Other character head thimble makers

There seem to be far more of brands around today. The fact that many of the characters are identical to those made by Francesca is interesting

Buy handpainted thimbles and not the white unpainted versions, so that you have the joy of the handpainting - without the eyes being painted, the characters are 'lifeless' - and a maker's backstamp is vital

I have included animals as characters as the Francesca thimbles included animal heads

Acorn

England

this is the same shape of the Francesca and Artone eagle head thimbles



backstamp



Eagle

Artone Pottery

Burslem, England

the backstamp is derived from an artist's palette with the words 'Hand Painted Artone England' lettered across it

the characters are not always named, so we will have to go on the accuracy of the likeness for identification

Some of these thimbles are in the shape of mini Toby Jugs **



thimble backstamp



Toby Jug backstamp




Clark Gable



Dr Watson **



Elvis Presley







Howard Hughes







Humphrey Bogart

colour changes in hat band and jacket – just the cigarette stays



Inspector Lestrade **

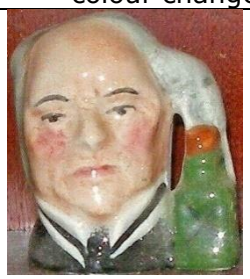





John Wayne
colour changes in hats



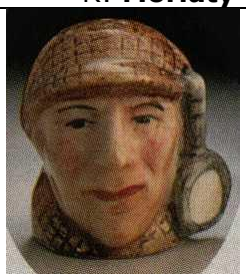

Marilyn Monroe

Proffessor [sic] **Moriaty** **
R: **Moriaty**



Santa


Sherlock Holmes with magnifier







Sherlock Holmes with pipe **



** part of a boxed set of four thimble characters from Arthur Conan Doyle's *Sherlock Holmes*
They look like mini Toby Jugs but is the opening at the base?

US characters



Eagle



Eisenhower



Lincoln



Ronald Reagan



Washington

Clowns





Happy Harry
R: signed by "K"



Sad Sam



Smiley Stan
variations in colour details

Charles Dickens set



some of Artone's Charles Dickens characters mini Toby Jugs – are also called thimbles – these are open at the bottom, and they have handles

The Beadle - Tony Weller - Fagin - Gypsy - Artful Dodger - Mr Pickwick

Another set of Artone are definitely **Toby Jugs** – their openings are at the top and they have distinctive handles. It is your choice whether you collect them as thimbles or as Toby jugs. These are some examples.



Artful Dodger: opening at top, solid bottom



Artful Dodger – Bill Sykes – Tony Weller

Gail Boekel [GTB]

handpainted in Florida, USA



green haired clown - 1979

Colecções Philae

Lisbon Portugal

These thimbles are made of handpainted resin – a fairly new medium compared with china and porcelain. As you may see resin thimbles are fragile and chip easily. Founded in 1977 but these are produced much later



backstamp



Churchill

he could be no-on else with that characteristic cigar



clown

Country Life Design Studio

England – fine bone china

the shape seems identical to the Victoria China dog and cat thimbles. The handpainting is very fine None are marked with the name of breed inside. The descriptions are mine



backstamp & label



Afghan



Airedale



Alsatian/German Shepherd



Alsatian - black



Boxer - brindle



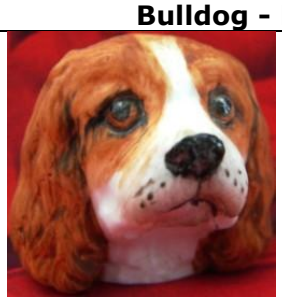
Boxer – brown



Bulldog - brindle



Bulldog - white



Cavalier spaniel



Great Dane



Great Dane - spotted



Great Dane - brindle



Siamese

Croft China

England - fine bone china

the thimble characters are not named inside

limited to **150**



backstamp



Grenadier Guard



Policeman



Yeoman of the Guard

Anne Dalton Ottervale China Company

Devon, England – fine bone china

the handpainted animal thimbles are not named inside so the descriptive names are mine

Anne creates dolls' house miniatures. They are described as wider at the base than regular thimbles.

Quirky, charming, and fun

They are mainly near full-body creations – I just didn't want them to get lost



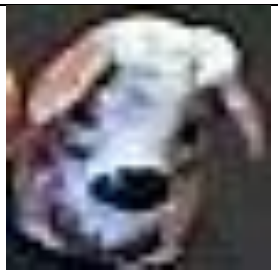
backstamp



bear



bull



cow





characters



chipmunk



deer



dog



duck - mallard



elephant



goat - black



goat - white



guardsman



hedgehog



horse



ibex



lady bowler - i



lady bowler - ii



lady bowler - iii



lion



mouse



owl



penguin



pig



sea lion



squirrel



teddy bear



tiger



tiger cub

Harlequin Design Studio

England

According to information received in March 2013 from Gordon A Henry, the thimble maker of HDS ... "I registered the company in the mid-seventies, where I exported the range to Australia and New Zealand as well as supplying the U.K. As I only used three decorators, the items were never massed produced (this allowed for excellent quality control) and resulted in a high standard of decoration. I think that my thimbles may be unique, as I was involved from start to finish in the production ... from the design / modelling stage, mould making, slip casting / fettling and sponging, bisque firing, glazing and finally - the decoration. I also designed (modelled) other sculptures (including birds, animals and figurines) from start to finish. As Harlequin was only ever a part-time business (as I was also working as a ceramic artist for Royal Doulton), I wound up the company around the mid to late nineties.

