Modern British handpainted china thimbles

1978-2022

At the start of the modern thimble collecting era of the late 1970s, some of Great Britain's china houses produced handpainted thimbles. This was a time consuming and costly exercise. The demand avalanche for instant and cheaper thimbles swamped thimble manufacturers as we entered 1980.

The porcelain houses realised that creating their own decals or transfers using a skilled artist would speed up production and an unlimited number could be churned out.

Initially companies like Caverswall had their artists hand-touch their designs with spots of paint and you will find artists' names like William Tipton, John Ball, C Nunn, Holmes Gray or Mary Grant named on the thimbles. These are not handpainted thimbles: just hand-touched.

Sutherland, who produced china thimbles the longest, made thimbles in the same way – but didn't even follow the hand-touched route. Some of their thimbles are labelled hand enamelled. Rather a few spots of enamel enhances the design – this is known as champleve. JB, ME and PH Pauline Haughton are initials found on Sutherland thimbles enhanced in this manner.

Royal Worcester, the doyenne of handpainted thimbles from the 1870s, faced the same problem. They did not want to employ more artists and thimbles are time-consuming to paint freehand with at least three firings. In the 1970s, the foreman of the painters' division, Edward Townsend, came up with a solution. He designed a number of outline prints - 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. Even that didn't help as by 1986, the last handpainted RW thimble was painted. They turned to decaled thimbles to keep up with demand.

The pendulum did begin to swing back in the 1990s and handpainted thimbles came back into their own in the small numbers as before.

The artists had access to blank thimbles from any source. This would give them creative freedom and some commercial success.

Handpainted thimbles take a while to paint, so they are created in a limited supply.

Many of the artists didn't only paint thimbles – they formed a minute part of their output. They painted vases, plates, brooches, lidded jars, figurines of fauna, paintings, coffee pots, miniatures and handpainted enamel boxes etc.

A few of these artists have painted on wood, glass and silver thimbles and on enamel. They are outside the scope of this topic. Thimbles with handpainted flowers affixed will also not feature here.

See my topics on specific British painters of china thimbles:

Graham Payne (1981) who employed at least six freelance painters Gerald Delaney

Jasper's of Yorkshire (Margaret and Mandy Palmer)

Francesca employed at least 16 thimble artists and other character head thimbles makers number 20 Royal Worcester thimble painters

I have featured **30** British thimble handpainters.

When I have fewer than five thimble examples from specific painters – they will follow at the end of the section of thimbles - both in alphabetical order by painter's surname.

Along the way I have learnt heaps – and I can now recognise thimbles painted by these artists.

It takes sheer talent to paint accurately on such a small area of china.

I hope you will enjoy the journey as much as I have.

Last update: 5 April 2024

For other handpainted thimble topics see

Australian handpainted thimbles Francesca and other character head thimbles Gerald Delaney handpainted thimbles Graham Payne handpainted thimbles Jasper's of Yorkshire handpainted thimbles Royal Worcester thimble painters

Specific British thimble china painters

Anne Blades

Blades was born in Port Talbot in 1953, grew up in Guildford and returned to live in Wales in 1968 she studied industrial ceramics and china painting became her passion in 1984 opened her ceramics studio – <u>Anne Blades Ceramics</u> Anne opened her own shop and gallery, Blades - The Artworks in 1997 in Mumbles (Mwmbwls), Swansea in Wales

> her thimbles are distinctive in that they have a daffodil design pressed into the apex AB with a date letter is her maker's mark on the inside

> > source: https://www.anneblades.co.uk/about/











Caswell Bay













Ich Dien







Mumbles Lighthouse



Three Cliffs Gower



Worms Head

David Bowkett

Bowkett was a Royal Worcester trained artist and worked there between 1948-1962 he moved to Cornwall and bought a pub in the 1970s

David opened his own studio in Devon
he began to paint thimbles in 2002

this is where his RW training came to the fore – using birds and fruit themes painted on bone china these included the signature on the outside and the traditional sprig on the verso thimbles have the <u>David Bowkett</u> backstamp and his signature is <u>D Bowkett</u>

Bowkett died in 2009

if there is a small china hook on the back of the item – it is a tiny candlesnuffer – they can be mistaken for thimbles. His figurals have indentations on the head



candlesnuffer









R: his mark for character-shaped thimbles





Gigi Branch

Gigi trained at Limoges in France then settled in Devon
were her thimbles only painted in 1983?
thimbles signed inside <u>Gigi</u>
see also topic Glass and crystal thimbles <u>for her painting on glass thimbles</u>







Christmas 1983 carollers







Christmas 1983
holly leaves
red enamelling on lace-like ground
dated and numbered
limited to 100



Forget me nots May 1983 b&w photo



Prince William 1st birthday 21.6.83 royal symbols painted all round



Christopher Burns

Chris Burns is a Royal Worcester trained artist

in 1987 when RW were no longer producing handpainted thimbles, Burns opened his own studio in the Malvern Hills, Worcestershire

here he established Harcourt China

before the use of this mark, the thimbles were marked <u>Malvern England</u> he provided thimbles to The Thimble Guild (1987-1994, and again in 2005). I have used the catalogue dates

his thimbles are not dated (with one exception in 1994)

there is a lovely range of designs capturing the surrounding English countryside. His thimbles evolved to sculpt thimbles in relief giving a three dimensional aspect

thimbles have the Harcourt China backstamp and his signature <u>C Burns</u> is located on the inside thimbles are not named – I have used names from the TTG catalogues etc



L: early blue Malvern mark (Type 1) - C: no brand name Handpainted in England (Type 2)





British garden birds Blue tit TTG October 1987 (set of twelve)



British garden birds Bullfinch TTG October 1987



British garden birds Firecrest TTG October 1987



British garden birds Goldfinch TTG October 1987



British garden birds Robin TTG October 1987



British garden birds Sparrow TTG October 1987



British garden birds Thrush TTG October 1987



British garden birds Wren TTG October 1987



British garden birds TTG October 1987



comet Hale-Bopp



Cottage TTG October 1998



Cottage TTG October 1998



Cottage TTG October 1998



Cottage TTG October 1998



English cathedral TTG December 1993









English cathedral limited to 450 TTG April 1992













English countryside set of six on pink ground with cameo scenes TTG July 1989 – TSL summer 1989



English countryside blue ground with cameo scene TSL summer 1989



English countryside pink ground with cameo scene TSL summer 1989



English countryside pink ground with cameo scene Type 2 backstamp



Holly
pink ground with champleved holly
Thimble Society of London winter 1989
limited to 450
TTG December 1992









