, a choice set of old Satsumas, and other items for JUST BUTTONS FAIR.

CALICOES

Mr. Charles Cartlige & Mr. Ferguson selected Greenpoint, Long Island, New York as a favorable place and erected a small plant which was opened in 1848, where the manufacture of porcelain buttons was commenced, to take the place of the more expensive pearl buttons which were then being sold extensively. The process adopted by the firm was that which had been invented about eight years before by Richard Prosser in England, which consisted in pressing dampened dust in dies by means of machinery, thus molding the forms which were to be fired in the kiln.

At first nothing but plain white buttons were attempted. In a private letter written by Mr. Cartlige, under date of July 21, 1848, he refers to the first experiment in the decoration of these goods. "We have a supply of ornamental buttons out of the enameling kiln this morning," he wrote, "and among the rest about one hundred different patterns. The cheapness and facility of the decoration surpasses our expectations and I am in good hope of turning some of them to favorable account, more so than if sold in white." This statement appears to fix definitely the time of the first appearance of this class of ceramic productions in this country.

With this article is an illustration of two Calico Buttons of well known patterns, one is the star, other crossbar with dot, each have 4 holes. Contributed by Mrs. Violet Masters.