I used a single 'back stamp' (lithograph) using the name 'Harlequin' on the thimble itself and the other information was supplied on the display box … character name, company etc. To start with I used a green display box, later changing to a clear plastic box that displayed the items in a slightly better light".

Many are pairs of characters.



backstamp - GA Henry signature - Gordon Henry



Harlequin thimbles in green Schmid boxes



Bonnie Prince Charles

no photo

Captain Henry Morgan



Lady Emma Hamilton



Flora Macdonald



Friar Tuck



Lady Diana



Juliet – with flowers in her hair



Lord Nelson



Maid Marian



Prince Charles



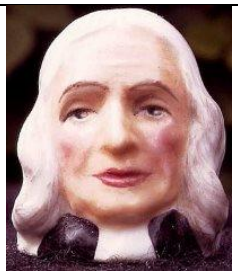
Robin Hood



Romeo



Santa (?)



Wesley (?)

Harmer Sculptures

Staffordshire, England – bone china

these handpainted thimbles were only produced some time during the 1980s, as Paul (?) Harmer died in the 1980s

The Alice in Wonderland set is made in Staffordshire, England and are made of bone china. They tend to be tall, with the Carpenter being 45mm.

The chief characters seem to be covered with this set of twelve thimbles



backstamp

Alice in Wonderland



Alice



Carpenter



Caterpillar



Cheshire cat



Dormouse



Hand of cards



King of hearts



Mad Hatter



March Hare

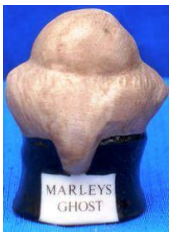
		
Queen of hearts	**Walrus**	**White Rabbit**

Dickens characters

See the Johnson Ceramics set - below – for the identical set of Harmer Dickens characters. Did Johnson acquire the rights to Harmer thimbles?



being handpainted, there are colour variations for this set of twelve characters



characters are named on verso



the unpainted thimbles still have the inner Harmer backstamp and character name lettered at the back of the head



Artful Dodger



Bill Sykes
matt & shiny hats



Brother Cheeryble



David Copperfield



Fagin

even his eyes have shifted - shiny cap



Marleys Ghost



Miss Haversham



Mr Bumble



Mr Micawber



Mr Pickwick



Oliver



Scrooge

Flowers

I first saw the Harmer Flowers set advertised for sale in January 1985 thru The Thimble Collectors' Guild in Scotland



backstamp

later versions of this set may be found under Johnson Ceramics



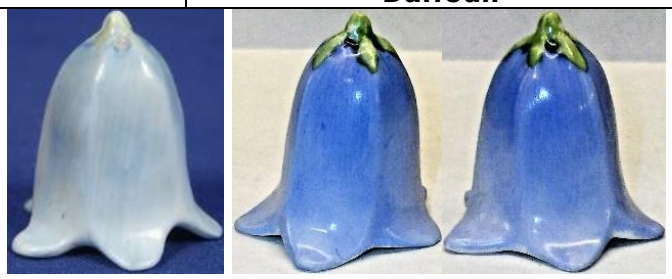
Crocus



Daffodil



Foxglove



Harebell




Snowdrop




Tulip

Clowns

Like the Francesca thimbles - where the Dickens character moulds were "re-used" and painted as clowns - Harmer Clowns followed, and they resemble some of the Harmer Dickensian character thimbles
The makeovers could be - L to R: Mr Pickwick | Scrooge | Marley's Ghost | Bill Sykes | Brother Cheeryble Mr Bumble
I understand that a few of these thimbles are not marked with the maker's name, and the clowns do not have names

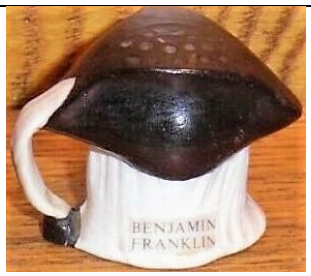
handpaint red dots seem to unify the set – but there's always an exception!








Others








Benjamin Franklin



Dr Watson



Frank Sinatra



Hound Dog
no backstamp



The Lion




Miner



Mrs Santa




Ronald Reagan
L: matt version




Santa




Sherlock Holmes

Healacraft

England - bone china

the Robin Hood set has six characters thimbles

Tho the characters are not named as such in the thimbles, there are initials that match each character - SN would be for the Sheriff of Nottingham and LJ for Little John, MM for Maid Marian etc. The handpainter's initials of NH for Neil Higgins is lettered in brown alongside the character initials

I have seen regular-shaped thimbles handpainted by Neil Higgins with the Healacraft backstamp - also with the Sutherland China backstamp. Interesting connection?



backstamp





Friar Tuck



Little John



Maid Marian



Robin Hood



Sheriff of Nottingham



Will Scarlet

Others



Emily Bronte



unknown girl

Johnson Ceramics

England

their characters are named on the back of the head

These seem to be copies of the Harmer Sculptures' Dickens and flower thimbles. The characters are the same twelve and produced more recently than the Harmer thimbles. Did Johnson Ceramics acquire the Harmer thimbles' rights after the 1980s, when Harmer died?

