

Merryfield Pottery thimbles Torquay Devon

2004-

I haven't contemplated a shaped-thimble topic for over twenty years since the Francisca head thimbles topic. These figural pottery thimbles, made for the collectables market, are not functional thimbles but for animal lovers, especially cats, they are of great interest. They are novelty thimbles.

If you collect sets of thimbles, Merryfield too is for you.

Reading from the website, the pottery is set up in their grandfather's former 1960s workshop.



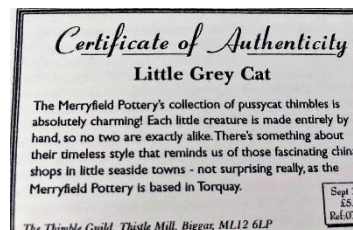
Their thimbles are all made by hand and then handpainted, making each unique. They have a gloss not a matt finish.

No thimble moulds are used yet they still recreate and retain their recognisable shapes.

There is no maker's mark, nor have I found a thimble box: one just recognises the brand by their shape?



unmarked inner views – cats – dog – Morris dancer



TTG certificate

Thimbles range in height from 25-50mm.

TTG started to sell these thimbles from 2004 until 2016.

Merryfield thimbles are still in production today and can be sourced thru their website

<https://merryfieldpottery.co.uk>

Their range other than thimbles includes paperweights and candle snuffers. The latter are made in the same range as the cats. I don't know how one tells whether they are a thimble or a candle snuffer, as there is no handle on the snuffer. Both are impractical in the purpose for which they are used.

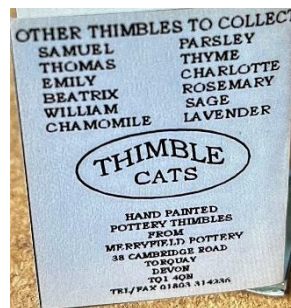
The Merryfield Pottery also uses the name Chateau Cats for their cats range.



Merryfield Pottery range of thimbles, paperweights and candlesnuffers



Chateau Cats candle snuffer and box



For other pottery thimble topics see

Boscastle Pottery thimbles 1980-2020
 Carol Edwards of Coll Pottery and Horizon China thimbles
 Nenthorn Pottery (Scotland) thimbles 1985-1986
 Peter Blanshard (York) pottery thimbles 1970-1980
 Poole Pottery thimbles
 SylvaC thimbles 1979-1982

For other handpainted thimble topics see

Australian handpainted thimbles and sewing tools 1973-2014
 Cornish Enamels thimbles 1995-1997
 Francesca character head thimbles
 Gerald Delaney handpainted thimbles
 Graham Payne handpainted thimbles 1981-1996
 Hazrah handpainted bronze thimbles (Mauritius) 2006-2009
 Iles' handpainted and decaled plastic thimbles
 Jacqui and David Parker of Olivia (Birmingham) thimbles 1983-1996
 Jasper's of Yorkshire handpainted thimbles
 Modern British hand-decorated wooden thimbles
 Modern British handpainted thimbles
 Roger Gibbons pewter thimbles 1984-1990
 Roger Harrison of Kelso thimbles 1983-1988
 Royal Worcester thimble painters
 Scottish wooden thimbles

Cats

Cats feature strongly in the Merryfield thimbles range – some are upright, others seated, some are lying down, and some stretching upwards. Their ears are higher on one side as they lean towards the left or right. Their eyes are mainly painted green.

They can be painted as a cat or kitten - or just identified by their breed.

Then there are the dressed or clothed cats, all with individual names.

I have seen the cats advertised on the second-hand market as Classic or Chateau cats but I don't understand the difference in the terms, in this instance. The Merryfield website uses the term Trendy cats. The outfits are painted in character, with charming details: naïve but easily identifiable with sprigs painted on the outfit to denote their role. The term used liberally in the catalogues is 'dainty' with the quirky details.

