

ASK MARK PARKER
Western & Eastern Treasures
P.O. Box 219, San Anselmo, CA 94979

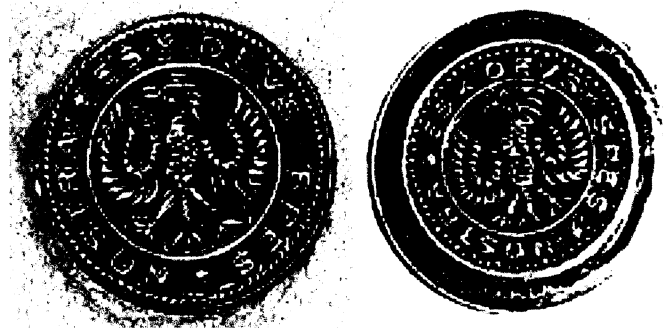
July 27, 2009

Chris Jolin
7890 SE Freeway Farms Dr.
Holt, MO 64048

Dear Chris,

The three-legged bird button that you found is a modern (20th century) civilian fashion button, often described as a "blazer button." The motto *Spes Nostra Es Deus* is Latin and means, "God is our hope" or "Our hope is in God." Unfortunately, some years ago the author of a magazine article mistakenly attributed these as Hessian military buttons from the Revolutionary War. Nothing could be farther from the truth. In fact, Hessian troops serving in the Revolutionary War wore plain-faced, one-piece, solid brass or tombac buttons. Some time later, the following information was posted on TreasureNet.com:

- I can find no evidence that buttons of this design were in use during the Revolutionary War. Despite the fact that they have repeatedly been found, no such button appears either in Don Troiani's book *Military Buttons of the American Revolution*, or in the definitive earlier work, Calver & Bolton's *History Written with Pick and Shovel*.
- All of the examples I've seen are two-piece buttons (some with the tinned back rusted out or missing) of a type not in use during the Revolutionary War.
- These buttons are readily obtainable at low prices today— unlike any authentic Revolutionary War buttons that I'm aware of. A lot of 50 is currently offered for \$5 + \$3 shipping on RubyLane.com.
- Buttons of the same design are available in 25 different finishes, as "fashion buttons" by the Waterbury Button Company. (Note: they are *not* described as reproductions of historical buttons.) Here are two examples:



Sorry, but so far I've been unable to locate any listings for the "M & M" item that you found.

Until next time, as always, all the best from all of us at *W&ET*...

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Mark'.

Mark Parker