Kingfisher with fish L: type 1 mark



Kingfisher limited to 200 TTG June 1988





Ladybird thimbles have the 1994 dated signature TTG July 1994







Little owl limited to 200 TTG August 199



Madonna TTG December 1991



Malvern

Malvern Hills 1993 panarama scene all round limited to 375





Mercat Cross (street in Wyre Evesham) limited to 250 TTG February 1993





Mr and Mrs Owl TTG July 1992



Peregrine TTG February 1990



pig TSL summer 1991



Postbox at Cropthorne (in Evesham) limited to 375 1993



Salmon pink ground limited to 250



robin pink ground with cameo



Rose cottage TTG January 1992



TTG December 1991



Shepherd's cottage TTG January 1992



Snowy owl TTG August 2005



St Paul's Cathedral limited to 375 TTG November 1992



Summer Serenity TTG June 1990



Thatched cottage TTG January 1992



The lone shepherd September 1992



Village church September 1991 limited to 250



Wren



Windmill

TTG March 1989 - TSL autumn 1990



woman shopping

Peter Carver

I first came into contact with Peter Carver from Solihull in West Midlands in 2013 thru a Canadian thimble collector

she encouraged Peter to try painting thimbles

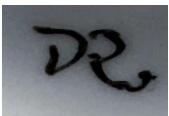
Carver's specialty is painting birds – see for yourself his quirky, almost humorous style on his retirement, with interests in professional watercolour painting, furniture restoration and painting enamel boxes amongst many others, with typography and graphic design in his working life, he accepted the challenge

having a kiln, Peter was able to make his own china thimbles – he gilded some of his apexes and these are distinctive as the gold only covers the immediate indentations he experimented with poly clay, which enabled him to try sculpted thimbles

Carver's thimbles are signed PC (but look like DR): you can see for yourself with three examples the thimble names are those of the painter but not lettered within thimble (2013-2014) but thimbles are not dated









Certificate of Authentication Hand painted thimbles by Peter Carver



Peter also painted on enamel



Badger



hird



Blue tit cutaway to reveal nest inside



Book at bedtime gold painted apex



Christmas 2013



Christmas 2013



Christmas 2013 'Deck the halls with boughs of holly'



Christmas 2013





Nigel Creed - Ken Russell

Creed is a Master Painter and worked at Royal Worcester in 1963 Russell (1934-2010) was Royal Worcester's last Master Gilder

Thimble Society of London commissioned Nigel and Ken to produce handpainted thimbles for sale thru their thimble catalogues (1987-1999)

Nigel signed his thimbles with his initials <u>NC</u> on the outside near the painted part Ken was the gilder and used 24ct gold. Sometimes the apex is gilded. <u>Russell</u> is signed inside Ken had retired by 2004. He gilded thimbles for other thimble painters names used are purely descriptive, not being named by the painters – thimbles are not dated Royal Worcester collectors will recognise many of these designs as those that came from the factory, given a modern look









Ken Russell 2010



Creed also painted on enamel





Apple blossom TSL autumn 1993





Baltimore oriole TSL spring 1994



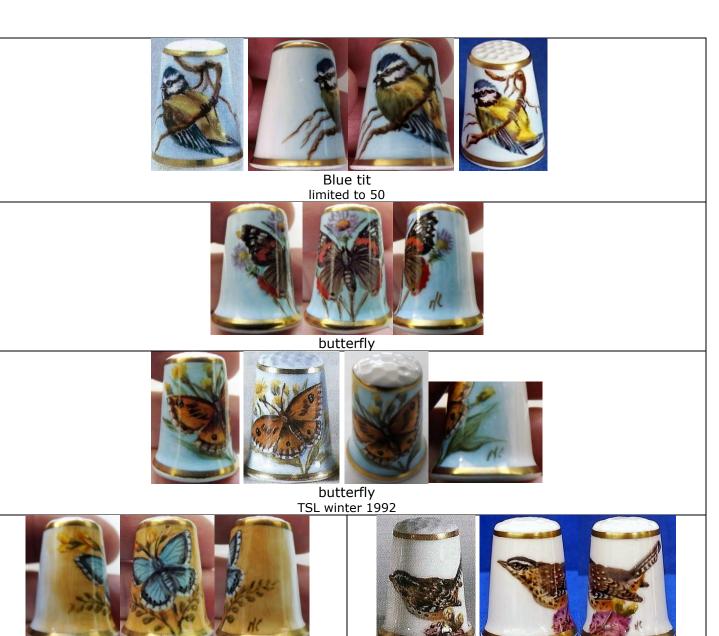






Blackburnia bunting TSL winter 1994

Blue bird TSL autumn 1993







Cactus wren TSL winter 1993



Cherokee rose TSL spring 1994



Christmas TSL autumn 1990



Chrysanthemum Thimble Society of London Autumn 1990





Cockerel TSL summer 1991



Crocus TSL summer 1991





Daffodil limited to 50



freezias?



Gold flower TSL summer 1999



Gold



Gold



Gold signed <u>Ken Russell</u>



Gold jewels swags shell pink ground TSL autumn 1996



Goldcrest TSL spring 1993





Goldfinch L: TSL autumn 1990



Imari TSL autumn 1989



jewelled TSL spring 1996





Lattice



Lattice gold black & white panels TSL summer 1996



Lattice gold on white TSL summer 1999



TSL autumn 1995



Peacock butterfly limited to 100 TSL summer 1992





Pheasant TSL autumn 1991



Poinsettia TSL autumn 1991



primrose



Ptarmigan TSL winter 1991





purple flower











Robin limited to 50 TSL winter 1989







Rose TSL spring 1990





Rose TSL winter 1991









Ruby jewelled limited to 100 with <u>TSL</u> mark for Thimble Society of London TSL summer 1987







Snowdrop limited to 50 TSL winter 1989



Thistle limited to 100 TSL summer 1992



Tulip TSL spring 1992



Turquoise jewelled limited to 100 TSL summer 1987



Turquoise jewelled TSL summer 1999



Turquoise jewelling TSL winter 1989



Turquoise jewels TSL autumn 1996



Wild lupin TSL spring 1994





Woodcock TSL spring 1992







Wren TSL autumn 1990





yellow flower





yellow flower TSL spring 1992 rhodedendron?



