

Thimble Collectors Club Thimbles

Hakusui <--> Hutschenreuther

Thimble Collectors Club

Cockerels HAKUSUI, Japan

One of the most noteworthy and appealing aspects of Japanese art is the deep and abiding love of nature it displays. Flowers, trees and birds constantly recur, intertwined in intricate designs that are painted with that special delicacy we associate with the Orient, and all have their own particular symbolism. This exquisite thimble depicts the long-tailed cock, 'onaga-dori', which was first bred on Shikoku Island in the sixteenth century, when Japan was ruled by the all-powerful shoguns. It became particularly popular because of its magnificent tail, and soon became a favourite motif in art and design. Today it is considered to be one of the most traditionally Japanese birds in that intriguing country's array of flora and fauna.

Hakusui, a small porcelain house in Toki city on Honshu Island, was founded in 1920 and since then has established a solid reputation among collectors for the quality of its products. With just eighteen employees, it is a powerhouse of creative ideas and of skilled work meticulously executed by dedicated craftsmen. Hakusui means 'pure water', a name in keeping with the beauty and wonder of nature depicted on our delightful thimble.

Thimble Collectors Club

Peacocks HAKUTOH, Japan

The name of this Japanese porcelain house literally means "pure white porcelain", expressing the primary quality for which its products are known. It was in the early seventeenth century that the discovery of deposits of white porcelain clay on the slopes of Mount Izumi on Kyushu Island led to the establishment of a thriving porcelain industry.

Hakutoh, whose pottery is situated in Gifu province, draws on a long history of skill and artistry in its work. Its wares are fine examples of traditional Japanese porcelain decoration, in which every detail is accurately defined. Rims and borders are decorated with a wide range of intricate, repeated patterns known as "diaper" work.

The splendid peacock, associated with ornamental parks and stylised gardens, is a fitting subject for the Oriental artist. There are two main species of peafowl, the blue Indian peacock (*Pavo cristatus*) and the green Javanese peacock (*Pavo muticus*). Both have a train of feathers which is twice the length of their bodies. In display, with the train elevated and spread out like a fan, the cock reveals his brilliant tail feathers with the blue and bronze-circled "eye" at their tips. This beautiful design assimilates this exotic bird into the fine decorative tradition of Japan.

Thimble Collectors Club

Peacock Thimble

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詞

HAKU-TOH

Japan

HAKUTOH PORCELAIN - Japan

This beautiful, distinctly Japanese thimble, with its pair of peacocks in a lush, gold-laced garden, symbolizes perfectly the traditions of the house of Hakutoh. The magnificent male peacock, with his deep blue body and long train of feathers brilliantly marked with bold spots, is the thimble's focal point. In ancient times, the regal peacock was valued as a great treasure. Even the legendary King Solomon, whose gifts included vast sums of silver and gold, was presented with majestic peacocks.

Located in Gifu province, Hakutoh is justly proud of being known for its pristine white porcelain, as evidenced by its name, which means "pure white porcelain." Pure white porcelain clay was first discovered in Japan in the early 1600's on the slopes of Mount Izumi on the island of Kyushu. Since that time, Japanese artisans have been creating fine porcelain of extraordinary whiteness and strength.

Hakutoh continues that custom, specializing as well in traditional designs. The gold accents and banding, also Hakutoh traditions, further enhance and enrich the beauty of this Peacock thimble.

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Der Fingerhut-Sammler- Club

Pfauen

Hakutoh, Japan

Anfang des 17. Jahrhunderts führte die Entdeckung weißen Porzellantones an den Hängen des Mount Izumi auf der Insel Kyushu, zu einer florierenden Porzellanindustrie.

Die Manufaktur Hakutoh, die bei ihrer Produktion auf die Erfahrung und die Kunst einer langen Vergangenheit zurückgreifen kann, liegt in der Provinz Gifu.

Der Name Hakutoh bedeutet wörtlich übersetzt „reines, weißes Porzellan“.

Die japanische Kunst, jedes Detail genau herauszuarbeiten, spiegelt sich auf den Produkten der Manufaktur wider. Die Art und Weise, wie die Ränder und Fassungen mit einer Vielfalt sich wiederholender Muster verziert sind, wird auch „Windel-Technik“ genannt.

Der farbenprächtige Pfau, den man gerne mit Ziergärten in Verbindung bringt, ist ein ideales Motiv für einen fernöstlichen Künstler.

Die zwei Hauptarten der Pfauen, der blaue Pfau aus Indien (*Pavo cristatus*) und der grüne Pfau aus Java (*Pavo mutius*) haben einen Federschwanz, der zweimal so lang ist wie ihr Körper.

Während der Balz stellt der Pfau seinen Schwanz hoch und spreizt die Federn wie einen Fächer.

Dadurch kommen die blauen und bronzefarbenen „Augen“ an den Spitzen der Federn zum Vorschein.

Dieses schöne Muster wurde von den Japanern übernommen, um so ihre ohnehin schon feinen Verzierungen zu verschönern.

Thimble Collectors Club

Bamboo

HAMMERSLEY, England

In the history of English China, Hammersley is one of the oldest family names. Cornelius Hammersley was making stoneware as early as the 17th century. However it was Titus Hammersley who established the Hammersley reputation for delicately decorated bone china, noted for its whiteness and exceptional strength, in the 1860's.

