

Royal Worcester thimble painters

I have always had a love for handpainted Royal Worcester thimbles.

My best thimble find is an unmarked 19th century handpainted bird, with the lovely translucent porcelain of early Worcester in the taller, narrow shape of their early thimbles. This was found here in Brisbane. It was sold to me as milk or opaline glass, a term I had never heard before.

It is a term used for translucent porcelain of 19th century Royal Worcester.

Another term associated with early Royal Worcester porcelain, is blush, peach bloom or a biscuit finish, describing the warm creamy ground of the porcelain. According to Henry Sandon, Royal Worcester thimbles made between 1860 and 1939 are of a glazed parian body which has a creamier, smoother body than bone china, which is very white and translucent.



Then there is the handpainted Kookaburra (1926) that Edwin Holmes first described in May 1994. This is the only type of Royal Worcester thimble that I have encountered with a self-patterning of indentations on both sides. Holmes could not explain this. I have now seen other examples of RW thimbles with this type of marking.



this strange side hatching is only found with kookaburras,
no other subject has been painted on this different surface



three kookaburra thimbles with their unique indented sides
kookaburras and kingfishers are my favourite birds painted by RW painters



an example of a handpainted Locke thimble that preceded the Royal Worcester brand



it is impossible to date the plethora of Royal Worcester boxes

Dating your Royal Worcester Thimbles

The early blush, biscuit or translucent thimbles of the late 19th century have no signatures or marks.
Up to the 1880s, later painters from then into the twentieth century could not surpass the earlier finest painting.

Royal Worcester thimbles with a **puce** or purple backstamp date from late nineteenth century into early 20th century and thimbles are usually signed by the painters.

Dating of these thimbles can be calculated from 1891 by a series of dots and/or symbols. The table can be found in The Thimble Society of London, winter 1997 catalogue, p5 (some images reproduced below)

Royal Worcester produced hand-painted thimbles until 1986.

Those Royal Worcester thimbles in production after 1986 are decaled thimbles.

See also: "Learn More About ... Royal Worcester Decal thimbles"



A gorgeous bunch of 1975 handpainted flowers – I wish the picture from Elizabeth Aldridge was in colour

Royal Worcester Porcelain Backstamps (1862 - 1963)

Reproduced from Thimble Society of London, winter 1997, p5.



L>R: 1862 – 1876 – 1892 – 1916 – 1928 – 1956

Between 1862 and 1867 specific indications of the year of manufacture are rare but may sometime be found in the form of the last two figures of the date, e.g. 64 for 1864, printed below the standard mark.

From 1867 a letter system was used to indicate the year of manufacture. From 1876 the crown sits down onto the circle.

A = 1867	K = 1875	U = 1883
B = 1868	L = 1876	V = 1884
C = 1869	M = 1877	W = 1885
D = 1870	N = 1878	X = 1886
E = 1871	P = 1879	Y = 1887
G = 1872	R = 1880	Z = 1888
H = 1873	S = 1881	O = 1889
I = 1874	T = 1882	a = 1890

From 1891 pieces were coded with a system of dots and/or symbols below the standard mark.

1891 'Royal Worcester England' added

1892 One dot

1893 Two dots

1894 Three dots

continued until 1915 when 24 dots are arranged around the standard mark.

1916 * below the backstamp

1917 * and one dot

1918 * and two dots

continued until 1927 when 11 dots are arranged around the standard mark.

1928 □ and the words
"made in England"

1929 ◇

1930 ÷

continued until 1941 when there were 9 dots and the triple circle mark.

1931 ∞

1932 ∞∞

1933 ∞∞∞

1934 ∞∞∞∞

1942-48 no dating system
used

1949 V

1950 W

continued until 1963 when 13 dots are arranged around the standard mark. After 1956 the letter W was nearly always substituted with a letter R in a circle, i.e. 1960 = R or W under the circle with 10 dots.

1951 W.

1952 .W.

1953 .W..

The Royal Worcester Porcelain Co., Ltd. was formed as a Joint Stock Company in 1862 and since that time pieces have been marked with some type of date code.

The standard backstamp from 1862 onwards, illustrated here, includes the number 51 in the centre which refers to the year 1751 when the Worcester Porcelain Company was founded by Dr. John Wall.

In ignorance, this number is often mistaken for the date of manufacture of a particular thimble.



L>R: puce 1928 – black, 1959 – black, bone china (1951) - black post-1964 fine bone china (no England) -- fine bone china (England)

It is difficult to find information on thimbles produced by Royal Worcester. There is a list of Royal Worcester painters in Von Hoelle's *Encyclopedia of thimbles*, but it is incomplete. Hopefully, this listing will go somewhat to remedy this.

The Sandon listing of RW painters was only compiled until 1971.

It really inspires me when former Royal Worcester thimble painters or their descendants, have taken the time to make contact and send me their own Royal Worcester painting history. They probably found their names on these thimble pages, when doing an internet search. Not many of them have kept examples of their own work on thimbles.

One painter remembers: "Also, a lovely lady guildler who was in her own section of the room, putting the gold lines around our finished work... Mrs Appleton (known as Mrs A)".

Thimbles are small, so when painter's name is too long the **signatures** were often shortened or only initials used.

I have included the first names even when not part of the signature.

Most signatures only contain the initial and surname. The signature is usually on the back of the thimble, alongside a leaf or flower sprig. The early thimbles usually have the signature closer to the main painting, and not on the back.

Royal Worcester thimbles were never signed by the artist inside the thimble.

Some signatures are always going to be difficult to decipher, but with practice one can become familiar with styles of painting and so be able to attempt to guess – e.g. Kitty Blake's signature is often illegible or "messy".

You may notice how many identical paintings there are, done by different artists, especially amongst the later painters. Once you have handled or looked at the painting depicted, you will soon be able to identify the later style of painting (post 1970), even tho the thimbles are not dated.

This interesting item of information has just come to my attention:

"In the late 1970s the demand for Royal Worcester hand-painted thimbles grew enormously. One can speculate as to the reason(s). Maybe the thought of an original thimble was alluring. Royal Worcester did not want to employ more artists for economic reasons as thimbles are time-consuming to paint freehand (at least three firings).

The foreman of the painters' division, Edward Townsend, came up with a solution.

He designed a number of outline prints - six flowers, six fruit and eight birds - which were printed onto the blank thimbles. The artists did not have to create an individual painting but merely coloured in the blank design. This speeded up the process noticeably.

Some of the painters (Sue Waldron) were dismissive of this process and much preferred doing original work on larger items."

