

# Thimble Collectors Club Thimbles

## Barker Bros <--> Brown-Westhead, Moore & Co

### Teapots

A tribute to BARKER POTTERY, England

**F**OR Britain, the history of the teapot begins neatly alongside the history of porcelain. When tea from China was first imported, there was often a 'free gift,' in the form of a little teapot, popped into the top of the tea chests. These teapots were made of a very hard ceramic ware, quite unknown here, which came to be called 'stoneware'. The British were intrigued by the 'new' material, and did their best to imitate it. This gave a great boost to the pottery industry, and also started the long and fascinating story of British porcelain and bone china production. Our thimble shows a pattern including nine different teapot designs, from the elegant drawing-room shapes of the Georgian era – when tea was a very expensive commodity kept strictly under lock and key by the lady of the house – to the friendly kitchen cottage shapes of Victorian days.

The Barker Pottery Company flourished in Chesterfield, Derbyshire, from 1887 to 1957. It used its distinctive backstamp of a little dog, either printed or impressed, from 1928 onwards.

### Orchestra

A tribute to BELL & COMPANY, Scotland

**T**HIS strikingly handsome and unusual thimble is devoted to the subject of music, and it would make a perfect small present for a music-lover. Featuring a cello, bow and violin, a trumpet and a French horn, all set against a background of hand-written musical notes, this merry little thimble just seems to sing along!

J. & M. P. Bell & Company, who worked from the Glasgow Pottery, Dobbies Loan, flourished from 1843 to 1928. One of their distinguishing marks was, not surprisingly, an impressed or printed bell, which is the stamp we have appropriately used on this musical thimble. The company made earthenware vessels of different kinds, and also, interestingly, Parian ware, which was an attractive, translucent, unglazed white ware that was highly popular in Victorian times for statuary. Busts and small-sized statues of Classical poets and philosophers, heroes from mythology, and famous historical figures were often to be found in Victorian drawing-rooms, many of them made and supplied by Bell & Company.

## Helena

### A tribute to BELLE VUE POTTERY, England

**T**HIS attractive repeated design, with its classically inspired pattern of flowers and trailing tendrils, reminds us of the borders and cornices in the great English stately homes of the late eighteenth century. After the discovery of Pompeii and Herculaneum, the great Scottish architect Robert Adam visited the sites, and, on returning to Britain, made the 'neoclassical' style all his own. It became highly fashionable. The larger flower shape is a stylised anthemion (honeysuckle) motif derived from those ancient Greek and Roman decorations, and the smaller, daisy-like flowers make an appealing complement. With its subtle colouring and unusual shell-shaped top, this is a quietly elegant thimble that would fit charmingly into any collection.

The Belle Vue Pottery of Hull, in Yorkshire, was founded at the very beginning of the nineteenth century. The decorators might well have used designs like this on their ceramic pieces, as the neoclassical style was much loved, and lasted well into the Regency period. Such a pattern might have formed a border on items like dinner plates, soup tureens and fruit bowls, and would have reflected the décor of a dining room.

## Thimble Collectors Club

### Shamrock BELLEEK

This lovely thimble beautifully portrays Ireland's national emblem — the Shamrock, which, according to tradition, was used by St. Patrick to illustrate the doctrine of the Trinity. The Shamrocks are hand painted onto the bas-relief design.

Belleek Pottery was first established in 1857 when the majority of goods they produced were fine earthenware breakfast and dinner services. Over the years, with the help of several skilled workmen from Stoke-on-Trent, Belleek mastered the exacting art of making 'Parian' porcelain. Their elegance and superb artistic designs have made Belleek famous worldwide and they are now undoubtedly one of Europe's finest pottery producers.

# Thimble Collectors Club

## The Pondering Cat Thimble



A playful Calico cat ponders a quick attack on a rubber ball on this charming thimble from Bengal Ceramics.

Located in Dhaka, one of Bangladesh's largest cities, Bengal Ceramics is the sister company of Monno Ceramics, internationally known for their Monnolite Hotelware. Like its sister company, the highly skilled craftsmen of Bengal Ceramics produce their top quality porcelain in a state-of-the-art facility, using only the finest materials. The recently-completed expansion of their factory will enable them to double their capacity and meet the needs of today's sophisticated tableware market in America, Europe, the United Kingdom, Australia and New Zealand.

The "Pondering Cat" thimble, with its distinctive scalloped bottom, is available exclusively from the Thimble Collectors Club.