During the prosperous years of the Mid-Victorian period, there was an unprecedented demand for fine china. The boom brought prosperity to many a Staffordshire potter, and in Titus' case, it enabled him to buy out his cousin's neighbouring pottery and establish Hammersley and Company as one of England's foremost china houses.

'Black Bamboo' is one of Hammersley's most distinctive patterns. Exclusively for the Thimble Collectors Club, they have added delicate colours to the design, producing a most attractive, original thimble.

Thimble Collectors Club

Bamboo Thimble



Hammersley — England

East meets West in this beautiful thimble from the house of Hammersley. It is crafted in England, yet its pattern of exotic tropical blossoms framed in bamboo has a decidedly Eastern flavor.

Perhaps the inspiration for the design originated with one of the British regiments stationed in Pacific or Indian Ocean lands during the Empire era. Then, as now, Hammersley has been a purveyor of fine china to Britain's proudest military units. It has also created services embellished with the crests of royal houses, peerages and luxury hotels.

Collectors covet Hammersley china for the qualities exhibited on this thimble — faithful reproduction of subtle colors and intricate detail. They appreciate that much of the fine work is handcrafted by artisans with more than a century of tradition behind them.

The Hammersley pottery is located in the heart of the British fine china district at Stoke-on-Trent in Staffordshire.

Thimble Collectors Club

Croquet HAMMERSLEY, England

In olden times croquet was one of the most popular summer sports in England. As the days grew longer and the trees burst into new green life, out would come the wooden mallets and balls and the stately game was recommenced for the season. It was a recreation the ladies could enjoy without unseemly exertion, maintaining their dignity and grace in their long sweeping dresses, and no doubt many an elegant flirtation or a shy blossoming of love took place on the emerald swards of those years gone by.

The Hammersley family's premier position in the world of porcelain dates back three centuries and the distinctive Hammersley hallmark, featuring an acorn, oak leaves and a crown, has been proudly borne on their chinaware since the mid-1800s. The house is famous for the formal ware it has supplied to England's historic regiments, to royalty, and to the Oxford colleges. Based in Stoke-on-Trent, the home of English porcelain, Hammersley is part of the long tradition of superb craftsmanship in this field, and its designers are noted for their particular ability to reproduce fine art on pieces as diverse as large serving platters and delicate collectors' items such as this delightful thimble.

Thimble Collectors Club

Croquet Thimble



HAMMERSLEY & COMPANY - England

Thimble Collectors Club

Garden Butterfly Thimble



HAMMERSLEY, LTD. - England

The shimmering beauty and delicate markings of a butterfly flitting through a garden have been perfectly captured by talented nature artist Pat Harby on this special thimble from Hammersley, Limited.

Cornelius Hammersley began making stoneware late in the 17th century. The now-prestigious firm of Hammersley, Ltd. was officially established, however, in the 1870s when Titus Hammersley purchased the Alsager Works in the old Staffordshire town of Longton, now part of Stoke-on-Trent. Since the mid-Victorian era, Hammersley has been known for its delicately decorated table and giftware crafted from exceptionally strong, high quality bone china.

Available exclusively from the Thimble Collectors Club, the "Garden Butterfly" thimble, with its shimmering band of 22kt gold, showcases the pure white bone china and decorative artistry for which Hammersley, Limited is noted.

Thimble Collectors Club

Shelley

HAMMERSLEY, England

One of the most respected names in English porcelain, Hammersley, has chosen possibly the greatest of English lyric poets as the subject for this exquisite thimble. Percy Bysshe Shelley was born two hundred years ago, in 1792. His life spanned the early years of the nineteenth century, the era of the great Romantic Movement. Like many fellow poets of the time, he was a great believer in the romantic ideals, particularly in the power of the Imagination.

His beautiful lyrical verses reveal another subject close to the hearts of the romantic poets – Nature. Although Shelley wrote this poem while living in Italy, he talks nostalgically of flowers known and loved throughout his native England. Shelley said of poetry that it 'is the record of the best and happiest moments of the happiest and best minds'. The poems he wrote during his short life are a priceless gift to the world he left behind.

The porcelain house of Hammersley was officially established in 1870 – although it was actually some two hundred years earlier that Cornelius Hammersley had begun making stoneware. In the last century the company became famous for its fine, yet exceptionally strong bone china, and the delicate artistry of its decorated table and giftware.

Thimble Collectors Club Strawberries Thimble



HAMMERSLEY — England

Ripe, red strawberries bring memories of early summer and with them, the anticipation of picnics, vacations and other joyful activities of the season to come. Continuing the long tradition of fruit decoration on high quality bone china, Hammersley, one of the oldest names in the history of English china, has selected these luscious strawberries to garnish this exquisite thimble.

Cornelius Hammersley began making stoneware late in the 17th century. It was in the 1870s, however, that this prestigious firm was officially established when Titus Hammersley purchased the Alsager Works in the old Staffordshire town of Longton, now part of Stoke-on-Trent. Since the mid-Victorian era, Hammersley & Company has been known for its delicately decorated table and giftware of high quality bone china of exceptional strength.

Available exclusively from the Thimble Collectors Club, the "Strawberries" thimble showcases the pure white bone china and decorative artistry for which Hammersley & Company is noted.