Compare the same topic (ie blue tit) amongst the most modern thimbles and you will notice that this is true: they all look alike. From observation the common themes are = fruit with apple, peach, pear and plum in that order with smaller fruits used alongside. The birds depicted are tit, kingfisher, wren, robin, bullfinch, and a generic red bird and one with yellow colouring. Rose and daisy of various colours dominate the flower paintings with iris, violets and forget-me-nots following.

Other English garden birds were handpainted by the earlier bird painting experts and feature swallow, chaffinch, redstart, thrush, goldfinch and even a woodpecker. Primrose, heather, pansy, morning glory, daffodil, anemone, crocus, wattle, tulip, carnation, poppy and bluebell are some of the rarer flower paintings on RW thimbles, including an example of strawberry flower and the fruit.

Fruit is a more modern topic for painting.

The modern painters who painted from the 1970s onwards include:
Fiona Bakewell, Christine Cameron, Janet Collins, Claire Cox, Pat Dunkley, Sheila Dutfield, Gioran Garcia, Mary Igoe, Angela Lawson, Helene Ligthert, Mandy Munslow, Christine Parker, Sue Roberts, Dorothy Sparks, Julia Vass, Christine Wilson.

It is interesting to note that the later painters were all women - in the early days of Royal Worcester, most of the painters were men.

With the modern painters, note that there are two sizes of the RW backstamp. I have used this information to date the probable time period the painters worked in the thimble painting dept.



modern RW backstamps in two sizes
L: 1964-1970 – R: 1970-

The Royal Worcester factory and shop at Severn Street in Worcester closed on 14th June 2009. The buildings were then demolished, for other development.

The Royal Worcester name was purchased by Portmeirion Pottery of Stoke-on-Trent.

The list of RW thimble painters includes dates that each painter is known to have painted for Royal Worcester. I have included their life dates, where they are available, in square brackets alongside their names.

I have included as many thimble examples as possible for each artist.

The list may not be complete. To date there are **234 artists** listed who are believed to have painted thimbles for Royal Worcester (this includes paintresses' (a delightful RW early term used in the factory) maiden and married names, where they painted under both names).

So far - with help from collectors around the world - **218** have examples of their handpainted Royal Worcester thimbles. There are now only **18** thimbles to find by these RW painters (* definitely known to have painted RW thimbles).

F Bizl* | Tony Blakemore | E Burkin | T Dear* | C Gull* | Kevin Hunt | JOH* | Keever* | Peter Love | Mona McHarg | Terence (Terry) Nutt
Maurice J Pledger | Michael Powell | Christopher Smith | Judy Vickers | Fay Stephens | Beverly Waldo



some of the Royal Worcester fruit painters

I have found and included examples of **20** modern thimble painters who were painters for RW. They went on to paint thimbles under their own names or brand. There is a quite a trail for modern thimble collectors to discover! Check their entries below to see where else they appear.

Fiona Bakewell | Wendy Bowen (nee Clarke) | David R Bowkett | Christopher Burns | Nigel Creed | Gerald Delaney | Milwyn Holloway
Christopher Hughes | John Smith | Allan Norwood | Terence Nutt | Judy Oram | Peter Platt | Maurice J Pledger | Steve Smith
James Skerrett | Rosemary Waldron | Sheila Whitcombe | Derek Wilson

[For other handpainted thimble topics see](#)

Australian handpainted thimbles
British modern handpainted thimbles
Gerald Delaney handpainted thimbles
Graham Payne handpainted thimbles
Jasper's of Yorkshire handpainted thimbles

' Abdul '

- **Peter Platt's** nickname

(sadly the signature won't photograph)

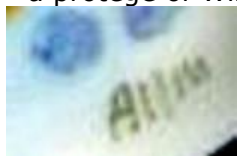


James Allen [Allen]

(b.1923)

1937-1958 and 1971

- a protégé of William Powell



H Annaby

1955



J Archer

1970s-



Annette Arnold [O]
(b.1953)
1966- [larger backstamp]



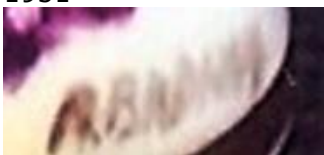
Arnott.



L Atkinson [L Atkins]
1970s-



Arthur Badham [A Bad.]
(b.1935)
1951-



Fiona Bakewell [F BWell]

(b.1956)

- maiden name **Fiona Round**

1973-

- in July 2009 I read on ebay that Fiona is still painting – I have an enamelled pillbox handpainted by Fiona



Gerald Banks

1950-



Ernest Barker

(b.1890)

1920s-1956

- also painted under the name of

B A Kerr

Maude Bell

1904-1931



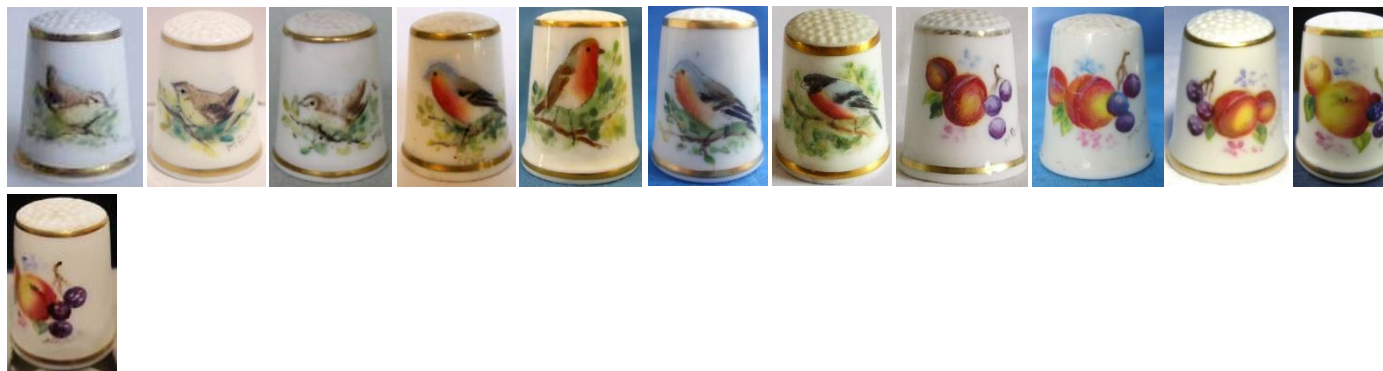
Anthea Bills [AB]

1970-



M Bills

1959-



F Bizl

known to have painted a flower thimble date-coded 1941-49

Kitty Blake

1905-1953

- she specialised in flowers and small fruits
- a difficult signature to decipher



