

Merryfield Pottery thimbles (Torquay Devon)

2004–

I haven't contemplated a shaped-thimble topic for over twenty years since the Francisca head thimbles topic. These figural pottery thimbles, made for the collectables market, are not functional thimbles but for animal lovers, especially cats, they are of great interest. They are novelty thimbles.

If you collect sets of thimbles, Merryfield too is for you.

Reading from the website, the pottery is set up in their grandfather's former 1960s workshop.



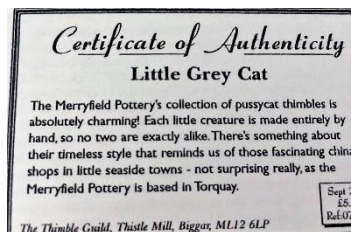
Their thimbles are all made by hand and then handpainted, making each unique. They have a gloss not a matt finish.

No thimble moulds are used yet they still recreate and retain their recognisable shapes.

There is no maker's mark, nor have I found a thimble box: one just recognises the brand by their shape?



unmarked inner views – cats – dog – Morris dancer



TTG certificate

Thimbles range in height from 25-50mm.

TTG started to sell these thimbles from 2004 until 2016.

Merryfield thimbles are still in production today and can be sourced thru their website

<https://merryfieldpottery.co.uk>

Their range other than thimbles includes paperweights and candle snuffers. The latter are made in the same range as the cats. I don't know how one tells whether they are a thimble or a candle snuffer, as there is no handle on the snuffer. Both are impractical in the purpose for which they are used.

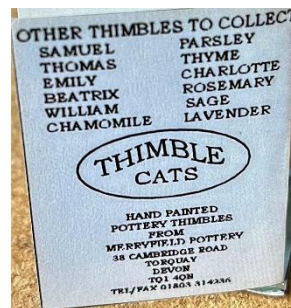
The Merryfield Pottery also uses the name Chateau Cats for their cats range.



Merryfield Pottery range of thimbles, paperweights and candlesnuffers



Chateau Cats candle snuffer and box



For other pottery thimble topics see

Boscastle Pottery thimbles 1980-2020

Carol Edwards of Coll Pottery and Horizon China thimbles

Nenthorn Pottery (Scotland) thimbles 1985-1986

Peter Blanshard (York) pottery thimbles 1970-1980

Poole Pottery thimbles

SylvaC thimbles 1979-1982

For other handpainted thimble topics see

Australian handpainted thimbles and sewing tools 1973-2014

Cornish Enamels thimbles 1995-1997

Francesca character head thimbles

Gerald Delaney handpainted thimbles

Graham Payne handpainted thimbles 1981-1996

Hazrah handpainted bronze thimbles (Mauritius) 2006-2009

Iles' handpainted and decal plastic thimbles

Jacqui and David Parker of Olivia (Birmingham) thimbles 1983-1996

Jasper's of Yorkshire handpainted thimbles

Modern British hand-decorated wooden thimbles

Modern British handpainted thimbles

Roger Gibbons pewter thimbles 1984-1990

Roger Harrison of Kelso thimbles 1983-1988

Royal Worcester thimble painters

Scottish wooden thimbles

Cats

Cats feature strongly in the Merryfield thimbles range – some are upright, others seated, some are lying down, and some stretching upwards. Their ears are higher on one side as they lean towards the left or right. Their eyes are mainly painted green.

They can be painted as a cat or kitten - or just identified by their breed.

Then there are the dressed or clothed cats, all with individual names.

I have seen the cats advertised on the second-hand market as Classic or Chateau cats but I don't understand the difference in the terms, in this instance. The Merryfield website uses the term Trendy cats. The outfits are painted in character, with charming details: naïve but easily identifiable with sprigs painted on the outfit to denote their role. The term used liberally in the catalogues is 'dainty' with the quirky details.

