

Kay Thetford-Kendall sterling silver thimbles

England

This English silversmith designed and made her silver thimbles during the early 1980s, with a few new designs in the 1990s. The Thimble Society of London regularly stocked her thimbles - with moulded small animals around the thimbles and rounded apexes - from 1983 onwards. In 1998, the Society obtained the last examples of Kay's collectable thimbles for sale, as Kay had by then moved on to sculpting life-size figures.



original DWK domed apex
L - 1986 : R - 1990

Kay's maker's mark is DWK and it is registered at the London Assay Office. It seems that her husband Donald W Kendall registered the mark, hence the confusion, as the mark doesn't feature Kay's initials. The first hallmarks were for 1982 and the last ones were for 1997.

Recently another mark for Kay has been discovered, which may have been used on her later thimbles ie 1986? This would be her own mark KE?

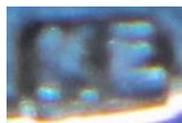
There are many "ring-ins" - poor, cast copies of Kay's popular designs - the apexes are always flat and the maker's marks are very indistinct or missing, with poor definition of the horizontal stripes. These thimbles were being reproduced in Turkey in the 2000s - so look for noticeably clear hallmarks with good indentations on the rounded apex, to know you have a genuine DWK thimble!!

Designs have changed over the decade, but her themes recurred - I have tried to indicate the first year these were made. Some designs have indentations, others have elongated striped indentations. There were three commemoratives made by Kay Kendall - in 1986.

The thimble names ascribed are mine alone and are purely descriptive.



Kay Thetford-Kendall's maker's mark DKW



we surmise that this is Kay's own maker's mark, used in 1986, for the Royal Wedding of Prince Andrew?



teddy bears
1983 [I]



bee on a flower

this is the only description in summer 1989 issue of Thimble Society of London
the partial indentations which one associated with Thetford-Kendall's work



butterfly
1988 [O] / 1990 [Q]
R photos: [Elegant Arts](#)



cats
1984 [K] / 1986 [M]
R photos: [Elegant Arts](#)



dogs
Spaniel, Afghan and beagle/dachshund
1984 [K] / 1986 [M]
R photos: [Elegant Arts](#)



fox

1984 [K]

R is a Turkish reproduction of 2000s



fish

1984 [K]

R is a Turkish reproduction in 2000s



frogs

1984 [K] / 1986 [M] / 1988 [O]



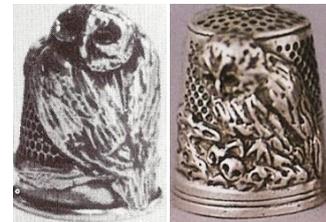
hedgehogs

1984 [K] / 1997 [X]



mice

1983 [I] / 1993 [T]



owl

1983 [I] / 1997 [X]



Halley's Comet 1986 [M]

commemorative

showing Edmond Halley, the comet with tail
commissioned by The Thimble Society of London



Statue of Liberty 1888-1986 [M]

commemorative

showing Liberty's head, her torch and date tablet
commissioned by The Thimble Society of London



Wedding of Prince Andrew and Sarah Ferguson

July 23 1986 [M]

commemorative

showing a helicopter for Prince Andrew and a skier for Sarah
commissioned by The Thimble Society of London
this thimble has the later maker's mark of **KE** – it may be her own maker's mark?

Contributors

Carolyn Meacham-Elegant Arts | Ray Nimmo | Holger Preusz | Jean Taylor | Thimble Society of London

This listing of Kay Thetford-Kendall sterling silver thimbles does not purport to be complete or accurate in all aspects. Rather it invites comment and contribution to add to our knowledge. My thanks to the contributors.

EMAIL thimbleselect@bigpond.com TO SHARE YOUR KNOWLEDGE.

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