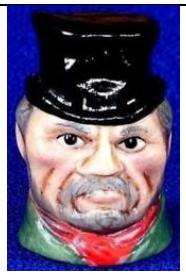


backstamp – character name – Johnson box

Dickens characters



Artful Dodger



Bill Sykes
shiny hat



Brother Cheeryble



David Copperfield



Fagan (sic)
matt hat



Marley's Ghost



Miss Haversham



Mr Bumble



Mr Micawber



Mr Pickwick

  **Oliver Twist**	 **Scrooge**

Flowers

 **Crocus**	 **Daffodil**	 **Foxglove**
no photo **Harebell**	 **Snowdrop**	 **Tulip**

Lindner

Germany

 **Cocker spaniel**	 **cow**
 **ram**	 **seal**



swan

MSR Importing

Taiwan
handpainted ceramic
set of African wild animals 1978



sticky label



elephant



giraffe



lion



monkey



zebra

Northern Rose

USA

this is an inclusion only as a buyer beware

these dog heads are listed for sale as thimbles on ebay etc

they were not made as thimbles – rather as **thimble covers**, which makes them quite large **–** they cover a themed smaller thimble, like a dog biscuit affixed to the thimble

they are only made in the shape of a dog's head – Alsatian, poodle, spaniel and boxer-type – and they have the indentations along the chest area – they are not named in the thimble





J Peers



King Charles II
handpainted
'84



King William I
handpainted
84



King …

Peggy Davies Ceramics

Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire, England – hand made and handpainted china
Modelled by Ray Noble. Davies (she died in 1999) worked at Royal Doulton for sixty years
limited to **25**
dates indicate when thimble was first created
there were nineteen bulldog characters created (2010-2016) There will be colourways

www.bulldogs.co.uk

Bulldogs



Anchors Aweigh
March 2011



Anchors Aweigh – US
March 2011



Beefeater
April 2016



Chief Sitting Bull
November 2010



The Duke
July 2012



Elizabeth I
July 2015



General Custer
November 2015



Henry VIII
April 2012

no photo

HMS Bulldog



Merlin
July 2010



Musketeer
June 2012



Nelson
November 2010



Peter Pan
October 2011



Policeman
November 2010



Richard the Lionheart
March 2014



Roundhead
November 2015



Sherlock Holmes
July 2010



Uncle Sam
R: April 2016
L: colourway – only two produced



Viking
March 2014



MrChurchill
November 2010
R: colourway – only two produced

Perennis

Staffordshire, England

Their Dickens characters were all produced with "© Perennis 1983" stamped inside. This early date of 1983 makes these thimbles by Perennis almost contemporaneous with the Francesca thimbles.

Made in Staffordshire England, these thimbles are hand sculptured and painted, each presented in an individual box with reference card about the character, plus a wall mount wooden display box with thirty recesses.

Are these Dickens characters the only character head thimbles made by Perennis? At this stage, yes.

There are the same number of Perennis Dickens characters as Francesca (30): but there aren't many overlapping characters

Perennis thimble boxes do not have the maker's name on, just "Staffordshire England" or "Crafted in Staffordshire England", where they were made - with the name of the maker Perennis

This has led to much confusion of the years, where Perennis thimbles have been described as made by Staffordshire with the Perennis maker's name in very small lettering within the thimbles, which is often overlooked

Some confusion is also occurring as Perennis released some Dickens character thimbles with the incorrect name inside. Perennis seem to have more naming errors of the characters than any other manufacturer of this type of thimble - poor quality control?

There are examples appearing in monochrome - a pale gingery colour

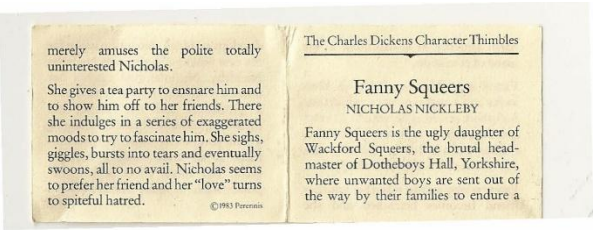
Being handpainted thimbles, there are always differences in thimbles from those illustrated: there are many different painters of the characters - I have recorded them when the colours are markedly different - as colourways - some are excellent - others rather ordinary or crude that don't really represent the Dickens character - and it's just not thimbles by different photographers - it will be worth your while to source the former. How many painters did Perennis employ? Are they still out there painting up the blank thimbles?

Early in 2013 I had access to the original advertisement in Australia for this set of thimbles. They were advertised for sale in Melbourne's *The Age* of March 28th 1983.