Janice Daughters

Daughters is an artist in Leyburn, Wensleydale North Yorkshire trained in graphic design, Janice moved from London to set up her studio in 1986, where she was able to freelance in graphic design

she had developed a love for the countryside, with its flora and fauna as an added interest, she began to paint on porcelain and china, including thimbles her signature details are on the inside rim and the date is included (1991-1997)





Sheep in Dales 1991



Sheep in Dales

Robert Earwicker

Cornwall his characters are made of Cornish clay - quirky







pirate







Teddy bear

Raymond Everill

Everill works out of <u>Lime House Studio</u> in Staffordshire, since he retired from Spode his trade mark is Raymond Everill & Sons England you can't mistake his bright pink signature R.Everill thimbles are not named – some are dated (1988-1989) the apex is painted with 22ct gold







bird 1989



Vivienne J Evison

Evison runs <u>Lyme Studio</u> in Cheshire with her husband Paul (she was first identified by TTG as Christine) her thimbles are of fine bone china finished in 22-24ct gold many of her thimbles are painted using precious metals – no two are ever the same signed <u>Vivienne J Everill</u> or <u>V.J.E</u> (1992-1997)









After Lowry TTG June 1996



Earl's golden coronet TTG September 1995



Lightning TTG December 1996



Peacock feather





Petrol one of the six thimbles in the precious metals lustre set following TTG December 1992















Weights ½lb Mushrooms ... TTG October 1995



Weights 4lb Tea 125grams (0.275) TTG October 1995



Weights 1lb Tomatoes 1/2 kilo (1.1...) TTG October 1995



Weights 1 oz chillies ... TTG October 1995



Weights 5lbs Potatoes ... TTG October 1995



gold painted apex

Helen Halloran

Halloran worked for Royal Worcester, Halcyon Days and Elliot Hall Enamels her bone china thimbles are one-off pieces apexes are painted with 24ct gold these six flower thimbles are from 2022 not signed



Campion



Celandine





Primrose



Speedwell



Violets

Keith Hancock

Hancock worked for <u>Sutherland</u> in Stoke-on-Trent and <u>Caverswall</u>, handpainting thimbles for their brand these are not decaled as the bulk of the Sutherland and Caverswall thimbles were they are all signed – and numbered inside when they are limited in number The Thimble Guild commissioned two sets of thimbles from Hancock in 1983 signature is <u>K.Hancock</u> or <u>Keith Hancock</u>. The black signature is signed inside







apples also available with Swarovski crystal apex



apples Caverswall



Autumn vale (Four seasons) limited to 200 TTG September 1983



Autumn – reaping 1983



Blue tit Swarovski crystal in apex



flower green Swarovski crystal in apex



Robin red Swarovski crystal in apex



Romany art green with handpainted enamel limited to 200 TTG September 1983



Romany art maroon with handpainted enamel limited to 200 TTG March 1983



Romany art pink with handpainted enamel limited to 200 TTG May 1983



Romany art blue with handpainted enamel limited to 200 TTG July 1983



Romany art TTG summer 1983 b&w photo





Spring vale (Four seasons) limited to 200 TTG April 1983



Summer vale (Four seasons) limited to 200 TTG July 1983





The red dragon more gilding than the TCC Red dragon issue limited to 1000 TTG December 1983



Winter vale (Four seasons) limited to 200 TTG February 1983



Meissen style – cobalt ground with two different cameo scenes



Meissen style – terracotta ground with two different cameo scenes

Agneta Hickley Rimpton Yeovil

her thimbles all have a scalloped gold-painted rim Hickley's thimbles have painting all round – except her bird thimbles







1989

1988

1989

Neil Higgins

Higgins first came to my attention as the handpainter of the Robin Hood set of six character head thimbles, with the brand name of <u>Healacraft</u>, using the initials of <u>NH</u> inside the thimbles his name has also been associated with Sutherland. I speculate that's where he learnt his skills as a handpainter of thimbles?

Neil's signature of N.Higgins is always lettered in brown in his thimbles and may be found lettered on either the inside or outside

thimbles are not dated - earliest date I have found is 1983 (mail order thimble catalogues). He painted thimbles for a short period 1983-1985, Higgins often uses a blue wash as the ground for his painting Higgins undertook commissions thru The Thimble Guild – including a few of pets he subsequently painted for Staffordshire Enamels (1995)





1903 Georges Richard Itd to 10 TTG July 1983



'Alpha Romeo BC - 2300'



bird



his birds are not named so for an Australian unfamiliar with British birds ... they are named bird







bird



bird



Blue tit



'Bridge House Ambleside'



'Bronte House' TTG September 1984



building (name illegible)



butterfly



`Carillion Loughborough'



'Chichester' (Yarn Market)



choristers
with attached pendant loop
limited to 250
TTG November 1983
b&w photo



cottage



'Derby Cathedral'



'Gloucester Old Spot'



Kingfisher



King Charles spaniel



Labrador



Lapwing



`Pershore' pink wash



'Portland ram'



'Rippon Cathedral'





Snowman with attached pendant loop limited to 250 TTG November 1983 b&w photo



snowman



Springer spaniel TTG March 1985



The Bell Tower The Thimble Guild commissioned this thimble of the building where their thimble business was housed TTG June 1983



'The Orchards'



'Thimble Hall'



'Wells'



'Womborne Church'

Worcester-based heavily painted gold apexes and thick gold painted rims some seem to have pale lettering on the cream ground



apple 1988 pale grren apple on green ground b&w photo



apple



apple 1989 b&w photo



blossom



cherry



dragonfly

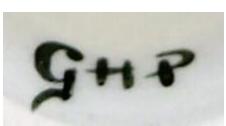


pear

Griselda Hill

Wemyss Ware was founded in 1882 in Fife Scotland. It took its name from a nearby Castle in the 1920s the studio moved to Devon – it closed in 1957 in 1985 Griselda revived the Wemyss Ware® style handpainting to their style at her The Griselda Hill Pottery Ltd® in Kirkcaldy, Fife the most recognisable style has a rim of painted blue scallop - signed inside GHP https://wemyssware.co.uk

thimbles are still produced but currently out of stock. They may be ordered





Hill at L





Milwyn Holloway

Holloway (b.1940) is a Royal Worcester trained artist (1954-1971) there he specialised in painting birds most of Milwyn's thimbles since then have no inner markings some examples have a generic backstamp the thimble backstamp used is for <u>Claymore Ceramics</u> Milwyn's bird thimbles are always signed <u>MH</u> near the bird thimbles are not dated, nor are the birds named











Blue tit birds' set of 12 thimbles 1987 (TTG)