# Thimble Collectors Club

## Bedtime Puppy BERKSHIRE CHINA, England

Think of a puppy and you probably think of a naughty one! Whether he is going to grow up into a stern Alsatian or a larky terrier, a puppy is the cheekiest, liveliest animal you can imagine. Having a puppy means rescuing slippers from a thorough chewing, chasing a quicksilver scamp round the house – and mopping up puddles on the floor! Small wonder bedtime brings a sigh of relief when puppy abandons his wicked ways and toddles drowsily off to bed, suddenly as trusting and confiding as a sleepy child. But, in spite of all his rascally habits, what joy a puppy gives us as he rollicks and tumbles through his baby days!

This thimble is brought to you by Berkshire China. Despite its name, the pottery is in fact situated in Stoke-on-Trent, the traditional heart of porcelain manufacturing. Berkshire China's high standard of craftsmanship has swiftly gained it a reputation for quality in its fine bone china ware and the company has had to expand its skilled workforce to cope with the demand for its specialist products. The charming scenes adorning this delightful thimble are an eloquent testimony to artist Bob Hersey's love of animals and will be quite irresistible to thimble collectors everywhere.

# Thimble Collectors Club

## Bedtime Puppy Thimble



## BERKSHIRE CHINA - England

Versatile English artist and illustrator, Bob Hersey, has created an appealing series of motifs featuring a perky-eared puppy for this finely crafted Bone China thimble from the House of Berkshire. The decorative theme utilizes three different illustrations to tell the story of a playful pup at the end of an active day.

Located in Stoke-on-Trent, the historic center of porcelain manufacture in England, Berkshire China has swiftly earned a reputation for combining this region's tradition for Bone China of matchless quality with fresh and innovative decorative motifs. The firm has drawn on a local work force of craftsmen whose families have been pottery-makers for generations to meet the rapidly growing demand for its unique china specialties.

The light-hearted "Bedtime Puppy" thimble is sure to delight all who see it. And, the exceptional quality of Berkshire's Bone China and the expertly rendered decorations will be appreciated by knowledgeable collectors everywhere.

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# Thimble Collectors Club

## Hedgehogs Thimble



BERKSHIRE CHINA - England

A weary family of hedgehogs, returning from a night of foraging in the undergrowth, is portrayed resting amidst raspberries and mushrooms on this delightful thimble from Berkshire China.

Located in Stoke-on-Trent, the historic center of porcelain manufacture in England, Berkshire China has earned a reputation for combining this region's tradition for producing bone china of matchless quality with fresh, innovative ideas on decoration. The firm has drawn on a local work force of craftsmen whose families have been pottery-makers for generations to meet the rapidly growing demand for its unique china specialties.

This thimble, with its whimsical motif strikingly accented with a band of gleaming 22kt gold, is available exclusively from the Thimble Collectors Club.

# Thimble Collectors Club

## "Wagon Train" Thimble



BERKSHIRE CHINA - England

"There's gold in them thar hills!" A battlecry that could be heard throughout the wild west as thousands of eager settlers, hoping to find treasure or just new land, hitched up their wagon trains and began to roll across the open plains. Berkshire China has marvelously captured the spirit and tenacity of these adventurous men and women on this expertly crafted bone china thimble.

Located in Stoke-on-Trent, the historic center of porcelain manufacture in England, Berkshire China has earned a reputation for combining this region's tradition for producing bone china of matchless quality with fresh, innovative ideas on decoration. The firm has drawn on a local work force of craftsmen whose families have been pottery-makers for generations to meet the rapidly growing demand for its unique china specialties.

A perfect example of the creativity that goes into every Berkshire China thimble, this "Wagon Train" thimble, strikingly accented with a gleaming band of 22kt gold, has been exclusively manufactured for the enjoyment of members of the Thimble Collectors Club.

# Thimble Collectors Club

## Egyptian Bazaar BERLIN DESIGN, West Germany

In any country of the world, the most vivid impression of its inhabitants and their customs may be gained among the bustling market stalls. The comings and goings of an Egyptian bazaar take place against a hubbub of gossiping, bargaining and bartering, and the unloading of goods from stately and disdainful camels. All the sights, sounds and smells of exotic Arabia are to be found here – the heady aroma of spices mingled with the fragrance of freshly brewed coffee; the finely woven baskets and intricately beaten gold of a style hardly changed in thousands of years; the bales of brightly coloured cloth and sacks of gleaming fruit and vegetables; the cries of the street vendors and, above all, the animated chatter of folk going about their business.

