

18th Century Material Culture Shirts



Shirt Definitions

In order to categorize the shirts illustrated in this slideshow, the 18th Century Material Culture Resource Center has taken some poetic liberty and named the shirts according to the style of their collars. Note that these definitions are not necessarily period definitions.

“Stand - Up” Collar Shirts are shirts that have a collar that does not fold down, or shirts that are closed by a button that is so close to the top of the collar that it appears it would either not fold down or barely fold down if it did. These shirts were worn as is, or with a neck cloth or stock which would cover them entirely.

“Fold - Down” Collar Shirts are shirts that have a collar that folds down. They were worn as is, or with a neck cloth or stock that could either cover them entirely or be worn under the fold of the collar itself.

Button Closure
Stand-Up Collar
Shirts



English Shirt with Stand Up Collar Closed by Two Buttons
John Smith the Engraver by Sir Godfrey Kneller 1695
(Tate)



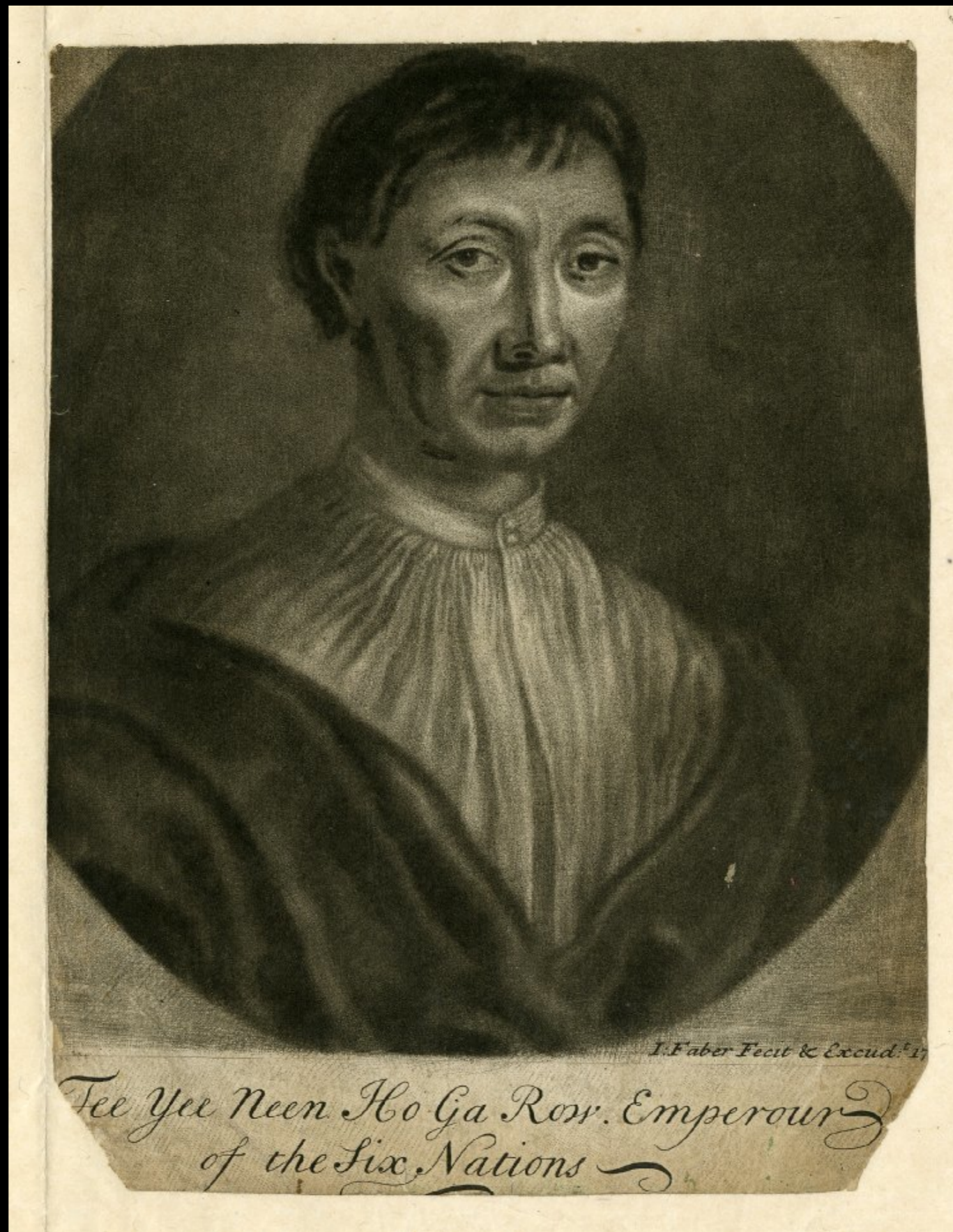
English Shirt with Stand Up Collar Closed by Three Buttons
Johannes Smith by John Smith after Sir Godfrey Kneller 11716
(British Museum)



English Linen Shirt with Stand Up Collar Closed with Three Thread Buttons

c. 1700 - 1720

(Victoria & Albert)



English or American Shirt with Stand - Up Collar Closed by Two Buttons
“Tee Yee Neen Ho Ga Row. Emperour of the Six Nations” by John Faber the Elder, Published by John King 1710
(British Museum)



*On Nee Yeath Tow no Riow. King of
Granajah Hore vulgo King John
Sold by J. Faber near y^e Savoy & J. King in the Poultry. Londⁿ.*

English or American Shirt with Stand - Up Collar Closed by Two Buttons

“On Nee Yeath Tow no Riow. King of Granajah Hore vulgo King John” by John Faber the Elder, Published by John King 1710
(British Museum)



Done from y^e Life by J. Faber

*Sa Ga Yean Qua Rash Tow. King of
y^e Maquas. alias King Brant.*

Sold by J. Faber near y^e Savoy . & J. King in y^e Poultry. Lond^{on} 1710.

English or American Shirt with Stand - Up Collar Closed by Two Buttons

“Sa Ga Yean Qua Rash Tow. King of ye Maquas. alias King Brant” by John Faber the Elder, Published by John King 1710
(British Museum)



English Linen Doll's Shirt with Stand Up Collar Closed with Two Buttons

c. 1700 - 1720

(Victoria & Albert)



*American Linen Shirt with Stand Up Collar Closed with Buttons
c. 1780 - 1800
(Five Colleges and Historic Deerfield Museum Consortium)*



English Shirt with Stand Up Collar Closed by Two Buttons
"Mr POPE" published by Samuel Symson c. 1700 - 1751
(British Museum)



English Shirt with Stand Up Collar Closed with Buttons
Commodore, the Honourable William Kerr by Michael Dahl I c. 1706
(National Maritime Museum)



Dutch Shirt with Stand Up Collar Closed by Two Buttons
Self Portrait by Jan van Huysum (1682 - 1749) c. 1720
(Sotheby's)



Dum *lectura* *et* *scriptura* *solamina* *Dentibus* *affert*
Illorum *in* *tuto* *sunt* *deor* *atque* *salus*.
Invidiam *optinas* *igitur*, *FAUCHARDE*, *orientor*
Dentor; *nam* *virtus* *frangere* *non* *est*.

J. Le Bel pinxit

A. B. Goussier del.

Svenska
Tandläkare Sällskapet (Jnr 1946)

LE CHIRURGIEN

DENTISTE.

o v

TRAITE' DES DENTS.

OU L'ON ENSEIGNE LES MOYENS
de les entretenir propres & saines, de les
embellir, d'en réparer la perte & de re-
medier à leurs maladies, à celles des Gen-
cives & aux accidens qui peuvent survenir
aux autres parties voisines des Dents.

Avec des Observations & des Reflexions sur
plusieurs cas singuliers.

*Ouvrage enrichi de quarante Planches
en taille douce.*

Par PIERRE FAUCHARD, Chirurgien
Dentiste à Paris.

TOME PREMIER.

A PARIS,

Chez JEAN MARIETTE, rue Saint Jacques;
aux Colonnes d'Hercule.

M. DCCXXVIII.

Avec Approbations & Privilège du Roy.

