

Pewter thimble makers of the world with their marks

When I created the topic Marks on British silver thimbles, in 2002 I never dreamt it would be the most visited section in my Learn More About ... Thimbles topics. I am hoping to fill a gap that has long existed in creating a similar database for pewter marks – this time from around the world. Maybe it too can become the source for thimble marks on pewter?

Pewter thimbles began to appear for the thimble collectables market – ie thimbles not made to sew with – in the late 1970s. That and the following decade were the heyday for the makers and collectors of this medium. Many were handpainted, had figures atop (also known as toppers). Now we can look back on 100,000s of pewter thimbles!

According to Edwin Holmes, pewter is an alloy of tin (93.6%) lead, copper and antimony is it known as poor man's silver. Modern pewter thimbles are lead-free. Pewter is a soft malleable medium ideal for sculpting in fine detail, with the sculptor or designer limited only by his imagination and much it is cheaper than silver. Pewter thimbles are mostly too heavy to be used for sewing.

Being a darker medium than silver, pewter thimble marks are more difficult to photograph. The great majority of pewter thimbles are unmarked. If we are lucky, the thimble has remained with its presentation box, where the maker's marks may be gleaned.

I have included all names that have come to my attention thru selling thimbles of every variety over the last 35 years and those mentioned in thimble catalogues from 1970. I am interested to hear from you please if your country's pewter makers don't appear here.

Looking back thru the thimble catalogues of the 1970s and 80s, confusion may arise as the sellers were loath to reveal the thimble makers' names for fear of competition. Sometimes they used just the sculptor's name (ie John Ball) and not the firm for whom he worked (McMillan & Wife). By creating this database, we may be able to link one or more makers and sculptors or designers from one stable together?

I have concentrated on listing makers of thimbles wholly made of pewter. Sterling Classic, who have created many pewter pieces for placement on top of their china thimbles, are not included here.

Nor will you find makers of wooden thimbles with pewter items affixed, nor resin, nor glass.

Swarovski crystals may be included as part of the design as long as pewter is primary.

Do you know who created the fire-hydrant thimbles with enamel discs affixed?

As in the previous topic I created, Pewter character head thimbles, I noticed a far greater use of the copyright symbol © on the pewter thimbles listed. This mark never occurs on sterling silver thimbles; it is infrequently found on china thimbles. I have recorded it when I found a copyright mark on pewter thimbles.

I have noticed many identical pewter thimbles – from differing manufacturers. This database hopes to link these sculptors thru their various paths. Warwick Model's Stephen Frost carried the moulds with him from McMillan & Wife (such a name from the early 80s wouldn't be used today?) when they closed. Many thimbles are articulated, some hinged, or having moving parts.

I was intrigued to find an extra British mark on pewter thimbles that I'd never noticed before: **ABPC** for the Association of British Pewter Craftsmen.

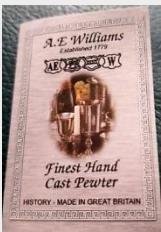
It is not a maker's mark. The mark may accompany a maker's mark.

I have included this mark in the alphabetical listing and when it has been used.

One example of each thimble is included, with a purely descriptive title. As I launch this topic, there are **127** makers represented.

Marks

arranged by first letter of name

thimble	maker	marks	dates found	Notes with probable dates
 The Shrewsbury quest	<u>A E Williams (AEW)</u> 6 Well Lane Digbeth Birmingham UK www.aewilliamspewter.com	 		on verso oldest family-run pewterers 1779- 
 knight	<u>Academy Pewter</u> 112 Blakedown Road Halesowen West Midlands UK			unmarked Academy took over making thimbles from Felix Motel of Bath when he retired in 2002
 iris - whale	<u>Admiral Z</u> Hawaii USA	A S  		walrus tooth scrimshaw set into apex ©
	<u>Association of British Pewter Craftsmen (ABPC)</u> UK	 (BPC inside A)	founded in 1970	on verso often an additional group mark <u>Pewter Made in England</u> seahorse trademark