Tony Blakemore

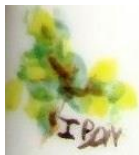
1970-

--

J Blight
1970s-



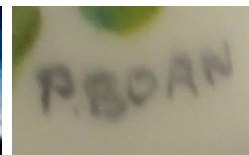
J Bon.
1950s-



C Bootle
1970s-



P Born
1950s-



David R Bowkett

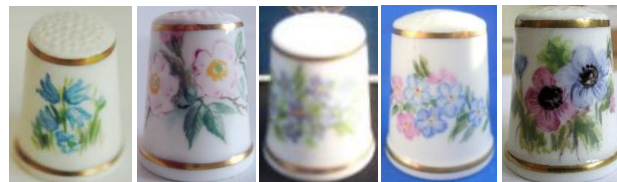
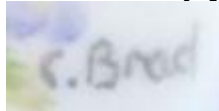
1948-1963

- moved to Devon where he opened his own studio. He handpainted thimbles in 2002. Bowkett died in 2009



signed 'Bowkett'. An example of his fruit thimbles, from his time in Devon:



Edith Bradley [C Brad]

R Bridle

1960s-

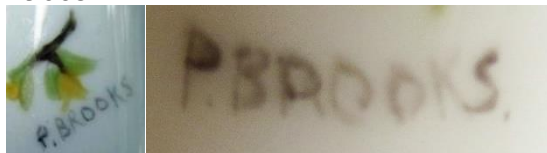
- this artist's thimbles don't have gold trims



S T Bright

P Brooks

1960s-



E Brown
1970s-



J Brown
1950s-

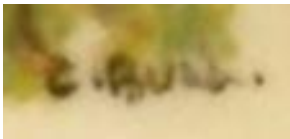


Buisi or Bulli (?)

This is a strange one!! Look at the RW backstamp carefully. The owner can see that the backstamp is under the glaze, but the Royal Worcester name is missing!! Have you seen anything like this before?



Carolyn Bullock [C Bull]
- married name **Carolyn Hammond**
1968-1970



E Burkin

J Burn
1959-



Christopher Burns



painted thimbles on his Harcourt China in 1987. Signed 'C Burns' near the painting. Two examples:



R Bury

1970s-



E Cam.

1970s-



Christine Cameron

(b.1951)

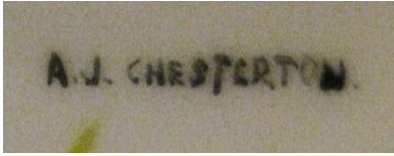
February 1975-November 1978

- Christine worked in the gilding department from 1967 to 1971, where one of her jobs was gilding thimbles



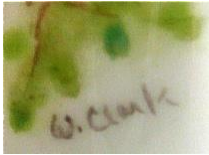
A J Chesterton

1970s-



Wendy Clark/Clarke

-1976



1978

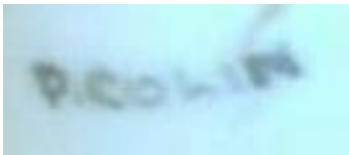
founder of [Hurley Porcelain](#) in New York painting under her married name Wendy Bowen 1976-1981. Signed 'W. Bowen'.
Three examples of her thimbles:



Cole

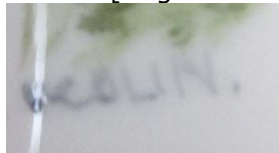
P Colin

1950s-1960s



V Colin

1960s- [larger backstamp]

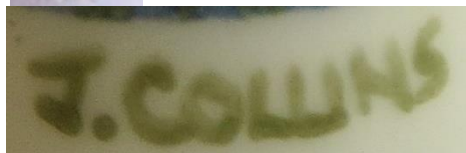


Janet Collins

(b.1957)

1975-1977

- Janet was a thimble painter during the 1970s in The Enamellers Dept, then she went on to paint in the Ladies Figurine Dept
- She kept up her painting, and now (017) paints watercolour commissions (pets, wedding venues etc)
- now Janet E Humphries



K Compt.

M Cotton

K Coty

Bryan Cox

1950s-



Claire Cox

(b.1958)

1975-1977



Nigel Creed

1963-

Creed, a Master Painter, painted thimbles for Thimble Society of London in 1990s. Ken Russell a Master Gilder completed the design. Russell was Royal Worcester's last Master Gilder signed 'NC' near painting – 'Russell' or 'Ken Russell' (1934-2020) lettered inside. Three examples:



Charlie Creese
1925-1938



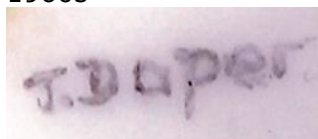
D Cy



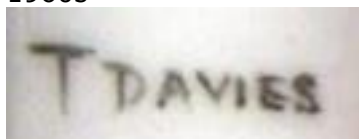
Alina (known as Lee) Dajda
(b.1953)
1975-1977



J Daper
1960s-



T Davies
1960s-



Agnes Pinder-Davis

(1901-1990)

1950s-



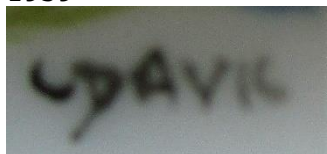
C Davis

1950s-



L Davis

1959



V Day

1970s-



T Dear

1970s-

- known to have painted a bird thimble

Gerald E Delaney

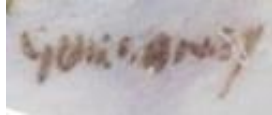
(b.1933)

1948-1959 and 1971-1973

- painted fruit under Ted Townsend
- moved to Coalport
- never on full production



went freelance painting under his own name/backstamp



- see my topic on Gerald Delaney thimbles for further information

Dorothy Doughty

(1892-1962)



1960

Museum of Royal Worcester

D Duggan

1960s-



Pamela (Pat) Dunkley

(b.1945)

1973-1981

- one of the last four painters



Sheila Dutfield [S D/field]

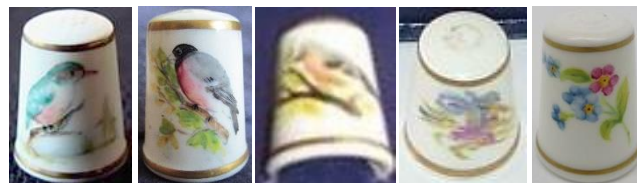
(b.1958)

1975-

- maiden name **Sheila Shinnie**

J Egusquiza

1960s-



Christine Erdman [E]
 (b.1950)
 1965-



Yvonne Evans
 1960s-



J Ewan
 1950s-



A Faid
 1964-



C Farmer
 1950s-



J Flet (is this shortened from Fletcher?)



