# British registered design numbers (RD) thimbles

I hadn't planned to field a topic where there is a published book on the subject. This topic extends the book *British registered design thimbles* by Norma Spicer and Diane Pelham Burn in 2003. This has been brought about a few thimble designs, which they had not previously been recorded.
The 19th century (from 1850) was the most innovative era in thimble design. To protect these new designs the maker could register his new design. This registered number granted was then stamped on the band.

I thought I had sorted out the difference between a registered design on thimbles and a patented design. The latter protects the new use or type of thimble being patented.
Charles Horner used both ways of protecting his Dorcas thimbles. Patent No. 8954 of 1884, patented his improved thimble, which was to produce a steel-cored sterling silver thimble. These thimbles were marked PAT. or PATENT. Once he began to register new designs for his Dorcas and sterling silver thimbles, the $R^D$ No. would be added as well.

I have lettered the date in blue when the registered number is included on the band. This shows the period when they were lettered.

I have included an unknown registration number at the end, in the hope that someone knows it.

The topic concludes with thimble holders with registered design numbers.

Many of these thimbles feature throughout the topics.

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## THIMBLES

Tho some of the photos don't show the RD No they all are part of the registered design. Some may have been made later, or I don't have a view of the $R^D$ No. I have included as many relevant photos, to try and show their rarity – or not.

### $R^D$73626

Registration holder and thimble maker: Charles Horner
Registration date: 11 May 1887
$R^D$73624 was the actual registration number but Horner only ever used the incorrect number as above
The presence of the $R^D$ No enabled us to identify Horner at the maker of the sterling examples with other sponsors marks. Part of the thimble has his diamond design

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| PAT.6 early Dorcas | Charles Horner 1896 | Charles Horner 1897 |
| Charles Horner 1898 silver-gilt | Charles Horner 1899 | Charles Horner 1899 9ct |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| <br>Charles Horner<br>1890 | <br>H J Cooper & Co Ltd (HJC)<br>1896 | <br>Deakin & Francis Ltd (D&F)<br>1898 |
| <br>Robert Pringle<br>1900 | <br>Tandy & Sons (T&S)<br>1899 | <br>John Thompson & Sons (JT&S)<br>1900 |
| <br>William Harrison Walker (WHW)<br>1896 | | |

**R^D73871**

Registration holder and thimble maker: Alfred Taylor

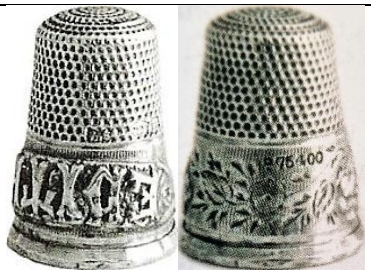
Registration date: 26 November 1850

brief description of new design: Great Exhibition of All Nations (Crystal Palace) 1851

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | | |
| | | |

## $R^D$75400

Registration holder and thimble maker: David & Lionel Spiers (manufacturing jewellers) (DLS or LS)
Registration date: 14 June 1887
brief description of new design: Girls' names
other names: Alice – Anne – Clara – Jane – Maude – Sarah

| | | |
|---|---|---|
|  | | |
| EDITH<br>1896 | LUCY<br>1887 | KATE<br>yes |

## $R^D$86699

Registration holder and thimble maker: Alfred Taylor
Registration date: 26 November 1850

brief description of new design: Sydenham Crystal Palace 1862
thimbles not hallmarked, no maker's mark, no $R^D$ No - some only bearing the diamond registration mark

diamond registration mark

# $R^D$ 103216

Registration holder: Samuel John Boosey
thimble maker: James Fenton
Registration date: 7 July 1888
brief description of new design: Gripper

1887
usually their design has a wrigglework band, this is plain
pre-registration

1888

1888

1891

1892

1893

1898

1901

child's
metal
inscribed Anne's

yes

yes

yes

**$R^D$108544**
Registration holder and thimble maker: Charles Iles
Registration date: 20 September 1888
brief description of new design: panelled band

base metal

**REG.112123**
Registration holder: Alfred Constantine & William Henry Floyd (manufacturing jewellers)
Thimble maker: Charles Horner
Registration date: 29 October 1888
brief description of new design: cross-type indentations
There is no indication why the form REG. was used instead of $R^D$
The presence of the $R^D$ No enabled us to identify Horner at the maker of the sterling examples with other sponsors marks
not featured in Spicer and Pelham Burn