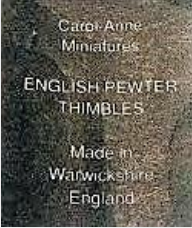
Philadelphia Thimble Society

Amish Kraft Company
USA

2010

named on box only

see Heirloom Editions	<u>Antiquities of the Holy Land</u> Jerusalem Israel			
	<u>Avebury Pewter</u> UK			
 women's faces	<u>Battersea Ltd</u> Colorado USA		1970 1978	named on underside of rim 1970s ©
	<u>Bernard G Butler (BGB)</u> North Wales UK			
 Celtic dog 2008	<u>Boulder Bay Thimbles</u> USA (Wanda Ralston)			
 Cleopatra	<u>Brieth Designs</u> Stratford on Avon UK (Anne Wareham)	-		unmarked handpainted articulated figures see also Minnie Maria Ltd

	<u>British Barbican Crafts</u> UK			handpainted articulated
 <u>Just a Thimble Full</u>	<u>British Nobleman Pewterware</u> Sheffield UK			<u>Made by Craftsman ...</u>
 Mr Pickwick	<u>BS5140</u> UK (B S Sills)			BS5140 is the British Standard for pewter ©
 American bison	<u>Carl Wagner</u> Colorado USA		1978	bronzed pewter
 hippo	<u>Carol Ann Miniatures</u> Isle of Portland UK	 		named on box handpainted figures many are identical to those of Warwick Models some of their boxes are lettered <u>Made in Warwickshire</u> so probably made by Warwick Models

	<u>Cartier</u> UK			Just a Thimble Full
 owl	<u>CAT Designs Fine Pewter</u> Grove City Ohio USA	 with an imprint of a cat in profile	1986	©
 Cross of St John	<u>Celtic Art</u> Scotland (Andy Hynd)		1983	plated in rhodium Andy is a silversmith, who also works in pewter
 tea table	<u>Cheryl Harness (CCH)</u> Missouri USA			1990s heavy in weight 
 King Arthur's castle	<u>Chris Kenny</u> UK			gilt pewter 1980s



Peter Pan

Colin Tyler
Worcestershire
UK
(Tyler Castings)
www.thimblegarden.co.uk
(painter Emily Rice)



includes stacking and nesting thimbles
set of four Kelly Gang thimbles thru
Scissorman, Australia
1980s



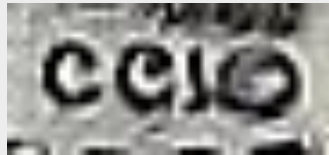
see also: Mary Tyler



Raggedy Andy_Ann

Comstock
USA

CCI



part-painted
Swarovski crystals



Wizard of Oz

Comstock Creations
Comstock Pewter
Durango
Colorado
USA



1998

see also **Gallo**
©



doctor with patient

Curtis
USA



1984

lettered around rim of apex
Norman Rockwell series



unicorn

Cuterl Pewter



© 1985



Spain

D&L



lettered on apex
large size

	<u>Danbury Mint</u> USA			some are articulated
	<u>Daniel Riccio</u> USA			
	<u>Deborah Hulls</u> UK			
	<u>Disney</u> USA			made by Fort
	<u>Donohue Enterprises (DE)</u> Denver Colorado USA (designer: Paula Fried)(PF) her signature appears within the design		1987 1990	lettered on underside of rim some part-painted © many of their thimbles have a single ring of deep indents on the outer apex
	<u>Donna Ruprecht</u> USA			signed Ruprecht on cow bone apex inset

 Lady Liberty	<u>Downs</u> USA		1984	
 prancing horse	<u>Earthern</u> (sic) <u>Ware</u> Cornwall UK			aided in set-up by Prince of Wales Trust see also PG Enterprises early 1990s
 Mother so dear	<u>Enesco</u> USA		1981	some handpainted
 Green finch	<u>Exquisite Creations</u> Shirley Solihull UK			lettered in apex © see also W.A.P.W
 Jeremy Fisher	<u>Frederick Warne & Co</u> UK	FW&Co		holder of Beatrix Potter creations' licence enamelling, not a maker just a © mark
 mermaid	<u>Fellowship Foundry</u> Oaklands California USA	 	1991 1992	lettered above rim on verso some handpainted some Swarovski crystals