Breeds and named cats

Most are seated cats tho some are lying down, occasionally standing

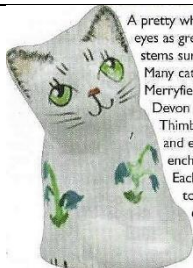


Black cat



Black and white cats

bottom R: Fireside



Bluebell
TTG December 2006



Buttercup
TTG September 2009



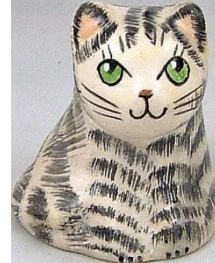
Christmas Frosty



Christmas Star



Coriander



Coriander
TTG January 2005



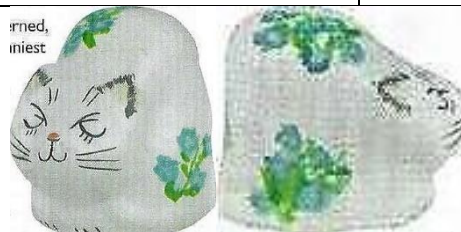
Emily
TTG May 2006



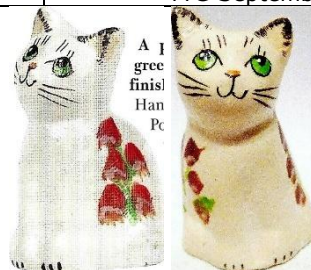
Felix
TTG April 2007



Flora
Wemyss style
TTG September 2007



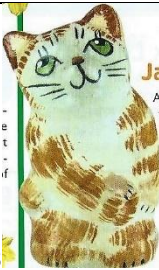
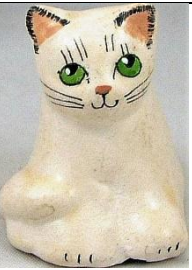
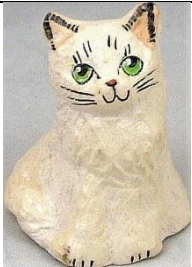
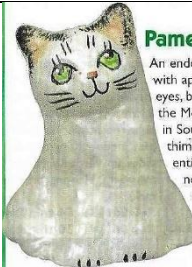
Forget-me-not
TTG September 2006



Foxglove
Wemyss style
TTG August 2004



Ginger cats

 Good Luck	 Green Eyes TTG March 2007	 Happy Birthday TTG JSeptember 2005
 Jasper	 Knitting TTG June 2007	 Lavender
 Little grey TTG September 2008	 Monday's cat	 Pamela TTG June 2006
 Playful TTG September 2009	 Poppy Wemyss style TTG December 2007	 Saffron the Siamese TTG April 2010/February 2006
 Tuxedo	 Saffron	 Samuel grey tabby



See no evil - hear no evil - speak no evil



Siamese cats



Tabby cats
lower: Fireside



Tabitha
TTG March 2005



Thyme



Tilly
TTG February 2007



Tortoiseshell cats

R: Fireside

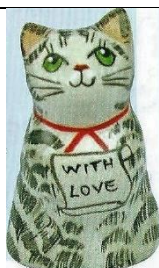


Three Daisy

Abbey Cat



White cats



'With Love'



with wool

TTG April 2006

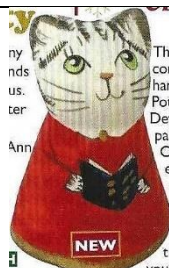
'Dressed' character cats

look for the trendy symbols painted onto the clothes - anthropomorphising the cats or kittens which are smaller. Many are parts of sets. I have only entered a few sets to keep them together.

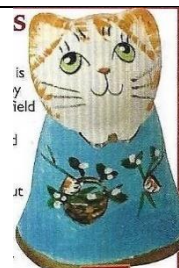
	 			
Angel	Artist		Baking	
				
Best in show judge	Best in show plants	Best in show vegetables	Best in show jams	Best in show cakes
	   			
Blue Coat with Muff	Bride TTG April 2008			
 		  		
Butler	Cappucino TTG April 2008	Carol Singing TTG November 2005		
	    			
Celebration	Chef			
   				
Choirboy TTG August 2008	Christine Cracker TTG November 2012	Christmas Blue Scarf		