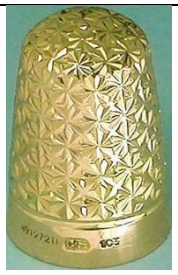
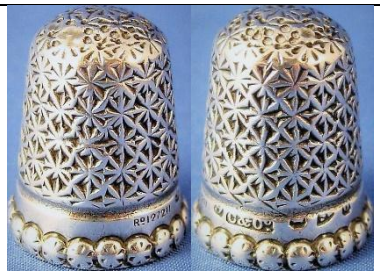
Constantine & Floyd ($C^E$&$F^D$)
Chester 1888 – 1889

**$R^D$120715**
Registration holder: Clement Richard Hall
Registration date: 2 March 1889
brief description of new design: teardrop indentations

brass thimble

**R$^{D}$127211**

Registration holder and thimble maker: Charles Horner
Registration date: 18 June 1889
brief description of new design: Louise pattern
The presence of the R$^{D}$ No enabled us to identify Horner as the maker of the sterling examples with other sponsors marks. Part of the thimble has his Louise design

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| PAT.6 – PAT.11 early Dorcas | PATENT 4 early Dorcas | Charles Horner 1911 |
| Charles Horner 1890s | Charles Horner 1908 | Charles Horner 1897 |
| Charles Horner 1897 9ct |  Charles Horner 9ct | Charles Horner 9ct |
|  Carrington & Co (C&Co) 1897 | Turner Bros (TB$^{S}$) 1894 | William Harrison Walker (WHW) 1897 |
| Henry Williamson Ltd (HWL$^{D}$) 1898 | | |

## $R^D$139132

Registration holder: George Henry Griffith
Registration date: 26 March 1861
Brief description of new design: International Exhibition 1862

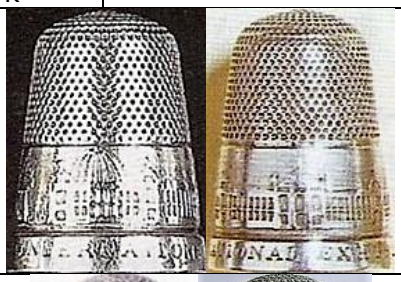
## $R^D$143397

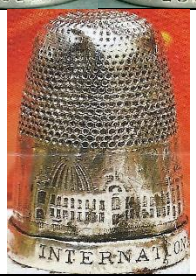
Registration holder: George Cartwright & Horace Woodward
Registration date:29 September 1861

brief description of new design: International Exhibition 1862
thimbles not hallmarked, no maker's mark, no $R^D$ No - some only bearing the diamond registration mark

diamond registration mark

diamond registration mark





## $R^D$171258

Registration holder and thimble maker: Henry Griffith
Registration date: 12 May 1891
brief description of new design: daisy pattern

| | |
|---|---|
| 1892 | 1902 |

## $R^D$171259

Registration holder and thimble maker: Henry Griffith (HG&S, HG&SLtd)
Registration date: 12 May 1891
brief description of new design: daisy and blocks design, known as his Dorothy

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Henry Griffith & Son Ltd<br>Birmingham 1900 #16 | Henry Griffith & Son<br>Chester 1902 #14 | Henry Griffith & Son Ltd<br>Chester 1902 #15 |
| Alfred Bromet & Co (AB&Co)<br>Chester 1900 #14 | | |

## $R^D$173502

Registration holder and thimble maker: Bent and Parker (B&P)
Registration date: August 1893
brief description of new design: girls' names
originally PP14988 – pre-registration number
not featured in Spicer and Pelham Burn

1893

EDITH
PP14988

MAGGIE
PP14988

POLLY
PP14988

## $R^D$178362

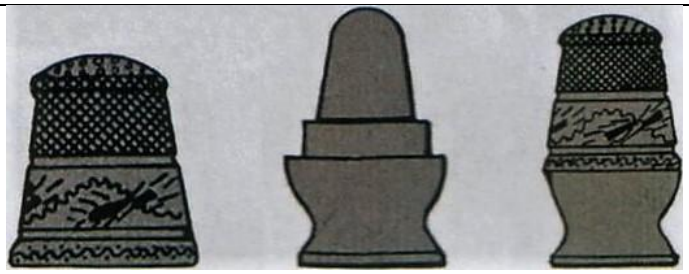
Registration holder and thimble maker: James Swann
Registration date: 11 September 1891
brief description of new design: diamond Gripper

yes

1891

## $R^D$201557

Registration holder: Frederick Keller (druggist's assistant)
Registration date: 28 October 1892
brief description of new design: thimble over a base