Bullfinch



Chaffinch









Goldfinch









Kingfisher not in birds' set of 12





Magpie

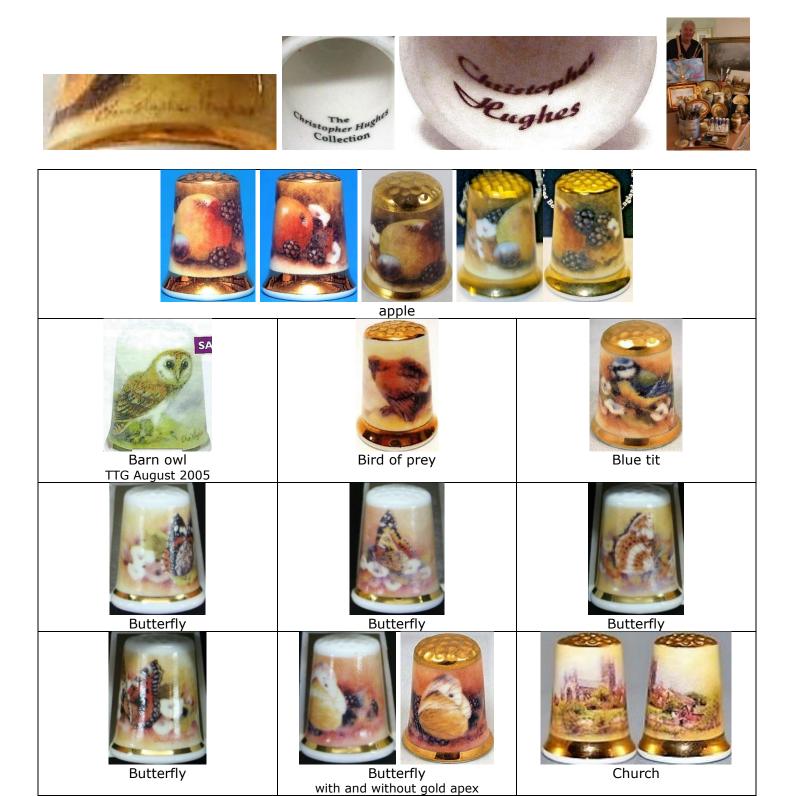


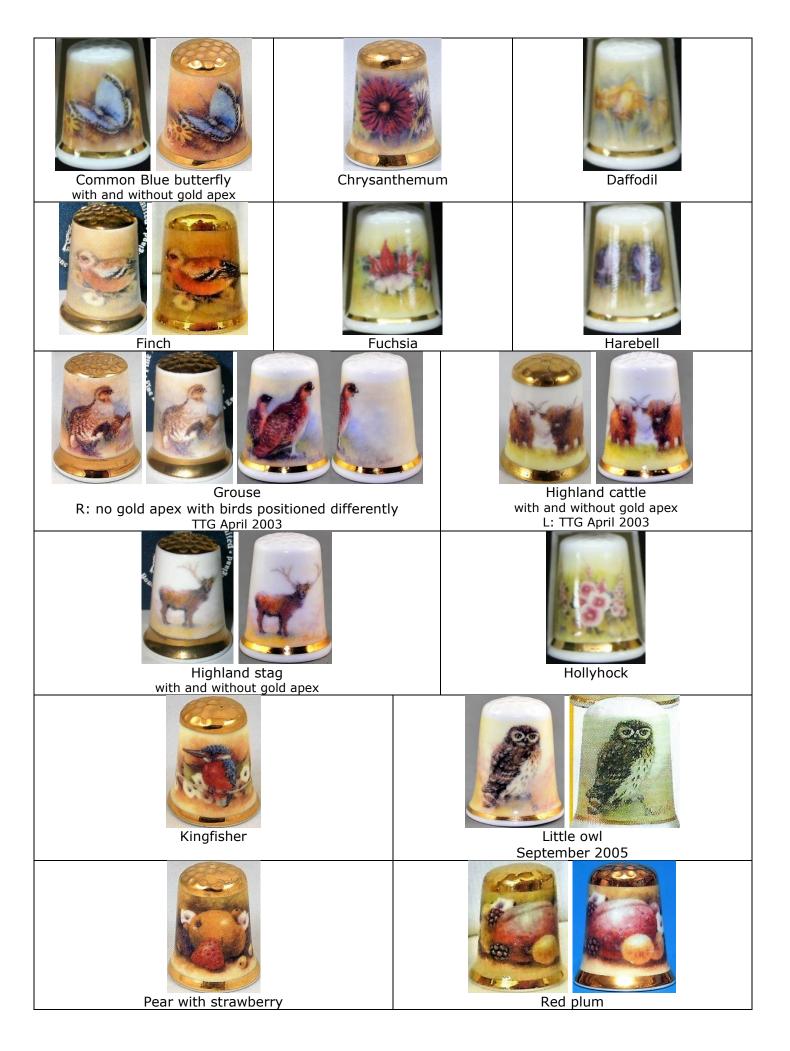
Christopher Hughes

Hughes (born 1948) began his apprenticeship with Royal Worcester in 1960 and branched out on his own in January 1980

he has a studio in Holly Green Worcestershire where he painted thimbles from 1987 the backstamp inside the thimble is The Christopher Hughes Collection or Christopher Hughes on the outer rim thimble apexes are completely gilded, and sometimes they join the upper gilt line – he uses a thicker rim

of gilding than other British painters. All are painted on fine bone china thimbles are painted all round even if the verso is just a pale matching wash thimbles are not named, nor dated







Julie Menzies

Menzies grew up the Biggar area in the lowlands of Scotland she was never formally trained in art tho painting was a passionate hobby Julie worked in the despatch section of The Thimble Guild (TTG) in Biggar until the owner, Arthur Bell, discovered her artistic abilities

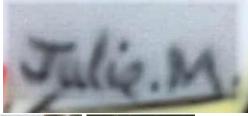
in 1993 she began to handpaint thimbles commissioned and personalised by thimble collectors thru TTG – painting their pets, homes, gardens etc

she specialises in portraits and for five years Menzies was the TGG's chief thimble artist she became their chief designer of art in 1998-2005, which required her to create thimble designs these were translated into lithographs or transfers/decals

tho her thimbles seem to be handpainted, all Menzies thimbles after 1998 are decaled thimbles handpainted portraits fill the entire front of thimble – her decal thimble portraits are more cameo sized her handpainted thimbles bear the signatures <u>J.M.</u>, <u>Julie. M.</u> or <u>Julie Menzies</u> on fine bone china with 22ct gold rims

Menzies can handpaint three thimbles a day – no wonder they were offered in limited editions some thimbles will have the backstamp The Thimble Guild
Julie was also a designer for Sutherland China











