# Interesting lettering and symbols on thimbles

# including thimbles of thimble clubs, collectors and societies etc

## as well as thimbles with cryptic pictorial messages

Are you fascinated by various lettering – not the hallmarks nor the maker's marks – but something more specific - on your thimbles? Sometimes it is lettering of a commemorative or an historic event, others just inscribed with some unusual words or symbols. None of the following thimbles fall into any previous *Learn More About...Thimbles* topics: not advertisements, slogans, scenic, placenames, patents, brands etc.

Some of the lettering is on an applied badge – probably done at the time of the commission?

It is as broad as thimble collecting but the occasion for the lettering or words or symbols is largely unknown: all eras (but largely ignoring contemporary thimbles), all countries and different materials are included, concentrating on the unusual. Who made some of the thimbles – for which occasion, tho some are self-explanatory – were they one-offs or made for commercial purposes? If they are of sterling, we usually know the maker.

I will remove the thimble if it becomes part of a new topic.

Quite a few have military connections, many from World War I. I have found a few examples of war **propaganda** thimbles and I have included them here, having no other place for them.

You will notice a preponderance of thimbles for various thimble clubs or thimble collecting, sewing etc – they just need to be recorded.

I don't believe these are jeweller's inscriptions or monograms added after manufacture, in a cartouche.

I first encountered many of these thimbles in the *Thimble Society of London* catalogues. Most are rare and very few examples have been encountered: so well worth recording for posterity? I have combed Gay Ann Rogers, Edwin Holmes and John von Hoelle's thimble books for any clues. Those books date from the 1980s and our knowledge has moved on.

I would love for this topic to become a repository of oddities, mystery thimbles – the more cryptic the lettering, the better.

Some are included here just to record them as they are rare. They are made of sterling silver, gold, brass, steel, copper and aluminium, even a few china and plastic.

In 2022 I added a section at the end: thimbles from 18<sup>th</sup> and 19th century that have pictorial or 'cryptic' messages around the band in the form of everyday objects. One day the meaning of these messages may become apparent, so recorded here for that time.

see also: Who made these named thimbles topic

The listing is in alphabetical order of the lettering.

Last update: 19 November 2025

## 1st Jan. Needle and thread ceremony Women's College Oxford



Birchcroft

## 3™ ЕВРЕЙчЕТА СОФИЯ



red rubbed off band
Bulgarian: Na Sofiiskite Evrei - English: To the Hebrews of Sofia
with Star of David
Germany
1890s-1910s

## 4 - H CLOTHING 1949 and "4 - H CLOTHING 1983" and "4 - H CLOTHING, 1984"





Simons Philadelphia award winners' thimbles top L: sterling silver with gilt band bottom R: unknown year

#### 5 MEI 1945-1985



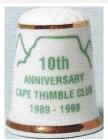
<u>Pako</u> Netherlands applied symbol of dove of peace on flag colours of Netherlands

## 10 1984-1994 S.A.T.C.



handpainted by Gili Davis porcelain

#### 10th ANNIVERSARY CAPE THIMBLE CLUB 1989 - 1999



<u>Frika Collection</u> china background outline Table Mountain

## 10th Anniversary Thimble Guild 1970 - 1980



Georgia USA plastic

#### 13th DTS CONFERENCE BOURNEMOUTH MAY 1 - 2 2013



Woodsetton Dudley UK lacquered copper knitting implements etched on verso

#### 18.7.1975 IRJA MARTII 2009



Germany gold Finnish thimble collectors

#### 20 JAHRE FINGERHUT MUSEUM 1982-2002







Thorvald Greif Germany 925 lower: enamelled 925



Simons Philadelphia sterling silver Seattle World Fair 1962

40



commemorating 40 years of South African Thimble Club 2024 3D printed

#### **50th ANNIVERSARY MALTA GEORGE CROSS**



James Swann & Son Birmingham

90







<u>Settmacher</u> Vienna Austria copper with '90' applied (2002) 'My 90 life thimble' Franz Groiss, Settmacher (1912-2005)

#### 250 YEARS HANDEL'S MESSIAH 1743-1993



<u>James Swann & Son</u> Birmingham 1993 maker's marks are lettered in the apex so had been missed

#### 1788-1988



sterling silver
Australia's bicentenary commemorative for Embroiderers Guild of NSW
Guild's logo on verso

#### **1889 PARIS**



Alfred Féau France 800 silver

## **1889 PARIS-EXPOSITION/1889 EXPOSITION**



Alfred Féau France 800 silver



Roger Lenain France 800 silver

marked FRANCE with size #9 1970s reissue

Beryl Frank: In the 1970s Roz Belford, an astute retailer of thimbles ... discovered that Lenain had stored the original dies for their thimbles ... Some of these thimbles were reissued for export to the United States. ... The size is marked on the thimble ... If FRANCE is stamped on the thimble, it was made in the 1970s."

this reissue uses hyphens to separate the words - using the longer phrase



#### **1900 PARIS**



Alfred Féau France 800 silver



Roger Lenain France 800 silver

marked FRANCE with size #9 1970s reissue

Beryl Frank: In the 1970s Roz Belford, an astute retailer of thimbles ... discovered that Lenain had stored the original dies for their thimbles ... Some of these thimbles were reissued for export to the United States. ... The size is marked on the thimble ... If FRANCE is stamped on the thimble, it was made in the 1970s."

#### 1900 PARIS EXPOSITION



Alfred Féau France 800 silver

#### 1914



Charles Horner Chester 1913/1914

World War I thimble with a disc with an applied enamelled disc with a Red Cross symbol

#### **1914** + Iron Cross



R: <u>Gabler</u> Germany 800 silver

World War I thimble with a 1914 Iron Cross on the wide band crown and 'W' lettered above 1914

L: stone in apex – R: applied Iron Cross within indentations

#### **1914 LYON EXPOSITION**



Roger Lenain France 800 silver



Roger Lenain France marked FRANCE with size #9 1970s reissue

Beryl Frank "In the 1970s Roz Belford, an astute retailer of thimbles ... discovered that Lenain had carefully stored the original dies for their thimbles ... Some of these thimbles were reissued for export to the United States. ... The size is marked on the thimble ... If FRANCE is stamped on the thimble, it was made in the 1970s." The original apex is flatter than the original 1914 issue.

#### 1914-1915 ARANYAT VASÉRT









<u>Settmacher</u> Vienna Austria aluminium

Hungarian lettering for 'Jewellery for iron'
which was the WW1 appeal for money for munitions from the populace
painted "stones" are original on blue band version –green one was made with no coloured stones
(see Groiss on Settmacher - p59)

#### 1914 + 1915 + 1916



probably <u>Gabler</u> Germany
iron or steel
World War I thimble but what significance are the three dates
do the crosses have significance?