Breeds and named cats

Most are seated cats tho some are lying down, occasionally standing

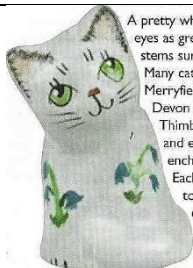


Black cat



Black and white cats

bottom R: Fireside



Bluebell
TTG December 2006



Buttercup
TTG September 2009



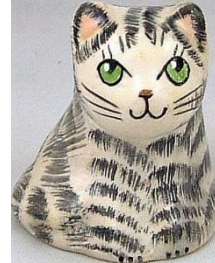
Christmas Frosty



Christmas Star



Coriander



Coriander
TTG January 2005



Emily
TTG May 2006



Felix
TTG April 2007



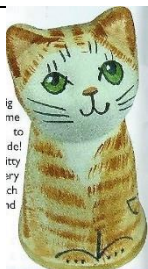
Flora
Wemyss style
TTG September 2007



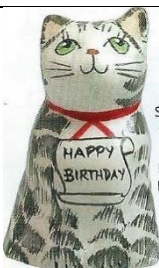
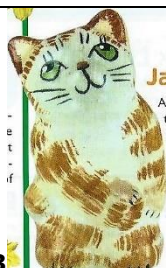
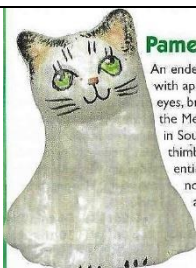
Forget-me-not
TTG September 2006



Foxglove
Wemyss style
TTG August 2004



Ginger cats

 Good Luck	 Green Eyes TTG March 2007	 Happy Birthday TTG JSeptember 2005	
 Jasper	 Knitting TTG June 2007		 Lavender
 Little grey TTG September 2008		 Monday's cat	 Pamela TTG June 2006
 Playful TTG September 2009	 Poppy Wemyss style TTG December 2007	 Saffron the Siamese TTG April 2010/February 2006	
 Tuxedo	 Saffron	 Samuel grey tabby	



See no evil - hear no evil - speak no evil



Siamese cats



Tabby cats
lower: Fireside



Tabitha
TTG March 2005



Thyme



Tilly
TTG February 2007



Tortoiseshell cats

R: Fireside

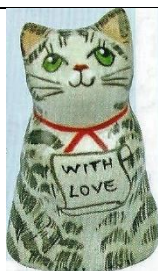


Three Daisy

Abbey Cat



White cats



'With Love'



with wool

TTG April 2006

'Dressed' character cats

look for the trendy symbols painted onto the clothes - anthropomorphising the cats or kittens which are smaller