Christmas Cake



Christmas Carols
TTG November 2014



Christmas Mistletoe
TTG November 2014



Christmas Red Scarf



Christmas Rudolph
TTG November 2016



Christmas Santa
TTG November 2016



Christmas Snowman
TTG November 2016



Christmas Tree
TTG November 2016



Christmas
TTG December 2015



Chef



Coronation Jubilee Cat
50mm
TTG April 2012



Cricketer
TTG July 2009



Daisy



Daisy Chain



Digging Potatoes
TTG July 2012



Doctor



Fairisle



Fairy



Fireman
TTG September 2011



Fish 'n Chips



Fisherman
TTG February 2010



Footballer



Gardener
L: with carrots – R: with daisy
TTG May 2009



Gloria the Gardener
TTG May 2011



Golfer
TTG June 2009



Groom
TTG April 2008



Hairdresser
TTG July 2010



Hostess



Housewife



Icecream



Jockey



Knitting
TTG May 2010



Lacemaking



Lady Gardener



Lavender



Maid



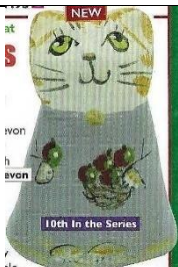
Male Gardener



Mending



Flowers of the month
see individual cats next



Apples
November
TTG November 2015



Blackberries
October
TTG October 2015



Catkins
December
TTG January 2016



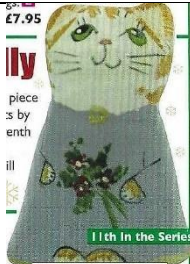
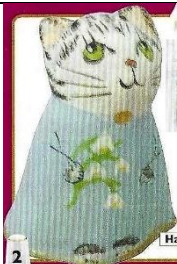
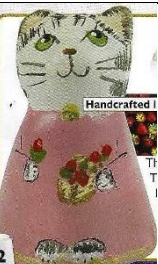
Cherry Blossom
May
TTG May 2015

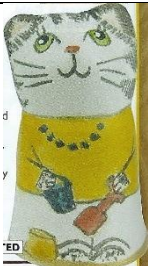


Conkers
September
TTG September 2015



Daffodils
March
TTG March 2015

 Handcrafted	 Handcrafted	 Handcrafted	 Handcrafted	 Handcrafted	 Handcrafted
Harebells August TTG August 2015	Holly December TTG December 2015	Honeysuckle May TTG June 2015	Primroses April TTG April 2015	Snowdrop February TTG February 2015	Strawberry July TTG July 2015
 Morris Dancer		 Mr Gardening TTG March 2010		 Mrs Paws TTG November 2010	
 Musical				 Needlework	
 Nurse TTG October 2008				 Owl and the Pussycat two characters in one thimble TTG October 2005	
 Partying	 Patchwork			 Penelope TTG March 2012	
 Postman TTG March 2005	 Red with Muff	 Regal TTG May 2016	 Rugby		

					
Sailor			Sandcastle TTG August 2011	Santa	Santa and Mrs Claws TTG November 2004
					
Santa Paws TTG November 2010			Scottish Female	Scottish Female Dancer TTG March 2010	
					
Scottish Male			Seaside	Snow Queen TTG December 2004	
					
Springtime				Strawberry Picker	
					
Tailor		Teacher		Tennis	
					
Toby TTG February 2012		Toys	Valentine Female	Valentine male	

					
Vicar			Victorian Female		Waiter
					
Waitress TTG October 2011				Wine Waiter	
					
Winter Black Scarf	Winter Blue Scarf		Winter Red Scarf		Winter Stripy Scarf
					
Winter Stripy Scarf	WWI Sailor TTG July 2014		WWI Soldier TTG July 2014		
					
Zodiac back view – set of 12 zodiac sign lettered at rim					
					
Zodiac Aquarius TTG January 2016	Zodiac Aries TTG April 2016	Zodiac Cancer TTG July 2016	Zodiac Capricorn TTG February 2016	Zodiac Gemini TTG June 2016	Zodiac Leo TTG August 2016

 Zodiac Libra TTG October 2016	 Zodiac Pisces TTG March 2016	 Zodiac Sagittarius TTG December 2016	 Zodiac Scorpio TTG November 2016	 Zodiac Taurus TTG May 2016	 Zodiac Virgo TTG September 2016
 Zodiac Scorpio from second set					

Birds

The birds are featured on a plinth, showing their habitat.