Thimble Collectors Club

Hedgehogs HAMPSHIRE HALL, England

With its armoury of spiny prickles and pointed, black-button nose, the hedgehog is a distinctive and much-loved resident of the English countryside. As its name suggests, it often makes its nest of leaves and grass under the thick protection of a hedgerow, sleeping the day away, curled up in a prickly ball. At nightfall, it wakes and shuffles its way through the undergrowth, searching for tasty grubs. An adult hedgehog has some five thousand spines, and when danger looms it raises them to provide a formidable defence. Hedgehogs produce their litters in summer and early autumn. Soon, the mother hedgehog will lead her brood, their spines already sharp, on foraging trips, teaching them the skills they will need to fend for themselves.

Situated in Stoke-on-Trent – the centre of the English bone china industry – Hampshire Hall has enjoyed a fine reputation for more than a hundred years as a producer of high-quality bone china tableware. The exquisite tea services that graced the tables of the English gentry in Victorian and Edwardian times were a speciality of this porcelain house, much of whose fine ware is today exported to the USA.

Christmas 2003

HANBRIDGE FINE CERAMICS, England

THIS year's seasonal thimble has been produced for us by Hanbridge Fine Ceramics, a company based in the heart of the pottery country in Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent. The name of Hanbridge is an echo of the famous local writer Arnold Bennett, best known for his novels *Anna of the Five Towns* and *Clayhanger*. He was born in Hanley, and referred to it in his writings as Hanbridge.

Our Christmas thimble celebrates the season with a wealth of festive detail. A little boy discovers his bulging Christmas stocking, a girl plays with her new doll, a beribboned dog asks to pull a cracker, and Father Christmas, weighed down with a sack filled to bursting point, strides up to add to the jollity. All around are stars, crackers, toys, and exciting parcels – it will truly be a Christmas to remember!

*We wish all our collectors a very merry Christmas
and a happy New Year!*

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Thimble Collectors Club

"Barnyard" Thimble



HARCOURT CHINA - England

An old country barn, resting peacefully among the vibrant pine trees decorate the very first thimble ever produced by Harcourt China of England.

Love of the rolling English countryside and a talent to capture the beauty around him is the inspiration for Christopher Burns, the Malvern artist and porcelain-maker whose skill and dedication is the moving force behind the mark of Harcourt China. Trained in the "old school" of ceramics by two of the most famous porcelain houses, Royal Worcester and Boehms of Malvern, Christopher has been perfecting his artistry for over 20 years. Striking out on his own was an admittedly bold step, but a loyal customer base, combined with his ability to teach his craft to the fine artisans working for him, are sure to make Harcourt China one of the most sought-after names among English potteries.

A stunning first thimble, simply and sleekly styled yet stunningly elegant, this "Barnyard" thimble has been exclusively designed for the enjoyment of Thimbles Collectors Club members.

Thimble Collectors Club

Dolphins HARCOURT, England

In recent years the playful and intelligent dolphin has come to symbolize the marvel of our planet's wildlife. Perhaps it's because of the inquisitive friendliness they display towards us, diving around boats and even with lucky swimmers who are able to join them beneath the waves, albeit with a poor imitation of their grace and strength in the water. There is some special magic when a wild creature permits you to approach and even touch it. For a moment you are allowed a glimpse into a different world, and those who have been privileged enough to swim with dolphins find that our everyday concerns fade into insignificance compared with what nature has to show us.

Harcourt China is set in the rolling countryside of Malvern - a region that has inspired several of our finest poets and musicians. Harcourt's moving force is artist Christopher Burns, who trained at Royal Worcester and Boehms of Malvern and has since gained a high reputation for his skill and dedication in translating his love of nature into porcelain. This exquisite thimble will be highly prized by those who already value his work and new admirers alike.

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Thimble Collectors Club

Madori Thimble

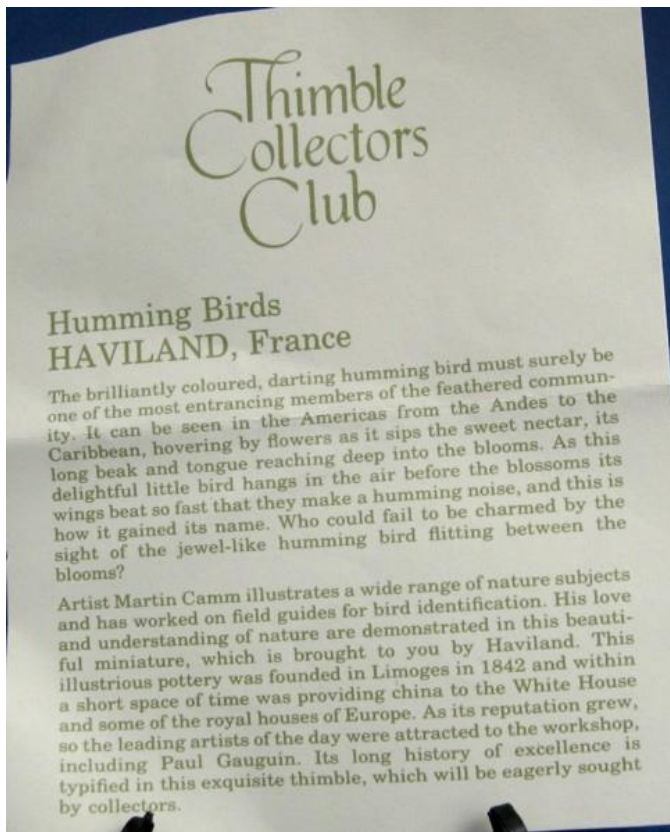
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HASHIMOTO
JAPAN