Flohn
1937-



A Footman
1960s-



D Fratt
1960s-



John Fuller
(b.1940)
1955-

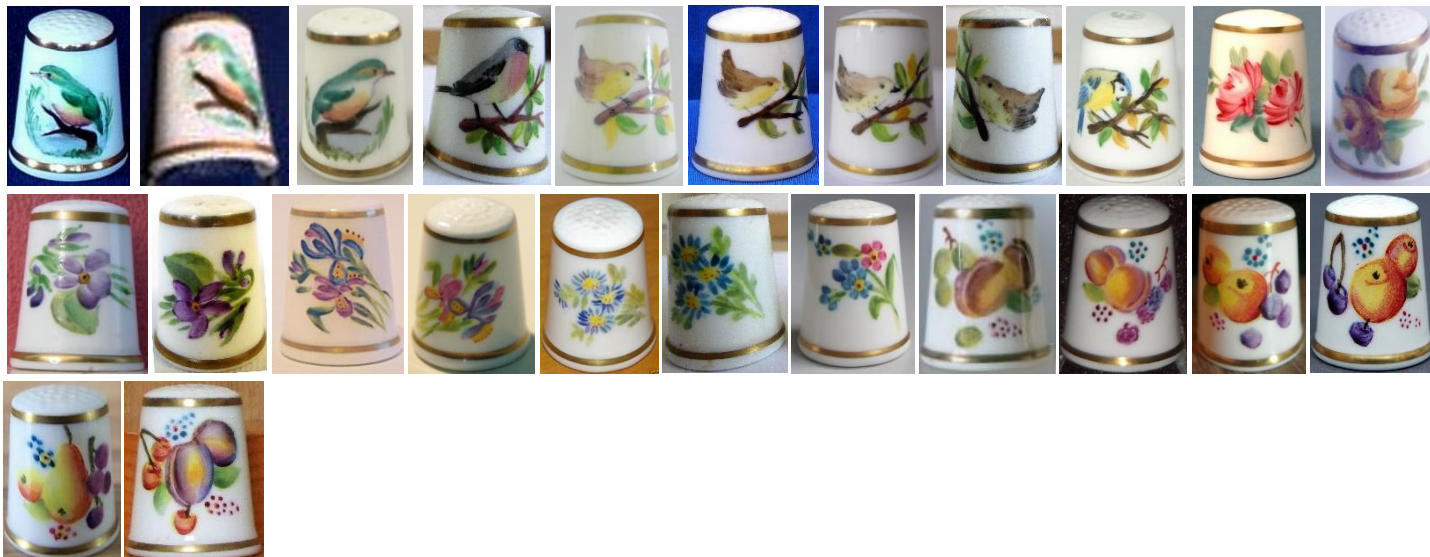


A Gall' [AG]
1970s-



Giorann Garcia

- married name **Giorann Henshaw**
1974-1980
- joined the enamelling dept
Dot Sparks was her supervisor and she was friends with Angela Lawson in the same dept. Giorann returned to Gibraltar (info from the painter in 2004)



D Garn
1970s-



J Gart.
1970s-



S Gegg

M Gibson

1970s-



Ron Godfrey

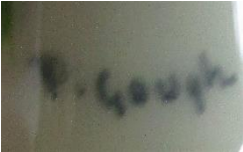
1932-1939

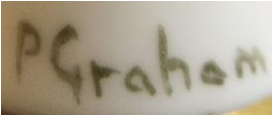
- went on to signwriting after WWII



P Gough

ca.1960



P Graham

Lybbe Griffiths [L Griff.]

-1976



C Gull

known to have painted a bird thimble

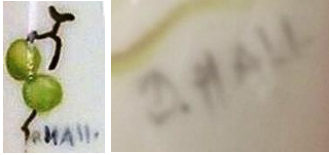
Gwilliam

known to have painted roses with groups of flowers on thimbles

- apprentice in 1950s

D Hall.

1954

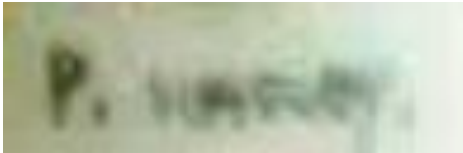


Carolyn Hammond

- maiden name **Carolyn Bullock**

P Hardy

1960s-



M Hatch.

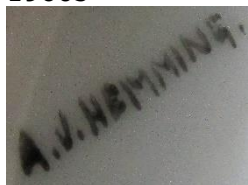
D Hatchett

1970s-



A J Hemming.

1960s-

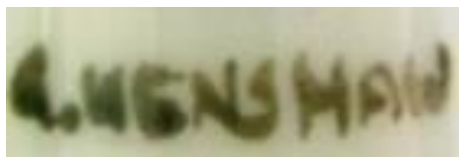


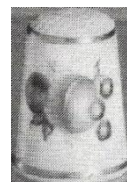
Giorann Henshaw- maiden name **Giorann Garcia**

1974-1980

- joined the enamelling dept

Dot Sparks was her supervisor and she was friends with Angela Lawson in the same dept Giorann returned to Gibraltar (info from the painter in 2004)



F Herd

B Hill

1954-

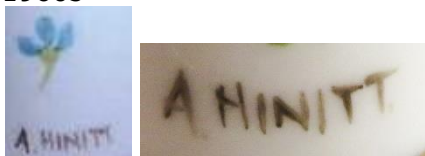


K H Hill

1950s-



A Hinitt
1960s-



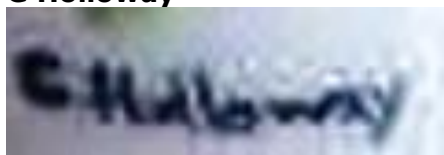
J Hodgett [J Hodg] [J Hodge]



Anne Holian
1960s-

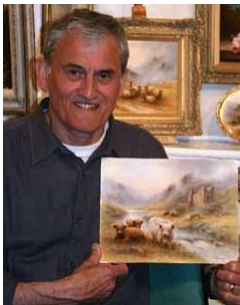


G Holloway



Milwyn Holloway

(b.1940)
1954-1971



Milwyn Holloway's bird thimbles post-RW use the name of Claymore Ceramics. All are signed 'MH' near the bird.
Two examples:



R Homer

1970s-



Christopher Hughes [C Hugh]
[C Hug.]
(b.1948)
1960-1980 [some have larger
backstamps]



Painted thimbles on his [The Christopher Hughes Collection](#) label from 1987. Signed 'Christopher Hughes' near the painting.
Two examples:



Kevin Hunt
(b.1955)
1971-

Mildred (Millie) Hunt
1926-
- married name **Mildred (Millie) Johns**
- painted between the two World Wars



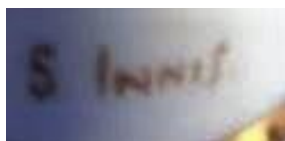
John Hussell
1950s



Mary Igoe [M I]
(b.1956)
1971-



Susan Innis
1977-



S James
1970s-



B Jeff.
1960s-



J Jeynes

1970s-



Mildred (Millie) Johns

1926-

- maiden name **Mildred (Millie) Hunt**
- painted between the two world wars



JOH

1940s

known to have painted flowers on a thimble date-coded 1940

K Jones

1970s-



Yvonne Jones

1960s-



Karen. ---

1970s-

- does anyone know her other name?
- could it be K Jones?