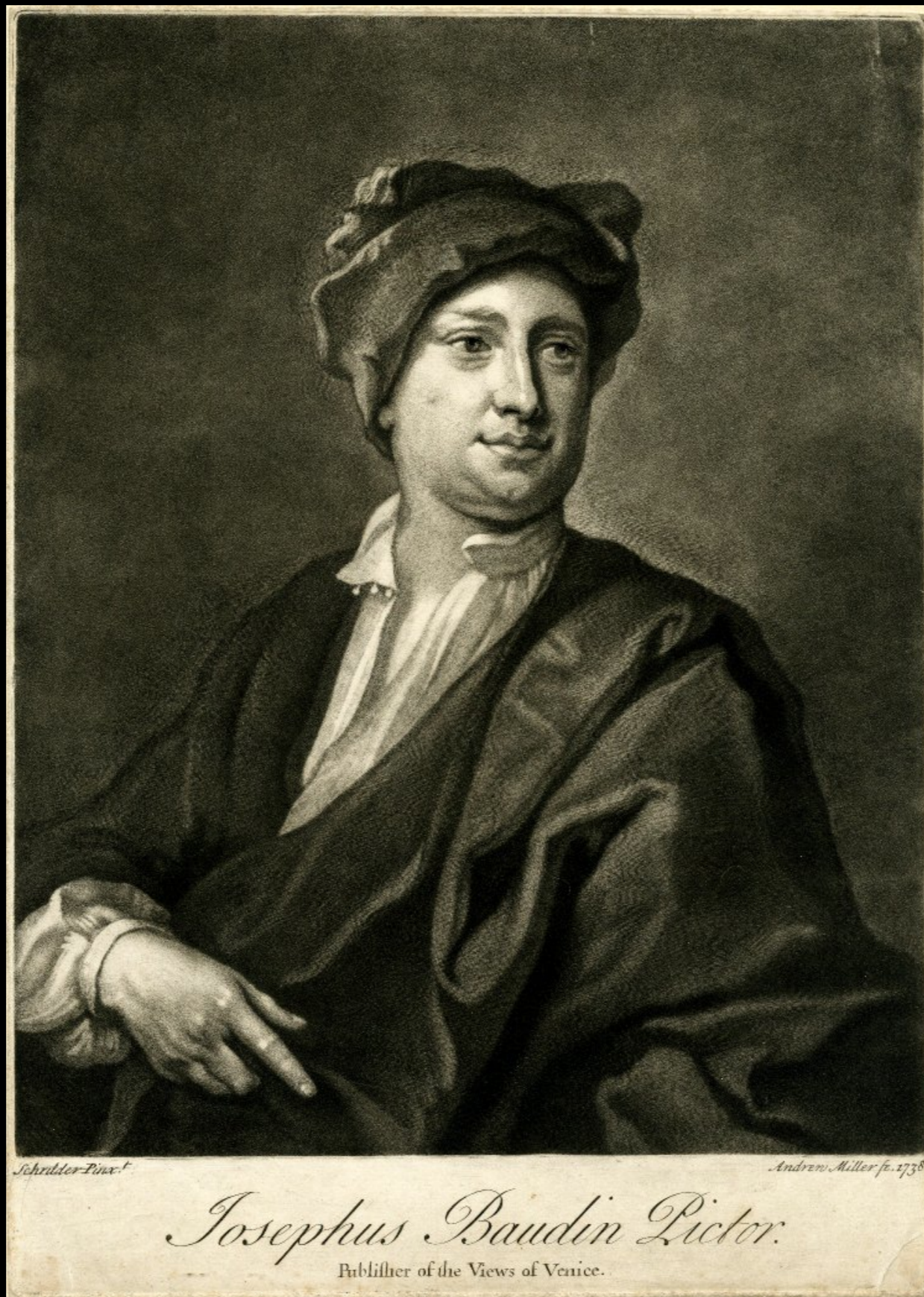
French Shirt with Stand Up Collar Closed by Two Buttons
"Le Chirurgien Dentiste" by Pierre Fauchard 1728
(The Hagstromer Medical Library)



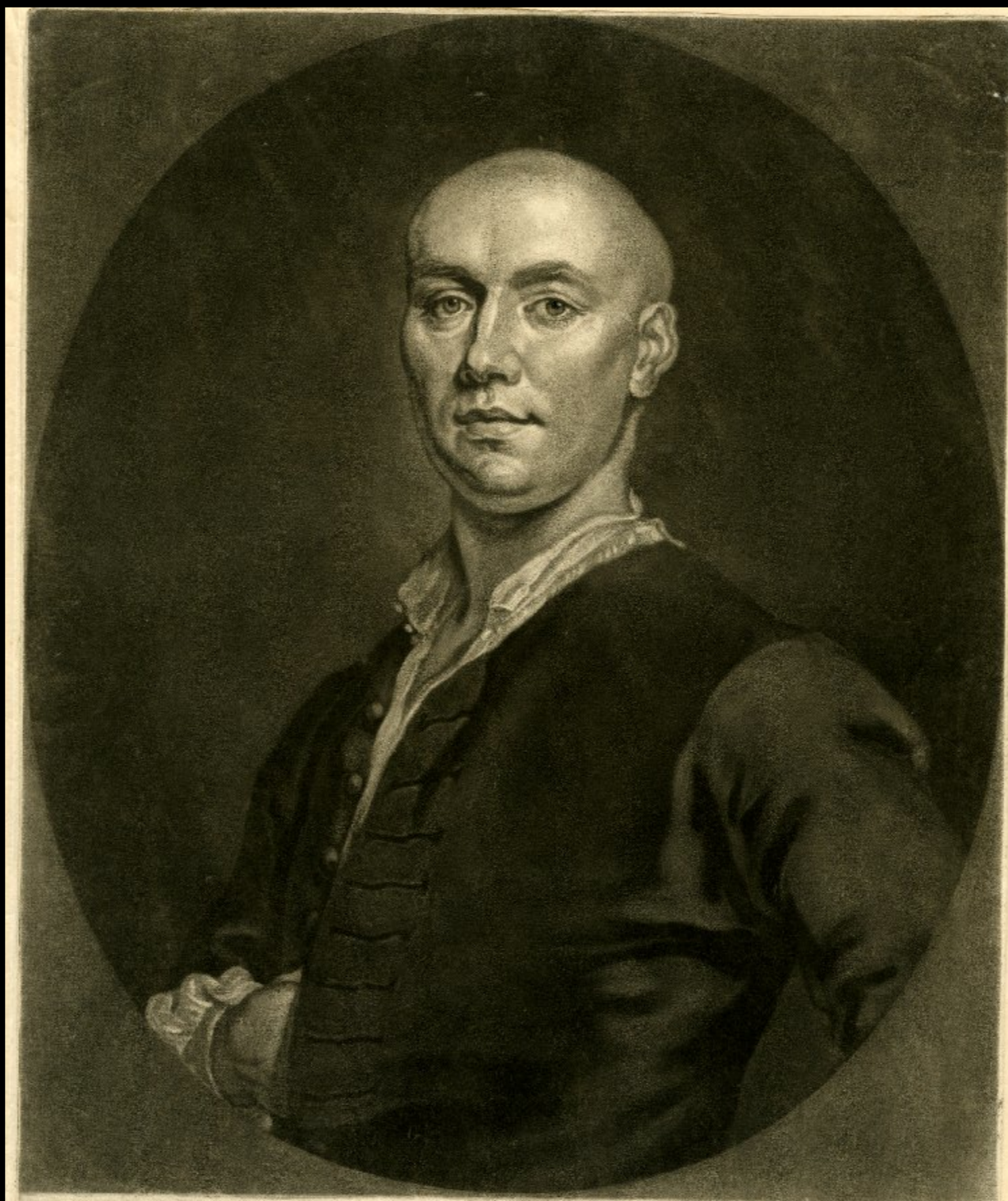
Dutch Shirt with Stand Up Collar Closed by a Singular Button
“Old Peasant Holding a Jug” by Frans van Mieris the Younger c. 1731
(The Hermitage)



English Shirt with Stand Up Collar Closed by Two Buttons
John Dormer, Esqr. of the Kitcat Club by John Faber the Younger after Sir Godfrey Kneller 1733
(British Museum)



German Shirt with Stand Up Collar Closed by Three Buttons
Josephus Baudin Pictor by Andrew Miller after Johann Heinrich Schroder 1738
(British Museum)



Broughton.

*Athletic Heroes Ancient Pindar Sung,
And to their Praise his Lyre Immortal Strung.
Oh! could the Bard, transplanted to our Isle,
Revive; & view our British Champion's Toil,
How would he at his Puny Grecians Smile,
Oh! might he, might he, but thy Prowess see,
He'd own his Pollux a Poltroon to Thee.*