Berlin Design was founded in 1970 in Berlin and is now based in Achim, near Bremen. They specialise in making replicas of museum pieces from many different countries and their series of collectables with an Egyptian theme, such as this charming thimble, is a special feature. For this project they collaborated with a brilliant watercolourist whose work has here been expertly reproduced by the skilled craftsmen of Berlin Design to produce a truly exquisite collector's piece.

## Thimble Collectors Club Pennsylvania Dutch Thimble



BERLIN DESIGN - West Germany

The German firm of Berlin Design has selected a charming Pennsylvania Dutch pattern for this fine Bavarian porcelain thimble. This uniquely American art form was developed by the German settlers in Pennsylvania who came to be known as the Pennsylvania Dutch when their English-speaking neighbors misunderstood the name of the language they spoke – "Deutsch," as "Dutch."

Berlin Design is located in the little village of Staffeinstein, Bavaria, a thriving porcelain-making center since the mid-1800's. This prestigious firm concentrates on creating outstanding and innovative decorative motifs for the renowned porcelain houses of the Bavarian region. Its talented artists and designers have established an enviable reputation for the limited edition plates, mugs and other collectibles which are its specialties.

The superb quality of Berlin Design's products can be seen in the bright colors and meticulous details of the design reproduced on this thimble. The "Pennsylvania Dutch Thimble" is available exclusively from The Thimble Collectors Club.

# Thimble Collectors Club

## Black and Gold Roses BERNADOTTE, Czechoslovakia

Roses – favourite flowers of all the world – will adapt themselves perfectly to any artistic treatment. Elegance and sophistication are the keynotes of our latest thimble, whose snowy white ground is dramatically embellished with the gorgeous, full-blown blooms of an English rose, charmingly delineated in gold. The surrounding composition of leaves, delicately drawn in fine black lines, forms a graceful foil to the circlet of flowers, and the thimble is finished with a slender golden band encircling its base.

The origins of the Bernadotte porcelain house go back to 1885, when it was founded under the name of Concordia-Lesov. The company rapidly came to earn a high reputation in the Austro-Hungarian empire. Taken over by the Brothers Loewe in 1911, it continued to produce fine tableware, but specialised in the production of decorative Turkish coffee sets, and special cups for serving hot chocolate! After changing hands several more times, in 1958 it became a member of the Carlsbad China Company of Czechoslovakia, which is famous the world over for the fine quality of its attractive porcelain gifts and tableware.

# Thimble Collectors Club

## Mother and Child BERNADOTTE, Czechoslovakia

Against the enduring rural charm of a Bohemian landscape, a proud young mother lovingly cradles her child in her arms. Their colourful national costumes – intricately hand-embroidered waistcoats and brightly coloured ribbons tied in a bow around the collars of their crisp, white blouses – reflect the mother's pride, both in her bonny babe and in the heritage of her country. Behind her we see typically Czechoslovakian turreted buildings with warm, russet-tiled roofs and buttery cream-painted walls, set in fine, unspoilt forestland. Czechoslovakia is famed for its beautiful countryside and for its friendly, high-spirited and naturally artistic countryfolk. The warmth and charm of both landscape and people shine out of this scene of heartfelt family and national pride.

The artist of this charming design, Christa Hook, has collaborated with the Czech porcelain house of Bernadotte to produce a most delightful thimble. The company's origins go back to 1885, when it was prominent in the Austro-Hungarian empire. During the first half of this century, it underwent various changes, until, in 1958, it became a member of the famous Carlsbad China Company. Throughout its history, however, it has maintained a reputation for producing the finest quality porcelain gifts and tableware.

# Thimble Collectors Club

## Butterfly BING & GRONDAHL, Denmark

The lovely butterfly on this thimble is an outstanding example of Bing & Grondahl's celebrated under-glaze style. This is Scandinavian porcelain at its finest.

Bing & Grondahl's tradition reaches back over a century and a quarter to 1853 when the brothers Meyer and Jacob Bing joined Frederick Grondahl to found the company that bears their names. From the earliest days Bing & Grondahl have used only the finest porcelain and the most skilled craftsmen, in their dedication to quality and artistry.

It is with such beautiful pieces of work as this thimble that Bing & Grondahl have earned appointment to the Courts of Sweden, Denmark and Great Britain. Their work may be seen in the most important private collections and museums throughout the world.