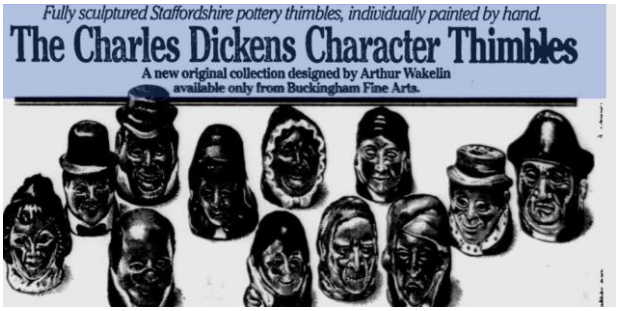
They were available for purchase as a set of thirty by direct subscription, for delivery at one per month. The sets were available only thru Buckingham Fine Arts, with a Melbourne address. According to the advertisement, "many thimbles offered to collectors are merely flat-sided and printed with decoration. However, these are sculptured portraits which capture the full details of Dickens' characters. For the first time we know who the thimble designer was - **Arthur Wakelin**, a British artist. There is no mention of Perennis - the thimble maker - anywhere in the advertisement



Perennis thimble certificate – two different backstamps



certificate with © 1983 Perennis



black & white advertisement from Melbourne's *The Age* in 1993. These handpainted thimbles were only available by mail order thru Buckingham Fine Arts in Australia

The Charles Dickens Character Thimbles



Artful Dodger
[-- Oliver Twist --]



Bill Sykes
[-- Oliver Twist --]
+ gingery colour + incorrectly named as this is Fagin + bushy dark beard



Bob Cratchit
[-- A Christmas Carol --]
R: interesting to see the quill behind the ear
this character not in Francesca's Dickens set



Captain Cuttle
[Dombey and Son]
this character not in Francesca's Dickens set



Daniel Quilp
[- The Old Curiosity Shop -]
this character not in Francesca's Dickens set



David Copperfield
[-- David Copperfield --]



Fagin
[-- Oliver Twist --]



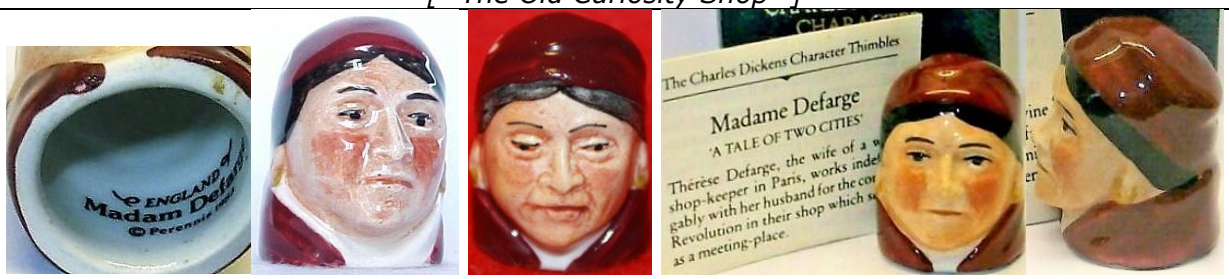
Fanny Squeers
[-- Nicholas Nickleby --]
this character not in Francesca's Dickens set



Inspector Bucket
[-- Bleak House --]
this character not in Francesca's Dickens set



Little Nell
[- The Old Curiosity Shop -]



Madame/Madam Defarge
[-- A Tale of Two Cities --]
R: tho the certificate indicates the name "Madame …", the name inside (L) has the alternate spelling
this character not in Francesca's Dickens set




Madame Mantolini
[-- Nicholas Nickleby --]
R: trial colour
this character not in Francesca's Dickens set










Marley's Ghost
[-- A Christmas Carol --]
sad + angry faces
this character not in Francesca's Dickens set





Miss Haversham
[-- Great Expectations --]






Mr Bumble
[-- Oliver Twist --]




Mr Micawber
[-- David Copperfield --]







Mr Pickwick
[-- The Pickwick Papers --]



Mrs Bardell
[-- The Pickwick Papers --]
+ colourway
C: wrongly named Bardello named inside
R: incorrectly named inside: Mrs Bardelloni
this character not in Francesca's Dickens set



Newman Noggs
[-- Nicholas Nickleby --]
incorrectly named Newman **M**oggs (right)
this character not in Francesca's Dickens set



Oliver Twist
[-- Oliver Twist --]



Pip
[-- Great Expectations --]



Sairey Gamp
[-- Martin Chuzzlewit --]
R: tho the certificate indicates the name "Sarah…" the name inside (L) has the correct spelling





Sally Brass
[- The Old Curiosity Shop -]
this character not in Francesca's Dickens set





Samuel Weller
[-- The Pickwick Papers --]
this character not in Francesca's Dickens set









Scrooge
[-- A Christmas Carol --]






Silas Wegg
[-- Our Mutual Friend --]
this character not in Francesca's Dickens set