Keever

1970s-

known to have painted a bird thimble

Doreen Knott

- 1962
- later Mrs Martin



R Land

1970s-



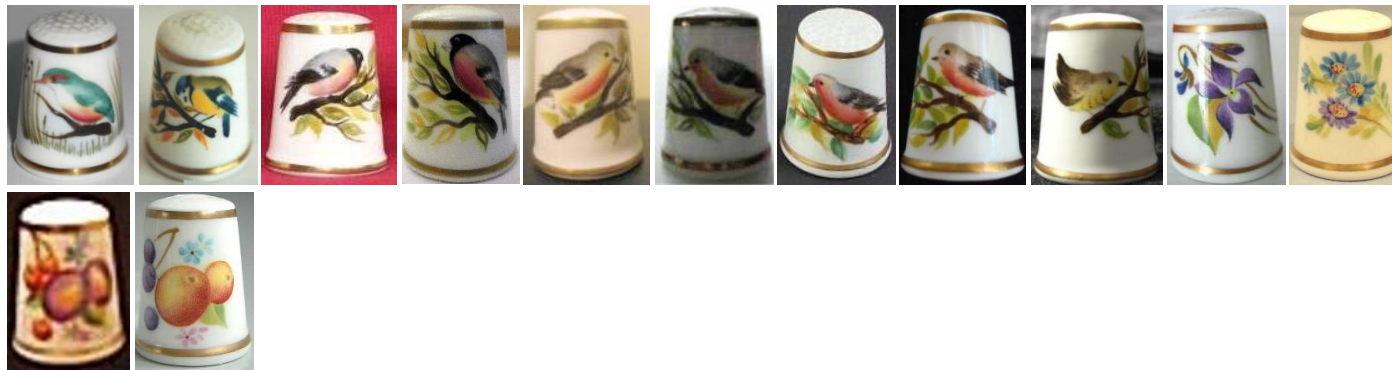
Jean Lawrence [JL]

(b.1951)
1970-



Angela Lawson

(b.1950)
1975-

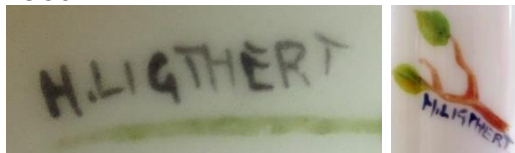


Helene Ligthert

(b.1957)

September 1974-1978

- after 1974 she moved to the gilding department where she worked until 1980



Christine Lloyd

- married name **Christine Steadman**

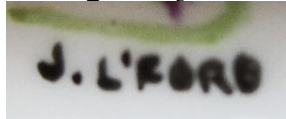
1964



Thomas Greville Lockyer [Tom]

(1913-1935) d.1935



J Longford [J.L'ford]

Peter Love

ca.1950-1956

known to have painted fruit

D Lowe
1950s-



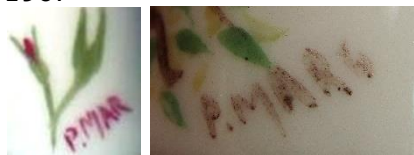
S L'Wood
1970s-
- is this Lightwood or Leatherwood?



H Manton [H Man]
1950s-1960s



Pauline Margetts [P Mar] [P Marg]
(b.1951)
- maiden name **Pauline Shephard**
1967-



J L Marks



Michael Mas

Carola Maslyn (long signature shows **C Maslen**) [C Lyn]
1960s- [larger backstamp]

Douglas Massey [D Masy]
1951

Mona McHarg
1960s-

Sandra Meredith
1960s-

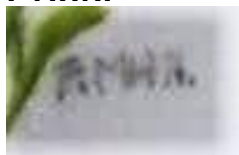
Michelin (Micky) Miller
1944-1955
- apprentice to Kitty Blake



Marie Milward
-1971



F MHN.



Pauline Molloy
(b.1951)
1970s-



Gillian Moody [M]
(b.1944)
1964-



S Morgan
1960s-



M Morris
(b.1957)
1975-



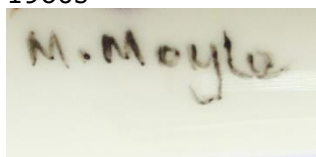
S Morris
1970s-



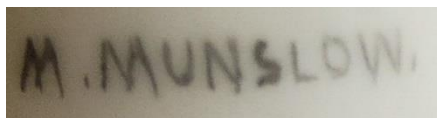
George Mosley [Moseley]
1919-1939
- one of the "Terrible Seven"
(seven "rather boisterous" apprentices)



M Moyle
1960s-



Mandy Munslow
1970s-



J Nady



J Nell
1960s- [larger backstamp]



William Nicholls

(b.1933)
1950-1972



S Norris

- see **S Morris**

P Norton

Allan Norwood

ca.1948-1956

- went to Heathealey Fine Bone China who started up in Worcester for a short while



Terence (Terry) Nutt
1980s –



Museum of Royal Worcester

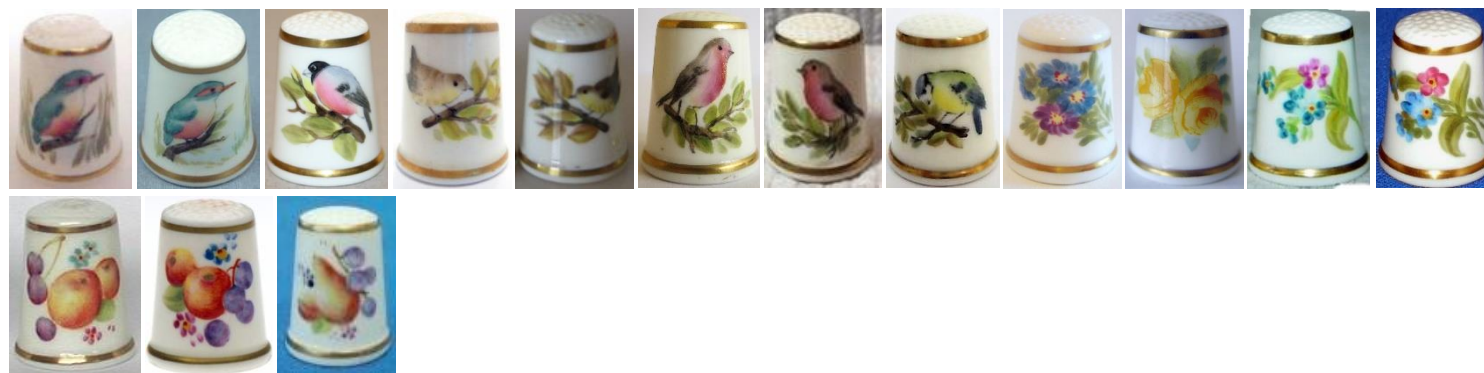
This is a handpainted thimble by Terence Nutt of Worcester. Signed 'T. Nutt' alongside fruit. The label was in the thimble box