# Thimble Collectors Club

## Classic Selection BING & GRONDAHL, Denmark

The partnership formed by Frederick Grondahl and Meyer and Jacob Bing in 1853 brought together the artistic ability of Grondahl and the financial assets of the Bing brothers. Sadly, Grondahl died only three years later but his name has lived on. Bing & Grondahl is still run by descendants of the Bing brothers.

From a porcelain house that is Denmark's second oldest you would expect something special. In this thimble you can see quality porcelain and fine artistry brought together — a fine addition to your collection all the way from Scandinavia.

# Thimble Collectors Club

## The Little Mermaid Thimble



### BING & GRONDAHL - Denmark

Wonderfully provincial, this charming thimble from Copenhagen's Bing & Grøndahl combines several local traditions. It pictures the statue of the Little Mermaid, from a fairy tale by Denmark's own Hans Christian Andersen, which greets ships arriving in the Copenhagen harbor.

Since 1853, the exquisite porcelain artware of Bing & Grøndahl has been one of Copenhagen's proudest traditions. Internationally acclaimed for its innovations, the firm produced the world's first Christmas plate in 1895. The soft, subtle hues that are the hallmark of Bing & Grøndahl are achieved by a unique underglazing technique.

Bing & Grøndahl is a purveyor to the Danish royal court. Its proud "castle" hallmark is also known to collectors and connoisseurs around the world.

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# Thimble Collectors Club

## Summer Meadow BIRCHCROFT, England

A summer's day and the traditional English meadow is a blaze of golden grasses and colourful flowers of every hue – alive with busily buzzing bees and the fluttering of butterflies. The sunlight plays on the wings of the most enchanting of meadow butterflies, the common blue, to give it the distinctive vibrant colour. Its wings are covered with thousands of tiny scales that overlap like slates on a roof and reflect an almost metallic sheen. These butterflies hover above the bright yellow flowers of the birdsfoot trefoil, alighting briefly to suck up the sugary nectar. Other meadow flowers that attract the butterflies and bees and make the summer meadow a place of rare beauty and special fragrance are buttercups, ragged robin and the aptly named meadowsweet.

A recently founded company, Birchcroft Fine Bone China nevertheless has already become internationally recognised for its particularly fine thimbles. Every one of these is made by hand, using original slip cast methods. This thimble was designed by the artist Sue Camm, who has always had a deep love of the countryside.



## A Day by the Sea BLOSSOM CHINA, England

**L**ET'S go to the beach! must surely be the sentence heard more often than any other in the long summer holidays! This pretty thimble is decorated with a century-old Edwardian scene, showing sun, sand, sailor suit and beribboned sunhat, that is echoed in thousands of old family albums. Our clothing may have changed, but our beach pastimes have not – for here we see our own children's very kite, bucket, toy boat and sandcastle, exactly the same, one hundred years ago, as they are today. And grandpa's modern representative just as eagerly approaches that stripy deckchair!

Blossom China was established at the end of the nineteenth century, and had much early success with its character and Toby jugs. The company is also often associated with ornamental souvenir and commemorative wares – such as mugs, plates, china boxes and, of course, thimbles – that were produced to mark special events and places. Blossom China went on to design and make highly innovative studio pieces with skilled, hand-painted decoration for the arts and crafts market.

## Farm Animals BLYTH WORKS, England

**T**WENTY of our traditional farm friends – a Friesian cow, a black-faced sheep and a portly pig – are shown in this delightful and vibrantly coloured thimble. Their backgrounds, however, are not quite so traditional! A bright gingham field and red and yellow pastures are far from the gentle hues of the English countryside, but the fresh, modern approach and quirky artistry of the effect more than compensate for the stretch of the imagination required!

The Blyth Works was originally situated in the Shelton area of Stoke on Trent, the heart of the English potteries. Ranges of different bone china products were made, but Blyth developed a particular reputation for china 'fancies' during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. These little trinkets and thimbles were not just sold as gifts, but were often the prizes that were hotly competed for in country fairground games, and were no doubt proudly presented to the winners' sweethearts! We feel that this charming country thimble would have fitted this role admirably.

# Thimble Collectors Club

## Court Figures BOHEMIA, Czechoslovakia

When we think of the stately pastimes and accoutrements of an eighteenth-century Court, we imagine sweet chamber music, graceful dancing, gallant bows and curtsies, powdered wigs, brocade and lace, fans and bouquets. In this elegant and unusual thimble we see some of these impressions in silhouette – a technique popular in the time of a French finance minister, Etienne de Silhouette (1709-67), in which an outlined portrait head, or a whole figure or scene, is coloured in black and set against a white or light background. The contrast makes a dramatic and sophisticated effect. On the reverse of the thimble is an attractive swirling golden motif, inspired by the elaborate wrought-ironwork fashionable at the time.