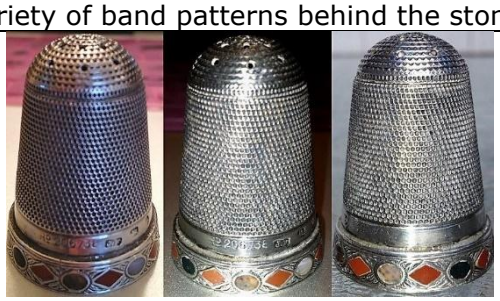

this illustration features in the Spicer and Pelham Burn book – it is the only image we have

## $R^D$202312

Registration holder: Alan Edward Elkington
thimble maker: James Fenton
Registration date: 9 November 1892
brief description of new design: multi-stone Scottish pebbles band

yes

1892
hallmarked in apex
variety of band patterns behind the stones



salt cellar

## $R^D$202533

Registration holder Alan Edward Elkington
thimble maker: James Fenton
Registration date: 14 November 1892
Brief description of new design: shamrock and harp band

1902
stone tops - Connemara marble right

## $R^D$206738

Registration holder Alan Edward Elkington
thimble maker: James Fenton
Registration date: 23 November 1892
Brief description of new design: salt cellar
not featured in Spicer and Pelham Burn – not used for sewing

James Fenton
1892

## $R^D$210799

Registration holder and thimble maker: Charles Horner
Registration date: 18 April 1893
brief description of new design: shell design
The presence of the $R^D$ No enabled us to identify Horner at the maker of the sterling examples with other sponsors marks. Part of the thimble has his shell design

PAT.8
early Dorcas

Charles Horner
1897

Charles Horner
1901
9ct

Charles Horner
1915

John Thompson & Sons (JT&S)
1893

**R$^{D}$210800**

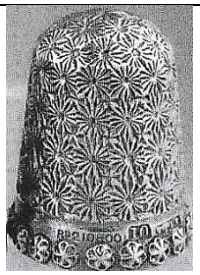
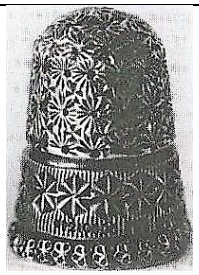
Registration holder and thimble maker: Charles Horner

Registration date: 18 April 1893

brief description of new design: Princess May design

The presence of the R$^{D}$ No enabled us to identify Horner at the maker of the sterling examples with other sponsors marks. Part of the thimble has his Princess May design

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| <br>PAT.8<br>early Dorcas | <br>Charles Horner<br>1894 | <br>Charles Horner<br>1896 |
| <br>Charles Horner<br>1898 | <br>Charles Horner<br>1898 | <br>Charles Horner<br>1900<br>9ct |
| <br>Alfred Bromet & Co (AB&C°)<br>1893 | <br>Alfred Bromet & Co (AB&C°)<br>1896 | <br>Carrington & Co (C&C°)<br>1900 |
| <br>Constantine & Floyd (C$^{E}$&F$^{D}$)<br>1897 | <br>Deakin & Francis Ltd (D&F)<br>1898 | <br>Walter & George Matthews<br>(WGM)<br>1893 |
| <br>Isaac Silverstone & Co (IS&C°)<br>1897 | <br>JL&Co | <br>John Thompson & Son (JT&S)<br>1895 1898 |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
|  <br>John Thompson & Son (JT&S)<br>1892 | <br>W Wilkinson Ltd (WWLtd) |  <br>(WEHW) |

**R$^{D}$212114**
Registration holder Alan Edward Elkington
thimble maker: James Fenton
Registration date: 13 May 1893
brief description of new design: holly leaves band

| |
|---|
| <br>1893<br>with enamelling |

**R$^{D}$222443**
Registration holder: Hermann Poths & Co (merchants)
thimble maker: John William Kirwin
Registration date: 16 November 1893
brief description of new design: Scottish thistle shape