#### 1914 16



Roger Lenain (?) France
gilt sterling silver
Isbister names this thimble as "Les filles filant" (Girls spinning)
unusual as there are two dates lettered within the pictorial

#### 1914/16



Gabler Germany 800 enamelled silver stone apex includes Iron Cross

#### **1915 THE MORRIS PLAN 1940**



Simons Philadelphia sterling silver lettering within diamond-shape with dates alongside 1940s

#### 1915 - 1919



tho I can't see the maker's marks this appears to be made by <u>Henry Griffith & Sons</u> sterling silver

I feel these dates were placed at time of manufacture

#### 1978



Monika Fald Germany gilt sterling silver replica of Kutch India Raj sterling silver thimble

#### **1990** + horseshoe



Iles & Gomms Birmingham
brass
TCI Convention Louisville Kentucky

#### 1995 WIEDERAUFBAU FRAUENKIRCHE DRESDEN









Thorvald Greif Germany 925

commemorating the reconstruction of the Dresden Frauenkirche with applied rebuilt church, 1995 copper attachment on the side represents the ruins of the church 1945, which is placed next to images of bombed ruins – '13.-14.2.45' is lettered vertically on thimble along one side of copper

#### **2000 NEW YEAR NEUJAHR**





Settmacher Austria aluminium Settmacher closed in Vienna in 2005

#### **2000 YEAR**



James Swann & Sons Birmingham sterling silver Space Hubble computer – International Space Station

#### 2004-2014 Schiller's 200 Jahre Wilh.Tell



<u>Julius Wengert</u> Pzorzheim Germany sterling silver limited to **100** 

## 100,000 COPIES SHIRE PUBLICATIONS 8TH APRIL 1997



**Crummles Enamels** Poole

#### (A Gentleman in Khaki)



Henry Griffith & Sons Ltd Birmingham 1899 created during the Boer War being waged between Britain and South Africa

## A MEMORIAL OF QUEEN CAROLINE OBT AUGT 7 1821 AGD 53



sterling silver wide band with royal symbols (thistle and clover) on the verso it is interesting that this thimble mentions 'obituary' (OB<sup>T</sup>) she was Queen Caroline of Brunswick, wife of George IV

#### A present from Gay Ann Rogers "AMERICAN SILVER THIMBLES"



Simons Philadelphia sterling silver A gift from GAR to those who lent thimbles 1989

#### A STITCH FOR THE RED WHITE & BLUE





G W Hatton Chester 1914 also with a Chester 1918 assay mark blue lettering with an added full stop enamelled bands



G W Hatton & Co Chester 1914 enamelled bands



sterling silver with enamelled bands similar to above but lettering is not coloured

#### and not hallmarked







similar thimbles with no lettering were produced to commemorate coronation of Edward VIII, which never took place Chester 1936

L: the enamelling is worn

C: Charles Horner Chester 1936

b&w photo

order of the colour of the bands is reversed with the blue at the top of the band

R: Charles Horner Chester 1936



applied worn coat-of-arms

#### A stitch in time

Other thimbles with this lettering can be found in several other topics



synthetic material 'A stitch in time' TTG August 1987



James Swann & Sons Birmingham 1990

#### A stitch in time saves nine



<u>James (Hagop) Demirjian</u> California sterling silver



Simons Philadelphia sterling silver 1900s

#### A THIMBLE FROM MAUDE ADAMS



Simons Philadelphia sterling silver c.1906

commissioned by Adams (1872-1953) to commemorate her starring role in 'Peter Pan' in New York, where Wendy gives Peter Pan a thimble as a kiss

#### **A.C. ILLUM KYINDERNES BYGNING**





<u>Settmacher</u> Vienna Austria tombac

Illum (1863-1938 ) was a Danish businessman and store owner. His wife raised money for the Women's Society by selling thimbles thru the family business shows Women's Building, Copenhagen 1930s

#### A.O.A SILVER





the extra mark seems to be a size mark

#### A MERRY X-MAS



sterling silver with shadow gothic lettering on textured ground unknown USA maker whose mark is a small crown 1900s

H Muhr's Sons produced a similar thimble

#### **ADAM RIESE 1x1 RECHNEN**







Thorvald Greif Germany 925

commemorating the 450<sup>th</sup> anniversary of 1500 master calculator and accountant, 2000 blue glass apex and open work with Roman numerals of dates, as part of the design

#### **Africa Convention Feb 1990**



Moroak china limited to 200

#### **AJOS**





James Swann Birmingham 1917/1918/1922 lettering is always contained in this scrolled lozenge mark has appeared on several James Swann thimbles with different patterns

## AMERICAN Quilter's Society





#### **AMERICAN RED CROSS HUMANITY NEUTRALITY**



aluminium with a red-painted band – including the Red Cross symbol
I understand these thimbles were made during WWII
volunteers and members of the Red Cross prepared sewing kits, which were sent to the military in the
USA and overseas

surplus supplies were used in one instance post-war by a schoolteacher to teach her first- grade students to add and subtract (eBay March 2019)

#### ANG











ANG lettered on the wide bands for American Needlepoint Guild

two L: sterling silver – C: gold-plated (b&w photo) - plastic (R) Christmas in July 1984 see also: Needle Artists by the Sea

#### **AOPA**



Ketcham & McDougall New York
sterling silver
enamelled badge has 'wings'
AOPA lettered across the centre – for Aircraft Owners & Pilots Association

#### ARB ... and others



monograms: AMY - CAF - DAS - JAW - JJB - JSH - KDK - LRL - MEK - MGG - MOM with hearts in centres of Ms





<u>Leonore Doskow</u> New York sterling silver

chunky distinctive applied block lettering on the bands
marked 'Sterling <u>Doskow</u> Made in England' with a maker's mark on the verso
the mark is an L with a D superimposed on it, in a triangle
made in England by James Swann & Son, they bear the mark of Leonore Doskow
who worked out of Montrose NY USA - she designed and finished the thimbles





this Doskow creation with initials of **BCH**, lettered is cursive – is probably just a monogram thimble forms part of sewing kit, and all have a smooth surface – tape measure, kit and thimble all bear the same monogram + .925

#### **ASC**



James Fenton Birmingham 1914 for Army Service Corp. used for supplying the army with all supplies applied badge has the ASC monogram in the centre

## Association of the Inner Wheel Club of Great Britain and Ireland



<u>James Swann & Son</u> Birmingham for Rotary, with their logo – R applied logo 1983

## Asylum 1808



interesting, dated Georgian thimble has cursive lettering steel-topped sterling silver

#### ATLANTA '95



<u>Simons</u> Philadelphia sterling silver

#### **BATS 1978-1998**



Steve Johnson
corozo nut
commemorating 20 years of Bay Area Thimble Society
bat and lettering in gold
Society disbanded in 2016
limited to 30

#### **BATTLE OF PLATTSBURGH SEPT 1814 LAKE CHAMPLAIN**



Ketcham & McDougall New York sterling silver PAT'D commemorating the centenary of the battle

#### Bay Area Thimble Society 25 Years 1978-2003





Thorvald Greif Germany
925
applied bat and thimble on stippled or frosted ground
limited to 35
Society disbanded in 2016

#### **BAY AREA THIMBLE SOCIETY 1978-2008 MORRO BAY SAN FRANCISCO SUFTA BUTTES**



Simons Philadelphia 925 Society disbanded in 2016

## **Bertus van Dikkenberg 1998**



Bertus is a Dutch collector and had this thimble created engraver from Schoonhoven thimble at R is a cover for thimble at L which then forms one thimble