Menzies January 1991 and 1999



90th anniversary 1921–2011 lettered in gold Royal British Legion limited to 250 - ed lettered om verso TTG November 2011



Alexander Graham Bell limited to 100 TTG March 1997



Best wishes New Year 2005 TTG December 1994



Billy Wright limited to 200 TTG October 1994



Burt Lancaster TTG December 1994



Caernarvon Castle favourite ship could be personalised TTG February 1998



children's portraits portraits could be personalised TTG October 1993



Clydesdale limited to 250 TTG March 1997



Colin Macrae (rally driver) limited to 250 TTG January 1996



Cross limited to 200 TTG March 1994



Donald Pleasance limited to 100 TTG March 1995



Doris Speed TTG December 1994



dream home your home could be personalised TTG August 1996



E & S (Edward and Sophie) 19.6.99 there is also a decaled version



Fred Perry limited to 100 TTG March 1995



garden your garden could be personalsed TTG April 1994



'Hale Bopp 1997'









'Hale Bopp 1997 L: first edition which has more detail - limited to 250 R: city scene - lower: country scene two unlimited editions with less detail
TTG May 1997



Henry VIII limited to 75 TTG February 1997



Jose Carreras commissioned by the singer who is a thimble collector TTG May 1994









Lustreware

initials Menzies follows 18th century French designs your initials could be commissioned limited to 175 TTG July 1993



Lustreware TTG March 1997



Lustreware TTG September 1999



Lustreware TTG September 1999



Lustreware December 1999



Meadow flowers October 1996 limited to 100



Neil Armstrong September 1994 limited to 150

ONTSERRAT VOLCANO 1997



Montserrat Volcano 1997



North Sea oil Swarovski crystal in apex limited to 250 TTG December 1994



Peace and goodwill limited to 125 TTG December 1995



Peace in Northern Ireland limited to 150 TTG March 1995



pet
your favourite pet could be
personalised



Queen Elizabeth II 70th birthday 19.4.96 TTG April 1996



Queen Elizabeth II 85th birthday 19.4.2011 limited to 85



Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother 95th birthday Swarovski crystal in apex limited to 350 TTG August 1995



Rose TTG April 1997



Roy Castle limited to 250 TTG October 1994





symbol of the koalas injured in Victorian 2009 bushfires



Scenes of Jubilation 50 years limited to 500 TTG April 1995



spot of gold paint in each flake limited to 150 TTG January 1997



Soufreire Hills Volcano Montserrat TTG October 1997



Teddy bear baby's name can be personalised TTG December 2009



The Golden Hind limited to 450 TTG March 1996



The Longest Day 50 years limited to 250 TTG May 1994



The night before Christmas TTG November 1996



To a mouse (after Robbie Burns) limited to 149 TTG January 1994



Toy train baby's name can be personalised TTG December 2009



UFO limited to 450 TTG May 1998



Viva Espana! limited to 75 TTG July 1994



West Highland Terrier favourite pet can be personalised TTG March 1998



Xmas 1999 pontilist style TTG November 1999







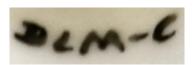
William & Kate 29th April 2011 golden lovebirds TTG April 2011

Dorothy Mortimer-Coy (DML-C)

Flowercraft Sponden Derby

former Royal Crown Derby artist

her thimbles are signed inside – further information is on a sticker on base of thimble box







Peter Platt

Platt (born 1935) was commissioned by The Thimble Society of London to paint thimbles in 1990s for sale thru their catalogues

he is Royal Worcester trained (from 1951)

Peter's thimbles, once he left RW, are uniquely his own: plenty of gilding and the subjects are set in an ornate cameo

signature is P Platt which can usually be found in the lowest part of the cameo







EIIR 1952-1992 commissioned by TSL



Flowers gilded by Russell



flowers



Fruit – apples TSL summer 1991



Fruit - apples



Fruit – apples TSL summer 1992





Kingfisher gilded by Russell

Ryoko Ottignon

Ryoko's studio - Ottignons of Norfolk – is in Starston where she is the hand decorator and ceramist Ottignon's thimbles are based on copies of Georgian designs from 1780s – designs found on cups and saucers of Lowestoft (1757-1802) and New Hall (1781-1835) porcelain factories maker's mark in the form of a sandglass ii burnished gold is painted on the inside (it may look like the Roman numeral for ten when the dot isn't clear) her thimbles require five firings to fix the colours and glaze on the cream porcelain thimbles are presented in thimble boxes handturned in mahogony and waxed to give an antique patina accompanied by a signed, dated and numbered certificate – the list of what else Ottignons retails is listed

on the verso of each certificat the glaze has crazed with age on her white thimbles









- Ask to see our other fine products

 Georgian and classes
 - Georgian sand glasses
- Tunbridge Ware nutmeg graters
- Antique mahogany marquetrie drinks tray
- Mahogany Plate display stand
- . Mahogany Cup and Saucers star
- Georgian china thimbles in case













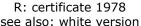
























Rachel Pugh

Pugh handpainted bone china thimbles for The Thimble Guild from September 2000 she was also a designer at TTG from 2000-2005 where her art was translated into decals Pugh was born in Cumbria. She lives in Cyprus where she still designed thimbles for TTG Rachel's signature R.Pugh is on the inside of the thimble, often using gold paint if the thimble is named, it is lettered inside









Autumn TTG October 2000



Christmas rose TTG December 2000



Cyclamen gold apex TTG October 2002





Daisy field TTG June 2001



Deck chair raised paint TTG August 2004



Dove of peace textured paint TTG June 2003



Early snowdrop raised paint TTG January 2001



Exploring Mars Swarovski crystal in apex TTG April 2004



Frosty snowman raised matt glaze TTG December 2004



Giraffe raised patterning TTG October 2003



Iris recticulata gold apex TTG February 2002



Jungle Flowers after Henri Roisseau TTG August 2001



Leopard raised spots TTG December 2003



Keiserskroon tulip gold apex TTG May 2002



Lily gold apex TTG September 2002



Moorcroft style raised design TTG May 2004



'Peace on earth' suede glaze to create sandy surface TTG November 2003



Peacock feathers TTG April 2004



Poinsettia gold apex TTG December 2002







Poppies at Argenteiul limited to 50 TTG June 2004



Purple pansy gold apex TTG March 2002



Rose gold apex TTG June 2002



Snowdrop gold apex TTG January 2002



Springtime TTG April 2001



Summertime TTG September 2000





Sunflower gold apex TTG August 2002



Sweetpea gold apex TTG July 2002



The Great Pine after Cezanne TTG October 2001





date next to signature

The Lily Pond after Monet



'Thimble' in Braille in raised writing TTG June 2003



Tiger raised painted stripes TTG September 2003



Tropical fish TTG September 2004



Valentine TTG January 2004





Van Gogh TTG August 2001



Winter snowflake white glaze TTG January 2003



Winter wonderland raised matt glaze TTG December 2003



Wintertime TTG February 2001



Yellow freesia gold apex TTG November 2002



Zebra raised painted stripes TTG November 2003

$\textbf{Roger Shufflebotham} \; (R.A.S.)$

Shufflebotham was an early painter for Caverswall he is known as a marine artist his thimbles are signed R.A.S.