The Bohemia porcelain house, at Nová Role, was founded in 1921 – the last in the long line of great historical Czech ceramic houses. Although the youngest, it soon became one of the best known, its products widely sought after for the high quality and purity of the china. Bohemia has kept well abreast of technical and stylistic developments, and has recently been much enlarged and modernised. It specialises in fine tableware in interesting modern designs, and in gift items such as this delightful thimble.

## Blue Floral BORDEAUX, France

Blue-on-white decoration has been traditional on porcelain and pottery since its very early days in the Orient, and the European porcelain masters appreciated and copied these early wares, with their Chinese motifs, down to the last detail. After a while, however, 'chinoiserie' gave way to current Western trends, and during the latter part of the eighteenth century, dainty flower patterns became popular. This pretty thimble, with its delicate blue floral design, is reminiscent of the light and airy decoration of that period.

Around the end of the eighteenth century, many small porcelain factories sprang up throughout France, wherever good-quality kaolin deposits were available. These little companies were funded by, or were under the patronage of, various distinguished men, for porcelain production was a fashionable interest at the time. The Bordeaux name has been well-known since 1800, when the company was founded to apply hand-painted decoration to some of the beautiful porcelain made in Limoges and Paris. The elegance and refinement of its wares caused them to be highly sought after, and they adorned the tables of the very highest members of society. The restrained decoration on this delightful thimble is very typical of the work of this little factory.

# Thimble Collectors Club

## The Carousel

In the style of BOW, England

Carousels appeal to the child in all of us, no matter how many birthdays we have seen. They bring back the days when the news that a fair was coming to town sent us into a fever of excitement as we waited to see the trucks roll in and the stands go up. Then the bliss of candy floss melting in the mouth, the yearning for the teddy bear we could win if only we could find success at the coconut shy. . . and, best of all, a ride on a carousel horse – a 'galloper' – clutching the gaily painted pole for safety as we spun round and round to the rousing music. With luck, Mum and Dad might even be persuaded to ride with us – and we could see their faces soften with reminiscence as they watched young courting couples riding along on their brightly coloured steeds.

The Bow porcelain house began its production in the mid-eighteenth century, and patented the first bone-ash china. At first its designs were copied directly from Chinese and Japanese ware, but as the century progressed Bow products became more and more ornate and boldly coloured. The predominant use of blue is echoed today in this attractive and highly collectable thimble.

# Thimble Collectors Club

## Chrysanthemum

A thimble produced in the style of BOW, England

A splendid fuchsia-pink faceted crystal crowns this very striking thimble, beautifully catching the light, and picking out the colour of the boldly drawn chrysanthemum on its side. The chrysanthemum itself is a much-loved flower in many parts of the world, and its cultivation for over a thousand years has resulted in the production of nearly two hundred varieties. In the Far East, more than anywhere else, it has been brought to the very peak of perfection. There it symbolises Autumn and long life, and on the ninth day of September each year a delightful Chrysanthemum Festival takes place in Japan.

The fresh, bright pink seen on this thimble is one of the characteristically bold colours of later Bow porcelain. Bow is well known as the first English porcelain house to achieve the production of translucent china with bone-ash in the mid-eighteenth century. At first copying its decorative motifs from those on Chinese and Japanese wares, Bow later moved away from this and developed its own attractive, ornate, cheerfully coloured designs. This present thimble, produced as a tribute to them, would surely have won high praise from the Bow craftsmen!

# Thimble Collectors Club

## Crystal Garland

A thimble in the eighteenth-century style of BOW, England

Those of us who are fortunate enough to possess a piece of family china handed down from our great-great-grandmothers might well recognise the style of the pretty circlet of flowers on this delightfully olde-worlde thimble. Skilfully and lovingly painted in many colours, such charming blooms ornamented the treasured porcelain bowls, cups and trinket-boxes of ladies all over Europe during the latter half of the eighteenth century.