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| <br>1893 | <br>1893 | <br>1893<br>9ct gold |

## R^D227060

Registration holder: Turnbull Bros (jewellers)
Thimble Maker: Charles Horner
Registration date: 2 February 1894
brief description of new design: bell-shape
all assayed in Chester

yes

yes

yes

yes

yes

## R^D230818

Registration holder and thimble maker: Saunders & Shepherd
Registration date: 17 April 1894
brief description of new design: glass Just a Thimble Full
not featured in Spicer and Pelham Burn – not used for sewing

R: silver rim by CS FS 1894
yes

## $R^D$265923

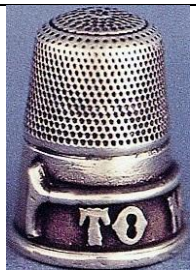
Registration holder and thimble maker: Samuel Foskett
Registration date: 19 September 1895
brief description of new design: panelled, facetted, diamond shapes with daisy at each intersection

| | |
|---|---|
| 1892 | Robert Pringle (RP) 1901 |

## $R^D$272185

Registration holder: Thomas E Peckett (manufacturer and merchant)
thimble maker: James Swann
Registration date: 6 March 1896
brief description of new design: rebus slogan for 'stick to me'
not featured in Spicer and Pelham Burn

1911

| | |
|---|---|
| yes |  |

**R^D280564**

Registration holder Alan Edward Elkington
thimble maker: James Fenton
Registration date: 31 July 1896
brief description of new design: bicycle design

apex with wheel in centre
the tyres are different on each thimble – there are birds hidden amongst the blackberries on the verso

there are even different versions – ladies and gents with the crossbar on the gent's bicycles

1896 #8

1896

1898
gent's bicycle

1896 #10
gent's bicyle
handlebars face left

1901 #10

1896 $10
gent's bicycle
handlebars face left

## $R^D$281980

Registration holder Alan Edward Elkington
thimble maker: James Fenton
Registration date: 24 August 1896
brief description of new design: moon and stars band

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1890s | 1899 | 1901 |
| 1905 #12 | 1906 #8 | 1910 #11 |
| 1910 #10 | Olney Amsden (OA) 1901 | |

## $R^D$295282

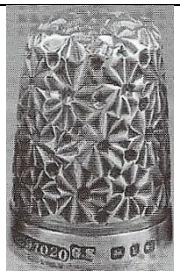
Registration holder and maker: Hamilton & Inches (goldsmiths)
thimble maker: Deakin & Francis Ltd
Registration date: 3 March 1897
Brief description of new design: Queen Victoria's diamond jubilee

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| yes | | yes | |
| | | | |

Hamilton and Inches (H&I)
18ct
unassayed

## $R^D$297020

Registration holder and thimble maker: Henry Fowler
Registration date: 7 April 1897
brief description of new design: bright-cut design
Part of the thimble has his bright-cut design

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1901 | Constantine & Floyd ($C^E$&$F^D$) 1899 | George Goodman (GG) |
|  George Snook & Co (GS) 1897 | George Snook & Co (GS) 1898 | William James Holden (WJH) 1900 |

## $R^D$310734

brief description of new design: miniature chatelaine
Registration date: 1897
not featured in Spicer and Pelham Burn – not used for sewing

this $R^D$ is lettered on the penknife. Four chains with four pendants with a thimble, penknife, scissors and spoon

**R$^{D}$315477**
Registration holder and thimble maker: Charles Iles
Registration date: 8 March 1898
brief description of new design: Just a Thimble Full
brass thimble
see also R$^{D}$707065
not featured in Spicer and Pelham Burn – not used for sewing

this R$^{D}$ is lettered only on the thimble box

**R$^{D}$350760**
Registration holder and thimble maker: Charles Iles
Registration date: 16 December 1899

brass thimble
R$^{D}$ not lettered on thimble

**R$^{D}$350761**
Registration holder and thimble maker: Charles Iles
Registration date: 16 December 1899

brass thimble

**R$^{D}$356736**
Registration holder and thimble maker: Charles Iles
Registration date: 2 May 1900

brass thimble

## R$^{D}$356898

Registration holder: Frederic Griffith
thimble maker: Henry Griffith & Son Ltd
Registration date: 5 May 1900
brief description of new design: Empire design band