Sydney Carton
[-- A Tale of Two Cities --]
R: wrongly named Mrs Bardelloni as it's Sydney Carton
this character not in Francesca's Dickens set







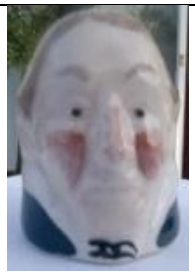

Tiny Tim
[-- A Christmas Carol --]
+ gingery colour + colourway





Uriah Heep
[-- David Copperfield --]





Wackford Squeers
[-- Nicholas Nickleby --]
R: wrongly named Wackford Squeers as it's Newman Noggs

Carol Pongracic

handpainted ceramic
characters not named inside
Carol is a dolls' house miniaturist painter



backstamp



Clown



Sea Captain

Renaissance

England - fine bone china

the Great Composers set of eight thimbles each have a small china plinth showing the character's name - with dates on verso. They are also lettered with the name & dates inside the thimbles

unpainted versions were first offered for sale by The Thimble Collectors Guild in late 1983



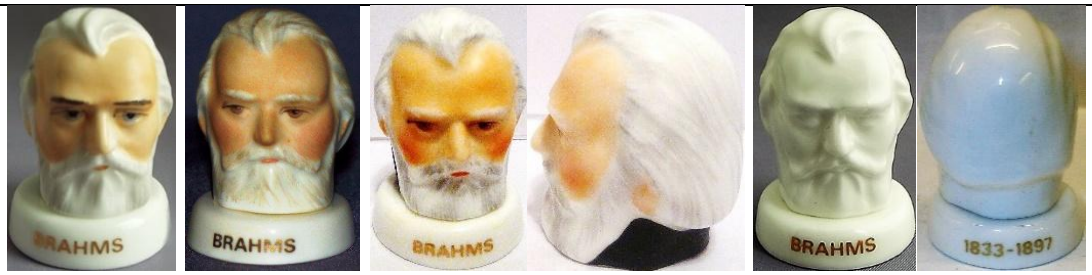
backstamp on thimble & plinth + named on plinth



Bach 1685-1750



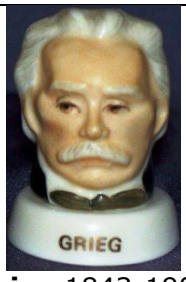
Beethoven 1770-1827



Brahms 1833-1897



Chopin 1810-1849



Grieg 1843-1907



Mozart 1756-1791



Schubert 1797-1828



Tchaikovsky 1840-1893

Royal Worcester

Worcester, England

they are not thimbles and only included as a buyer beware. These were offered for sale as thimbles on ebay.

They are candle snuffers. This pair is part of a set of fourteen, made in 1986.



candle snuffer backstamp



Mr Caudle



Mrs Caudle

Staffordshire Fine Ceramics

Stoke-on-Trent, England

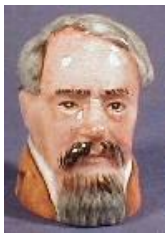
a few of these Dickens character thimbles are the same as those from Francesca and Perennis Dickens sets - using the same thimble boxes as those for Perennis? A small proportion of these thimbles are different from Perennis, and a few are like Francesca Dickens characters. Total of **14**

Unlike the Perennis thimbles, there is no date inside the Staffordshire Fine Ceramics thimbles

Until I remembered having the Staffordshire backstamp in the Scrooge thimble photo, I was going to delete this section as I thought most of the thimbles were made by Perennis

However, they will remain here and no more will be added until I have verified their Staffordshire backstamps. An interesting part-set of the Staffordshire Dickens set have made their appearance for sale on ebay. They appear to be made of black basalt - like Wedgwood's jasperware. This is a highly specialised form of porcelain: who has been producing it? They have the very distinctive Staffs thimble indentations on the crowns of the heads. I cannot confirm yet that they bear the Staffordshire Fine Ceramics backstamp. I have placed them alongside the matching Dickens characters, until more information comes to light

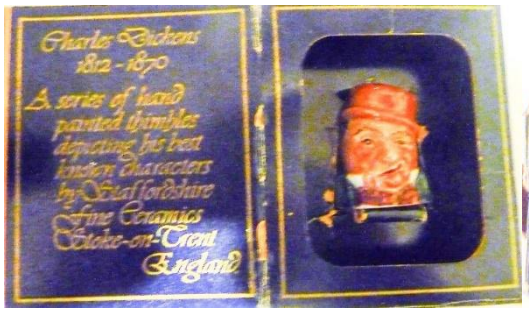
Charles Dickens Collection

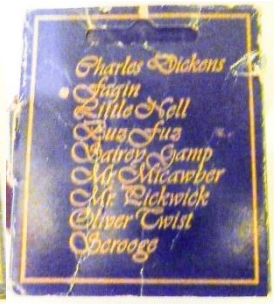




**Charles Dickens + basalt-type + backstamp







+ thimble boxes



Bill Sykes



Bux Fux

+ black basalt type



Ebenezer Scrooge
+ black basalt type



Fagin
+ black basalt type



Little Nell



Madame Defarge
+ black basalt type



Mr Bumble



Mr Pickwick



Oliver Twist



Pecksniff



Sairey Gamp




Tiny Tim





Tony Weller
+ black basalt-type




Uriah Heep
R: signed 'HTF'