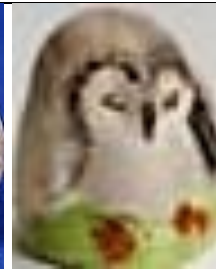
				
Barn owl			Black and white woodpecker	Blackbird
   				
Blue tit				
				
Green woodpecker				



kingfisher



Little owl



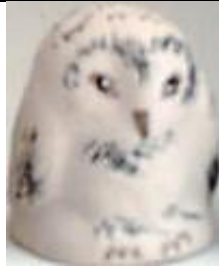
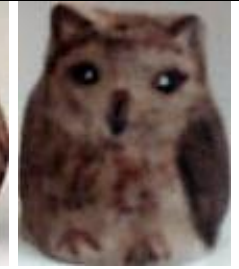
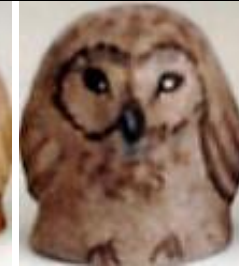
Long-eared owl



Mallard



Owl



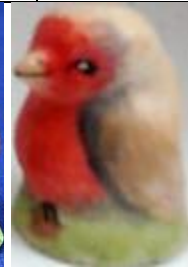
Owl



Penguin



Robin



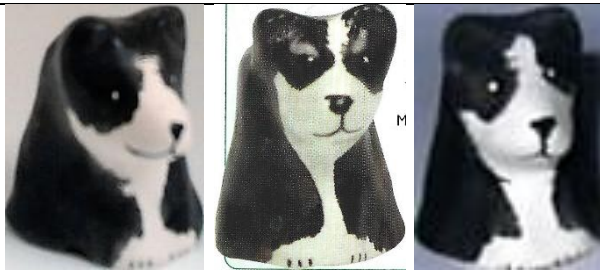
Tawny owl



White goose



Dogs



Border collie
TTG January 2005



Bulldog



Dalmatian
TTG August 2005



German shepherd
TTG November 2011



Golden retriever
TTG June 2005



Old English sheepdog



Otto the spaniel
modelled on Princess Kate's dog
TTG March 2011



puppy



Spaniel



Springer spaniel



West Highland terrier
TTG September 2004



Yorkshire terrier
TTG October 2006



Wildlife

The wildlife characters are featured on a plinth, showing their habitat.



 Mole TTG December 2005	 Otter
 Rabbit	
 Squirrel 25mm	 Tortoise

Cottages or villages

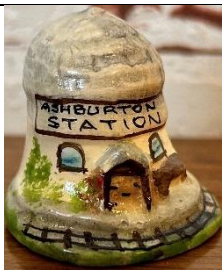
These cottages are probably from real buildings around the south coast of England. Some are named as if from the village. Some include chimneys, front doorsteps, with mullioned windows. Most are thatched, some showing grey thatch.

Sometimes the cottages are in the shape of a teapot – they are listed separately at the end of the cottages.

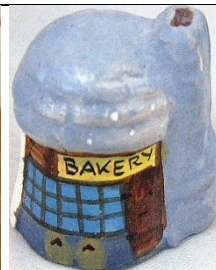


L: County Parish set of 7 – R: Winter Parish set of 7 on plinths

 'Antiques'	 'Antiques' 'Combe Martin'
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'Ashburton Station'



'Bakery'



'Beach Shop'
TTG August 2004



castle



castle



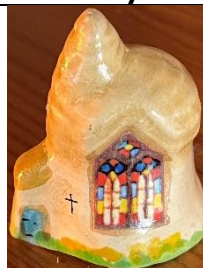
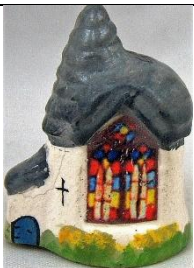
castle



chimney



chimney Cottage



church



church



Combe Martin



'Corner Shop'



'Dartmouth Dairy'



double storey



double storey



fisherman's cottage



'Fish n Chips'



'Florist'



'Garage'



handrail



'Hotel'



'Lifeboat'



lighthouse

TTG October 2010



'Lynmouth'



maypole cottage



mushroom cottage

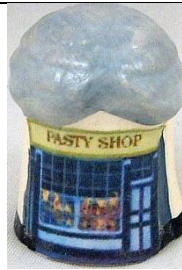


oaktree cottage





oasthouse



'Pastry Shop'