fruit



H.M.S Victory limited to 40 TTG June 1983 b&w photo



Thames barges limited to 40 TTG April 1983 b&w photo

James Skerrett (JS)

Skerrett trained at Royal Worcester

in 2012 he was the artist-in-residence at the Worcester Porcelain Museum James's <u>J Skerrett</u> signature is found on the outside. Earlier thimbles signed <u>JS</u> there are several varities of decaled marks inside Skerret thimbles













Autumn fruits TTG September 2012





Christmas roses with hedgerow berries TTG December 2012





Remembrance poppy with cornflowers and marguerites TTG October 2012



bird



fruit signed 'JS'



hedgehog



roses

Ann Taylor Scotland signed <u>A Taylor</u>





Brig o' Turk limited to 99 TTG July 1992



Chinese male character limited to 100 TTG April 1992



Chinese man serenading woman limited to 100 TTG April 1992



Choirboy limited to 245 TTG November 1992



Dragon limited to 100 TTG April 1992



Sewing limited to 150 TTG July 1993

Bryn Weightman Gwahaniaeth Crafts, Wales

Weightman paints his bone china thimbles mainly as figures - some of his thimbles have caps or hats of polymer clay – they are outside this study signed Bryn





cottage TTG June 1986



Friar Tuck TTG April 1986



Crusader TTG February 1987 b&w photo



Liverpool Bryn would add club of your choice TTG June 1987 b&w photo



gypsy



Manchester City



Matrioshke doll TTG February 1986



sailor



santa TTG November 1986



snowman



Welsh guard



Land of song Wales TTG February 2003

Sheila Whitcombe

Whitcombe (nee Watson) began painting portraits at 16
she became a modeller for Royal Worcester, so never painted thimbles for them
Sheila paints under the name of <u>Dunheved</u> from Cornwall
signed <u>S Whitcombe</u> on the front of bone china thimbles – sometimes inside, in lower case
Dunheved thimbles are unusually large measuring 30-35cm in height
this gives the artist a larger surface to paint

she needed specialised knowledge of ceramic oxides to paint her historical figures with their jewel colours the name is lettered on the outside verso

Sheila's painting may creep onto the apex to complete the picture her artwork is quite pale – the colours here are stronger for clearer pictures last thimble seen 2005 mail order catalogues











Armada 400th anniversary 1588-1988



Charles I TTG October1994



Cornflowers with Spring peas TTG April 2001



Cornish piskey limited to 84



Devon



First Fleet departure from England 1787 set of nine painted for Australia's bicentenary 1988



First Fleet departure from England 1787



First Fleet departure from England 1787



First Fleet departure from England 1787



First Fleet arrival in Tenerife 1787



First Fleet arrival in Rio de Janeiro 1787





First Fleet arrival in Cape of Good Hope 1787



First Fleet arrival in Australia 1788



First Fleet arrival in Australia 1788





First Fleet arrival in Australia 1788



Frog March 1993







Goose

Fruit – berries TTG May 2005



Goose



Harebell with Venus Looking Glass TTG August 2001











Queen of the Meadow flower fairy







Queen Victoria limited to 350 TTG November 1992



Rabbit



Rabbit



Reindeer Christmas 1988



Richard III TTG March 1992



Roses



Roses & forget-me-nots July 2002



Sir Francis Drake



Strawberry fflower fairy



Snowdrop flower fairy



The Cobb Lyme Regis



Thrift flower fairy



Unicorn



Weston Super Mare

Derek Wilson

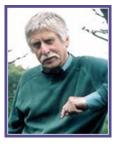
Wilson is a Royal Worcester trained artist, 1930-1954 he paints under the name of <u>Dunheved</u> from Cornwall, in his studio near Launceston signed <u>D Wilson</u>, often cleverly camouflaged, on the outside of the bone china thimble Dunheved thimbles are unusually large measuring 30-35cm in height ('generously sized') this gives the artist a larger surface to paint

being a birdwatcher and a wildlife artist, Derek's thimbles are painted around British birds, wildflowers and animals, and some of the Cornish countryside also feature. The latter may have been sold all over Cornwall?

bird name is lettered on inside rim – places on the outside verso when the number painted is limited, the number is printed on the inside Derek works on two sizes of Dunheved thimbles – the smaller size thimblette is used in the catalogues. These were used more frequently towards the end of his career last thimble seen thru TTG was July 2011



green Dunheved mark is from late 1970s when smaller sized thimbles were used - not signed





Anne Hathaway's cottage limited to 250 TTG May 1992



Avocet TTG June 2005



Badger



Badger and robin limited to 195 TTG January 1998





















Twite January 2009



Anne Young

Young's barge or canal ware painting is uniquely British she certainly mastered this folk art form in the miniature size required to paint on thimbles most of her thimbles are signed and some are dated – they range from 1980s-1990s Anne's thimbles are signed on the inner rim <u>Anne Young</u> – lettered upside down dates when included are also inside

there are traditional background colours and the lovely gloss adds to their appeal it's the trim around the rim where one sees the details the main design is replicated on the verso

Young also paints wooden thimbles



1998





green distinctive yellow rim



red 1998



red



red



white

Other painters - named

A Andrew

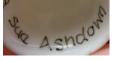


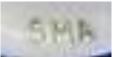


Poinsettia

Sue Ashdown Reading

'handpainted – no transfers or decals used'









'Welsh Thimblers September 1990' Daffodils with their thimble emblem on verso limited to 30





daffodils

Lorraine Bates

born 1964

graduate of Bath Academy of Art 1986
daughter of Gill and David Bates of Woodsetton Peeps
set up her own pottery, <u>Woodsetton Arts Pottery</u>, alongside that of the family business
handpaints some of their enamelled brass thimbles





`for Mum' TTG February 1986 b&w photo

M Bates painter for Caverswall











blackberries circa 1977

Monica Bowron (MB)