Other Staffordshire characters



John Paul II



Lady Hamilton



Queen Elizabeth II



William Shakespeare



Winston Churchill

Sutherland China

English china

Sutherland China are well-known thimble makers. This group of head-shaped thimbles would be a small part of their production, as they are mainly known for their thimble-shaped production

There are characters duplicated from the Francesca series. When Francesca closed in the late 1980s, Sutherland purchased their moulds using the following and destroying the rest

At last count, there are **66** Sutherland heads, as against 116 from Francesca, tho there are Sutherlands, not featured by Francesca. Originally it seemed that they never created new character heads of their own. There is a new set that no other manufacturer has produced before - the current Royal Family - some are painted, and the seven Royals heads are integrated within the sequence of characters below

The Sutherland character thimbles are unsigned, unlike the Francesca ones

There are an increasing number of glazed white (unpainted) character heads appearing from Sutherland. Are these seconds or just unpainted stock that is surfacing onto the market, after they closed? Once Sutherland closed their doors in around 2002, what happened to their unpainted character head thimbles stock?

Most of these unpainted Sutherland thimbles are all backstamped with their maker's marks with the character name inside - maybe this is how Sutherland wanted to sell them - for collectors who preferred the glazed look, without the handpainted detail?

I have alphabetised all the Sutherland characters in one sequence, rather than using the order of the Francesca range. I don't believe that Sutherland ever issued or marketed them in sets as Francesca did, so it would make a mockery if I categorised them





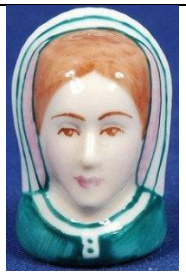
backstamps




Abraham Lincoln



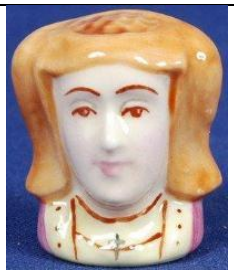
American Bald Eagle




Anne Boleyn




Anne Hathaway





Anne of Cleves




Antony




Artful Dodger
R: uncomfirmed



Baby Bunting



Bach



Beethoven



Bill Sykes



Catherine Howard





Catherine of Aragon





Charles II




Cleopatra



David Copperfield




Desdemona



Dr Watson



The Duke of York
[Prince Andrew]




The Duke of Edinburgh
[Prince Philip]



Elizabeth I






George Washington
hat version



George Washington
no-hat version

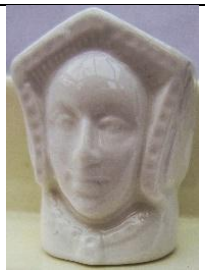



Henry VIII



Huck Finn



Jane Seymour



John Paul II




Josephine






Juliet





Katherine Parr



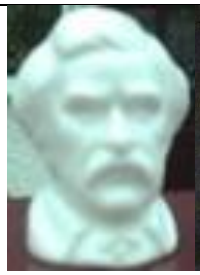

Lady Macbeth




Lady Liberty
no crown




Macbeth




Mark Twain
+ lettered Hannibal Mo on verso



Martha Washington




Mary Queen of Scots



Mr Dick





Mr Pickwick
+ prototype



Mozart



Nancy



Napoleon



Nelson



Nell Gwynn



Nicholas Nickleby
prototype



Oliver Twist



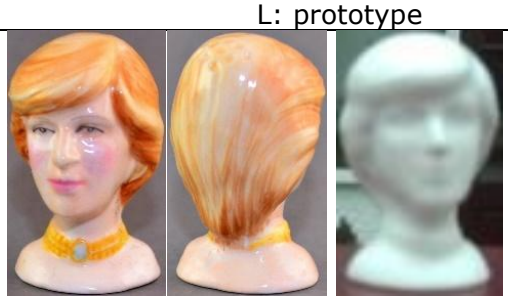
Othello



Prince Albert
L: prototype



The Prince of Wales



Princess Diana



The Princess Royal
[Princess Anne – she was given this title in 1987]



Queen Elizabeth II



Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother
L: character not named



Romeo



Santa



Schubert



Sherlock Holmes



Sir Francis Drake



Theodore Roosevelt



Thomas Jefferson



Tiny Tim



Tom Sawyer
hat version



Tom Sawyer
no-hat version

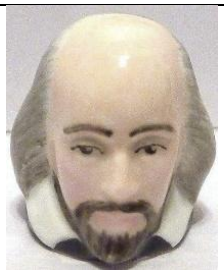


Victoria



Walter Raleigh

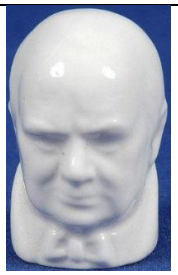





William Shakespeare



Winston Churchill
hat version



Winston Churchill
no-hat version

Theodore Paul

England - fine bone china

a few heads are similar moulds to Staffordshire's. The characters are not named in the thimbles



backstamp



Abraham Lincoln



Elizabeth I



Shakespeare



Sherlock Holmes



Victoria
sometimes described as 'nun'