Judy Oram

1971-

- her signature JO also found on Graham Payne Studio handpainted thimbles



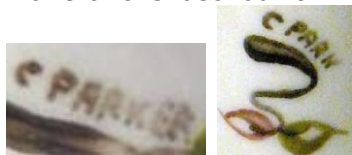
Judy Owen

(b.1946)

1962-1978



Christine Parker [C Park]
 (b.1953)
 1971-1983
 - one of the last four thimble painters



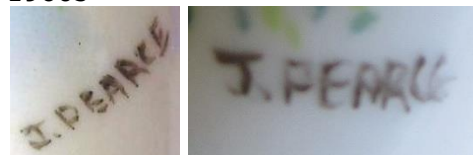
T Parr
 1970s-



P Payne



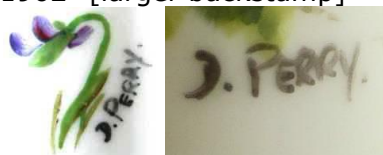
J Pearce
 1960s-



Diane Perry

(b.1947)

1962- [larger backstamp]



M Phips

1955-

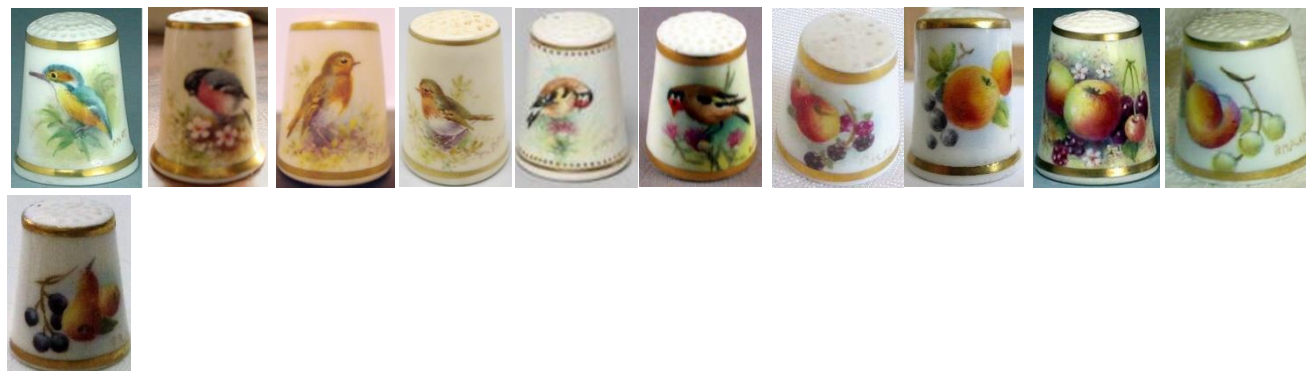


Peter Platt

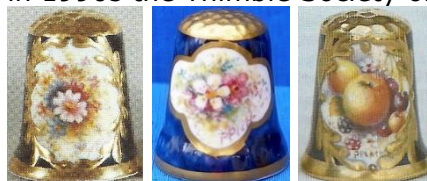
(b.1935)

1951-

- nickname '**Sam**' or '**Abdul**' was sometimes signed on his thimbles as a joke by apprentices



in 1990s the Thimble Society of London commissioned thimbles painted by this artist. Three examples:



Museum of Royal Worcester

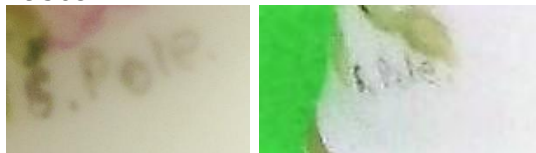
Maurice J Pledger

known to have painted birds

- I have seen this painter on thimbles
issued by TCC [Renaissance and Oakley]

S Pole.

1950s-

**R Poole**

1950s-

**L Port.**

1960s-

**H Pound [HP]**

1970

**A Powell [A Pow.]**

1950s-

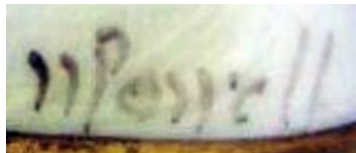


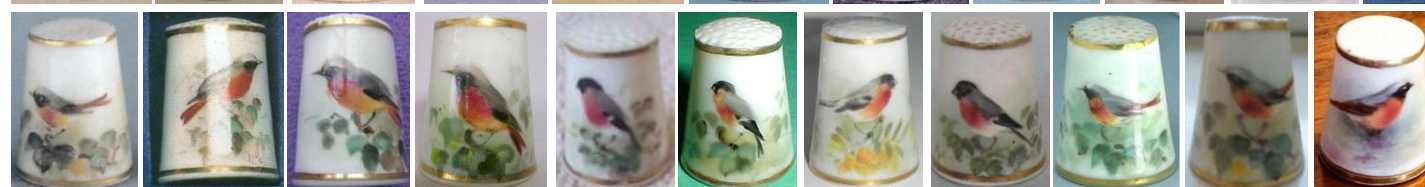
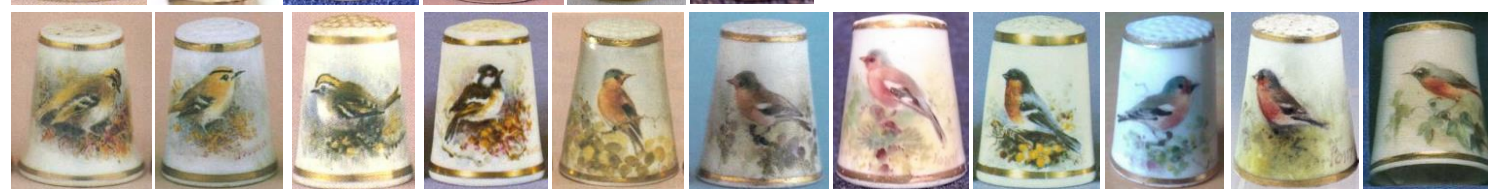
J Powell [J Pow]
1960s-



Michael Powell
(b.1945)
1966-

William Seaborn Powell [Willy Powell]
(1878-1950)
1891-1950
- hunchback and dwarf





William Seaborn Powell (cont.)