#### **BETSY ROSS**



<u>Joe Turner</u> Jewelry Works Studio Coeur d'Alene sterling silver

#### **BORN 1564 DIED 1616**



Shakespeare's bust in relief steel-topped silver c. 1776

## C.A.T.



Nina Harby USA
Capital Area Thimbles club thimble 2009
10<sup>th</sup> anniversary
shell on apex
b&w photo

#### **BENZ 1844-1929**





Thorvald Greif Germany
925
commemorating 80 years of Carl Benz 2009

## CC 1492-1992





Thorvald Greif Germany
925
commemorating 500 years of Christopher Columbus

#### **CANADA**



Birks sterling silver applied unknown military insignia for World War I

#### **CAPE THIMBLE COLLECTORS CLUB**



Charmaine Hoy Cape Town handpainted resin 1992

## Capital Area Thimble Society



handpainted china by <u>Irmgard Greife</u> with CAT logo club thimble 2018

## Capital Area Thimblers



handpainted china by <u>Teri Koeniq</u>
with CAT logo
first club thimble 1999
b&w photo

## **CAROLINE QUEEN OF** (rose thistle shamrock pictorials)





sterling silver c.1820

#### Cats 1984-2009



Tom Edwards Washington
sterling silver
to commemorate 25 years of Capitol Thimble Society
gilt star on apex

#### **CENTURY OF PROGRESS CHICAGO 1934**



brass World's Fair commemorative

#### **CHARLES ILES BEZOEK 1987**



Iles & Gomms Birmingham
quilting thimble with concave apex
thimble made for Vingerhoed's – a Dutch Thimble Group – outing to the Charles Iles factory

#### **CHICAGO 1978**



Simons Philadelphia pewter created for attendees of Thimble Collectors International (TCI) convention

#### **CHRISTINA BERTRAND THIMBLE COLLECTOR**



Iles & Gomms Birmingham
brass
etched thimble alongside lettering
personalised
member of TCI

## (clasped hands)



sterling silver – pre 1880s clasped hands – with pansy, carnation and oak leaves

#### **CLEAN HANDS FOR NEEDLEWORK**



aluminium so well used even the 'glass' top has popped out neither a slogan nor an advertising thimble

#### CLEVELAND 1940 K.I.O.



Simons Philadelphia
sterling silver
K.I.O stands for Kentucky Indiana Ohio
commemorating the annual bowling tournament for Union Printers
the tournament was held in Ohio in 1940
(my thanks to Thimblestuff for this research)

#### **CORKY 1-29-63**



Leonore Doskow New York
sterling silver
made in England by James Swann & Son, they bear the mark of Leonore Doskow
enamel portrait in set-in circular disc of dog

#### "CORONET"



brass L: "Coronet" England

R: "Coronet" with 'Trade Mark' with a crown or coronet in between on verso

#### (crown) M. 1939



<u>Charles Iles</u> Birmingham tailor's brass-lined steel

marked for the Air Ministry as official property of the Royal Air Force, commonly found in their Maintenance Units where they were used in the repair of parachutes, barrage balloons etc and also issued with airman's hussifs (Eileen Saunders 1991)

WD would be for the army ie War Department

RN would be for the Royal Navy

#### **CYBER**





Tom Edwards Washington
sterling silver
er Thimble Group for collectors around

commissioned by Cyber Thimble Group for collectors around the world, 2017

## (for) **CYBERTHIMBLE**



china first group thimble 2000

#### **DAIRYLAND THIMBLERS**



Simons Philadelphia sterling silver made for TCI Convention in Milwaukee WI 2024

## De Vingerhoed



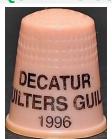
china address of Dutch thimble club

## De Vingerhoed 5 jaar 1982-1987



<u>Hooijkaas</u> (HH) Schoonhoven Kay Sullivan's Dutch thimble catalogue

## **DECATUR QUILTERS GUILD 1996**



Georgia USA plastic

#### **DEDALERAS 2012 ARGENTINAS**



resin Argentina's flag colours Argentinian Thimblers

#### K∆ (Delta Kappa)



Simons Philadelphia sterling silver fraternity thimble see also:  $\Pi\beta\Phi$  (Pi beta Phi)

#### **DORCAS THIMBLERS ACTS 9**



Simons Philadelphia
sterling silver
club thimble for Florida's Dorcas Thimblers
the coral set into the map shows Sarasota, for foundation members

#### **DORSET THIMBLE SOCIETY 1985-1995**



James Swann & Sons Birmingham

# DORSET THIMBLE SOCIETY 3rd INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE 21-23 MAY 1993 SOUTHAMPTON



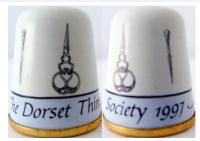
handpainted Dorothy Newsome

#### DORSET THIMBLE SOCIETY 6th INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE 1999



<u>Crummles Enamels</u> Poole

#### **DORSET THIMBLE SOCIETY 1997**



Crummles Enamels Poole

## **DTS 2<sup>ND</sup> INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE 6.7.8 JUNE 1991**



handpainted Dorothy Newsome

#### DTS 7th INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE 2001



<u>Crummles Enamels</u> Poole

#### **DTS 8th INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE 2005**



James Swann & Sons Birmingham

#### **DTS 10th INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE 2007**



Andy Poole Birmingham

## **DTS 11th INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE 2009**



Andy Poole Birmingham

## **DTS 12th International Conference 2011**



Andy Poole Birmingham 2011 Dorset Thimble Society

#### DTS 20 1985-2005



handpainted <u>Dorothy Newsome</u> Dorset Thimble Society

#### **E.S.A - LONDON**



brass
Educational Supplies Association, London
probably made by <u>Charles Iles</u> of Birmingham
were they issued to schools?

#### **ELECTION**



Arthur Witting Birmingham 1927/1928/1929/1930/1931/1932 probably made by Henry Griffith & Sons as the sunburst patterning is peculiar to HG&S Edwin Holmes in his *Thimble Notes and Queries* of winter 1989 ... "In Britain the term is unthinkable (in the political sense). In the sense of 'choice' it is evidently a brand name ... the dates are not all for election years which at the time were in 1931."

#### **ELIXABETH HILSON HELP HOPEFUL SOROFUL HARTES**



silver
16th century personalised thimble
apex missing
housed in the British Museum
unusual spelling of her first name

## Elsa Williams School of Needle Arts



<u>Simons</u> Philadelphia sterling silver

these thimbles were given to students who completed her course – emeralds around the band Elsa Williams' school was in West Townsend MASS – it closed in early 1980s

#### **EMBROIDERERS' GUILD 1901-1981**





A.F. Pinxt
handpainted commemorative china 75 years
limited to **100** 

#### Embroiderers' Guild of America









<u>Simons</u> Philadelphia sterling silver

the US Guild was established as a branch of the London Guild between 1958-1970
 larger applied logo which is the Embroiderers Guild of America's first logo as an independent group - applied logo of the Guild which has EGA with a thimble, sewing needle and threads

3: most recent EGA logo on band

4: unknown maker with EGA logo on apex

#### **EMBROIDERERS' GUILD OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA**



<u>Pat Hagan</u> South Australia sterling silver

to commemorate the 200th anniversary of founding of South Australia 1986
Hagan's design is of a raised Sturt Desert Pea, which is South Australia's floral emblem limited to **100** 

#### **EMBROIDERERS' GUILD QLD**







<u>Louis Hermann</u> Brisbane sterling silver

to commemorate 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of founding of the Guild in 1968 Hermann's design is of an all over Cooktown Orchid, which is Queensland's floral emblem 1993

#### **ESSEX GIRL GUIDES**



I am fascinated by the supposed hallmark for this thimble – 1949 was this produced as a fundraiser?