Winston Churchill

Thimble Collectors Society

England - bone china

these were made for the TCS by Harlequin Design Studio

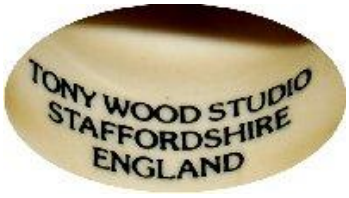
 **Lady Hamilton**	 **Lord Nelson**

Tony Wood Studio

Staffordshire - England

some of these were offered for sale in 1984-1987 by The Thimble Guild in Scotland
Marketed as "A miniature microcosm of 17th, 18th and 19th century life" and they are a faithful reproduction of an original design from the Wood family private collection, from over thirty years ago
They are like Toby Jugs in shape, with the opening at the top – but there are no handles like traditional Toby Jugs. The original Toby Jugs of the 18th century made by Ralph Wood Jnr form the basis for this series of thumbles
Similar designs may be seen under Wood Potters
Tony Wood is the ninth generation direct descendent of Ralph Wood - based in Stoke-on-Trent in England.
The thimbles are made of pottery and usually they are unnamed - the names used here, are from TTG adverts
4950 sets were made and they are handpainted, dated and signed - according to the advertisement
Where I know the initials for each particular thimble, they are included
32 painters' initials have been recorded to date - those illustrated have the dates recorded
A.B. – A.M. – A.W. [1987] – B.M. – C.A.Z. – C.H. – C.N. – D.B. [1987] – D.D. [1985] – D.D.H. [1987] D.D.K. [1987] – D.W. [1987] – H.B. [1985] – J.F. [1987/1988] – J.M. – J.P. [1987] – J.W. [1985] – K.D. K.M. – L.H. [19847/1987] – L.T. – M.B. – M.D. [1984/1987] – M.P. [1986] – P.D. [1987] – R.P. – S.E. S.Q. – S.W. – T.B. [1987] – V.W. [1987] – W.J. [1987]









backstamps





signed thimble - thimble box


Certificate of Authenticity

1987 Miniature Toby Jugs Thimble Collection
An edition of eighteen handpainted pieces, limited to 75 days casting, of which this is Place No. 837
Produced exclusively by Tony Wood, a direct descendent of the original Ralph, who created the Toby Jug in the mid eighteenth century at Burslem in Staffordshire. They were produced using the same slip cast process as then, and modelled on original jugs in the Wood family collection.

The Guild of Wood Pottery Collectors

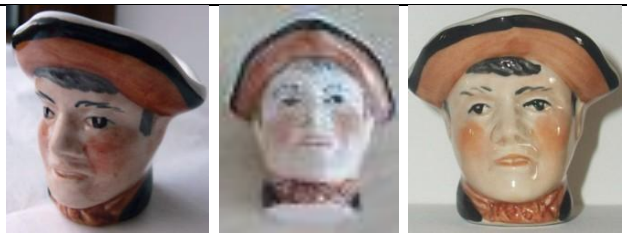
A division of Scotland Direct.

Scotland Direct Ltd., The Thistle Mill, Station Road, Biggar, ML12 6LP.

certificate – 1987 The Thimble Guild



Betsy Toby
WJ 1987



The Clerk
WJ 1987 – JF 1987 – LH 1987



The Collier
WJ 1987 – MD 1984 + JF1988



Dr Johnson
+ JW 1987 – MD 1987 – DB 1987



Earl Howe
1st Lord of the Admiralty
+ WJ 1987 – JP 1987
MP 1986



Falstaff
LH 1987 – HB 1985



The Gamekeeper
JF 1987



The Gardener
JF 1987 – WJ 1987



The Haymaker
MD 1987 – JF 1987 – VW 1987



Hearty Goodfellow
JF 1987



Judge
DDH 1987 – LH 1987 - PD 1987



The Lover
+ JF 1987



Martha Gunn
MP 1986



The Musician
+ AW 1987 – JW 1987



Old Age
JF 1987 – MD 1987 – JF 1987



The Parson
JF 1988 – DW 1987



Ralph Wood
+ JF 1987



The Sailor
MD 1984



The Shepherd
+ JF 1987 – DDK 1987



The Shepherdess
+ TB 1987 – DD 1985



The Squire
JF 1987 – LH84 – TB 1987



The Thin Man
JW 1985 – JF 1987 – JF 1988

 **Toby Philpot**	 unknown characters JP 1987 – MD 1987

United Artists

USA

distributed by Royal Orleans



© U.A backstamp

 **Inspector Clouseau**	 **Pink Panther**

Victoria China

England – fine bone china

these ones differ from Francesca thimbles, in that their finish is matt

The cats or dogs or owls thimbles often resemble each other in shape, but the colouring is so different that the animals are easily identifiable – they are not named so these are my own descriptive names

Are there ten cats, six owls and 27 dogs?