Angel



Artist



Baking



Blue Coat with Muff



Bride

TTG April 2008



Butler



Cappucino

TTG April 2008



Carol Singing

TTG November 2005



Celebration

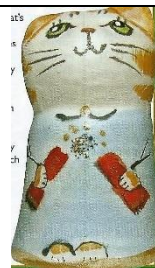


Chef



Choirboy

TTG August 2008



Christine Cracker

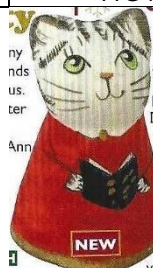
TTG November 2012



Christmas Blue Scarf

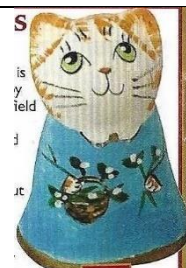


Christmas Cake



Christmas Carols

TTG November 2014



Christmas Mistletoe

TTG November 2014



Christmas Red Scarf



Christmas Rudolph
TTG November 2016



Christmas Santa
TTG November 2016



Christmas Snowman
TTG November 2016



Christmas Tree
TTG November 2016



Christmas
TTG December 2015



Chef



Coronation Jubilee Cat
50mm
TTG April 2012



Cricketer
TTG July 2009



Daisy



Daisy Chain



Digging Potatoes
TTG July 2012



Doctor



Fairisle



Fairy



Fireman
TTG September 2011



Fish 'n Chips



Fisherman
TTG February 2010



Footballer



Gardener
L: with carrots - R: with daisy
TTG May 2009



Gloria the Gardener
TTG May 2011



Golfer
TTG June 2009



Groom
TTG April 2008



Hairdresser
TTG July 2010



Hostess



Housewife



Icecream



Jockey



Knitting
TTG May 2010



Lacemaking



Lady Gardener



Lavender



Maid



Male Gardener



Mending



Flowers of the month
see individual cats next



Apples
November
TTG November 2015



Blackberries
October
TTG October 2015



Catkins
December
TTG January 2016



Cherry Blossom
May
TTG May 2015



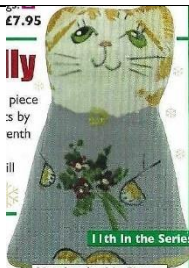
Conkers
September
TTG September 2015



Daffodils
March
TTG March 2015



Harebells
August
TTG August 2015



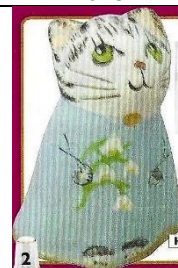
Holly
December
TTG December 2015



Honeysuckle
May
TTG June 2015



Primroses
April
TTG April 2015



Snowdrop
February
TTG February 2015



Strawberry
July
TTG July 2015



Morris Dancer



Mr Gardening
TTG March 2010



Mrs Paws
TTG November 2010



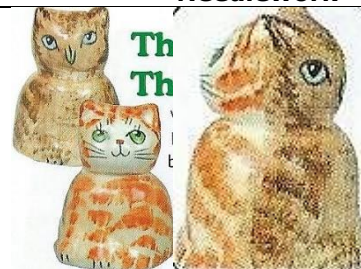
Musical



Needlework



Nurse
TTG October 2008



Owl and the Pussycat
two characters in one thimble
TTG October 2005



Partying



Patchwork



Penelope
TTG March 2012



Postman
TTG March 2005



Red with Muff



Regal
TTG May 2016



Rugby



Sailor



Sandcastle
TTG August 2011



Santa



Santa and Mrs Claws
TTG November 2004



Santa Paws
TTG November 2010



Scottish Female



Scottish Female Dancer
TTG March 2010



Scottish Male



Seaside



Snow Queen
TTG December 2004



Springtime



Strawberry Picker



Tailor



Teacher



Tennis



Toby

TTG February 2012



Toys



Valentine Female



Valentine male



Vicar



Victorian Female



Waiter

					
Waitress TTG October 2011				Wine Waiter	
					
Winter Black Scarf	Winter Blue Scarf		Winter Red Scarf		Winter Stripy Scarf
					
Winter Stripy Scarf		WWI Sailor TTG July 2014		WWI Soldier TTG July 2014	
					
Zodiac back view – set of 12 zodiac sign lettered at rim					
					
Zodiac Aquarius TTG January 2016	Zodiac Aries TTG April 2016	Zodiac Cancer TTG July 2016	Zodiac Capricorn TTG February 2016	Zodiac Gemini TTG June 2016	Zodiac Leo TTG August 2016
					
Zodiac Libra TTG October 2016	Zodiac Pisces TTG March 2016	Zodiac Sagittarius TTG December 2016	Zodiac Scorpio TTG November 2016	Zodiac Taurus TTG May 2016	Zodiac Virgo TTG September 2016



**Zodiac
Scorpio**
from second set

Birds

The birds are featured on a plinth, showing their habitat.



Barn owl



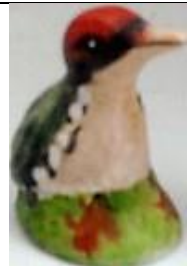
**Black and white
woodpecker**



Blackbird



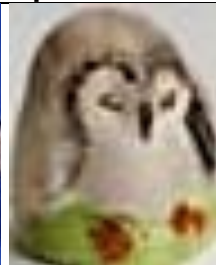
Blue tit



Green woodpecker



kingfisher



Little owl



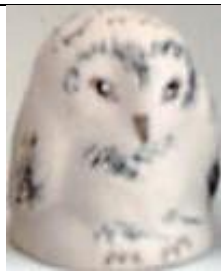
Long-eared owl



Mallard



Owl



Owl



Penguin



Robin



Tawny owl



White goose



Dogs



Border collie
TTG January 2005



Bulldog



Dalmatian
TTG August 2005

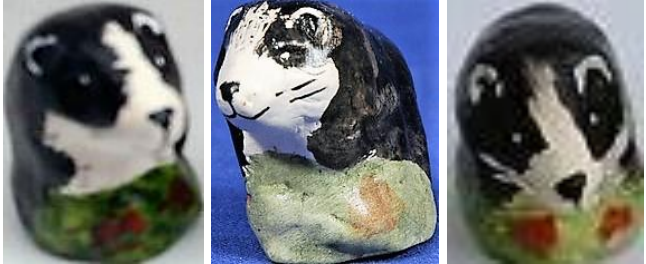


German shepherd
TTG November 2011

		 pearl - kept spe Sou Ref:	
Golden retriever TTG June 2005	Old English sheepdog	Otto the spaniel modelled on Princess Kate's dog TTG March 2011	
 		  	
puppy		Spaniel	
	 	 the big N	
Springer spaniel	West Highland terrier TTG September 2004	Yorkshire terrier TTG October 2006	
			
			

Wildlife

The wildlife characters are featured on a plinth, showing their habitat.