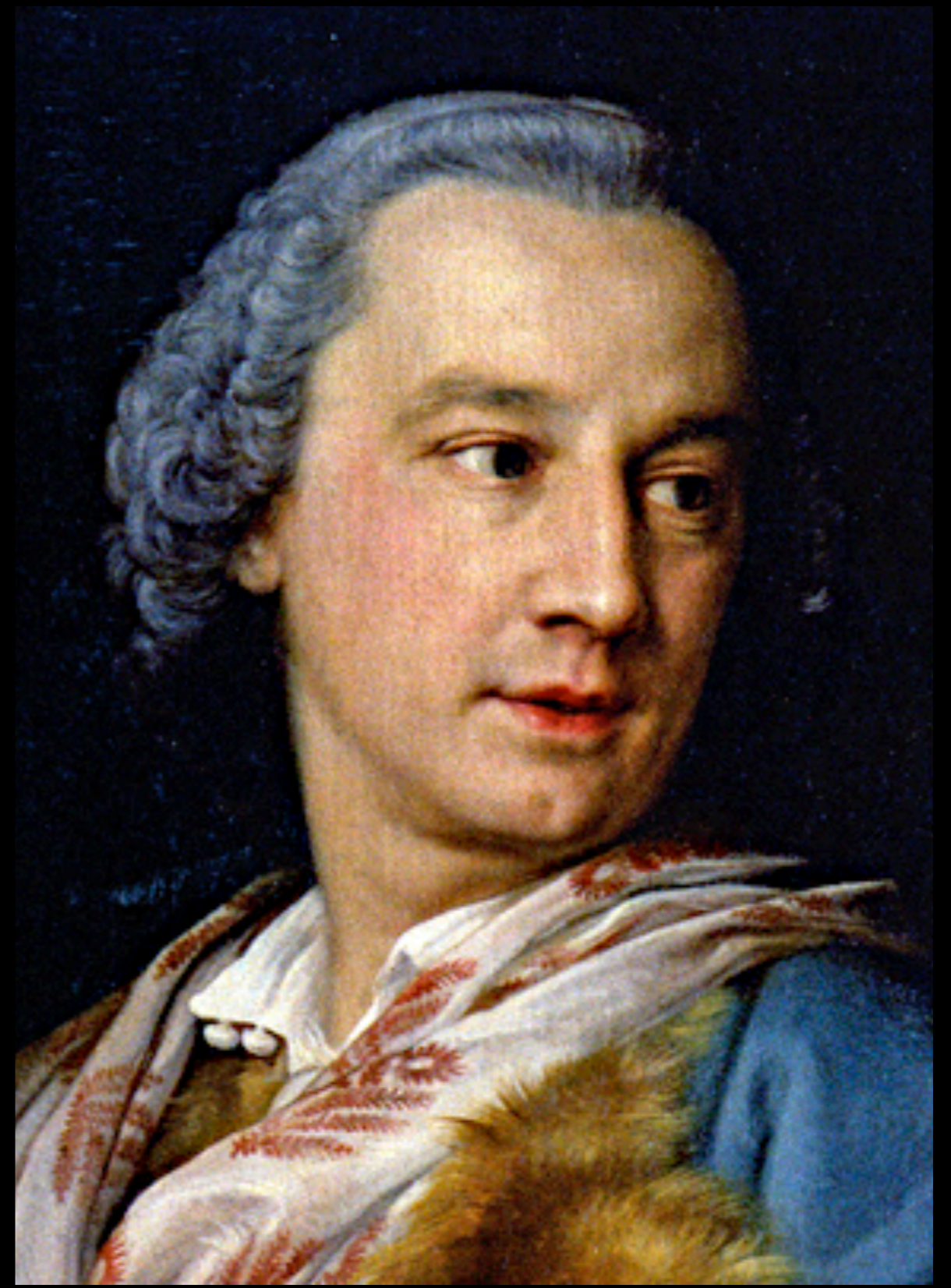
English Shirt with Stand Up Collar Closed by Two Buttons
John Broughton by Anonymous c. 1700 - 1750
(British Museum)



Dutch Shirt with Stand Up Collar Closed by a Singular Button
A Young Man Seated at a Table by Arnold Boonen c. 1740
(Private Collection)



Shirt with Shoulder Bands and Stand Up Collar Closed by Two Buttons
"The Potter Family" by an Anonymous American Artist c. 1742
(The Newport Historical Society)



Italian Shirt with Stand - Up Collar Closed with Two Buttons
Francesco Benaglio by Pompeo Batoni 1757
(Museo Diocesano di Arte Sacra)



American Stand - Up Collar Closed by Two Buttons
Samson Occum by Nathaniel Smibert c. 1751 - 1756
(J. Paul Getty Museum)



German Stand Up Collar Closed by a Single Button or Ribbon
William Burton Conyngham by Anton Raphael Mengs c. 1754 - 1755
(J Paul Getty Museum)



Scottish Shirt with Stand - Up Collar Closed (or very short Fold - Down Collar) with Two Buttons
Self Portrait by David Martin c. 1760
(National Gallery of Scotland)



French Shirt with Stand - Up Collar Closed by Two Buttons
Louis-Francois Roubiliac Modelling by Adrien Carpentiers 1761
(Yale Center for British Art)



French Shirt with Stand - Up Collar Closed by Two Buttons
Denis Diderot by Louis - Michel Vanloo 1767
(Victoria & Albert)



Shirt with Stand - Up Collar Closed by Three Buttons
Joseph Green by John Singleton Copley c. 1769
(Museum of Fine Arts, Boston)



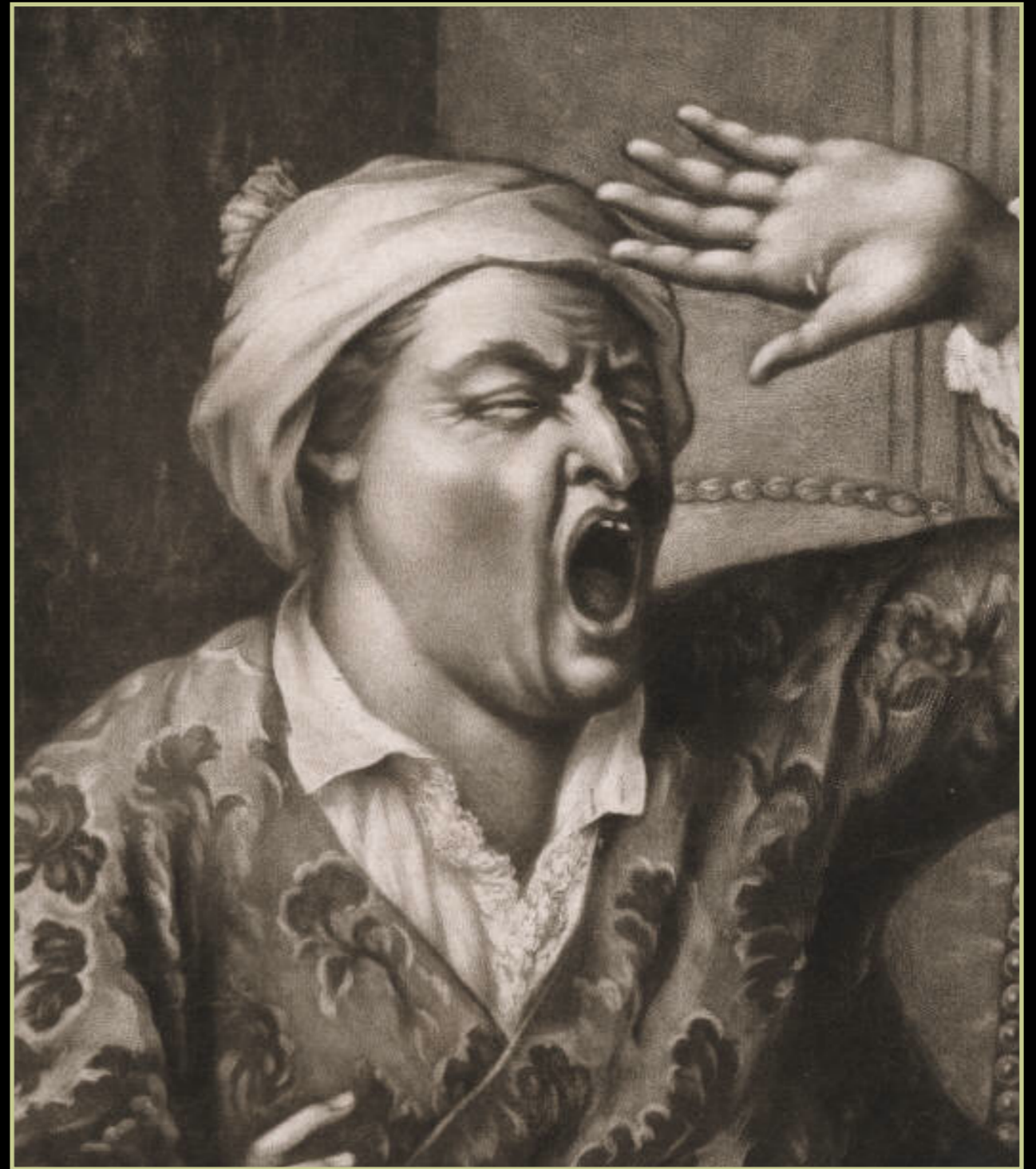
American Shirt with Stand - Up Collar Closed by Two Buttons
Paul Revere by John Singleton Copley c. 1768 - 1770
(Museum of Fine Arts, Boston)



English Shirts with Fold - Down and Stand - Up Collars Closed by Double and Single Buttons
"Human Passions " (Tooth Pulling) by John Collier a.k.a. "Tim Bobbin" c. 1770
(Rochdale Arts & Heritage Service)



English Shirt with Stand - Up Collar Closed by a Singular Button
"THE PIPING BOY" by Captain William Baillie after Nathaniel Hone 1771
(The British Museum)



English Shirt with Bosom Ruffle and Stand - Up Collar Closed by Two Buttons
"HE! HO! HEAVY, DULL and INSPIRED by all that's good" by Carrington Bowles 1772
(Lewis Walpole Library)