1899
Australia – Canada – England – India – Natal- New Zealand - Tasmania

1899

Alfred Bromet & Co (AB&C°)
1899 - 1900

## R$^{D}$426659

Registration holder and thimble maker: Charles Horner
Registration date: 14 February 1904
Brief description of new design: Louise with interlocking indents

PAT.7
early Dorcas

PAT.11
early Dorcas

Charles Horner
1923

Henry Williamson Ltd (HWL$^{D}$)
1906

Sydney & Co(S&Co)
1911

## $R^D$429537

Registration holder and thimble maker: Charles Horner
Registration date: 25 March 1904
brief description of new design: Hardwood
narrow band of shallow diamond band

1903

1908

1908
ASH $B^R$

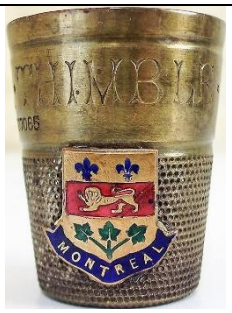
1911
WHEATLEY

## $R^D$707065

Registration holder: Charles Iles
Registration date: 17 July 1925
brief description of new design: Just a Thimble Full
see also $R^D$315477

yes

DURBAN
nickel silver

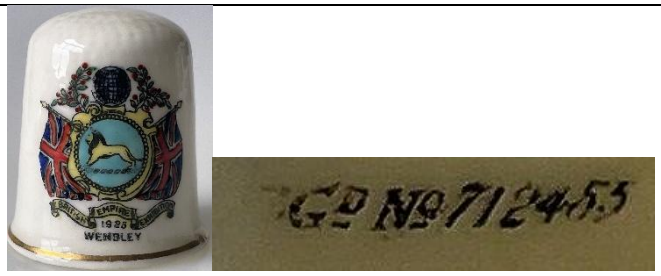



MONTREAL
brass

**REG. No.711917**
Registration holder: Jeremiah Williams
Registration date: 24 March 1925
brief description of new design: hexagonal thimble
like the earlier example there is no explanation why this REG, No. is used instead of the usual $R^D$
not featured in Spicer and Pelham Burn

brass thimble

**$R^D$712455**
Registration holder and maker: Arcadian China
Registration date: 1925
brief description of new design: large china thimble
not featured in Spicer and Pelham Burn



British Empire Exhibition 1925 Wembley

**Unknown RD No**
Registration holder and maker: Horace Woodward
Registration date: 1888

diamond registered number
brief description of new design: pepper shaker
not featured in Spicer and Pelham Burn

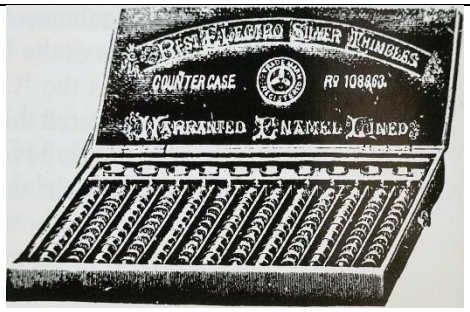
Horace Woodward & Co ($HW\&C^O$)

## THIMBLE HOLDERS

The plush or velour coverings Iles uses velvet in his registration application papers) were not meant to last and some have survived for 120 years in reasonable condition.

### R$^{D}$ Nº.108863

Registration holder and maker: Charles Iles
Registration date: 27 June 1888
brief description of new design: wooden counter display unit




pull out drawer at the side
b&w photo

### R$^{D}$ Nº.128040

Registration holder and maker: Charles Iles
Registration date: 27 June 1889
brief description of new design: The Fair Slipper

blue plush

gold plush

purple plush

**R^D Nº.138883**

Registration holder and maker: Charles Iles
Registration date: 1890s
brief description of new design: bellows shaped (Le Soufflet)

purple plush

**R^D169666**

Registration holder and maker: Charles Iles
Registration date: 11 January 1892
brief description of new design: book-shaped

blue plush

gold plush

gold plush - largely worn off

red plush – amazing condition – even to remnant of the **bookmark**

**R^D^176058**

Registration holder and maker: Charles Iles
Registration date:
brief description of new design: The Fairy box