Bow, which began the production of pottery in the 1740s, became well known as the first English porcelain house to achieve the production of translucent china, which it did with bone-ash, added to a specially imported white clay from South Carolina. At first the decorations were copied from those on the highly popular wares which had come from China and Japan, but as time went on Bow developed its own style, which included softly coloured, naturalistic paintings of botanical subjects. Crafted in an attractive crinoline shape, embellished with a single band of gold and crowned with a sparkling gold-collared crystal, this miniature reminder of one of the best-loved of English porcelain houses is sure to delight collectors today.

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# Thimble Collectors Club

Fluted Floral Thimble



BOW  
PORCELAIN  
BOW PORCELAIN - England

A classically styled thimble, adorned with a simple but elegant floral pattern, pays fitting tribute to the historic Bow Porcelain hallmark which it bears.

Founded in 1774 by Thomas Frye, an Irish artist who was trying to find a porcelain superior to imports from China, Bow Porcelain spent a number of years testing clays imported from around the world. Finally, after discovering a special clay which was imported from South Carolina, Bow became the first porcelain house to produce bone china. Originally known only for the copies of Chinese and Japanese designs it produced, Bow quickly became famous for its new, cream-colored china.

Reminiscent of those early Bow Porcelain wares in its innovative shape and crisp, clean decoration, the "Fluted Floral" thimble is a perfect complement to your collection. This thimble was designed solely for and is exclusive to members of the Thimble Collectors Club.

# Thimble Collectors Club

## Spring Serenade

A thimble produced in homage to the eighteenth-century BOW PORCELAIN WORKS, England

This exquisite thimble has been created for the Thimble Collectors Club in the style of Bow, which with its beginnings in the 1740s was one of our earliest porcelain companies. Daniel Defoe, in 1748, wrote that this 'new Manufacture of Porcelaine' made 'tea-cups, saucers, etc. ... little inferior to those brought from China'. It was not only the product that copied Chinese originals: the building itself was modelled on a Cantonese porcelain works, and aptly named 'New Canton'.

Bow was the first English porcelain house to produce bone china and was unusual in importing a special white clay all the way from South Carolina. The unique Bow recipe enabled production of affordable everyday 'china' – as opposed to pottery – to satisfy the demand created by fashionable but expensive Chinese imports. The company was taken over by William Duesbury of the Derby Porcelain Works in 1776, and sadly closed down.

Like most European porcelain companies Bow copied the popular shapes and patterns of Meissen, of whose style this dainty acorn thimble is an example. The decoration, typical of Bow's later years, shows a pair of colourful songbirds welcoming the first fragile blossoms of spring with the beauty of their song. A masterpiece in miniature, it charmingly captures the spirit and elegance of the Georgian age.

# Thimble Collectors Club

## Spring Serenade Thimble



Bow, England

A pair of joyful songbirds welcome the first fragile blossoms of Spring on this beautiful and unusual thimble from Bow Porcelain.

Bow Porcelain was founded in 1774 by Thomas Frye, an Irish artist, who was trying to find a porcelain superior to imports from China. With his discovery of a new mixture for china which included a special clay imported from South Carolina, Bow became the first English porcelain house to produce bone china. Originally known only for the copies of Japanese and Chinese designs it produced, Bow quickly became famous for its innovative methods of production, fragile, cream-colored china, and strikingly different designs.

This delicate china thimble, with its unique acorn-shape and charming decoration, is reminiscent of the early Meissen style. In the spirit of the Georgian age, Bow has produced a miniature masterpiece, available exclusively from The Thimble Collectors Club.

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## The Tailor's Thimble



BOW  
PORCELAIN

BOW PORCELAIN - England

## Giraffe

A tribute to BRANKSOME CERAMICS, England


**T**HIS is one of our most unusual thimbles to date. Specially produced for the many animal lovers among our collectors, it bears an enchanting design of a newly born giraffe, struggling to stand up, on wobbly legs, from his grassy bed. This beautiful animal is at home south of the Sahara Desert, and in particular on the wide-open savannahs of East Africa. The tallest of all living mammals, an adult giraffe can reach a branchful of leaves as high as six metres from the ground. He is a shy, gentle creature, but is armed with an extremely powerful kick for use against would-be predators!

Our thimble is produced in respectful memory of the Branksome Ceramics Company, a small pottery that was founded in the lovely seaside town of Bournemouth in 1945. You may have heard of Branksome Chine, one of the famous long, shady groves that wind downhill from the town to the beach. The company made pottery and stoneware, and flourished for some eleven years.

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## Thimble Collectors Club

"Dolphins" Thimble



BRIMSTONE FINE CHINA - England

A group of playful dolphins, frolic in the softly rolling waters of the sea. A charming scene wonderfully captured by Brimstone Fine China.