Published as the Act

Old Nanny



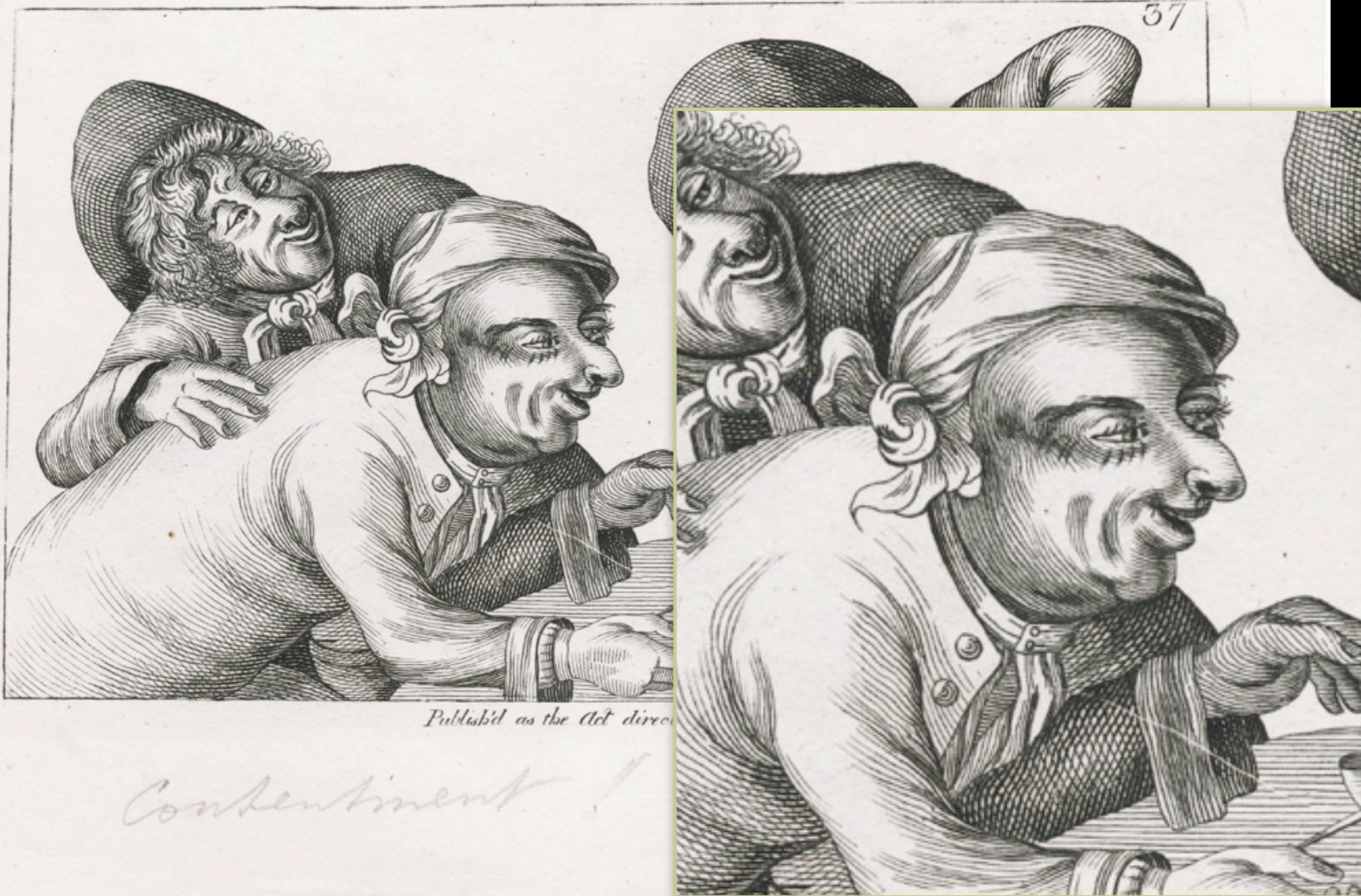
Shirt with Stand Up Collar Closed by Two Buttons
"The Human Passions" by Timo(thy) Bobbin: Printed and published by John Heywood, Manchester, 1773
(Lewis Walpole Library)



Fighting for



Shirt with Stand Up Collar Closed by Two Buttons
 "The Human Passions" by Timo(thy) Bobbin: Printed and published by John Heywood, Manchester, 1773
 (Lewis Walpole Library)



Shirt with Stand Up Collar Closed by Two Buttons

“The Human Passions” by Timo(thy) Bobbin: Printed and published by John Heywood, Manchester, 1773

(Lewis Walpole Library)



English Shirt with Stand - Up Collar Closed by Two Buttons
John Methuen, Esq. by William Humphrey 1774
(The British Museum)



English Shirt with Bosom and Cuff Ruffles and Stand - Up Collar Closed by Three Buttons
Self Portrait by Lt. Gabriel Bay, Royal Navy 1775
(National Maritime Museum)



"Vorhemd" or Shirt Front with Stand - Up Collar
(Deutsches Historisches Museum)



INV 21824

Armémuseum

Linen Shirt - Halsinge Regemente
Sealed Pattern 1757
(Armémuseum)



Armémuseum

Armémuseum

Linen Shirt - Halsinge Regemente
Sealed Pattern 1757
(Armemusuem)



French Bosom Ruffle Linen Shirt with Short Stand-Up Collar Closed by a Thread Button
c. 1780
(Metropolitan Museum of Art)

HISTORISCHES MUSEUM DEUTSCHES HISTORISCHES MUSEUM DEUTSCHES HISTORISCHES MUSEUM DEUTSCHES HISTORISCHES MUSEUM

German Linen Death Shirt of King Frederick II with Bosom & Sleeve Ruffles and Stand - Up Collar
c. 1786
(Deutsches Historisches Museum)



Linen Shirt with Short Stand - Up Collar
18th Century (Cuffs and Collar Reworked in the 19th Century)
(Colonial Williamsburg)



John van Huysum

German Shirt with Stand - Up Collar Closed by Two Buttons
Jan van Huysum by JLLC Zentner c. 1790
(Colonial Williamsburg)



English Shirt with Shoulder Tab and Stand - Up Collar Closed by Two Buttons
“An Aristocratical Cook with a Constitutional Dinner.” by Bowles & Carver after Robert Dighton 1790
(The British Museum)



The English Linen Shirt with Shoulder Tabs and Stand - Up Collar Closed by Three Buttons Recreated
(Reproduction Made and Modeled by David Niescior)

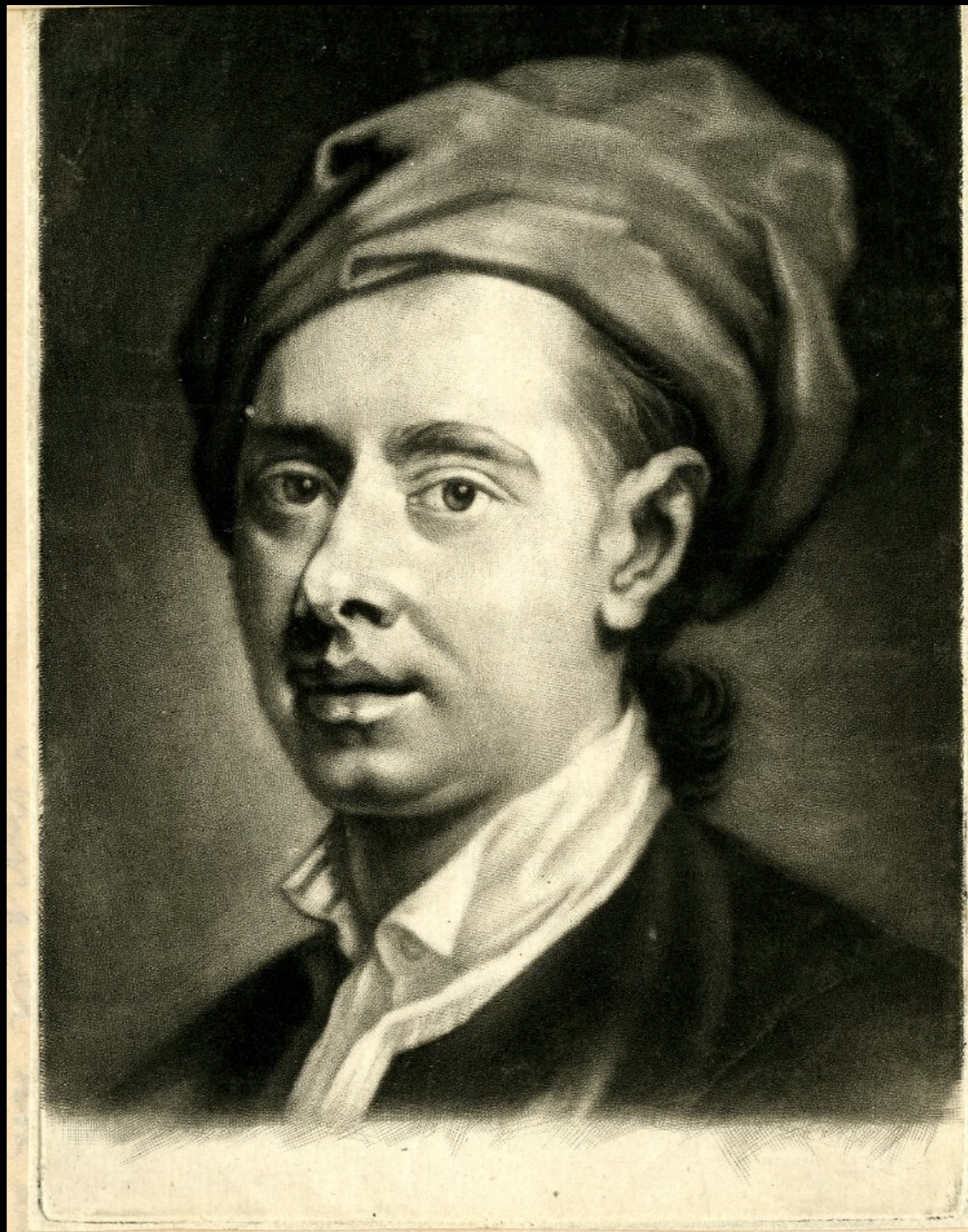


The English Linen Shirt with Shoulder Tabs and Stand - Up Collar Closed by Three Buttons Recreated
(Reproduction Made and Modeled by David Niescior)