Highland landscape TTG October 1985 limited to 150 b&w photo

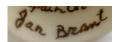


Stonehenge TTG May 1986



Wiltshire Downs TTG September 1986 limited to 150 R: original catalogue entry

Jan Brant





Blue tit

D J Coggan







'The Queens 60th birthday 21 April 1986' commissioned by TSL limited to 800





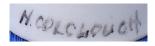
'A S (Andrew and Sarah) married 23 July 1986' commissioned by TSL bee is Sarah's emblem limited edition



'Ruby wedding of H.M. Queen Elizabeth II & Philip, Duke of Edinburgh 20 Nov.1947-1987' gold apex

Harry Colclough

worked for Royal Grafton for 30 years





cat



Horse and cart TTG June 1985 b&w photo



`Tuppence



'The Orchards? (1950)' backstamp is Healcraft Fine Bone China

Anne Dalton

Ottervale China Company Devon Anne also painted character head thimbles













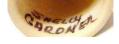
flowers

D Fuller





Shelly Gardner





Unicorn

Irene Glendining



Wren

Patsie Griggs





chick



Flowers

Ann Hickey Canal Boat Thimbles Penwortham Preston Lanchashire





Barge ware (canal boat painting)

J Humphries





Leslie Lamb

Ross-shire Scotland





Goldfinch TTG July 1984



D Miller (DM) painter for Caverswall some thimbles have the full signature, others the initials





fruit c.1985



dragon

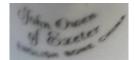
Clare Montgomery (CM) Ballymena Northern Ireland





Wildflowers of Ireland

John Owen of Exeter





Devon W.I. 1920-1995 violets

Penny



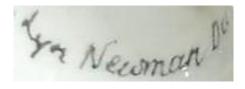


Rachel Munday



Kingfisher TTG September 1999 limited to 245

Lyn Newman





Dorothy Newsome





`DTS 2nd International Conference 7.8.9 June 1991'
Dorset Thimble Society
their 3rd Conference thimble was made by Birchcroft probably with the design by Newsome limited edition



'DTS 1985 - 2005' limited edition



A F Pinxt

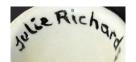




'Embroiderers' Guild 1906-1981' limited to 100

Julie Richards

Wales



lettered upside-down



`Llanddewi Brefi'