Founded only five years ago, Brimstone Fine China is one of a crop of new English porcelain companies. Located in tradition-rich Worcestershire, close to the cathedral city of Worcester, Brimstone has hired many of the expertly-trained craftsmen and women from other porcelain houses in the area. Priding themselves on the quality of their wares, Brimstone's group of artisans bring years of experience and dedication to each of the ceramic and porcelain gift items they create.

With its distinctive Brimstone backstamp located inside the thimble (the design depicts the outline of the brimstone butterfly), you can be assured that this "Dolphins" thimble is of the highest quality. Beautifully finished with a fine band of 23kt gold, the Thimble Collectors Club is proud to exclusively introduce its members to this new porcelain house.

# Thimble Collectors Club

## Snowy Owl BRIMSTONE FINE CHINA, England

Swooping silently over the countryside, the great Snowy Owl is a distinctive, dramatic and beautiful sight. The male of the species sometimes has a few dark-brown bars on its wings, and the female, which is larger, has more, but the overwhelming impression is of a vast white bird with rounded wings, feathery legs and feet, and glittering, golden-yellow eyes. A welcome winter visitor to Britain, especially the northern areas, the Snowy Owl hovers over open country – particularly over moorland and around coastal areas – in search of prey. Our latest thimble shows this magnificent bird to perfection.

Brimstone Fine China is a recently established porcelain house, which is already making a name for itself as a producer of fine quality wares. Situated in the rolling Worcestershire countryside – an area with a world-wide reputation for the production of bone china – Brimstone is proud of the high standards achieved by its skilled craftsmen and women, all of whom have many years' experience in the field of ceramics, and on the dedication of its team of talented artists and designers. The backstamp of this company is particularly attractive, being designed in the form of the Brimstone Yellow butterfly.

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# Thimble Collectors Club

## Crown Luster Thimble



## BRITANIA CHINA COMPANY - England

A lustrous glaze of rainbow colors accented by an elegant ring of golden crowns grace this magnificent thimble from the illustrious Britannia China Company.

Founded in 1895, in Longton, Stoke-on-Trent, the Britannia China Company was one of the leading porcelain manufacturers in the historic Staffordshire pottery district at the turn of the twentieth century. Items bearing the firm's unique backstamp were eagerly sought by collectors. Sadly, the pottery was forced to close in 1906, and the illustrious hallmark was confined to the archives. The owner of the backstamp, however, has resurrected the hallmark for this remarkable thimble, which is available exclusively to members of the Thimble Collectors Club.

This exquisite thimble, with its luminous rainbow glaze, delicately detailed motif, and unique shape is a glowing tribute to the Britannia China Company.

incorrect spelling of Britannia in heading name

# Thimble Collectors Club

## Floral Blue

A thimble in tribute to the BRITANNIA CHINA COMPANY, England

A breathtakingly beautiful blue is the chief feature of this newest thimble in our collection. Surmounted by a sparkling faceted blue crystal, and embellished with rich golden bands, the thimble depicts a lovely floral spray in colours of deepest gentian blue and sunny buttercup yellow. Happy is the blue-eyed bride who carries this little bouquet to match her sapphire engagement ring – her taste and discernment will serve her well!

This thimble has been produced for the Thimble Collectors Club as a centenary celebration of the work of the Britannia China Company, which was founded in 1895 in Longton, Stoke-on-Trent, in Staffordshire, home county of many of the most famous potteries, and the most important centre of porcelain making in England. The porcelain wares produced by Britannia were made to a very high standard, and had attractive printed or impressed patterns. The company's hallmark was a large letter B, enclosing the letters C and Co. Although the company closed in 1906, its fine traditions of craftsmanship have been preserved, and this floral tribute to a quintessential period porcelain house is worthy of its name.

TCCFC290

# Thimble Collectors Club

## The Unicorn

A thimble in tribute to BRITANNIA CHINA, England

The medieval story-tellers wove the mythical Unicorn into many of their tales of mystery and enchantment. With the head and body of a pure white horse, the Unicorn bore a single horn in the middle of its forehead. A ferocious and terrifying beast, it could be quietened and caught only by a young, unmarried girl, before whom it would bow its head and lie docile. When thus tamed, it could be asked to test a liquid for poison by dipping its horn into a cup. The Holy Roman Emperor Rudolph II had a cup designed for him on which was the image of a unicorn, standing guard, and as late as 1789 instruments of 'unicorn's horn' were used in France to test the royal food and drink. The Unicorn is familiar to us today as one of the supporters of the royal arms.