## **ESTC 1984**



<u>Simons</u> Philadelphia sterling silver club thimble for Empire State Thimble Club

#### ESTC 1984-2014



copper club thimble for Empire State Thimble Club 30 years applied New York state flower of a rose and Statue of Liberty  $$_{\rm b\&w\ photo}$$ 

#### **EXCELSIOR**



<u>Iles & Gomms</u> Birmingham

Brass
see also: Gregorita, Jesuesito, Josefina, Regina

## 'Exposition Paris 1937'









<u>Settmacher</u> Vienna Austria brass - silverplate L: 'Austria' stamped in indentation R: blue apex

## **FECMU**





sterling silver
applied badge is for the qualities of
Faith Endurance Courage Modesty Unselfishness
of the Royal Neighbors of America

#### **FEDERATION CENTENARY 1901 to 2001**



<u>Curtis Hine</u> North Balwyn Melbourne sterling silver handmade limited to **10** 

# F-H-A





Simons Philadelphia sterling silver for Future Homemakers of America L: 1940s R: applied logo Ray Nimmo 21st C

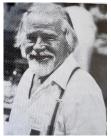
# FIGHT FOR OLD GLORY



aluminium

# **FINGERHUTMUSEUM**





Helmut Greif Germany sterling silver Thimble Museum in Creglingen

#### **FINGERHUTMUSEUM 10 JAHRE 1992**









Thorvald Greif Germany 925 – R: 14ct gold Thimble Museum in Creglingen

#### **FINGERHUTMUSEUM CREGLINGEN 25 2007**



Thorvald Greif Germany 925

depicting Tilman Riemenschneider, carver of Creglingen church alter 16<sup>th</sup> century

# (fleur de lis)



<u>Lotthammer-Eber</u> (six petalled mark) Pforzheim Germany made for the Italian market 900 silver

R: Lotthammer-Eber mark has been over stamped with Florence's Piliti & Schreyer mark

# **FOR LIBERTY**



Ketcham & McDougall New York sterling silver 1917

#### FOR VALOUR



copper with applied Military Cross 1930s

#### **FREUNDE DES FINGERHUTS 1993**



Thorvald Greif Germany 925

design has ten thimble shapes in relief both upright and upside down each with a date – ranging from 1983 and 1992

commemorating ten years of Thimble Friends

limited to 150



there are also several single letters between the thimbles = ZEHN JAHRE meaning ten years



#### FRIEDEN IN DEN NIEDERLANDE 50 JAHRE FREI!





Thorvald Greif Germany 925

# FRIENDS WAR RELIEF SERVICE



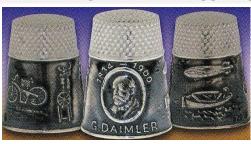




<u>Ketcham & McDougall</u> New York also made by <u>Simons</u> Philadelphia sterling silver

`Friends' would have applied to Quakers who were active in war zones as conscientious objectors first set up at the start of Franco-Prussian war and revived at start of WW1 applied enamelled disc 1900s

#### **G. DAIMLER 1834-1900**





Thorvald Greif Germany 925 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Gottlieb Daimler 2009

**G.** King – G. K ... – K ...



sterling silver
Georgian trio
three similar thimbles with intriguing lettering
two of the thimbles have their lettering upside down to face the sewer when sewing

#### **GARDEN STATE THIMBLERS**



Georgia USA plastic

#### **GARDEN STATE THIMBLERS**



<u>Simons</u> Philadelphia sterling silver

#### **GFS**



<u>Charles Horner</u> Chester 1920 applied badge Girls' Friendly Society

# **GOLDSCHMIEDHAUS HANAU 1979**



Monika Fald Germany

#### **GOTT MIT UNS 1914**







Germany

L:\_brass - C: silver with stone in place of damaged silver apex propaganda thimble: God with us

#### **GOTT STRAFE ENGLAND**





Settmacher Vienna Austria aluminium propaganda thimble: God punish England green, red and black bands were available

# **GOTT STRAFE ITALIEN**





Settmacher Vienna Austria aluminium b&w photo

#### **GRAND NATIONAL JUBILEE**

no photo

metal for King George III heads of the King and Queen

# **GREAT BRITAIN 50 KM FRANCE MAI 1994 26000DM**





Thorvald Greif Germany enamelled 925 commemorating opening of the Chunnel

#### **GREENWICH 2000**



James Swann & Sons Birmingham

# **GREGORITA**



<u>Charles Iles</u> Birmingham brass tailor's - with sprigs before and after lettering see also: Excelsior, Jesuesito, Josefina, Regina

#### GS



Ketcham & McDougall New York sterling silver for Girl Scouts applied green enamelled badge 1880s

#### **GUERNSEY**



<u>James Swann & Son</u> Birmingham Guernsey lettered diagonally on applied map of Guernsey

#### HANS SACHS 5. NOV. 1494-1994 500



Thorvald Greif Germany
brass
commemorating 500 year anniversary of this German poet and playwright

# HAPPY CHILD UNHAPPY CHILD









pre-1884 sterling silver lettering around rim with accompanying applied scenes around the band

#### **HAWKEYE THIMBLERS**



<u>Iles & Gomms</u> Birmingham brass
Iowa club thimble 1986

#### **HAWKEYE THIMBLERS IOWA**



Amish Kraft Co brass club thimble 1997

#### **HEIL UND SIEG**



<u>Settmacher</u> Vienna Austria aluminium propaganda thimble: Health and victory

#### "HER MAJESTY" THIMBLE



<u>Charles Iles</u> Birmingham

This thimble had long been associated with Queen Victoria. This is not so There were many commemorative thimbles made for the 1897 Jubilee

It may be an advertising thimble but what is it advertising?

Additional lettering has "ENGLAND" below the larger lettering

# **HERMÉS**



France

sterling silver, with boar's head mark is this (upside-down) lettering an advertising thimble – or the maker – or a prize for a designer working for the fashion label?