 Alaska	Fort Inc East Providence Rhode Island USA (D Jacobs)			the most prolific US pewter thimble manufacturer 1983 "Little Farmers" series ©
 embroidered rose <u>I am thimble minded</u>	<u>Framework Miniatures Ltd</u> Birmingham UK (Elizabeth R Anderson) Bromley, Kent			unmarked kit with space affixed to fit embroideries in locket some examples have dried flowers in frame others created in pewter mid 1990s
 The peasant's wise daughter	<u>Franklin Mint</u> near Philadelphia USA (designer Gianni Benvenuti)			includes Grimm's fairy tales set of 24 1982
 kiss me	<u>G Martin</u> USA		1983	before the amalgamation as G&J Martin
 tortoise	<u>G&J Martin</u> USA		1985 1986 1988	inside rim some articulated



fish

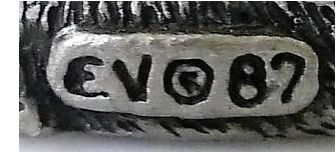
Gallo
USA
(modellers:
EV for **E Vincent**
D Sams
SDK for **Sheryl Keith**
Stella)



1983 1984 1986
1987 1989

see also Comstock

©



SDK



 puppy	<u>Ganz</u> Taiwan			some handpainted
 teardrops flower	<u>Gill Bates</u> Dudley West Midlands UK			see also Woodsetton
 teepee	<u>Grad Neeleo (?)</u> USA	 6646		
 The White Rabbit	<u>Hallmark Cards</u> Kansas USA		1995 1996 1997 1998	handpainted figures includes Alice in Wonderland set ©
	<u>Hantel</u> UK (Frances Moore)	 		<u>Love Token Thimbles</u> embroidery stitch designs and ABPC mark ©

horn of plenty embroidery stitches – toys monkey				were Frances Moore and Frances Wilson the same person – one being a married name?
 teddy bear Toys	<u>Hantel Toys</u> Inverness UK (Frances Wilson)			specialises in toys atop thimbles; articulated figures atop are enamelled and are separate entities 1980s
 replica from Roman period	<u>Heirloom Editions Ltd (HE)</u> USA (founded by Barbara Ringer 1978)	HE  		lettered inside rim includes a series of reproduction antiquities thimbles  
 William Shakespeare	UK	HM 		
 the Eskimo	<u>Ian Parry</u> Worcestershire <i>then:</i> Coventry UK			1984-1990 see his thimbles ... Learn More About Thimbles
		JJo 		lettered above rim on verso some handpainted
 Celtic design	<u>J.M. Crafts</u> Wales UK			1990s

	<u>Keith Rowlinson</u> UK			includes a set of zodiac thimbles 1990s
		LAP		
	UK	LM 		may be marked <u>Pewter Made in England</u> on verso © and ABLP group mark
	<u>Laughing Monarch Products Ltd</u> (LMP) St Just Penzance Cornwall UK			may be marked <u>Pewter Made in England</u> on verso and ABLP group mark there is a crown above the maker's name 1970s ©  <u>Pewter Treasures Laughing Monarch</u> <u>Products Ltd British Made</u>
		LWD		
	<u>Malcolm Jones</u> USA			

 koala	<u>Marylyn Verstraeten</u> Melbourne Australia			unmarked
 President Ronald Reagan	<u>Mark Models Ltd</u> Birmingham UK (Trevor Power) (TP)		1984 1989	
 Dandelion elf	<u>Maureen & Edward Story Jones</u> Berriew Welshpool Powys Wales (Silver Scenes Ltd)		1994	includes flower fairies set silver-plated pewter 
 poppy	<u>McMillan & Wife</u> UK (Robin & Jill McMillan) (Thimbles Unlimited) sculptors/modellers: John Ball; Stephen Frost; Maxine Sissons (of Worcestershire); hp: DH - DWD - JC - MH Linda - SJF	MW  	1979-1981	lettered inside rim from 1981 some are handpainted Maxine's includes 'Fingerhoots' a series of owls first British pewter thimbles to have moving parts 



cat

Michel Laude Créations
Minerve
France



cursive lettering above rim



this mark on the card appears on the thimbles but too difficult to capture



The cow jumped over the moon

Minnie Maria Co
Stratford on Avon
UK

handpainted figures
see also Brieth Designs
1980s-1990s



rocking horse

Moorland Miniatures
Devon
UK
(Andrew Copp)



unmarked
mostly with articulated limbs
1990s - 2000s
much larger than average
mainly depicting nursery rhymes