 Badger	 Dormouse 25mm TTG September 2005
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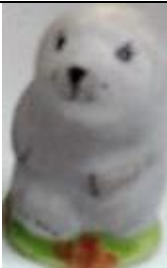
Frog



Ladybird
25mm



Hedgehog
TTG March 2005



Mole

TTG December 2005



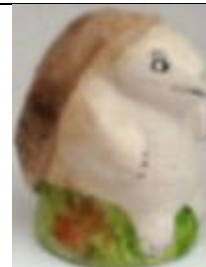
Otter



Rabbit



Squirrel
25mm



Tortoise

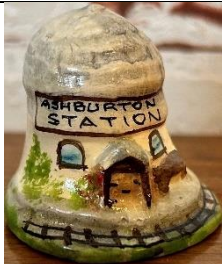
Cottages or villages

These cottages are probably from real buildings around the south coast of England. Some are named as if from the village. Some include chimneys, front doorsteps, with mullioned windows. Most are thatched, some showing grey thatch.

Sometimes the cottages are in the shape of a teapot – they are listed separately at the end of the cottages.



L: County Parish set of 7 – R: Winter Parish set of 7
on plinths

 'Antiques'			 'Antiques' 'Combe Martin'		
 'Ashburton Station'			 'Bakery'		
 'Beach Shop' TTG August 2004			 castle		
 chimney			 Chimney Cottage		

					
church		church			
					
Combe Martin		'Corner Shop'		'Dartmouth Dairy'	
					
double storey		double storey		Fisherman's Cottage	
					
'Fish n Chips'				'Florist'	
					
'Garage'				handrail	
					
'Hotel'		'Lifeboat'			



lighthouse
TTG October 2010



'Lynmouth'



Maypole Cottage



Mushroom Cottage



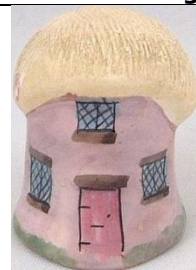
Oaktree Cottage



Oasthouse



'Pastry Shop'



Pink Cottage



'Post Office'

TTG September 2004



Roses Cottage

TTG September 2009



'Tea Room'



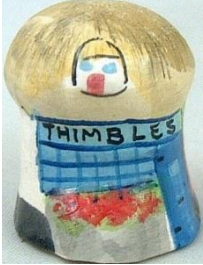
'Teas'



'Thimble Inn'

TTG September 2007



 'Thimble School'	 'Thimbles'	 tiled roof
 'Village Store'	 Tudor Cottage	
 Waterwheel	 Well Cottage	 Windmill
Village thimbles 		



Teapot thimbles

Many of the thimbles above are also available in the shape of a teapot thimble

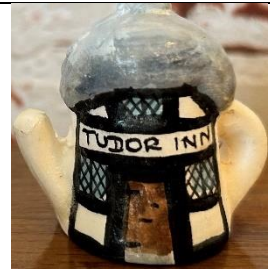




'Toys'



Tudor Cottage



'Tudor Inn'

Others



Colisseum



Cornish tin mine



**cow
gardener**



**cow
walking stick**



cup cake
TTG May 2012



donkey
Splash
TTG April 2010



gargoyle



**monk
candle**



**monk
cooking**



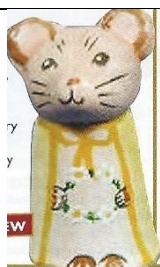
**monk
gardening**



**monk
hymnbook**



**monk
sampling wine**



mouse
daisy chain
TTG August 2013



Mr Gingerbread



Mrs Gingerbread



panda
TTG June 2005



sheep



sheep
Bridget
TTG August 2010



sheep
flowers



sheep
reading



Teddy bear
TTG September 2004



Teddy bear
brown



Teddy bear
white

Others - Pincushions



pincushion



pincushion

References

Yolanta Bogdziewicz | Pawel Brzyski | Marlous Craane | Andrea Griffiths | Linda Heggs | Wanda Ralston-Boulder Bay
Jean Rose-Miss Mouse | Jean Taylor

This listing of Merryfield Pottery thimbles 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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