This romantic thimble, showing the legendary Unicorn prancing amid wreathed leaves and scarlet banners, is a reminder of the Britannia China Company, which flourished from 1895 to 1906 in Longton, Stoke-on-Trent, in the heart of the Potteries. It produced porcelain of the highest quality, and our attractive thimble is a worthy tribute to its memory.

TCCFC273



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# Thimble Collectors Club

## "Inverary Castle" Thimble



BROWN-WESTHEAD, MOORE & CO. - England

A classic medieval English castle, surrounded by the rolling hills and smooth running streams of the countryside, forms the stylish motif of this lovely thimble crafted by Brown-Westhead, Moore & Co.

Founded in 1862 by Samuel Brown-Westhead and Charles Moore, B.W.M. & Co. joined the illustrious group of Staffordshire Potteries. Manufacturing the same high-quality earthenwares and porcelain table items and giftwares. B.W.M. & Co. soon became one of England's more famous hallmarks. Following a brief bankruptcy after the deaths of its founders, the Moore family regained control of the factory and continued to provide local hotels and royalty with only the finest in porcelain dinnerware.

Representing the elegant castle at Inverary, this outstanding bone china thimble has been made exclusively for the Thimble Collectors Club. Finished with a gleaming band of 24kt gold, it makes a wonderful addition to your collection.

### Merlin

#### BROWN WESTHEAD AND MOORE, England

Although we know of him from medieval sources, the Celtic sage, seer and magician Merlin represents the ancient, pre-Christian mystery traditions of Britain. According to legend, it was Merlin who magically transported the great stones of Stonehenge from Ireland to England. He brought about and guided the reign of King Arthur, and ensured his continuing invincibility and greatness. Merlin's downfall was his yearning love for the beautiful sorceress Vivien, the Lady of the Lake, who took him up, then became tired of him and imprisoned him for ever in an enchanted tower. The bardic literature of Wales has a cycle of poems said to be by Merlin, and his enigmatic prophecies rival those of Nostradamus.

Founded in 1862, the celebrated porcelain manufacturer of Brown Westhead and Moore started business at John Ridgway's former Cauldron Works in Hanley, Staffordshire. The company is known for its very fine porcelains, and keeps up the Ridgway tradition of quality.

## Poinsettias

### BROWN, WESTHEAD AND MOORE, England

**T**HE magnificent poinsettia comes into our homes at Christmas time in a triumphant blaze of colour. With its bright green leaves and flaming vermilion petal-like bracts, this beautiful member of the Euphorbia family is surely one of our most popular and decorative house guests! A native of Mexico, it is now welcomed all over the world. Our striking thimble features four red poinsettias, their crisp green leaves set against a snow-white ground, embellished with a golden band – all the traditional Christmas colours encapsulated in one tiny masterpiece!

Founded in 1862, the celebrated porcelain manufacturer of Brown, Westhead and Moore was based at the former Cauldron Works of John Ridgway in Hanley, one of the original 'Five Towns' of the Potteries, in Staffordshire. The Victorian era was at this time at the height of productivity, and fine bone china was greatly in demand. The company became well known for its gift items as well as its table wares, and the Ridgway tradition of quality and craftsmanship is maintained in this charming floral thimble.

## Swan Lake

With the mark of BROWN, WESTHEAD AND MOORE, England

**T**hat best-loved and most romantic of all classical ballets is celebrated here. In the early hours of the morning of his twenty-first birthday, the handsome Prince Siegfried falls in love with the exquisite Odette. That night, at the Court Ball, he must choose his bride from the loveliest girls in the land. But Odette is under the spell of an evil enchanter, and from dawn until midnight she changes into a swan, able to live only in the world of sky and water, and their love is thus doomed. When Siegfried meets the lovely Odile at the Ball, he thinks she is Odette; but Odile is a dangerous seductress, the daughter of the enchanter. Odette, the Swan, flutters desperately at the window, but Siegfried does not see her.

The celebrated pottery of Brown, Westhead and Moore was founded in 1862 at John Ridgway's former Cauldon Works in Hanley, one of the famous Staffordshire pottery towns. It maintained Ridgway's excellent reputation for fine porcelain production, and employed well-known artists such as Antonin Boullemies, who was trained at Sèvres and later worked at Minton. This lovely thimble is a fitting tribute to his work.