HASHIMOTO PORCELAIN - Japan

The highly respected house of Hashimoto, headed today by Yoshihiko Hashimoto, traces its origins to 1641, when Ichizaemon Hashimoto opened his first porcelain kiln in the Mizunami area. For nearly three and a half centuries this prestigious, family-owned firm has specialized in Japanese ornamental items, including flower vases and temple jars. Its attention to quality and tradition has resulted in an appointment as "Purveyor to the Imperial Household."

To grace this pure white porcelain thimble, Hashimoto has chosen an original hand-painted four sectional panel design known as "Madori," taken from ancient "fusama," the sliding doors used to separate rooms in a traditional Japanese house. Characterized by intense colors and meticulously arranged designs, two of the bordered panels represent a Japanese garden. The remaining two panels feature repetitive, "diaper" motifs — the all-over patterns which are an important decorative element of oriental porcelain.



Thimble Collectors Club

Hummingbirds Thimble



Haviland
Limoges

HAVILAND LIMOGES - France

The tiny hummingbird — whose wings beat so rapidly that they produce a humming sound — is the subject of the exquisite painting created for this Haviland Limoges thimble by nature artist Martin Camm.

This illustrious French porcelain house was founded by American china importer, David Haviland, in 1842. Already the center of the French porcelain-making industry, the city of Limoges was noted for translucent white porcelain of extraordinary quality. Haviland soon elevated the Limoges name to new heights. He employed France's leading artists, including Paul Gauguin, to create decorative designs and refined the shapes and styles of his wares to appeal to American taste. The family-owned firm quickly became, as it remains to this day, one of the most famous of all the Limoges porcelain houses.

The jewel-like colors, remarkable artistry and fine-quality porcelain of the "Hummingbirds Thimble" typify this celebrated firm's long history of excellence. This Haviland Limoges thimble is available exclusively from The Thimble Collectors Club.

Thimble Collectors Club

The Roses of Empress Josephine HAVILAND, LIMOGES

Malmaison, Napoleon's sumptuous private estate near Paris, boasted many marvels — especially the Rose Garden, which received the special attention of the Empress Josephine. Here she created one of the world's most spectacular displays of roses. This thimble recalls her achievement and features the "Rose Pompon". It is exclusive to the Thimble Collectors Club.

Haviland are one of France's leading makers of Limoges porcelain, and justifiably world famous for their high quality and beautiful design. It was in 1842 that David Haviland opened his own factory; now Haviland is operating under its fourth generation of family leadership.

Thimble Collectors Club

The Old Mill HEART OF ENGLAND, England

The old water mills which still grace our river banks are one of the loveliest sights of rural England. Their architecture varies according to the region in which they are found — from the stern grey slate of the north to the soft fawn limestone of the Cotswolds and the red-tiled roofs of Sussex — but they all share the same mellow charm of days gone by, conjured up by the sound of the rushing water which drove the mighty wheels. These wheels in their turn powered the massive stones which ground the grain into flour to provide bread and cakes for the local villages. It is not so long ago that the farmer who grew the crops and husbanded the livestock could observe the fruits of his toil in the larders of his neighbours!

Artist John Ball painted this charming scene for Heart of England, a porcelain house recently founded in Stoke-on-Trent. The company's speciality is commemorative items such as plates, mugs and thimbles in delicate bone china, featuring English pastoral scenes. Heart of England is determined to continue the fine traditions established by Stoke potteries over the centuries, and this attractive thimble is a typical example of its exacting standards.

Celtic Glory

With the mark of HERCULANEUM, England


This intriguing thimble is ornamented with the same kind of geometrically interwoven strap decoration as is seen in the Celtic crosses, illuminated manuscripts and metalwork of nearly two thousand years ago. Ireland, in particular, developed the elements of her native Celtic art to a high degree of perfection, and was home to the most famous Celtic books, such as the Book of Kells, as well as metalwork, including sword-scabbards, bronze brooches and reliquary boxes. This striking thimble, with its interlaced designs and strange, dragon-like creatures, is reminiscent of these highly distinctive artefacts, and is crowned with a glittering, ruby-red stone.

The pottery of Herculaneum, in Liverpool, was founded in 1793, after the excavation of the towns of Herculaneum and Pompeii. This was an exciting time for potters, for not only were they carrying out fruitful experiments with porcelain production, but these freshly discovered Roman towns had inspired the introduction of the 'neo-classical' style into all forms of art. Potters delightedly produced beautiful urns, vases and tableware decorated in this elegant style. Looking to the past for inspiration, they would doubtless have been proud to imitate, alongside their 'Roman' wares, a 'Celtic' piece evoking a history nearly as ancient.

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Thimble Collectors Club

"Chinese Print" Thimble



HERCULANEUM POTTERY - England

Harkening back to some of the original porcelain designs to emerge from the Orient, this "Chinese Print" thimble represents the first ever bone china miniature produced by the specialty house Herculaneum Pottery.