Linda Preece

(b.1947)

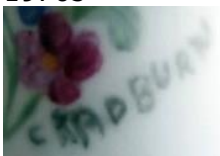
- married name **Linda Wilson**

1960s- [larger backstamp]



C Radburn

1970s-



D Rankin

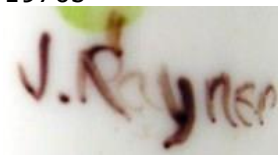
1970s-



J Ranler

J Rayner [J Ray]

1970s-



Daisy Rea [DR]

(b.1894-1975)

1909-1975

- forewoman of lady painters
- did she only paint flowers?



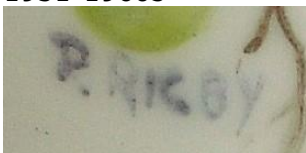
1920s

Museum of Royal Worcester



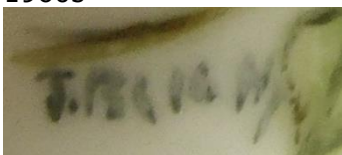
Pat Rigby [9]

1951-1960s



J Right

1960s-



A or N Roberts

1960s-



Susanne Roberts [S Rob.] [Sue Roberts]

(b.1955)

- maiden name **Susanne Waldron**

1967-1980s

- one of the last two painters



Joan Ross

1965-



Fiona Round [F R]

(b.1956)

- married name **Fiona Bakewell**

1973-



M Rouse

1950s-



C Row.

- what is the full name?



P Roze

1950s-



Salter

1970s-



` Sam `

- **Peter Platt's** nickname

S Sands

1960s- [+ larger backstamp]



Eveline Sedgley

(b.1909)

- pseudonym `**Willis**` used when ladies not allowed to sign their own name

1924-1971



S Selby

1960s-



Filippa Serra

(b.1951)

1970s-

- married name is **Filippa Whitford**
(**Christopher Whitford** also a RW painter)



Pauline Shephard [P Sheph] [P She]
(b.1951)
- married name **Pauline Margetts**
1967-



J Sheri.
1967 -



Sheila Shinnie
1960s
- married name **Sheila Dutfield**



Albert Shuard
-1961



James Skerrett

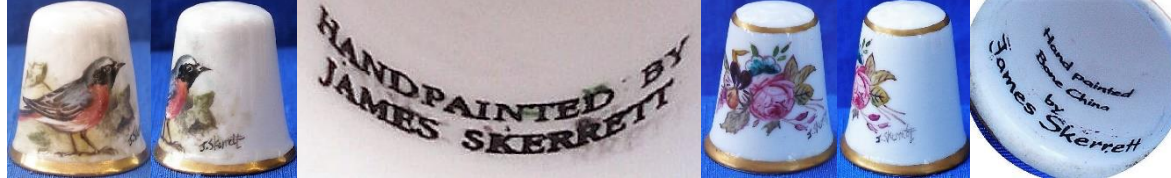
- unusual to have painted dots on apex?



Museum of Royal Worcester



His thimbles are signed 'J Skerrett' and a decaled mark inside. Examples of two thimbles:



Christopher Smith

F Smith

1950s-



John F Smith

(b.1934-)

1950s-



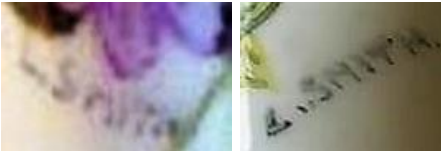
JS signature also found on Graham Payne Studio handpainted thimbles



Lorraine Smith [LS]

(b.1942)

1950s-



John Smyth

1950-1971



Dorothy Sparks [Sparkes]

(b.1935)

1951-1980s

- one of the last two painters and she
was also the supervisor



Christine Steadman

1965-1966

- maiden name **Christine Lloyd**

Fay Stephens/Stevens [FS]

1949-

--

--

Stinton

1941

- could be any one of eight members of this family who painted for Royal Worcester

Harry at Worcester 1896-1963 Highland cattle

James (Jas) at Worcester 1902-1951 birds

John Jnr at Worcester 1902-1938 birds



K Stott

1970s-



M Sutton

1940s-



Gertie Taunt

1910-

Angela Taylor

1960s-



L Taylor
1950s-



R Thorn
1970s-



Edward (Ted) Townsend
(b.1904)
1918-1942 and 1947-1971
- foreman of men painters
- one of the "Terrible Seven"
(seven "rather boisterous" apprentices)



Julia Vass [J Vaas][J V]
(b.1954)
1971-



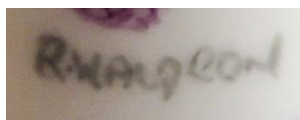
Judy Vickers [V]
(b.1946)
1965-

--

Beverley Waldo
1977-

--

Rosemary Waldron [R]
(b.1951)
1967-
- younger sister is Susanne



her RW initials are also found on [Graham Payne Studio](#) handpainted thimbles



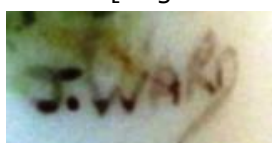
Susanne Waldron [S W]
 (b.1955)
 - married name **Susanne Roberts**
 1971-
 - older sister is Rosemary



B Walter
 1970s-



J Ward
 1960s- [larger backstamp]



V Ward
 1950s-



F B Well
 see **Fiona Bakewell**

Sheila Whitcombe (nee Watson)

A Royal Worcester modeller so there were no thimbles



paints now under the name of Dunheved China in Cornwall (partner of Derek Wilson). Signed S Whitcombe. Two examples:



S White

W A White

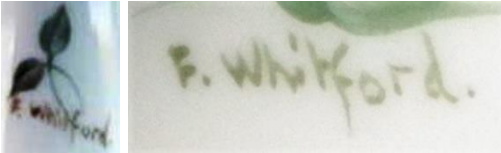
Filippa Whitford

(b.1952)

- maiden name **Filippa Serra**

(these two thimbles were privately commissioned, so no thimbles actually exist under her married name?)