cart horse

Moorland Pewter
UK

unmarked
1990s



ships bound for Australia

(Trevor Power)
Birmingham
UK



1987

base mark
there is additional **TP** mark
©

 shamrock	<u>Mullingar Pewter</u> Ireland			
 bear	<u>Nathan Vandermee</u> Colorado USA			late 1990s
 <u>Just a Thimbleful</u>	<u>Newburyport Pewter Towle</u>			base mark
 Desert Shield-Desert Storm	<u>Nicholas C Gish</u> New Jersey USA		1981 died 2006	signature in cursive; some are articulated; some have star indents or textures on the apex © merry-go-round thimbles around an inner thimble 
 collie	<u>Nugaris Arts Works</u> Denver Colorado USA		1979	name above outer rim bronzed ©
 clubs	<u>Olivia</u> (Jacqui & David Parker) Birmingham UK			they mainly work in brass handpainted 1990s See also Learn: Jacqui and David Parker topic

 camel	<u>Oporto</u> USA			shapes are like Fort
 sulphur-crested cockatoo	<u>Oz Pewter</u> Logan Queensland Australia (Swagman Pottery)		1998-	no maker's marks large in size ©
 surfing koala	<u>Pan-Arts</u> Sydney Australia (Ray)			lettered inside rim ©
 flowers of Mull – poppy ivy	<u>Philip D.A. & Brenda Campbell</u> Tobermory Isle of Mull Scotland UK	PDAC 		handpainted gold-plated pewter 1980s 
 duck in a tub	<u>Peregrine Pewter</u> West Glamorgan UK			
 <u>Thimble Full</u>	<u>Perfection Pewter</u>			

 <i>Just a thimbleful</i>	<u>Pewter by Poole</u> UK			base mark
 Celtic	<u>Pewtermill Crafts</u> Paddockholme North Kilbirnie Scotland UK www.pewtermill.co.uk			
 kangaroo	<u>PG Enterprises</u> Yorkshire UK (Thimbles and Things)			marked in apex see also Earthen Ware
 church – forge – post office	<u>Pinder Bros</u> Sheffield		2010-2013	miniature village buildings atop pewter thimbles – trees in relief around thimble – some painted some are left plain made thimblefuls and ABPC mark
 frog	<u>Platypus Pewter</u> Sylvan Melbourne Australia (Glenice Hope)			
 bride	<u>Plymouth</u> Stable House Gallery Devon UK			



Pugwash
Nova Scotia
Canada

1990s

There was an old woman
who lived in a shoe

 Sputnik – space series	USA	 PW	1981	lettered on lip of rim
 "thimble" in runes	<u>Quayside Enterprises</u> Cumbria UK			
 Smokey Bear prevents forest fires	<u>Quinn's Collectibles</u> USA		1982	lettered inside rim
 sand dollar	<u>Rawcliffe</u> USA			lettered inside rim set of 12 ascribed to Rawcliffe: in italics ©  'International Design Collector's Thimbles 3 Piece Pewter Finish Thimble Set Collect Your Complete Set Of 12 Today'

 echidna	<u>Riccardo's Pewter</u> Sydney Australia (Riccardo Pizzimento)			unmarked his pincushions are marked <i>Riccardo P. & Son</i>
 blue tit	<u>Roger Gibbons</u> UK			1984-1990 see his thimbles ... Learn More About Thimbles
 The owl and the pussycat	<u>Roger Harrison</u> Kelso Scotland UK			1983-1988 see his thimbles ... Learn More About Thimbles
 xmas tree	<u>Roman (RR)</u> Taiwan			
 King Arthur Pendragon	<u>Ronald Davies</u> UK			handpainted new thimble maker in 1993
 City of Portsmouth	<u>Rowena Designs/Souvenirs</u> UK			sometimes wrongly identified as Rowenta