#### **HEROES OF THE CRIMEA**



<u>Charles Iles</u> Birmingham brass

# **HIGHGROVE**





James Swann & Son Birmingham
Highgrove House in Gloucestershire, home of King Charles III
presumably made as a souvenir for the when he was Prince of Wales
smooth apex

# **HONOUR THE BRAVE**



<u>Charles Iles</u> Birmingham brass

# **Houston Thimble Group "Chartered March 8 1977"**





Georgia USA plastic

# H.W.SILVO / SILVO





sterling silver all over blackberry patterning is this lettering an advertising thimble – or the maker's mark? with appearance of the thimble at L, maybe H.W is the maker

#### **ICH KENNE KEINE PARTEIEN MEHR NUR DEUTSCHE 4-8-1914**



Germany brass

translated: I just don't know any parties any more quote by Kaiser Bill an tne outbreak of World War I

#### IHN





Ketcham & McDougall New York aluminium applied swastika symbols

#### **IHS**



Swann Thimbles Birmingham 1992
made for The Thimble Guild
communion chalice with IHS in roundel above
IHS = first three letters in Greek for 'Jesus'
grapes to L represent wine – corn represents bread
limited to 250

#### **ILES ALURINE**



**Charles Iles** Birmingham

#### **ILES COMFORT THIMBLE**



<u>Charles Iles</u> Birmingham nickel silver

#### **ILES PATENT**



<u>Charles Iles</u> Birmingham brass unusual, beaded rim – vitreous lining

# **ILES TAILOR**



silverplated as this isn't open-ended like other tailor's thimbles, this name is a mystery

# **ILMO 1994**





Tommie Jane Lane Nebraska sterling silver club thimble for ILMO Thimblers (Illinois-Missouri)

# (Ionian Islands)



sterling silver made for the British Exhibition 1851 with seven symbols around the band

#### **INFANT WELFARE PEACE 1919**







<u>James Fenton</u> Birmingham 1918 lettering on raised narrow band three slightly differently-shaped thimbles

#### **IRMGARD V TRAITTEUR**



Karlheinz Prantl Germany brass personalised German thimble collector

# **JESUESITO**

no photo

brass double row of scrolls before and after lettering see also: Excelsior, Gregorita, Josefina, Regina

# "Join the THIMBLE EXCHANGE CIRCLE" "Thimbles Galore from THE THIMBLE LADY 1984"



plastic Georgia, USA

#### **JOSEFINA**

no photo

brass double row of scrolls before and after lettering see also: Excelsior, Gregorita, Jesuesito, Regina

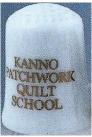
#### **JUSTICE**





<u>James Swann & Son</u> Birmingham 1948

# **KANNO PATCHWORK SCHOOL 1999**



china commemorating 20 years

#### KING AND CONSTITUTION

# no photo

metal for King George III royal cypher (GIIIR) with crown above celebrating the King's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary 1809

# КАУЪ КОЛЛЕКУЦОИЕРОЪ НАПЕРСМКОВ 2009 (Thimble Collectors Club)



Moscow Thimble Club porcelain

# **KRUPP'S FLEISSIGE BERTA 42**



nickname of German 42cm mortars used during WWI

# **Lady Slipper Thimblers of Minnesota founded 1982**



Georgia USA plastic

#### **LEAVITT**



Simons Philadelphia sterling silver band lettering of this name is vertical to the rim

#### **LEMBRANCA**



brass memento - Portuguese

# (Lincoln Imp) and The Lincoln Imp



sterling silver – unknown maker 1892 pewter

James Ward Usher, a Lincoln jeweller and silversmith, registered the Lincoln Imp, when he obtained the sole rights to use the Lincoln Imp in 1892

it was modelled on a stone imp high on the walls of Lincoln Cathedral this is a RARE thimble

top R: Ray Nimmo Birmingham 2015

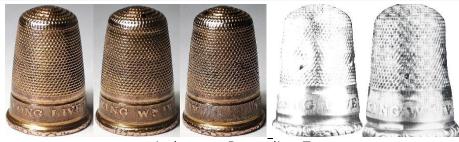
lower: pewter where the imp can be moved up and down, showing inner mechanism

# L.C.C.



Charles Iles Birmingham
brass
for London County Council
and probably issued to schools?
interesting star mark on apex – blue vitreous lining

# LONG LIVE KING WM. IV



L: brass – R: sterling Z William IV reigned 1830-1837

# LONG LIVE Q<sup>N.</sup> ADELAIDE



 $$\operatorname{\textsc{brass}}$$  Adelaide married William IV in 1818. They ascended to the throne in 1830

#### LOT.No A



brass with Birmingham anchor mark sturdy tailor's thimble with strong indentations

#### **LUCERNE WULF 1923**



James (Hagop) Demirjian California .925 sterling silver 2008 personalised Lucerne was a member of TCI

# **MARSDENS PATENT**



silver
first thimble patent granted on 12 May 1850 - to Charles Marsden (#13341)
ventilated thimble

#### **MARTHA**



Thorvald Greif Germany
925
commissioned by Martha Arufat USA 1999

#### **MARTIN & SON**



<u>Charles Iles</u> Birmingham brass-lined steel is this an advertising thimble? World War I

#### MARTIN LUTHER 15.10.n.1487-15.2.1543



Thorvald Greif Germany 925

five dated panels, 1517 1521 1546 1555, commemorating life of Luther 1996

#### **MATT**















probably made by Henry Griffith & Sons (no maker's marks) - the size marks are consistent with Griffith's thimble sizing

> steel-cored sterling silver does MATT have any meaning?

these thimbles have the same construction as Dorcas thimbles (see inner view) first recorded by Di Pelham Burn (1993)

# **Medical Corps for RAF Doctors**



James Fenton Birmingham 1938 applied badge has medical symbol with a crown at the top as part of the design





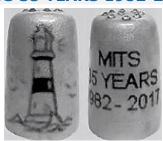
<u>Joe Turner</u> Jewelry Works Studio Coeur d'Alene sterling silver club thimble

#### **MITS**



sterling silver
Mexico
club thimble for Michigan Indiana Thimble Society

#### MITS 35 YEARS 1982-2017



club thimble for Michigan Indiana Thimble Society

# MITS MICHIGAN INDIAN THIMBLE SOCIETY



first club thimble

# **MOZART**







Thorvald Greif Germany 925 commemorating 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his birth 2006

# Myrtle Lundqvist Academic Award Sue Gowan 2012





Tom Edwards Washington sterling silver these thimble awards were given at TCI Conventions from 2008 - 2012

# **NAS NEEDLE ARTISTS by the SEA**







<u>James (Hagop) Demirjian</u> California .925 sterling silver group is a chapter of American Needlepoint Guild Inc (ANG)

#### **NATIONAL SILVEROID**



**Charles Iles** Birmingham

#### **NDR**



Simons Philadelphia sterling silver for Nancy Reagan with White House in relief

#### **NEEDLEWORK TOOL COLLECTORS SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA**



Georgia USA plastic

# **NEQG**



<u>Simons</u> Philadelphia sterling silver

#### NFTC 1986-2016





Tom Edwards Washington sterling silver commemorating 30 years of Nimble Fingers Thimble Club Seattle the thimble figure on the dropped rim is known by members as Nimby limited to 50

#### **NFTC 2015 OHIO**





Tom Edwards Washington
sterling silver
commemorating the Mini Convention by Nimble Fingers Thimble Club Coeur d'Alene
moose and eagle

# **NICKEL**



<u>Charles Iles</u> Birmingham W indicates it was made for Woolworths

# **NICKEL SILVER**



**Charles Iles** Birmingham

# **NICKEL SILVER. STERLING SILVER PLATED**



a bit of a mixed message?