1971-



D Wild

1950s-



S Wiley

1960s-



Helen Williams

(b.1949)

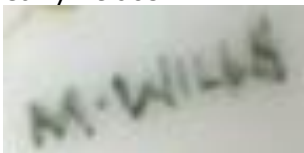
1975-



` Willis `- pseudonym used by **Eveline Sedgley**

M Wills

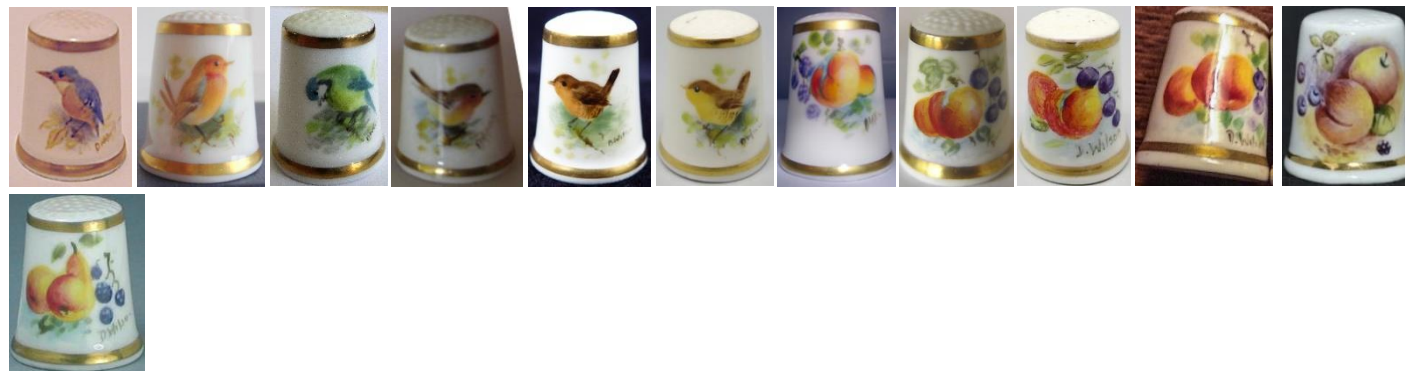
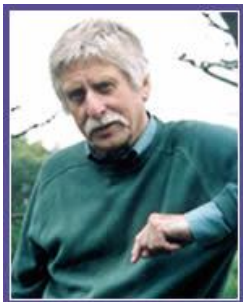
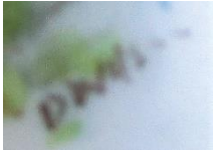
early 1960s



Derek Wilson

1930-1954

some have a single gilded band only



paints now under the name of Dunheved China in Cornwall (partner of Sheila Whitcombe). Signed D Wilson. Two of his thimbles:



Linda Wilson

(b.1947)

- maiden name **Linda Preece**

1970s-



mandy

M Wilson

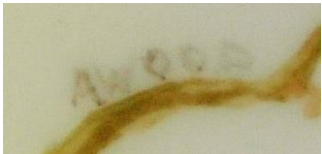
1950s-



E Wimperis



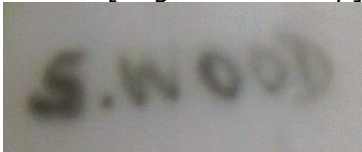
A Wood
1950s



C Wood
1960s-

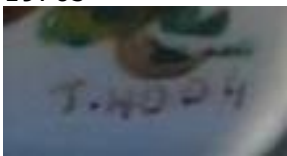


Sally Wood
1960s- [larger backstamp]



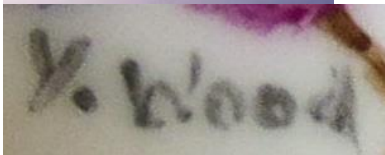
T Wood

1970s-



Y Wood

1960s- [larger backstamp]



M Woodings

1960s-



M Wyer

1970s-





By Appointment to
Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II
Manufacturers of China and Porcelain
The Worcester Royal Porcelain
Company Worcester

References

- Friederike Baechle *Antique Hand-painted Royal Worcester thimbles* TCI Bulletin winter 2012
Christie's South Kensington *Thimbles & needlework accessories* December 1997
Dorset Thimble Society *Royal Worcester thimble painters*. May 1991
Charlotte Goldberg *David Roy Bowkett former Royal Worcester artist 1948-1962* TCI Bulletin summer 2014
Colin Millett *Ladies of 'The Porcelain' – Royal Worcester lady modellers and painters*. 2021
Colin Millett *The wonder of Worcester – an illustrated history*. 2020
Colin Millett *Worcester porcelain – a collector's tale*. 2nd ed 2017
Phillips Auctioneers *Fine antique sewing boxes, thimbles ...* December 1998
Phillips Auctioneers *Sylvia Groves' collection* December 1999
The Royal Worcester story Collector Circle Gazette vol VI, no 3, winter 1981/82
Royal Worcester thimble artists Thimbletter vol 7, issue 3, May-June 1980
Henry Sandon *Royal Worcester porcelain from 1862-1972*. 1975
Thimble Society of London *catalogues*
Het Vingerhoedje vol 4 no 1
John von Hoelle *Thimble collector's encyclopedia*. 3rd ed. 1986

Royal Porcelain Museum website www.worcesterporcelainmuseum.org.uk
Joanna Waciorski's website www.sewmanybits.co.uk
Museum of Royal Worcester www.museumofroyalworchester.org

Contributors

Tom Ainslie | Anne | Petra Arnzen | Friederike Baechle | Linda Bennett | Marta Valencia Betran | Clarice & David Birch | Joanna Blackie-Sew Many Bits | Jonathan P Broad
Jack Broadhead | Sue Burt | Christine Cameron | Tony Charman | Sue Christensen | Sheila Clarke | Maggie Cooper | Jason S Creel | Linda Day | Val de Vries
Nick Durham | Joy Carlsen Earles | Helene Ellis (née Lighthert) | Ros Forster | Kit Froebel | Joan Gale | David Garn | Micky Garvey | Charlotte Goldberg | Linda Heggs
Giorann Henshaw (née Garcia) | Margaret Hickling | Sondra Hirsch | John Houghton | Gloria Hudson | Janet E Humphries (née Collins) | Judith | Gladys Junge
Wolfgang Langrehn | David Mayne | Debbie Mayo | Rosie Mladenovic | Caroline Meacham-Elegant Arts | Colin Millett | Maggie Morris | Diana L Myers | Jan Neville
Elizabeth Nevin | Ray Nimmo | Ro Olbricht | Rebecca Orme | Mandy Page | David Pantland | Moyra Peckston | Di Pelham Burn | Judy Pollitt | Wanda Ralston-Boulder Bay
Kathleen Rastall | Rhoda | Wendy Ritchie | John Roberts | Ian Salter | Linda Samaripa | Wolf-Dieter Scholz | Irene Schwall | Norma Shattock | Edna Skarratt | Kate Smith
Sue | Tom Suttie | Amanda Taylor (granddaughter of Ethel Spilsbury) | Erin Titmus | Audrey Turner | Kate Twomey | Sheena Venn | Hans-Ulrich Vogel
Rosalie Webb | Agnieszka Wiechucka | Mave Wiskin | Sandy Woodyard | Jenny Yuhas | Krystyn Zagajewska

This listing of Royal Worcester thimble painters 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.

© **Sue Gowan**
October 2002