Based in Liverpool, this tiny pottery has been producing high-grade earthenware and porcelain since its inception in 1793. Ownership of the factory changed hands five times over the next 54 years until, in 1841, the pottery was forced to close its doors. Following more than a century of inactivity, the hallmark was eventually purchased by an independent craftsman who was attempting to start his own business. Now, after almost 40 years this still small but highly profitable pottery remains in business (now managed by the owner's son).

A stunning first thimble, simply and sleekly styled yet stunningly elegant, this "Chinese Print" thimble has been exclusively designed by Herculaneum Pottery for the enjoyment of Thimble Collectors Club members.

Thimble Collectors Club

Blue Satsuma Thimble

*Heritage Coast
China*

MADE IN WALES

A delicate watercolor painting of the Blue Satsuma flower decorates this creamy white bone china thimble brought to us by England's Heritage Coast China.

Opening their doors in 1989, the Heritage Coast factory is a relative newcomer to the world of fine china and porcelain collectibles. Originally established as part of The Heritage Coast Organization, a group designed to produce china mementos of the native wildlife, Heritage Coast China quickly developed a world-wide reputation for the creamy-whiteness of its china. Hiring local artists to supply them with the beautiful watercolor paintings used to decorate their wares, the Heritage Coast China name continues to grow in popularity.

Finished with a ring of hand-painted gold, this thimble is sure to become a treasured addition to your collection and is available exclusively from the Thimble Collectors Club.

Thimble Collectors Club

Bullfinches HERITAGE COAST, Wales

The short, stout bill of the Bullfinch, and the rosy pink breast of the male, make it easily distinguishable from any of the other cheerful little finches which visit our country gardens. It is not a very welcome visitor, though, for it wilfully pecks off the buds from every fruit tree it can find. On our thimble it is about to attack an apple tree! A more endearing characteristic of the Bullfinch is that it mates for life, and the couple can be seen together, flitting along the hedgerows or crossing an open field with their distinctive, undulating flight. They hide their nest well – but if you find it you will see a cleverly interwoven platform of sticks, supporting a shallow dish made of roots and cosily lined with soft hair.

Heritage Coast China is located in a particularly attractive area of Glamorgan, between Porthcawl and Aberthaw, a region which is renowned for its beautiful scenery. A small company, Heritage Coast China enjoys making mementoes and gift items of local interest, and has specialised in those with a natural history theme, such as this charming thimble with its pair of Bullfinches.

Thimble Collectors Club

Goldcrests HERITAGE COAST, Wales

The diminutive Goldcrest is one of the smallest birds found in Great Britain and Europe. It takes its name from the bright orange or yellow stripe that highlights the back of its head. In this charming scene the female perches on a slender branch of a conifer tree, ready to offer her ever-hungry young a tasty gift. The meal delivered, the tireless mother will be off again, flitting quickly from branch to branch, clinging upside down to the slimmest of twigs in her search for insects and spiders. Her partner, the orange-crested male, will be on hand ready to take her place on the branch, bringing more food to the twittering youngsters. One little chick loudly advertises its presence from its cosy niche in the finely woven nest, a masterly construction of cobwebs and lichen. In no time at all, this little brood will have flown from their home, soon to become parents themselves in nature's endless cycle.

The goldcrest is an inhabitant of the beautiful and scenic Glamorgan Heritage Coast which runs from Porthcawl to Aberthaw in Wales. This region is home, too, to Heritage Coast China, which is proud to present this miniature portrayal of one of its native birds.

Thimble Collectors Club

Goldcrest Thimble

*Heritage Coast
China*

MADE IN WALES

HERITAGE COAST CHINA - England

The natural tenderness of a Goldcrest tending her young nestlings has been captured in exquisite detail and preserved on creamy white bone china, on this "Goldcrest" thimble from Heritage Coast China.

A relative newcomer to the ranks of England's esteemed china manufacturers, the Heritage Coast China factory opened its doors in 1989. Located in an area blessed with beautiful scenic views and teeming with unusual wildlife, Heritage Coast employs local artists to forever capture in paint and porcelain the colorful inhabitants. Originally developed as part of The Heritage Coast Organization to produce china mementos of the native wildlife, Heritage Coast China has perfected a bone china of creamy white, and now boasts a complete line of fine quality china, for which they are already gaining world-wide acclaim.

Available exclusively from the Thimble Collectors Club, this delicate thimble with its delightful springtime scene is a charming addition to your thimble collection.

Thimble Collectors Club

Twilight Lustre HERON FINE CHINA, England

Lustre decoration – made by applying metallic salts – has been used on pottery in various parts of the world from the Middle Ages onwards, and was particularly popular in England in the nineteenth century. Now, as the culmination of experiments with a number of lustres, Heron Fine China has created the vivid, iridescent colours and fascinating marbled effects seen on this stylish, contemporary thimble. This particular combination of colours – a rich, bright orange and a deep blue-grey – is known within the Company as 'Twilight' lustre. An intriguing aspect of the process is that no two pieces can ever be exactly the same. Each thimble is hand-decorated, and unique.