I have never seen this maker's mark before

# **NIMBLE FINGERS SPOKANE 1988**



<u>Joe Turner</u> Jewelry Works Studio Coeur d'Alene sterling silver club thimble for Nimble Fingers Thimble Club

#### **N'OUBLIONS JAMAIS 1914**





<u>Lenain</u> France 800 silver some examples have an ornate rim



Lenain France 800 silver

marked FRANCE with size #9 1975 reissue

Beryl Frank "In the 1970s Roz Belford, an astute retailer of thimbles ... discovered that Lenain had carefully stored the original dies for their thimbles ... Some of these thimbles were reissued for export to the United States. ... The size is marked on the thimble ... If FRANCE is stamped on the thimble, it was made in the 1970s."

The reissue wording ends with an exclamation mark.

#### **NTC**



Simons Philadelphia
sterling silver
for National Thimbles Collectors
in 1955 Sara Anne Weisbrot formed this group in the USA
it was the first organised thimble group anywhere in the world

# **NTCSA CONFERENCE 1994 MELBOURNE**



Gems of Tasmania china

#### **NUR DEUTSCHE KEINE PARTEIEN 4.AUG.1914**



Germany brass

translated: I just don't know any parties any more quote by Kaiser Bill an tne outbreak of World War I

# **OHIO 1985**



<u>Iles & Gomms</u> Birmingham brass made for their club's Mini convention

# **OHIO THIMBLE SEEKERS 10th ANNIVERSARY 1982**



Georgia USA plastic

# **OHIO VALLEY THIMBLERS**



Georgia USA plastic

# **ONS HUIS**



Gabler Germany lettered in Dutch meaning Our House 1900s

# OTS 1982-2007



Simons Philadelphia sterling silver Ohio Thimble Seekers

#### **PATENT**



<u>Charles Iles</u> Birmingham zinc lining with 'jewel' in apex Patent no 22397 1895

# **PATENT ENAMEL**



Charles Iles Birmingham
brass-lined steel
is this an advertising thimble?
maybe any enamelling has worn off?
World War I
other examples exist in brass

#### **PATTY NEWMAN USA**



Simons Philadelphia sterling silver personalised with heart and four-leaf clover limited to 100 member of TCI

# (Peace)



Henry Griffith & Sons Birmingham 1919
gilt-lined
applied peace emblem with a crown
y Friend (TCI Bulletin January 1988) this is the brass ins

according to Dorothy Friend (*TCI Bulletin* January 1988) this is the brass insignia for the Royal Artillery

#### **PEPPER**



Horace Woodward & Co Birmingham 1888 made in the shape to use as a pepper shaker, with specific holes in apex it has a diamond-shaped registration mark

#### PETER PAN REGD



L: <u>Henry Fidkin</u> Birmingham 1918 – R: CU Birmingham 1918
Fidkin would have made the thimbles for the sponsor Charles Usher of Leicester it is still a mystery what this lettering is for – it could be promotional but it isn't advertising a specific product

#### PHILADELPHIA THIMBLE SOCIETY 1979-1989



<u>Simons</u> Philadelphia sterling silver with gilt band snowflake pattern

# $\Pi \beta \Phi$ (Pi beta Phi)



Goldsmith-Stern & Co New York panelled sterling silver sorority thimble see also: ΚΔ (Delta Kappa)

#### **PIONEER WOMAN**



Ketcham & McDougall New York sterling silver applied memorial

#### PRINS CLAUS 6.9.1926+6.10.2002





<u>Thorvald Greif</u> Germany enamelled 925 in colours of Dutch and German flags

#### PRINSES CATHARINA-AMALIA HK 017.12.2003





Thorvald Greif Germany enamelled 925 scalloped rim

# **PRISCILLA NUTMEGGERS**



Joe Turner Jewelry Works Studio Coeur d'Alene sterling silver club thimble of Connecticut thimble collectors

#### **RAF**



<u>Felix Morel</u> Bath blue enamelled brass with sterling silver RAF wings attached

# **REAL GERMAN SILVER**



<u>Charles Iles</u> Birmingham none of Iles thimbles were made of silver – these are nickel silver

#### (Red Cross)



Simons Philadelphia sterling silver applied enamelled cross

#### **REGINA**



<u>Charles Iles</u> Birmingham brass tailor's - with sprigs before and after lettering see also: Excelsior, Gregorita, Jesuesito, Josefina, Regina

#### RH







**Charles Horner** Chester 1919

what a puzzle this lettering is! RH with numerals – (ignore the RH graphic above of 1919 – a typo – should read 1918)

lower: a date '1918' + '60' - on a wider band

there is then the intertwined WS or SW capped by more numerals on the verso that isn't meant as a monogram?

I recently encountered a query from a German member in a 1986 *TCI Bulletin*, asking about this thimble - "It seems that these marks were pressed during the production of the thimble, not later ... Perhaps it is for a firm's name or an anniversary date?"

no-one ever attempted an answer and now - late in 2020 – a thimble discovery with almost identical markings - by <u>James Fenton</u>

there has been a suggestion that this is an anniversary date

the date could be 19 January (numerals from the monogram) and the date is 60 years in 1918 (so 1858) they could have been privately engraved using plain thimbles ...



James Fenton Birmingham 1918



#### REMEMBER PHILADELPHIA



<u>Iles & Gomms</u> Birmingham brass
TCI Convention 2008

# **REMEMBER THIMBLES ONLY JEAN SHOUP 1986-1987**



<u>Iles & Gomms</u> Birmingham brass mail order thimble business California

# **ROBERT F KENNEDY WE MOURN OUR LOSS 1925-1968**



<u>USA</u> plastic

# **ROYAL ENGINEERS**



James Fenton Birmingham 1939 George V cypher (the monarch is their Commander-in-Chief) RE's motto: Honi soit qui mal y pense

# **ROYAL SCHOOL OF NEEDLEWORK**



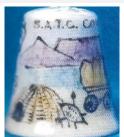
Stephen Frost Warwick Models pewter with a pair of applied strawberries

#### **RSN**



Clive & Clarissa Cooke
sterling silver
for Royal School of Needlework
logo has a sewing needle thru the lettering
1980s

# S.A.T.C. CONVENTION 1993



handpainted by <u>Gili Davis</u> porcelain

#### SAND IN YOUR SHOES OCEAN CITY MD TOW MEETING APRIL 6 2013



Woodsetton Dudley enamelled copper TOW = Thimbles on Wheels

# SATC 24th February 1996



Frika Collection fine bone china South African Thimble Club limited to **100** 

# **SATC 1993**



Simons Philadelphia sterling silver for South African Thimble Club applied club logo in shape of a thimble '1993' engraved on verso limited to **50** 

#### **SATC CONVENTION 1993**





<u>Gili Davis</u> South Africa Handpainted porcelain R: lettered SATC 1993

L: limited to **30** – R: limited to **30** (given to international delegates) thimbles are numbered

# **SATC Turn of the Century Convention 6 March 1999**



Frika Collection
bone china
South African Thimble Club
limited to 100

# **SATCC 40 YEARS 2024**



bone china South African Thimble Club

# **SCHMUCKMUSEUM PFORZHEIM 1978**



Monika Fald Germany museum is dedicated to history of jewellery

#### SCHOOLHOUSE QUILTERS KENMORE



<u>Louis Hermann</u> Brisbane sterling silver

all round design has a quilt and a schoolhouse on an indented ground – patterning continues over the apex

# **SCHWARZ-GELBES KREUZ 1914**



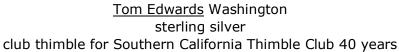
aluminium

promoting an Austrian aid organisation for war invalids and their families, which started on 31 August 1914

notice the depiction of the medal pressed into the thimble available with black or yellow band

# **SCTC**





# **SIEG HEIL 1914**



900 silver stamped D.R.G.M.