Button Closure
Fold - Down Collar
Shirts



English Shirt with Fold - Down Collar Closed by Two Buttons
Sir John Rushout by John Smibert (English, Active in America) c. 1726
(Yale Center for British Art)



English Shirt with Fold - Down Collar Closed by a Singular Button
Allan Ramsey by Anonymous c. 1722 - 1750
(The British Museum)



English or American Shirt with Fold - Down Collar Closed by Two Buttons
The Indian Chief Cunne Shote (Cunnacatogue) or Standing Turkey by Francis Parsons c. 1762
(Gilcrease Museum; Tulsa, Oklahoma)



Shirt Detail - Joseph Brant
by George Romney 1776
(The Anthenaum)



American Shirt with Fold - Down Collar Closed by Two Buttons
Nathan Hurd by John Singleton Copley c. 1765
(Cleveland Museum of Art)



English Shirt with a Fold - Down Collar, Bosom Ruffle & Shoulder Bands
Self Portrait by John Collier / "Tim Bobbin" pre - 1770
(Rochdale Arts & Heritage Service)



Button Front Shirt and Shirt with a Fold - Down Collar & Bosom Ruffle
"Two Faces" by John Collier / "Tim Bobbin"
(Rochdale Arts & Heritage Service)



English Shirt with Fold - Down Collar without Shoulder Bands
Self Portrait by Lt. Gabriel Bay, Royal Navy 1775
(National Maritime Museum)



A Writer Trimming His Pen
by Jan Ekels, 1784
(Rijksmuseum)



A Writer Trimming His Pen
by Jan Ekels, 1784
(Rijksmuseum)



Linen Shirt

“Made by Mary Campbell Gordon from linen spun from flax raised on the Gordon Farm
For her son Josiah Gordon when he entered the Continental Army in 1776”
(New Hampshire Historical Society)



Linen Shirt with Fold - Down Collar
c. 1750 - 1800
(Victoria & Albert Museum)



American Linen Shirt Initialed "I.S" with Fold Down Collar
c. 1780
(Staten Island Historical Society)



American Linen Shirt Initialed "I.S" with Fold Down Collar
c. 1780
(Staten Island Historical Society)



American Linen Shirt Initialed "I.S" with Fold Down Collar
c. 1780
(Staten Island Historical Society)



American Linen Shirt Initialed "I.S" with Fold Down Collar
c. 1780
(Staten Island Historical Society)



American Linen Shirt Initialed "I.S" with Fold Down Collar
c. 1780
(Staten Island Historical Society)



Linen Shirt Worn by Colonel William Ledyard When He was Killed by a British Officer at Fort Griswold on Sept. 6, 1781
(Connecticut Historical Society)



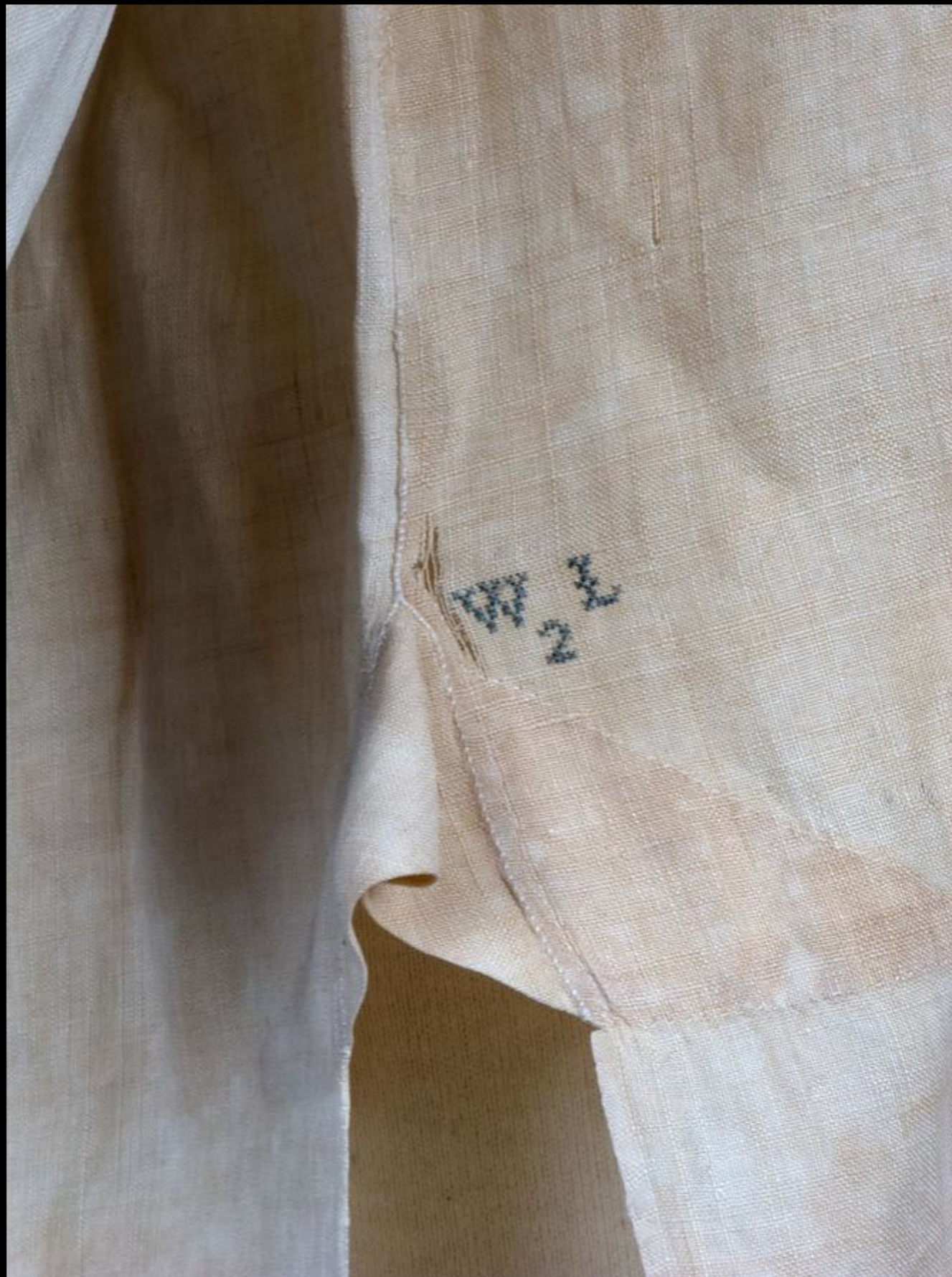
Linen Shirt Worn by Colonel William Ledyard When He was Killed by a British Officer at Fort Griswold on Sept. 6, 1781
(Connecticut Historical Society)



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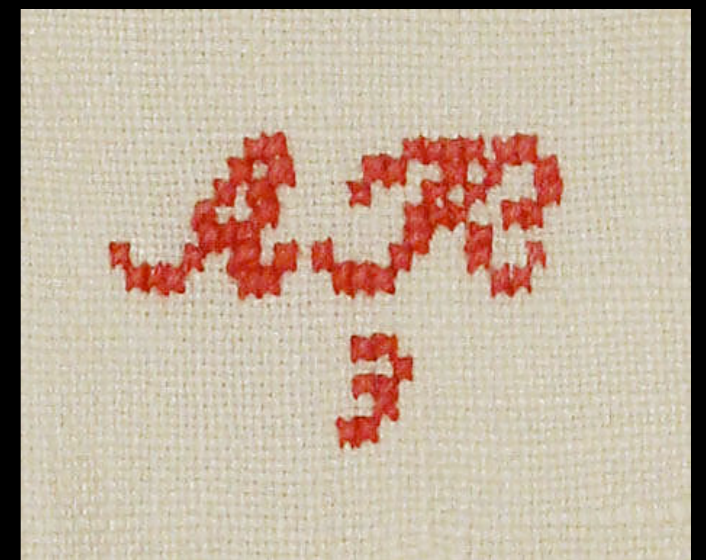
Linen Shirt Worn by Colonel William Ledyard When He was Killed by a British Officer at Fort Griswold on Sept. 6, 1781
(Connecticut Historical Society)



