



**BUTTONS OF TRADITION:
A JOURNEY THROUGH HISTORY**
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Students in Apparel II categorized an international button collection for a museum exhibition entitled "Thread of Tradition- Textiles Around the World." The objective of this assignment was two-fold in that the students were to (1) identify and organize buttons and (2) create a display in which to highlight these buttons in the university museum.

The class profile included a mix of Education, Fashion Merchandising, and Apparel Design Majors, providing a variety of ideas as to the evaluation and display of these buttons. Internet resources and button books helped to divide this project into actual button identification, date or historical significance of the button, logical methods of button categorization, button cleaning and storage, and button mounting and display techniques.

Since some students expressed greater interest than others in the actual identification process, each student was given a minimum number of buttons to identify and a button identification work sheet to complete.

The final display represented input from all the students. Since there was no budget available, the students were asked to be creative and thrifty. Included in the display was a draped mannequin with black glass buttons, interactive games using buttons, button dolls, restored but-tons, pictures of historical garments with appropriate buttons, and expressions throughout history that highlighted the significance of the button.

This one-time experience provided the opportunity for the students to see the result of their hard work displayed to the public with the realization of what was necessary to get the product to the finished stage.