gold plush

**R^D^176058**

Registration holder and maker: Charles Iles
Registration date: 11 January 1892
brief description of new design: Pink box, green braid

no photo

no known photo

## R$^{D}$186098

Registration holder and maker: Charles Iles
Registration date: 11 January 1892
brief description of new design: book-shaped

leather-bound book

snakeskin

## R$^{D}$194869

Registration holder and maker: Charles Iles
Registration date: 1892
brief description of new design: horse hoof-shaped

red plush

tho this is in the shape of a horse hoof, it may not be part of the R$^{D}$ above

## $R^D$200439

Registration holder and maker: Charles Iles
Registration date: 1892
brief description of new design: heart-shaped

blue plush

red plush

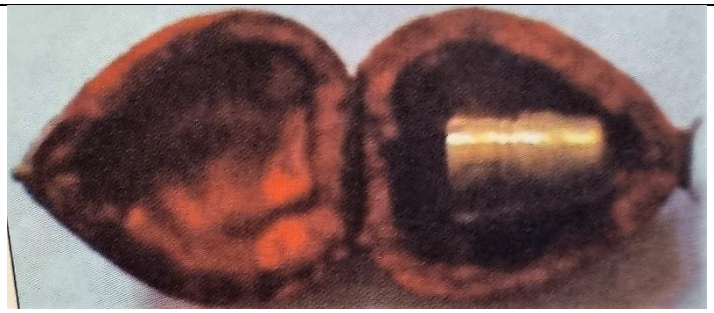
orange plush

## $R^D$210332

Registration holder and maker: Charles Iles
Registration date: 18 April 1893
brief description of new design: cupid-shaped
this case was made to hold the celluloid The Cupid thimble

blue plush
The Cupid Heart case'

blue plush



red plush

**R^D291930**

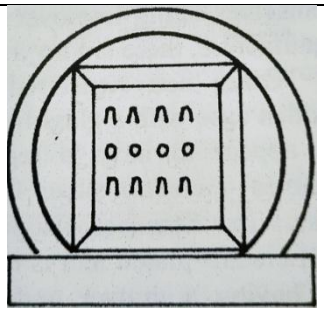
Registration holder and maker: Charles Iles
Registration date: 1902
this is a needle case *The Queen's record reign needle case* showing four monarchs on outer cover

**R^D320491**

Registration holder and maker: Henry Matthews (HM)
Registration date: June 1898
brief description of new design: lined silver bucket holder

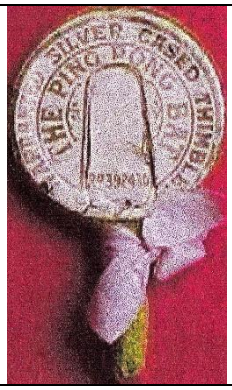
**R^D391399**

Registration holder and maker: Charles Iles
Registration date: 2 January 1897
"*The Queens Record Thimble*" counter display case for shop counters



b&w sketch

**R^D392430**
Registration holder and maker: Charles Iles
Registration date: 1902
brief description of new design: The ping-pong bat



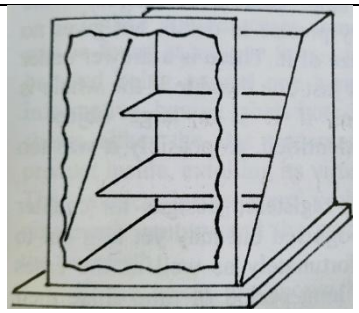

**R^D430769**
Registration holder and maker: Sydney & Co
Registration date: 1904
brief description of new design: coal scuttle shape with cherubs

Birmingham 1906 – also lettered U

Birmingham 1907 – also lettered V

Birmingham 1907 – also lettered V

## Unknown RD number



counter display case – fairy cabinet 1894
b&w sketch

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## References


Edwin E Holmes *Registered designs*. Thimble Notes and Queries summer 1989
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## Contributors


This topic would not have been possible without **Ray Nimmo's** photos – he began working on this topic in 2012

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This listing of British registered design numbers on thimbles does not purport to be complete or accurate in all aspects.
Rather it invites comments and contributions to add to our knowledge. My thanks to the contributors.

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