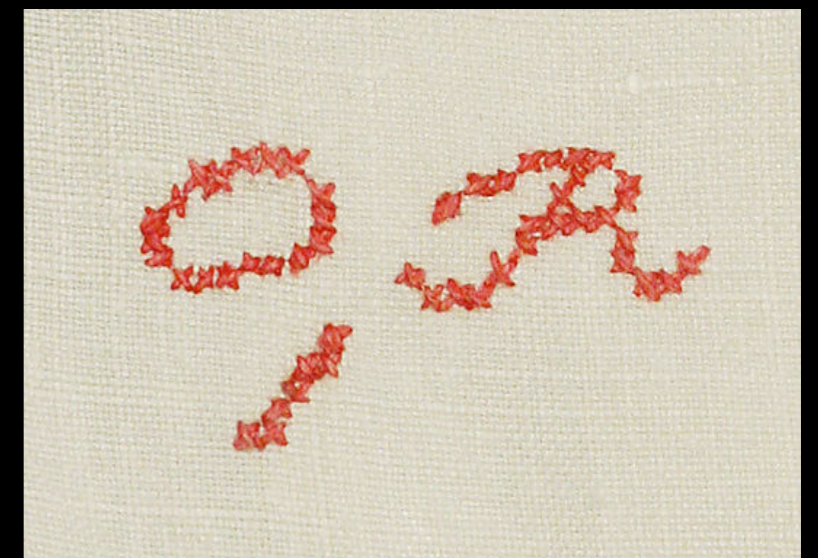
Unbleached Linen Shirt with 2 Button Fold - Down Collar
18th Century



American Linen Shirt with Fold - Down Collar and Chest Ruffle
18th Century
(Metropolitan Museum of Art)



American Linen Shirt with Fold - Down Collar
c. 1775 - 1790
(Metropolitan Museum of Art)



American Linen Shirt with Fold - Down Collar & Chest Ruffle
c. 1775 - 1790
(Metropolitan Museum of Art)



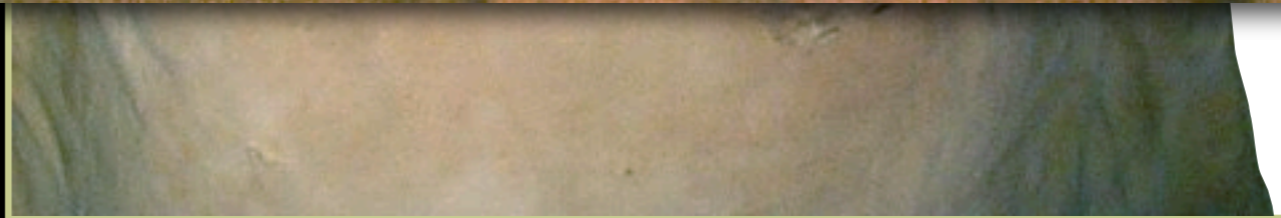
Rehoboth, Massachusetts Shirt with 1 Button Fold - Down Collar Found in t he 1740 Perry-Thrasher House
18th Century

(From "A New England Example" by Rhonda McConnon)



Sleeve Cuff
Detail

Rehoboth, Massachusetts Shirt with 1 Button Fold - Down Collar Found in t he 1740 Perry-Thrasher House
18th Century
(From "A New England Example" by Rhonda McConnon)



Collar
Detail

Rehoboth, Massachusetts Shirt with 1 Button Fold - Down Collar Found in t he 1740 Perry-Thrasher House
18th Century

(From "A New England Example" by Rhonda McConnon)



Shoulder Binder
Detail

Rehoboth, Massachusetts Shirt with 1 Button Fold - Down Collar Found in t he 1740 Perry-Thrasher House
18th Century

(From "A New England Example" by Rhonda McConnon)

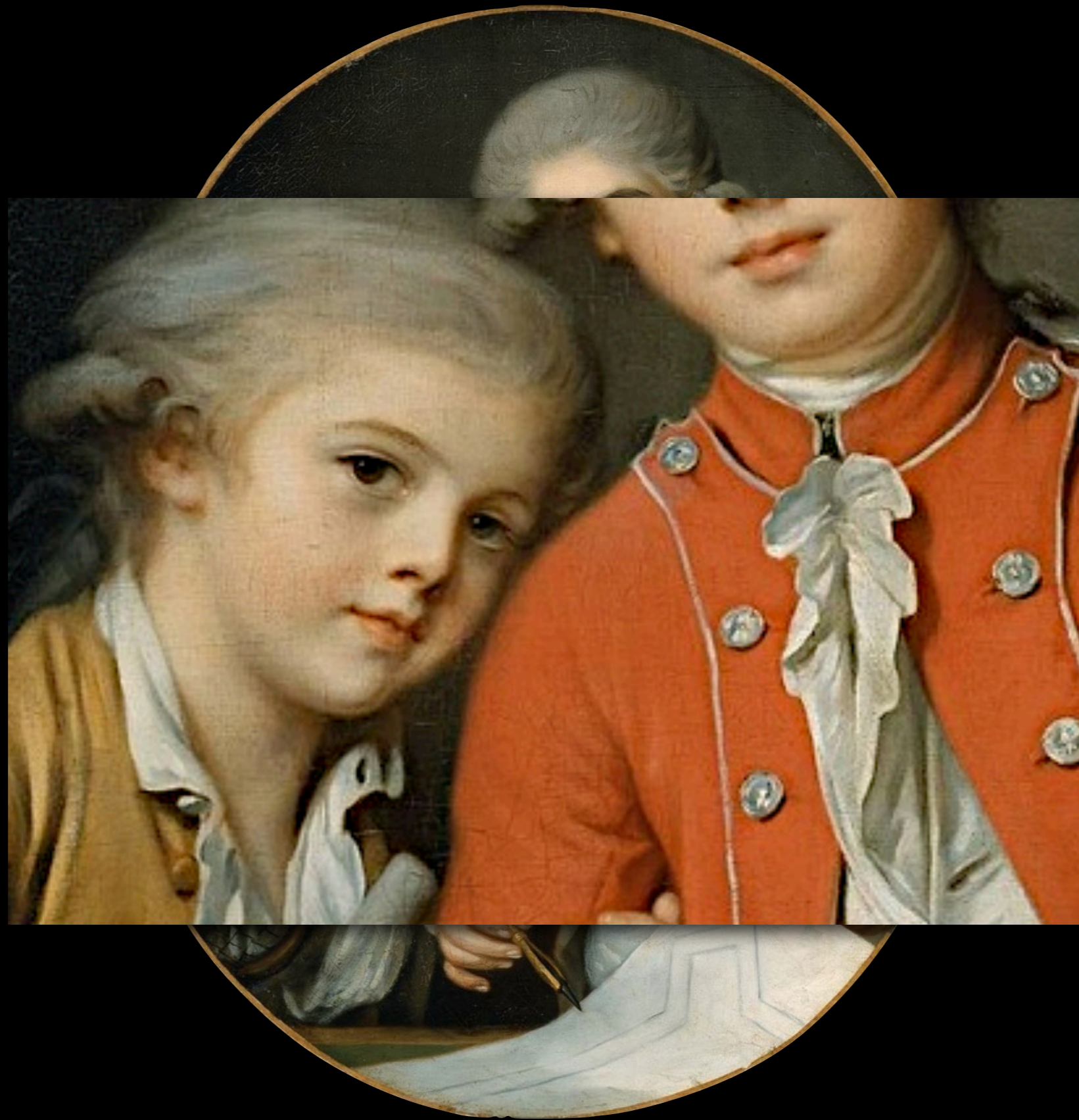


Sleeve Gusset
Detail

Rehoboth, Massachusetts Shirt with 1 Button Fold - Down Collar Found in t he 1740 Perry-Thrasher House
18th Century
(From "A New England Example" by Rhonda McConnon)



French Shirts with Bosom Ruffles and Small Fold - Down Collars (One Closed by a Singular Button)
Portrait of Two Boys (Said to be the Autichamp Brothers) by Joseph Boze (1744 - 1826)
(Museum of Fine Arts, Boston)



French Shirts with Bosom Ruffles and Small Fold - Down Collars (One Closed by a Singular Button)
Portrait of Two Boys (Said to be the Autichamp Brothers) by Joseph Boze (1744 - 1826)
(Museum of Fine Arts, Boston)



Linen Shirt with Bosom Ruffle and Fold - Down Collar Closed by a Singular Button
Late 18th Century
(Rhode Island School of Design Museum)



Painted by T. Hardy.

Engraved by J. Grozer.

WILLIAM AUGUSTUS BOWLES.

Chief of the Embassy from the Creeks & Cherokee Nations.

Published as the Act directs, March 26. 1791. by T. Hardy, No. 67. Great Marlborough Street.