#### **SILVER. STERLING**



**Charles Iles** Birmingham

#### South African Thimble Collectors Club Indaba II. 6-9 March 2019



# **SOUTH AFRICAN THIMBLE DAY 27 JUNE 1987**



china

#### **SOUVENIR**



<u>Charles Iles</u> Birmingham brass with sprigs before and after lettering

# **SOUVENIR ST LOUIS EXPOSITION 1904**



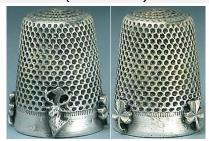
<u>Iles & Gomms</u> Birmingham nickel silver

#### **SOUVENIR ST. LOUIS EXPOSITION 1904**



metal

# (St Hubert)



French sterling silver stag with three shamrocks affixed on band

# St Peter's Band of Hope. July 1918



MAA Birmingham 1917

# STÄDTISCHES MUSEUM SCHWÄBISCH GMÜND 1979



Monika Falk Germany

## STER<sup>G</sup> SILVER



#### STIRLING SILVER



mid-Victorian sterling silver with steel apex interesting spelling

# (swastika)



 $\frac{\text{Waite Thresher}}{\text{Maite Thresher}}\,\text{USA}$  sterling silver with applied swastika L: child's size 1890s

## **TABLE NICKEL**



### TAYLOR'S NEW YORK 1939 WORLD'S FAIR



Taylor's Pork Roll was first available at the 1939 World's Fair aluminium advertising with blue band

#### **TAYLOR'S NON-SLIP PATENT**



<u>Charles Iles</u> Birmingham brass

#### TC 1967 1776-1976



<u>Simons</u> Philadelphia sterling silver

1967 is the date celebrating the start of Ruth Mann's thimble group which became a round-robin thimble group

1776-1976 dates on verso commemorate the American bicentenary

#### **TC1 20 YEARS 1998**



<u>Simons</u> Philadelphia sterling silver

#### **TCI 2000**



Thorvald Greif Germany 925

commemorating the millennium with darkened band including an applied thimble with 'New Year 2000' lettered within – applied bunch of flowers apex has 'TCI' with thimble

#### **TEG**



<u>James Swann & Son</u> Birmingham lettering on dark blue enamelled band for The Embroiderers Guild (UK)

#### THE EMBROIDERERS GUILD 1960 1990









<u>Peter Gertler</u> Melbourne sterling silver/gold dipped sterling silver

The Embroiderers Guild of **Victoria** commissioned Gertler to create a design for 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary applied pair of scissors

limited to **100** of which **30** were the gold edition

### The Embroiderers' Guild of America Inc Desert Threaders Chapter







Tommie Jane Lane Nebraska sterling silver hearts design on verso

#### "THE GIRLS' CLUB"





Webster USA
sterling silver
lettering includes a swastika
thimble would have been made before World War II
two different forms of lettering

### THE INNER WHEEL



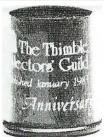
James Swann & Son Birmingham enamelled sterling silver The Inner Wheel is for women in Rotary Services Clubs

#### THE SEATTLE THIMBLE SOCIETY



<u>Tom Edwards</u> Washington sterling silver

# The Thimble Collectors' Guild started January 1983 Anniversary



John Urwin Kelso Scotland wood 1984 limited to **1000** 

### THE THIMBLE SOCIETY OF LONDON



Anne Young UK handpainted boxwood 1983

#### THE THIMBLE SOCIETY OF LONDON 1982



James Swann & Son Birmingham

## **THIMBLE COLLECTOR**



<u>Simons</u> Philadelphia sterling silver

Fern Hill's personalised thimble to give to friends – designed by her brother-in-law applied gold thimble with red enamelled rose

#### THIMBLE COLLECTORS CLUB 85 R.S.A.



Easy Promotions Johannesburg china club thimble

### THIMBLE COLLECTORS CLUB SOUTH AFRICA We Love Thimbles



Georgia USA plastic

#### THIMBLE COLLECTORS GUILD



synthetic material TCG is name of the Scottish thimble sales catalogue (1983-2018)

#### THIMBLE COLLECTORS THE THIMBLE GUILD EST. 1970



Georgia USA plastic

#### Thimble Collectors@ONElist.com EST. 1998



<u>James Swann & Son</u> Birmingham 2000 commissioned by CyberThimble Group for collectors around the world

#### **THIMBLE GUILD 1970 1980**



<u>Simons</u> Philadelphia sterling silver

commemorating tenth anniversary of thimble group started by Evelyn Eubanks in 1970 1970 date is lettered on rim of an inscribed thimble image

#### **THIMBLE SOCIETY OF LONDON 1984**



pewter

# THIMBLEFULL OF SAND AND SURFING TOO! TOW Carlsbad, CA October 21, 2023



enamelled disc on silver metal TOW is Thimbles on Wheels

### **THIMBLES ONLY CA 1985**



<u>Iles & Gomms</u> Birmingham brass Jean Shoup's mail order thimble business

### **THIMBLES ONLY-REGARDS JEAN SHOUP 1985**



<u>Iles & Gomms</u> Birmingham brass mail order thimble business California

#### **THIMBLES ONLY 1990**



<u>Iles & Gomms</u> Birmingham brass Jean Shoup's mail order thimble business

### **THIMBLESELECT**



handpainted by <u>Gili Davis</u> South Africa porcelain mail order thimble business limited to **36** 

### **THIMBLESELECT 1987-2002**



Gems of Tasmania china mail order thimble business limited to **130** 

#### THIMBLETTER 20th 1973-1993



<u>Daniel Riccio</u> USA bronze

### THREE RIVERS THIMBLERS Pittsburgh, PA



Georgia USA plastic

#### TO JEAN FROM THE LANTERN THEATRE



James Swann & Son Birmingham 1983 who is Jean? Lantern Theatre is in Sheffield in England

### TO MRS T.R.GILLIES DEVOTED SERVICES 1914-1918



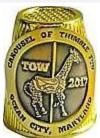
9ct gold Gordon Highlanders emblem on the verso b&w photo

### TOW 10/2021



china
Thimbles on Wheels
handpainted bat for Halloween-Christmas gathering

# **TOW 2017 CAROUSAL OF THIMBLE FUN OCEAN CITY, MARYLAND**



Hog-Eye Inc brass Thimbles on Wheels

## **TOW SAND IN YOUR TOES OCEAN CITY, MARYLAND 2015**



Hog-Eye Inc brass Thimbles on Wheels

U. S .1



Simons Philadelphia 14ct gold doesn't look like a cartouche

USN



Simons Philadelphia 10-panelled sterling silver applied anchor with USN 1940s

### **VERMONT 1981 STITCH IN TIMERS**





<u>James (Hagop) Demirjian</u> California 925 sterling silver

# VICTORIA G.G, 1230



Gabler Germany
aluminium
reeded rim
what intriguing wording
lettering almost looks like a London phone number from 1920s