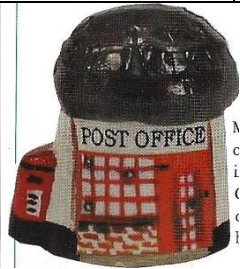


pink cottage



'Post Office'

TTG September 2004



pub

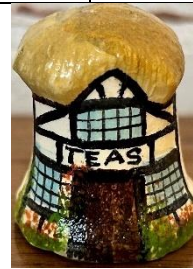


roses cottage

TTG September 2009



'Tea Room'

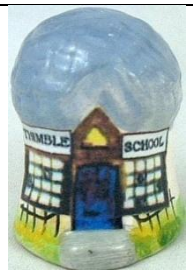


'Teas'



'Thimble Inn'

TTG September 2007



'Thimble School'



'Thimbles'



tiled roof



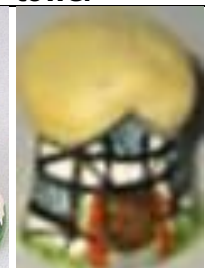
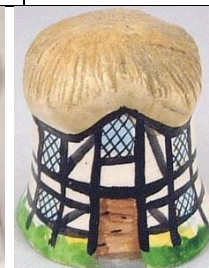
tower



'Village Store'



Tudor cottage





waterwheel

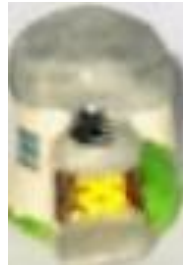
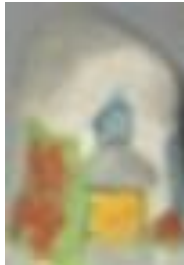
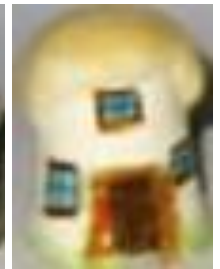
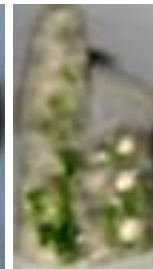
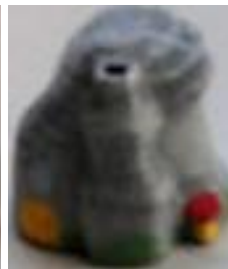
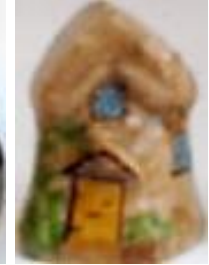


well cottage



windmill

Village thimbles



Teapot thimbles

Many of the thimbles above are also available in the shape of a teapot thimble



'Bakery'



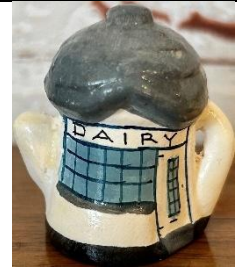
black door



blue door



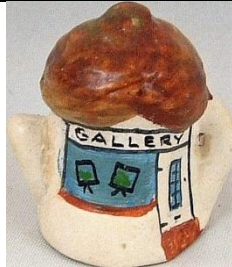
brown door



'Dairy'



Fisherman's Cottage



'Gallery'



'Garden Shop'



ginger cat



lighthouse



red door



'Teapot Shop'



'Toys'



Tudor cottage



'Tudor Inn'

Others



Colisseum



Cornish tin mine



**cow
gardener**



**cow
walking stick**



cup cake
TTG May 2012



donkey
Splash
TTG April 2010



gargoyle



**monk
candle**



**monk
cooking**



**monk
gardening**



**monk
hymnbook**



**monk
sampling wine**



mouse
daisy chain
TTG August 2013



Mr Gingerbread



Mrs Gingerbread



panda
TTG June 2005



sheep



sheep
Bridget
TTG August 2010



sheep
flowers



sheep
reading



Teddy bear
TTG September 2004



Teddy bear
brown



Teddy bear
white

Others - Pincushions



pincushion



pincushion

References

Yolanta Bogdziewicz | Pawel Brzyski | Marlous Craane | Andrea Griffiths | Linda Heggs | Wanda Ralston-Boulder Bay
Jean Rose-Miss Mouse | Jean Taylor

This listing of Merryfield Pottery 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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