Linen Shirt with Bosom Ruffle, Shoulder Tab, and Fold - Down Collar
William Augustus Bowles by Josep Grozer after Thomas Hardy 1791
(The British Museum)



English Linen Shirt Closed by Two Cloth Buttons
Non - Regulation, British Naval Officer - 1807 (Similar Construction to those Worn in the 18th Century)
(National Maritime Museum)



English Linen Shirt Closed by Two Thread Buttons
Non - Regulation, British Naval Officer - 1807 (Similar Construction to those Worn in the 18th Century)
(National Maritime Museum)

A. Fayer

Sept 1807

English Linen Shirt Closed by Two Cloth Buttons
Non - Regulation, British Naval Officer - 1807 (Similar Construction to those Worn in the 18th Century)
(National Maritime Museum)

S H I R T S and S H I F T S,

MADE in the Neatest Manner, of fine *Holland* or *Irish* Cloth, Plain or Ruffled.
Shirts for the *Army*, of Strong yard wide *Irish* Cloth.

Household and all other Necessary Linen for Families, or Gentlemen going
abroad, ready made.

Laced Ruffles of all Sorts for Gentlemen; with Ready Made Stocks of great
Variety and the Lowest Prices.

By N. S H E A R A R D,

In COCKSPUR-STREET, facing SUFFOLK-STREET,
CHARING-CROSS.

N. B. Those who are pleased to favour her with their Orders, may depend on being
Punctually and Carefully served and the Goods sent to any Part of *England*,
Carriage Free.

LONDON.

29 June 1771

Shirt Buttons

Proceedings of the Old Bailey 1732

“John Bull was indicted for stealing two Gross and a half of Thread Shirt-buttons, val. 40 s. and 14 Guineas , the Property of Edward Madgewick , Jan. 15 . Guilty.”

12 dozen = 1 gross = 144 thread shirt buttons
(Paul Dickfoss)

Shirt Buttons

Proceedings of the Old Bailey 1732

“Richard Saunders was indicted for stealing . . . nineteen hundred of needles, three thousand pins, twelve dozen of thread buttons for shirts”

$2 \frac{1}{2}$ gross = 360 thread shirt buttons

14 guineas + 40 shillings = 334 shillings

(Paul Dickfoss)

Ribbon Closure Shirts



Shirt with a Stand - Up Collar Closed with a Black Ribbon
Artist Unknown c. 1720 - 1750
(Private Collection)



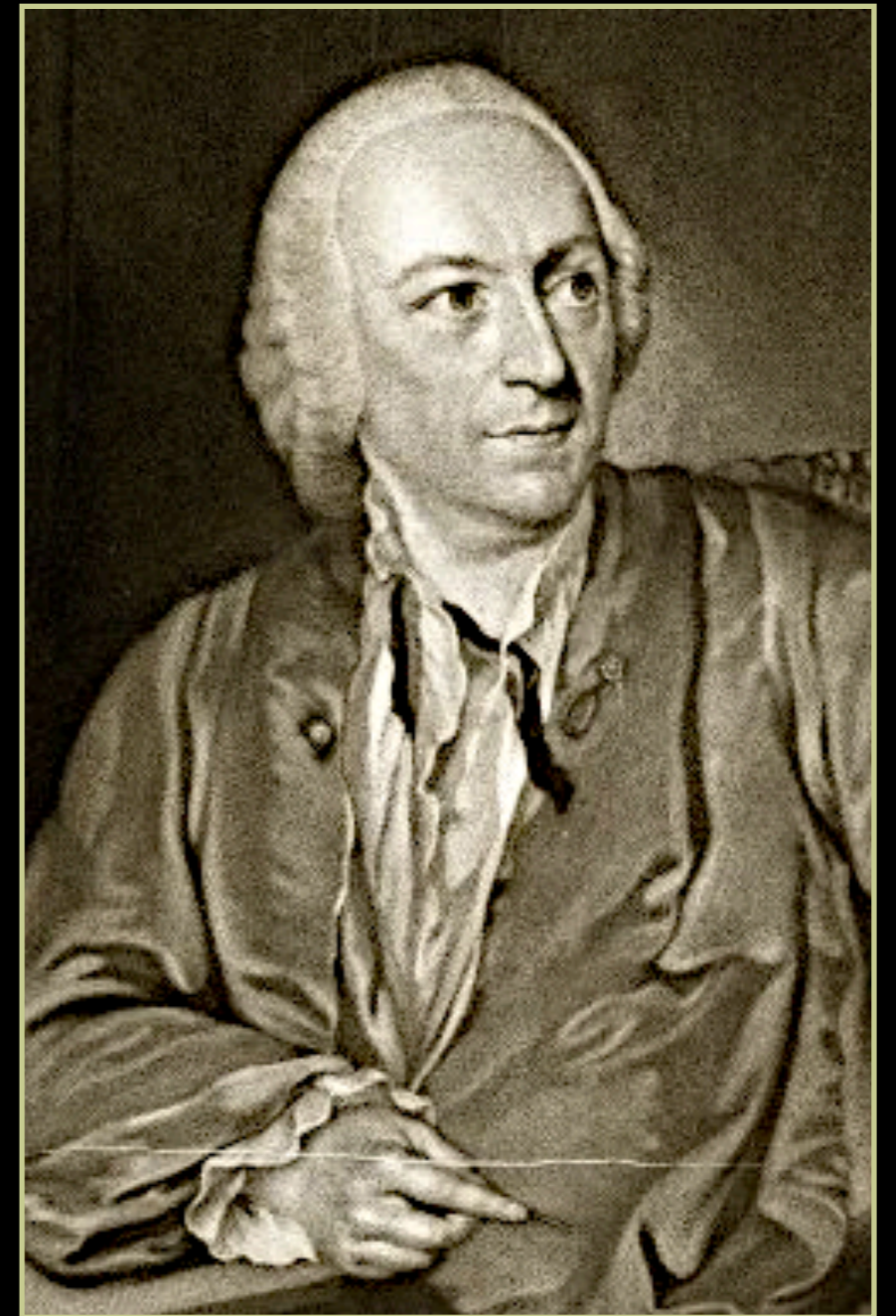
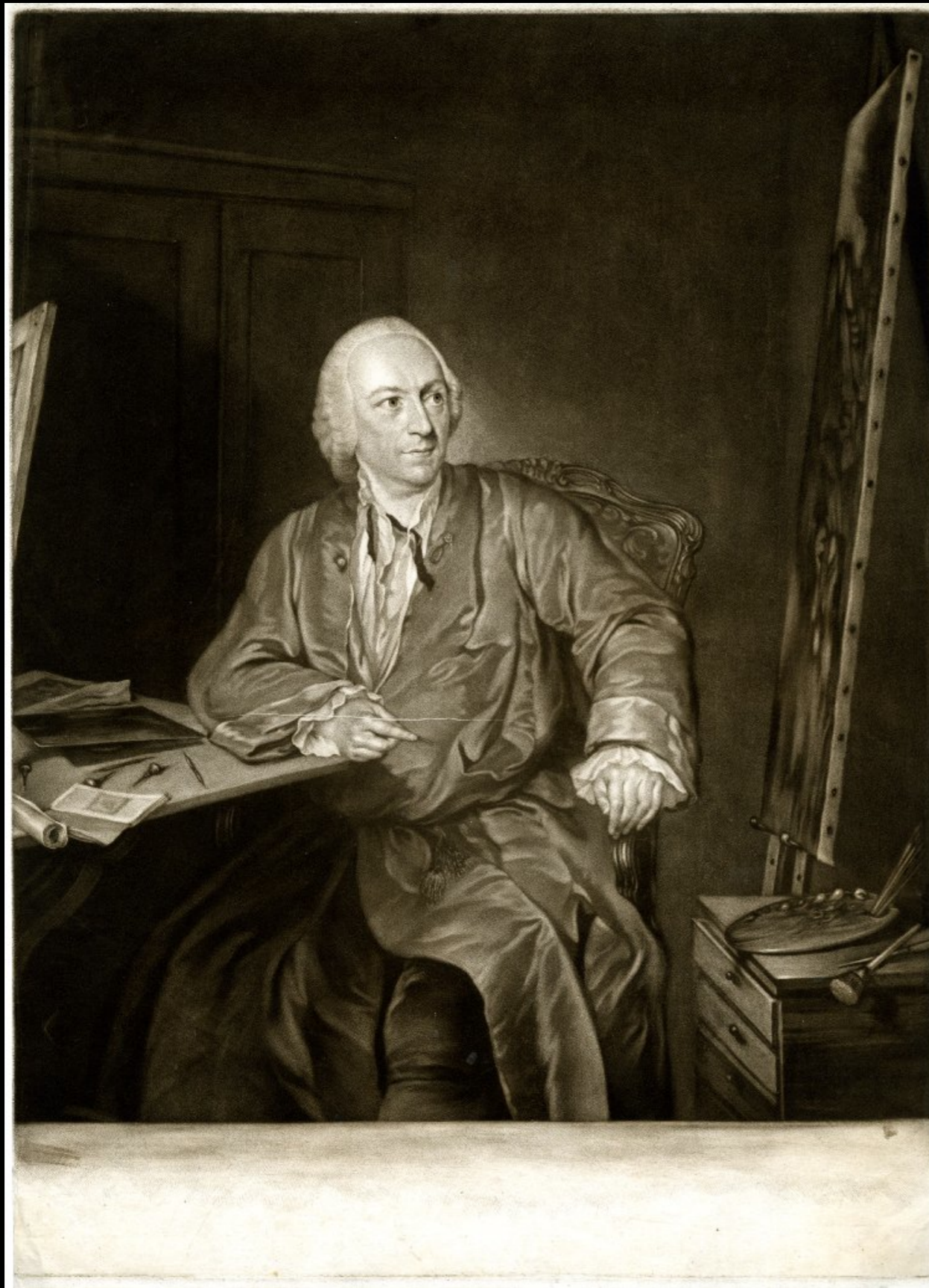
German Shirt with a Stand - Up Collar Closed with a Black Ribbon
Anton Raphael Mengs: Self-portrait in a Red Coat 1744
(Gemäldegalerie Alte Meister, Dresden, Germany)