#### **VOTE IN 1989**



lacquered brass
<u>Settmacher</u> Vienna Austria
decorated in USA

# **VROUWENKIESRECHT**



brass reeded rim Dutch: Women's suffrage

#### **WANDA Y KAUFFMAN IOWA**



<u>Charles Iles</u> Birmingham brass thimble collector

#### **WAR CHEST FUND**



<u>Charles Iles</u> Birmingham ivorine

During the 1914-1918 war 13,000 white ivorine thimbles were donated by Mrs Ninian Thomson to the War Chest Thimble Fund in New South Wales to raise funds for comforts for the Australian men fighting in Europe during World War I

#### **WELSH THIMBLERS**



Vale Wales 1996

#### **WELSH THIMBLERS 2007**



Andy Poole Birmingham

### **WEMBLEY 1924**









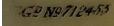


Henry Griffith & Sons Birmingham 1924 the lion was the symbol of the 1924 British Empire Exhibition as shown on the commemorative postage stamps thimble box lettered 'Present from Wembley' with identical lion as on thimble



different thimbles from <u>Charles Iles</u> nickel-plated and brass versions lettered BRITISH EMPIRE EXHIBITION





Arcadian China
British Empire Exhibition Wembley 1925
RED<sup>G</sup> 712455

# Where did I get this?



base metal with brass band needle threader attached to one side

#### **WILLIAM SHAKESPEAR**



Charles Iles Birmingham
brass
size 2
lettered upside down
includes a bust portrayal of Shakespeare

### **WIR MÜSSEN SIEGEN**



Settmacher Vienna Vienna tombac propaganda thimble for We must have victory

# WITH THANKS FROM NORFOLK QUILTERS



Swann Thimbles Birmingham 1992

## With Warm Regards JvH



John von Hoelle USA
tall brass with Celtic symbol between lettering

JvH lettered in a roundel

made at Iles & Gomms factory

John J von Hoelle's book is Thimble Collector's Encyclopedia 1986

lettering very faint

### Y.W.C.A



<u>Charles Iles</u> Birmingham silver-plated brass for Young Women's Christian Association

### Pictorial or cryptic messages on mid-18th to mid-19th century thimbles

In 2022 I added this section: thimbles from18th century that have cryptic or secret coded messages punched or engraved around the band in the form pictures of everyday domestic objects

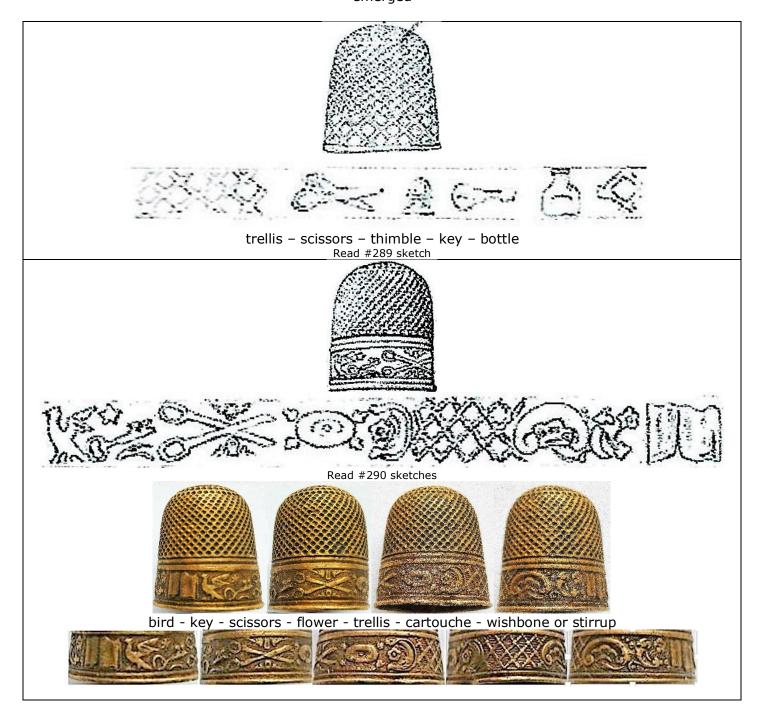
One day the meaning of these messages will become apparent: they are recorded here so that they aren't lost

I don't know a term for this group of thimbles; so for now they are known as Pictorial thimbles

These thimbles first came to our attention as thimble collectors. in Brian Read's book which has hundreds of drawings of thimbles found in archaeological digs

Two of these interesting thimbles are illustrated (drawings 289-290)

They are all made of base metals, including bronze or a copper-alloy – a few additional examples have emerged





scissors - thimble - trellis - pincushion - woman - beaded cross found buried in Staffordshire



initial 'A' - trellis - two cups - two rackets or clubs (may even be spoons) - jug-like 'gin' bottle





tho this thimble with an almost identical set of pictorials is very badly corroded, the message symbols aren't damaged



two cups - two rackets or clubs (may even be spoons) - initial 'A' - jug-like 'gin' bottle -trellis - leaves - flowers - ASH



this thimble almost doesn't fit as a pctorial - only the linking word ASH gives it a place



several linked elongated rondels - flower in eash - ASH



initial A - club - rose - cartouche - beehive - dog - fish

#### References

Christina Bertrand Notions of war. 1991
Jenny Scharff Bockel Thimbles of Southern Africa. 2004
Beryl Frank Thimbles of France with waffled knurling. 2003
Dorothy Friend British commemorative and souvenir thimbles. 1987
Franz Groiss Thimble faktory in Vienna founded 1863. 1990
Magdalena and William Isbister Exposition thimbles. 2010
Magdalena and William Isbister The "merchant's warehouse" fable. TCI Bulletin spring 2007
William Isbister Late 19th and early 20th century French silver thimbles: a visual guide
Brian Read Metal sewing-thimbles found in Britain. 2017
Molly Pearce Queen Adelaide At Your Fingertips spring 2018
Diane Pelham Burn Identifying steel-cored thimbles. 1993
Gay Ann Rogers American silver thimbles. 1989
Simons pewter thimbles. Thimble Guild spring 2003

#### Contributors

Jeanne Millsap Beas | Lola Bennett | Christina Bertrand | Clarice Birch | Joanna Blackie-Sew Many Bits | Bleasdales Jenny Bockel | Pawel Brzyski | Susan Dempster | Margaret Frecker | Kit Froebel | Micky Garvey | Connie Halket Lydia Hamilton | Margaret Hickling | Julie Hollick | Edwin Holmes | William Isbister | Denise Jenkins-Welsh Thimbles Eleanor Johnson | Friedy & Gerrit Kamp | Andrea Lange | Carolyn Meacham-Elegant Arts | Dagmar Nemeth Ray Nimmo | Molly Pearce Alan Powell | Gay Ann Rogers | Mabel Rogers | Wolf-Dieter Scholz | Simon | Norma Spicer Kay Sullivan-De Vingerhoed | Thimble Society of London | Sandi Wood | Sandra Woodyard

This listing of thimbles with Interesting lettering does not purport to be complete or accurate in all aspects. Rather it invites comment and contribution to add to our knowledge. My thanks to the contributors.

EMAIL thimbleselect@bigpond.com TO SHARE YOUR KNOWLEDGE

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