Christmas – New Year

Schmid
USA

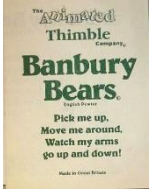


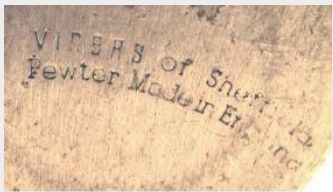
197-

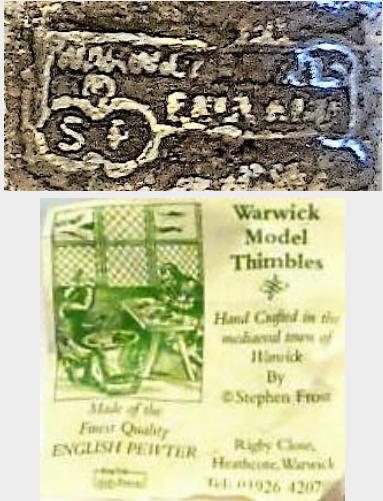
base mark

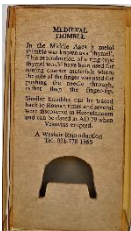
 turkey		SCJ MKTG 	1984	©
 butterfly	<u>Seagull</u> Canada		1992	lettered inside rim
 squirrel	<u>Shaw Leibowitz</u>		1979	lettered on lip of rim ©
 Cinderella	painter: (DS)	S.H.D. 	1980 1985	© bronzed
 TCI 1980	<u>Simons</u> Philadelphia USA (Mary and Nelson Keyser)		1980	lettered in apex; not cast in 1976, 1978 1980 and 1982 Simons produced pewter thimbles for attendees at US thimble conferences
 koala	<u>Spoontiques</u> (Spo) Massachusetts USA		1980 1981 1982 1983 1984 1988	©

 'One can too much of a good thing'		 SS	1995	©
 And did those feet in ancient times ...	<u>St Justin Cornwall (SJC)</u> Cuxhaven Way Long Rock Penzance Cornwall UK www.stjustin.co.uk	  		<u>Pewter Made in England</u> on verso ©
 kingfisher	<u>Sterling Classic Sculptures</u> UK (Jeannie Harris)			
 muffin man	<u>Stevelyn</u> UK			set of 14 'Cries of London' atop with Swarovski crystals 1980s
 U.S. Capitol Washington D.C.	<u>Sunbeam</u> USA			

	<u>Rune Tennesmed</u> Sweden			
 Just a Thimble Full	UK			Just a Thimble Full
 Happy 18 th	<u>The Animated Thimble Company</u> UK			Banbury Bears 
 teapot	<u>The Thimble Gallery</u> USA			
 field mice	<u>The Manx Cat Pilgrims Rest</u> South Africa			unmarked
 kangaroo at Uluru	<u>The Witley Collection Limited</u> Sterling Classic Studios Somers Park Avenue Malvern Worcestershire UK			set of 60 thimbles with icons for each country

 Tower of London	<u>Theodore Paul</u> UK			
 working digital clock	<u>Thimble Craft</u> UK (Shirley Hewett)			articulated marked under cap THIMBLE CRAFT
 hug	<u>ThimblesnObjectDart</u> Worcestershire (Mary Tyler)	TC 		not all her thimbles are marked see also: Colin Tyler 
 Troll	<u>Tinn-Per</u> Hanevors Norway			lettered on rim on verso
 leaf dropped rim	<u>Trevor Power</u> Birmingham UK			includes a set of replicas of old Spanish thimbles see also Mark Models Ltd and M.S.I
 <u>Just a Thimble Full</u>	<u>Viners of Sheffield</u> Sheffield UK			base mark

 Vermont beef	<u>W.A.P. Watson Ltd [W.A.P.W]</u> Shirley Solihull UK (Birmingham founder: Walter Archibald Parker Watson)			in apex ... <u>Made in UK</u> ©
 shearer with corks on hat	<u>Warwick Models</u> Rigby Close Heathcote Warwick UK (Stephen Frost)		1981-	some handpainted figures previously a modeller with McMillan & Wife he was able to use the same moulds from McMillan when they closed some hinged to open this maker has the largest collection of pewter thimbles in its portfolio
 mouse kneeling at bed	<u>S C Waskul</u> USA		1992	©
 teapot	<u>Wentworth the Pewterers (WP)</u> Sheffield UK			late 1990s-2000s

 Egyptian hieroglyphs	<u>Westair Reproductions</u> UK			some bronzed
 <u>Just a Thimble Full</u>	<u>Williams Adams</u> Sheffield UK			base mark <u>Made by Craftsman ...</u> and ABPC mark
 Victorian fashion peep	<u>Woodsetton Pewterers</u> Dudley West Midlands UK (Gill & David Bates)	W P 		above outer rim or on apex see also: Gill Bates
 thumb	<u>Zoltan Egri</u> Hungary			thumbles (large sized thimbles) first thimble 1993

References

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John von Hoelle *Thimble Collector's encyclopedia*. 3rd ed. 1986
Susan C Weaver *Exquisite jewellery of Solihull - the history*. 2009 [http://EzineArticles.com/?expert=Susan C Weaver](http://EzineArticles.com/?expert=Susan_C_Weaver)

Contributors

The original query about an unknown maker's mark came from Mabel Rogers – thank you for the inspiration

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This listing of pewter marks 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.

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November 2020