English Shirt with a Stand - Up Collar Closed with a Black Ribbon
"A Rake's Progress I: The Rake Taking Possession of the Estate" by William Hogarth 1734
(Sir John Soane's Museum)



English Shirt with a Stand - Up Collar Closed with a Black Ribbon
"A Rake's Progress III: The Rake at the Rose Tavern" by William Hogarth
(Sir John Soane's Museum)



Dutch Shirt with a Stand - Up Collar Closed with a Black Ribbon
The Engraver Jan Punt by James McArdell after George van der Min c. 1740 - 1765
(British Museum)



English Shirt with Stand - Up Collar Closed by a White Ribbon
"Human Passions" by John Collier a.k.a. "Tim Bobbin" c. 1770
(Rochdale Arts & Heritage Service)



Jourat pinxit.

LES CARESSES RECIPROQUES

Jardinier sculpsit.

*J'aime à voir, Chers Enfants, votre ardeur mutuelle.
Mais toi, ne sens-tu pas Damon,
Qu'avec un doux souris Lise prend ton menton:
Ne te rendras-tu point encor plus hardi qu'elle?*

Ex. M. Mouton.

A. Paris chez Gaillard, rue s^t Jacques, au dessus des Jacobins entre un Porruquier et une Lingere.



French Shirt with a Stand - Up Collar Closed with a Narrow Ribbon
"Les Caresses Reciproques" by Claude Donat Jardinier
(New England Art Exchange)



Shirt with a Fold Down Collar Closed with a Black Ribbon
Man and Child Drinking Tea - Possibly by Richard Collins (England d. 1732)
(Colonial Williamsburg Foundation)



Shirt with a Fold Down Collar Closed with a Black Ribbon
Man and Child Drinking Tea - Possibly by Richard Collins (England d. 1732)
(Colonial Williamsburg Foundation)



Shirt with a Fold Down Collar Closed with a Black Ribbon
General John Bradstreet by Thomas McIlworth c. 1764
(National Portrait Gallery, Washington)

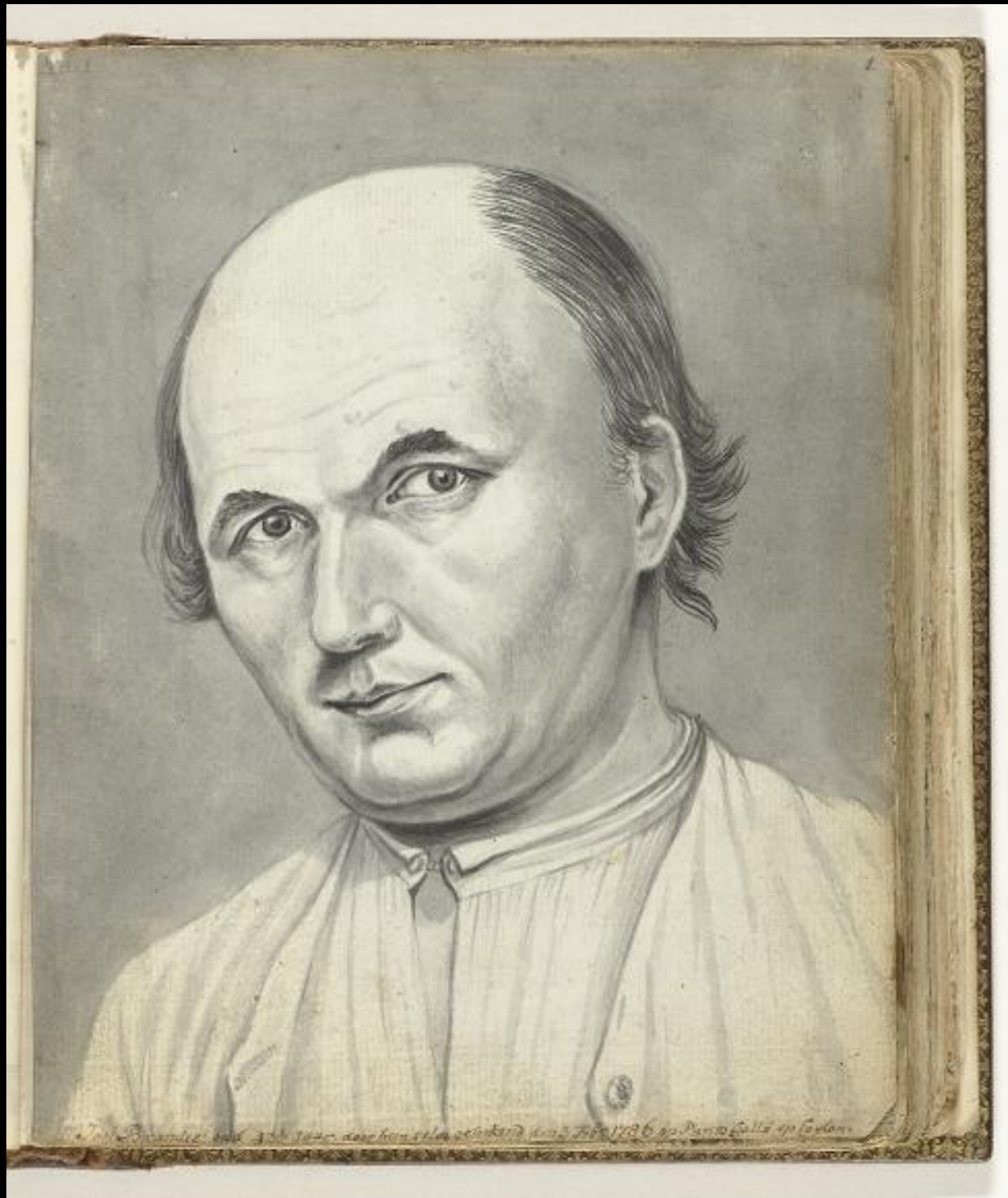
Button-Link Closure Shirts



English Shirts Closed with Paired Button - Links
(See "Sleeve Buttons")
17th Century



"Etow Oh Koam" - King of the River Nations in North America
Painted on His Visit to England by Bernard Lens III 1710
(The British Museum)



Dutch Shirt with a Stand - Up Collar Closed by a Button Link
Self-portrait Jan Brandes (1743 - 1808)
(Rijksmuseum)

Sleeve Ruffles



A Hand Holding a Letter
by George Romney 1757
(Kendal Town Council)

Checked & Striped Shirts



Checked Linen Shirt with 2 Button Fold - Down Collar
c. 1780 - 1820
(Historic Deerfield)



Checked Linen Shirt with 2 Button Fold - Down Collar
c. 1780 - 1820
(Historic Deerfield)



Detail: Checked Shirt
"Watson and the Shark" by John Singleton Copley 1778
(Museum of Fine Arts, Boston)



Detail: Checked Shirt
"Seaman Relaxing on the Pallas" by Lt. Gabriel Bay - April 1775
(National Maritime Museum)



Detail: Blue & White Checked Shirt
"Sticker-Up of Bills..." by Lt. Gabriel Bay - 1774
(National Maritime Museum)



Detail: Checked Shirt
"The idle 'prentice turn'd away and sent to sea"
Pl 5 of William Hogarth's "Industry and Idleness" 1747
(The British Museum)



Detail: Striped Shirt
"Watson and the Shark" by John Singleton Copley 1778
(Museum of Fine Arts, Boston)



Sleeve Remnants of Striped (Top) & Checked (Bottom) Linen Shirts with Felled Seams
Recovered from the General Carleton Shipwreck of 1785
(Polish Maritime Museum)

Acknowledgements

Without the help of our friends who generously support us with their research and materials, none of these slideshows would be possible. We would like to personally thank and recognize Sharon Burnston, Paul Dickfoss, William Hettinger III, Adam Hodges - LeClaire, Neal Hurst, James Mullins, Ward Oles, and last, but certainly not least, Steven Rayner for their contributions to this edition.

Acknowledgements

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Thank you!

- The 18th Century Material Culture Resource Center