Heron Fine China, situated in the heart of the Staffordshire Potteries in Stoke-on-Trent, is a family business which has been producing original and innovative products of the highest quality since 1979. It was established in that year by John L. Evans, a ceramics designer who already had over thirty years' experience within the craft. In 1984 he was joined by his son, David, and together father and son have blended the traditional crafts of handpainting and gilding with new, exciting, contemporary designs.

Thimble Collectors Club

Catalonia Thimble

Herrandiz
Porcelain

Soft-hued flowers — painted in varying intensities of pastel blue and accented with white outlining — decorate this lovely porcelain thimble from Spain. Named for the Catalonia province, where ceramics have been made since the 15th century, this thimble is available exclusively from The Thimble Collectors Club.

Located near the city of Barcelona, long a noted center of Spanish art, Herrandiz Porcelain began as a one-man workshop in 1950. Like the early Catalonian craftsmen, this outstanding porcelain house dedicated itself to exquisite artistry and outstanding quality. The beautiful giftware produced here was soon in demand throughout Spain, and the firm grew rapidly, adding porcelain dinnerware to its line. Today, Herrandiz employs fifty highly-skilled artisans and is best-known for the superb dinnerware, which it exports to countries all over the world.

Distinguished by its clear enamel colors, delicate artistic design and pure white Catalonian porcelain, this thimble displays the superior characteristics which have made Herrandiz one of Spain's most famous porcelain-makers.

Thimble Collectors Club

Seahorses HERRANDIZ, Spain

Looking out to sea, it is easy to imagine that the cresting, shimmering waves hide only dark water beneath. The truth is, though, that the ocean is as full of life as any major high street! Vast shoals of jewel-bright fish dart beneath the surface, a myriad little worms wriggle amongst the coral reefs, shrimp choruses click in the shallows, and schools of whales fill the deep with the sound of their courtship songs. One of the most endearing creatures from this strange world is the seahorse, with its equine, arching neck. The bodies of these little animals are covered with bony plates and they use their long, flexible tails to cling to seaweed. They swim along, upright as tiny soldiers, propelling themselves by undulating the fin on their backs. Strangest of all, the young are hatched in the male seahorse's pouch!

This pretty thimble is brought to you by Herrandiz Porcelain, which is near Barcelona, in the heart of Catalonia. The company was founded in 1950 with only one employee, but such was the quality of its products that it now needs fifty craftsmen to fulfil the demand for its wares. The world-famous Herrandiz tableware is widely exported, and its gift items have found a special place in collectors' affections.

Thimble Collectors Club

Gold Flowers Thimble



HERTEL PORZELLAN - West Germany

Gilt flowers, accented with touches of black, provide a delicate decorative motif for this Bavarian porcelain thimble from the house of Hertel. Its design was inspired by early German porcelain made at the famous Meissen factory.

In 1878, Jacob Hertel founded his firm in the Bavarian hamlet of Ploessberg, not far from the city of Selb, where a number of major porcelain works had recently been established. At first, Hertel specialized in decorating plain white wares produced at Selb. Within a few years, however, Hertel had become a full-fledged porcelain house, acquiring its own staff of skilled craftsmen. Today, Hertel Porzellan manufactures a full range of fine translucent Bavarian porcelain — from luxury dinnerware to gift items.

The "Gold Flowers Thimble" exemplifies Hertel's dedication to preserving historic German decorative styles, including the use of gilt-painting, low-relief molding and etched designs, which can be seen around the thimble's base.

Thimble Collectors Club

Seals Thimble



HERTEL - Germany

Rising out of a tidal pool into the glistening sun, a family of playful seals cheerfully greets the new day. This delightful vignette graces this lustrous porcelain thimble from Hertel.

In 1878, Jacob Hertel founded his firm in the Bavarian hamlet of Ploessberg, not far from the city of Selb, where a number of major porcelain works had recently been established. At first, Hertel specialized in decorating plain white wares produced at Selb. Within a few years, however, Hertel had become a full-fledged porcelain house, acquiring its own staff of skilled craftsmen. Today, Hertel Porzellan manufactures a full range of fine translucent Bavarian porcelain — from luxury dinnerware to gift items.

The "Seals" thimble, with its charming motif set against Hertel's milky white porcelain is available exclusively to members of the Thimble Collectors Club.

Thimble Collectors Club

Stag HIGHLAND CHINA, Scotland

The majestic stag is a perfect symbol of the beauty and pride of Scotland. It is appropriate that Highland China of Kingussie, on the banks of the famous River Spey, should choose to capture this magnificent animal on a fine bone china thimble.

Highland China are relative newcomers amongst the famous bone china factories of the world. Yet already a number of their creations have been praised by the Design Centre.

The Highland China symbol is derived from the Hunterston Brooch, considered to be the finest piece of Celtic art jewellery in existence, and kept in the Royal Scottish Museum in Edinburgh.

Thimble Collectors Club

Country Cottage With the mark of HILDITCH & SON, England

What could be more evocative of summer in an old-world England? Next to a rich golden field of corn, ripe and ready for the harvest, a thatched cottage, covered with roses and surrounded by a gay profusion of flowers, nestles comfortably in a narrow, rustic lane. All the favourite cottage blooms – lavender, geraniums, delphiniums, pansies and many more – can be discerned in the little garden. We can imagine in the very next moment being hailed by the owner and invited in for tea and scones! Such cottages still abound in the south-west of England – and old-fashioned cream teas are usually nearby for the taking.