Susan Senior Scottish potter



white porcelain cobalt blue butterfly TTG June 1994 b&w photo

Sylvia Smith





Latticed flowers – mauve TTG November 1990



Latticed flowers – turquoise TTG November 1990

Sheila Southwell



Rose on blue lustreware TTG August 1983 limited to 50

Steffie





watchtower

E Trillsam





chickens

Val Turnball

Cornwall





H Wall

Locke & Co in Worcester is a forerunner of Royal Worcester – 1900s





Pheasant

D Wallace (DW) Claytondale China Stoke-on-Trent

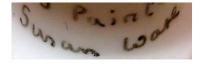






Fruit

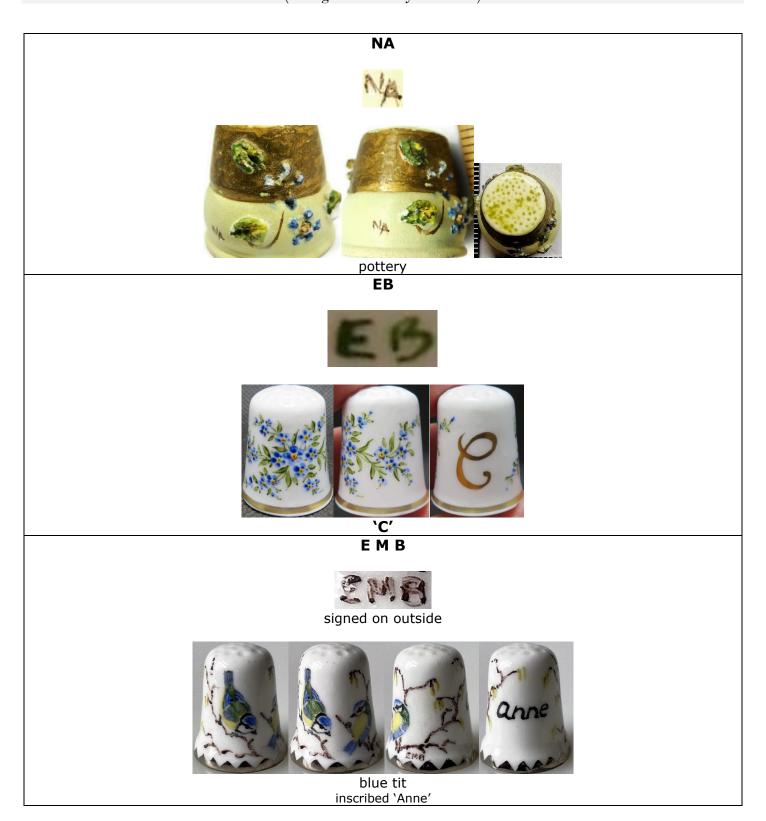
Susan Ware

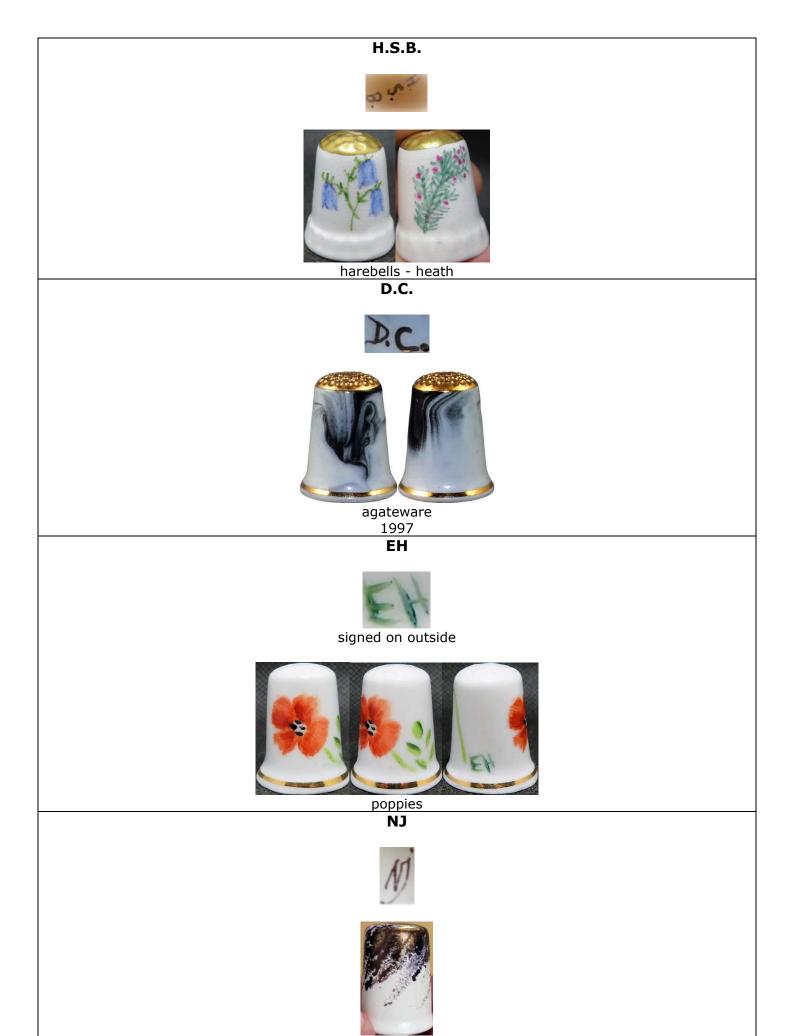


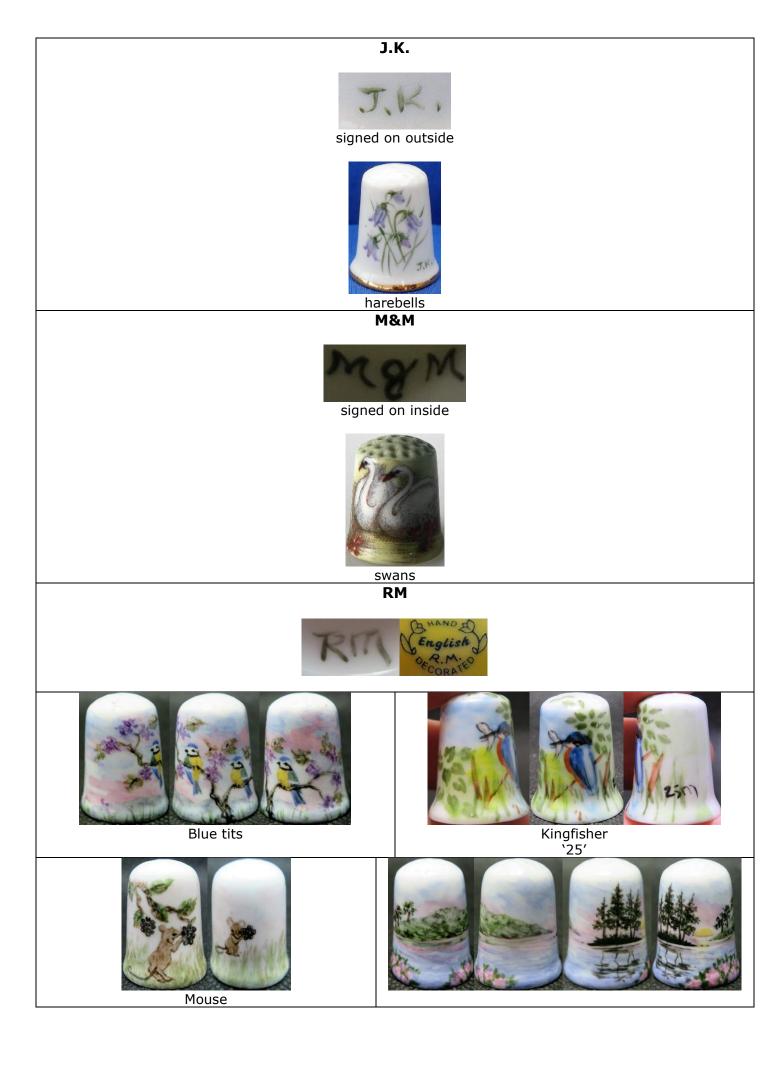


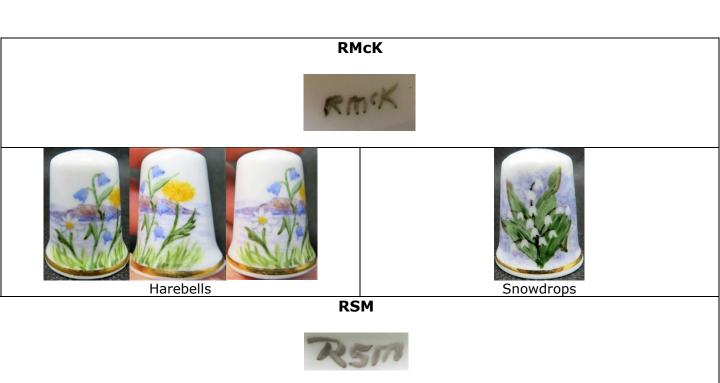
Snowman 1986

Other painters – initials only (arranged in order by last initial)











violets 1984 JMN



signed on outside



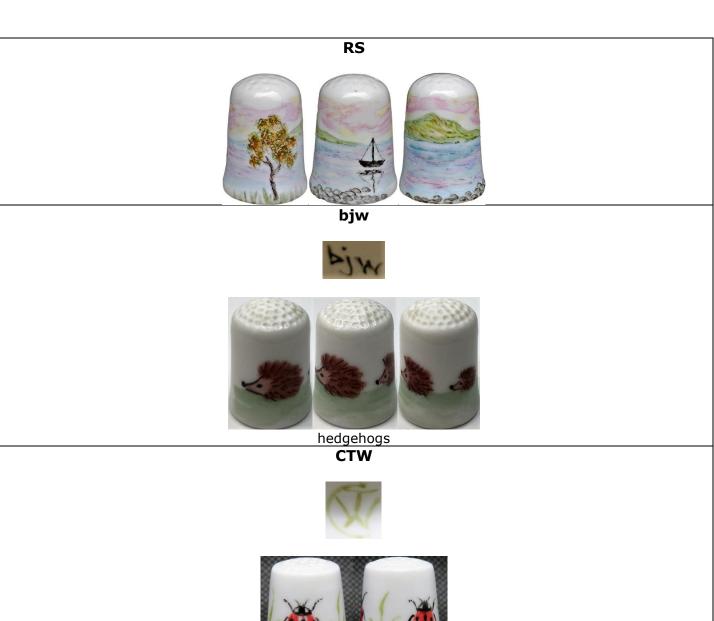
pansy



primrose









ladybirds **C W**





P.W.





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This listing of Modern British handpainted china 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.

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