See also the dogs and cats under Francesca and Country Design Studio, which are a later version than the Victoria China animal thimbles

Victoria China owls are immensely popular with owl collectors as their owls are so realistic, using the matt colours found in nature



backstamp

Cats



Black



Black and White



Blue Persian

no photo

Blue Point Siamese



Chocolate Point Siamese



Grey Persian



Marmalade



Seal Point Siamese



Tabby



White cat



White/Cream Persian

Dogs

some of the dogs have black rims
amazing eyes!



Afghan



Airedale



Alsatian/German Shepherd



Black and Tan Dachshund



Black Labrador



Black Staffordshire Terrier



Border Collie
L: shiny



Brindle Boxer



Brindle Staffordshire Terrier



Cardigan Welsh Corgi



Cavalier King Charles Spaniel



Cocker Spaniel



Doberman



Fox Terrier



Golden Labrador



Jack Russell Terrier



King Charles Spaniel



Liver Cocker Spaniel



Pembroke Welsh Corgi



Red Dachshund



Scottish Terrier



Staffordhsire terrier





Tan Doberman



Weimaraner




West Highland Terrier





Yorkshire Terrier

Owls



Barn Owl





Eagle Owl



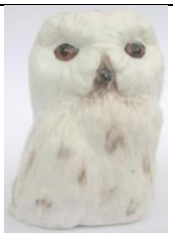


Little Owl





Short-eared Owl

Snowy Owl

 **Tengmalm's Owl**	    **Tawny Owl**

© The Walt Disney Company

Japan – porcelain



1988 The Disney Collection label
series was updated in 2005

 **Cinderella**	 **Bambi**	 **Cinderella**	 **Daisy Duck**
 **Dumbo**	 **Goofy**	 **Jiminy Cricket**	 **Lady**
 **Mickey Mouse**	 **Minnie Mouse**	 **Peter Pan**	 **Seeping Beauty**



Snow White



Tramp

The Welsh Porcelain Company

Wales

handpainted

they could have been part of Prinknash Pottery?



backstamp



Miner

Beth Wick

USA

handpainted porcelain



Pom Pom clown

1985

Wood Potters of Burslem

Staffordshire - England

These thimbles were sold by The Thimble Guild, from 1988-1992

They are made of pottery and follow the shape of the 18th century Toby Jugs. Wood Potters of Burslem is a continuation of the line of Wood Family potters

Similar but earlier designs may be seen under Tony Wood

The Miniature Classics set "In the 18th century Ralph Wood created the 'Toby Jug'. From his original designs, twelve miniature pieces have been recreated in the 1992 edition of Traditional Toby Thumbles ... Wood Potters of Burslem ... Slipcast and handpainted collectors' treasures for you" -- excerpt from The Thimble Guild catalogue

Six painters' initials recorded to date – many are similar names for the Tony Wood thumbles

CG [1992] – DB – JF [1992] – JW [1992/1993] – LH [1992] – SH [1992/1994]



Toby Jug Thumble Collection

this set contains: Parson | Collier | Ralph Wood | The Lover | Martha Gunn | Hearty Goodfellow | Squire Sailor | Thin Man | Shepherdess | Toby Philpot

so this is another set with some different Wood Potters characters from the set/s below?







backstamps – with TTG certificate

Miniature Classics



Betsy Toby



The Clerk
+ JW 1992



The Collier
+ JW 1992



Falstaff
+ LH 1992 + SH 1994



The Gamekeeper
+ CG 1992



The Haymaker



Hearty Goodfellow
+ JF 1992



The Lover
+ JW 1992



Martha Gunn
+ JW 1992 –
SH 1992



The Musician
+ JF 1992 –
JW 1992



Old Age
+ JW 1992



Ralph Wood
'Toby Jug' creator
+ JW 1993



Toby Philpot

Character head thimbles with no maker's marks

I have included these unmarked thimbles for completeness - are the king thimbles or the animals part of a larger set?
All are handpainted – do you know anything further about this miscellaneous group of thimble heads?

ANIMALS



badger



fox



otter



skunk

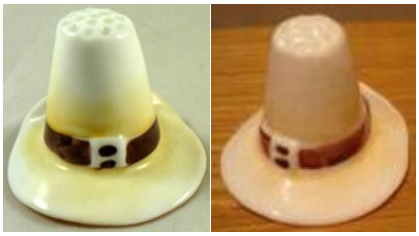
CHARACTERS



Buddha



Neville Chamberlain?





Emirati Dubai man and woman



Grim reaper



Liberty
iron and steel issued by TCC



Abe Lincoln?



miner





Santa and **Mrs Santa**



snowman





CLOWNS



1979



set of four clowns 1979
MSR Imports
Taiwan
bone china
the hair is the same







Sad
eyes closed
blue hair



Scalloped
star eyes
yellow hair



Smiley
X eyes
green hair



Toothie
† eyes
orange hair



clown

The list of **Contributors** may be found on Francesca character head thimbles topic

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February 2002