Hilditch and Son were a small pottery, producing porcelain and earthenware at Lane End for a few years shortly before Queen Victoria came to the throne. Little is known about them, but their attractive mark, of H&S in a beribboned wreath surmounted by a crown, occurs on a few pieces, and another mark, of H&S in a scrolled cartouche, is also known. This charming thimble, recalling the company's Lane End location, is produced in its memory.

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Thimble Collectors Club

"English Cottage" Thimble



HILDITCH & SON - England

Deep in the lovely English countryside, a charming cottage surrounded by a colorful flower garden decorate the creamy white china of this thimble featuring the revered Hilditch & Son backstamp.

Located in the Lane End section of Staffordshire, Hilditch & Son was founded in 1822 by Benjamin Hilditch. A noted apprentice to Josiah Wedgwood, Mr. Hilditch sought to create his own line of high-quality porcelain. Working along with his equally talented son, William, Hilditch began supplying local hotels and shops with his handmade porcelain and earthenware table settings. Although the factory quickly earned a reputation for producing beautifully decorated dinnerware, they soon fell upon hard times and were forced to close their doors in the mid-1830's.

Now, with this brilliantly elegant "English Cottage" thimble, Longton Hall Fine China has resurrected the memory of one of Britain's earliest porcelain houses. Members of the Thimble Collectors Club are sure to make this exclusive offering a valued addition to their collection.

Palace

A tribute to HILDITCH AND SONS, England

PALACES and castles seem to come straight out of a fairy tale, although of course they have been part of our British landscape for hundreds of years, often lived in and cared for by generation after generation of the same family. Nowadays we can visit many of these glorious buildings, and admire not only their magnificent exteriors, but also the beautiful art and furnishings within. Steeped in history, they can tell us wonderful stories of the past, and we are indeed lucky to have them, and to feel ourselves a part of this history. This little thimble, with its picture of a rambling, turreted palace in a romantic, wooded valley, is a reminder of this important heritage.

The young William Hilditch began work as a potter at Lane End, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire, in 1795. In 1822 he and his sons founded their own small pottery, also at Lane End, and built a reputation for high-quality workmanship and consistently attractive pieces of both porcelain and earthenware. Our 'Palace' thimble is produced in homage to the Hilditch family.

Trees and House, and Clouds and Boat HILDITCH AND SONS, England

This striking pair of colourful thimbles is in the exuberant Art Deco style of Clarice Cliff, who was born a hundred years ago this year. Working at her peak in the 1920s and 1930s, she was a prolific designer of tableware and other ceramic pieces that have a distinctive freshness and vivacity all their own, using bold lines and a palette of bright, primary colours. She became very well known, and her original pieces are always highly sought-after by collectors.

The young William Hilditch began work as a potter at Lane End, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire, in 1795. In 1822 he and his sons founded their own small company at Lane End, soon building a reputation for consistently good shapes and high-quality workmanship. Some early pieces of Hilditch ware show staining, probably reflecting the difficulties in controlling the coal-burning kilns of those early days. Our pair of 'Clarice Cliff style' thimbles is produced in homage both to her and to the respected firm of Hilditch and Sons.

Thimble Collectors Club

Enrapture HOLLOHAZA, Hungary

Simple, yet elegant – the exquisitely delicate design on this lovely thimble is rapture indeed. The beautifully painted flowers with their prettily shaded petals encircle centres of shimmering gold, to give an added feeling of richness to the ornate floral decoration. Wispy tendrils curl mysteriously outward from the blooms, leading your eye away into a plateau of personal dreams. The image is carefully contained within bands of 22 carat gold – luxurious boundaries to contain the design ... but not your imagination. To be enraptured is to be moved to blissful awareness – to be delighted beyond measure; only the stoniest heart could fail to succumb to this circle of true enchantment.

This vision of rapture was created for you by Hollóháza of Hungary – famed for its intricate designs and acclaimed by many as makers of some of the world's finest hand-painted porcelain. The porcelain manufacture was begun in 1831, sister to the glass workshop founded some fifty years earlier. High-quality kaolin, indigenous to this area of Hungary, is said to account for the exceptional purity and whiteness of the pieces. Collectors of beautiful porcelain will greatly prize this glowing example of a distinguished ceramic tradition.

Thimble Collectors Club The Vicken Thimble



HOLLOHAZA - Hungary

Vibrant blossoms burst forth in glorious shades of mauve and rose, with sparkling 22kt gold accents on this exquisite thimble from the prestigious house of Hollóháza of Hungary.

With a rich and colorful history dating back to the eighteenth century, Hollóháza has spent decades perfecting their formula for beautiful pristine white porcelain. Collectors have come to know that Hollóháza porcelain is among the best in the world. Hollóháza's intricate designs and delicate detailing, along with the purity and whiteness of their porcelain have gained them the respect of porcelain manufacturers and collectors alike.

Available exclusively from the Thimble Collectors Club, this "Vicken" thimble has captured a local artist's romantic rendition of one of the many vickens, or flowering vines, that grace the Hungarian countryside. Entirely hand painted, and reproduced in vivid color with accents of genuine 22kt gold, this thimble, the first Hollóháza thimble ever to be offered to our members, is sure to be a prized addition to your collection.

Thimble Collectors Club

Flower Buds HOLLÓHÁZA, Hungary

Suspending the full delight of the blooms to follow, flower buds are a charming mystery in themselves. What will the colours be? A pink bud may turn out to be a gloriously pure white flower, with only a hint of a blush appearing on the outermost petals – or it may hold the exquisite promise of a deep, dark rose. Illustrated on opposite sides of this delightful new thimble are two perfect buds – one pink, one blue – which gives us the pleasant choice of which side to display to suit our mood! As a finishing touch, the thimble is ornamented with two bands of gleaming, 22-carat gold.

This pretty thimble is brought to us by the Hungarian house of Hollóháza – famed for the beauty of its designs and acclaimed by many as makers of some of the world's finest decorated porcelain. High-quality kaolin, essential in the porcelain 'recipe', was found in this area, and was quickly recognised for what it was. Porcelain manufacture began in 1831, and since that date the skilled and dedicated craftsmen of Hollóháza have continued to develop both the structure and durability of the ceramic body itself and their own fine decorative techniques.

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Thimble Collectors Club

Rhapsody HOLLOHAZA, Hungary

The pretty garland of delicate orange flowers adorning the fine Rhapsody thimble brings to mind the traditional decoration of the costumes of Hungarian peasants, as they dance to the haunting and joyful music of the gypsy violin.

In the second half of the last century the presence of large clay deposits and the talent of local artisans, particularly the women, led to the foundation of the Hollóháza pottery in a small village close to the Hungarian-Czech border. The exquisite decoration on this thimble bears witness to the work of a company which has come to dominate the lives of Hollóháza's residents, making the name of the village synonymous with fine craftsmanship.

Every year some fifty young people are trained in the Hollóháza Art School, and most of this number are later employed in the pottery, replacing workers who are retiring. Nine out of ten of the villagers of working age are full or part-time employees of the Hollóháza works, so that their traditional skills are passed from generation to generation, gaining in artistry and sophistication.

This beautiful piece, designed and perfectly crafted by the dedicated, skilled artists of Hollóháza, should prove to be a most attractive addition to any collection.

Thimble Collectors Club

T'ang Dynasty Dragon HOUSE OF TYLER, England

The art of ancient China has long fascinated English craftsmen. Its influence can clearly be seen in the early work of the famous porcelain houses of Worcester, the Potteries and elsewhere. Of all the symbols of China, the most magical is the dragon, a sign of the supernatural or spiritual power gained through study.

The House of Tyler, to be found in Worcester, chose the dragon of the T'ang Dynasty, sculpted it in miniature and plated it with 23 ct. gold. Then they wrapped it around a pure white bone china thimble. The finishing touch is the mark of Tyler impressed, "hallmark" style, inside the thimble. The Thimble Collectors Club always looks for something special — this is certainly it.

Thimble Collectors Club

Bavarian Castle HUTSCHENREUTHER, Germany

Rising from a rocky crag, high above the Pöllat gorge, Neuschwanstein Castle in Bavaria is one of the most spectacular to be found anywhere in the world.

Designed by a theatrical scene painter for King Ludwig II, this dream-like creation was the King's home for only 102 days and still remained unfinished 17 years after his death. It has captured the hearts of many with its fairy tale qualities and served as a model for Disneyland in America.

Hutschenreuther, one of Germany's leading porcelain manufacturers, has a pedigree dating back over a century, to its original founders Carl Magnus Hutschenreuther and his son Lorenz. Today Hutschenreuther enjoys the world wide recognition its products rightly deserve and prides itself both on its highly creative designs and superb quality.

Thimble Collectors Club Bavarian Castle Thimble



HUTSCHENREUTHER - West Germany

The rich artistic legacy of Bavaria is epitomized by the Schloss Neuschwanstein pictured on this thimble. It is a fairy tale castle, perched high on a peak of the Bavarian alps, decorated on the interior with scenes from the operas of Richard Wagner.

For nearly 175 years, the house of Hutschenreuther has carried on the grand tradition of Bavarian art. It began as a family endeavor, the first porcelain works in Germany not supported by the state. Over the years, the uncompromising excellence of its craftsmanship and designs has made Hutschenreuther the largest porcelain maker on the European continent.

Kings, presidents and discriminating collectors around the world proudly display the works of Hutschenreuther. The lion that adorns the firm's crest, inspired by the majestic emblem of Bavaria, is an internationally recognized symbol of prestige and artistic innovation.

Thimble Collectors Club

Canterbury Bell Thimble



HUTSCHENREUTHER
GERMANY

HUTSCHENREUTHER - Germany

Fragile blossoms of pale blue accented with leaves of shimmering gold flow gracefully around the sides of this creamy porcelain thimble from the prestigious house of Hutschenreuther.

For nearly 175 years, the house of Hutschenreuther has carried on the grand tradition of Bavarian art. Over the years, the uncompromising excellence of its craftsmanship and designs has made Hutschenreuther one of the largest porcelain manufacturers on the European continent. Kings, presidents, and discriminating collectors around the world proudly display the works of Hutschenreuther.

This lovely thimble, with its finely detailed flowers and delicate golden leaves, is a breathtaking example of the superior craftsmanship of Hutschenreuther's artisans. The Canterbury Bell Thimble is available exclusively from the Thimble Collectors Club.