

Ray Nimmo's thimbles (RN) 2007-2020

My first email from Ray was in 2004 in which he signed off with "All the very best to you from upover" – which showed his wicked sense of humour – often portrayed in his thimbles. Examples of this is his use of rebus (where an image replaces a word) and playing with words (nobody's prefect)

"I've never copied an existing thimble though admittedly I've made thimbles "in the style of". You will recognise some of Horner's daisy, star, diamond, Louise, a la Nimmo style. He was fascinated by the tall Jacobean strapwork thimbles – you will find some of his examples here

Ray began creating his handmade thimbles in 2007 – working in his garage. He gradually added to the tools he used, experimenting with various patterns. Some of his thimbles became his stock thimbles, to which he could add embellishments - lettering or symbols to these plainer thimbles, and these are marked # below



Nimmo's stock thimbles awaiting lettering or attachments

Up until 2013 his thimbles are not assayed. He had his mark registered with the Birmingham Assay Office on 11 June 2013. The earlier thimbles were marked STERLING with his maker's mark. Some of Ray's early thimbles have a small mark. It is a griffin mark

Most of the attributed names or descriptions were used by RN which I have marked *. The other names are my best guess

Note the many different thimble shapes and sizes used and the many types of rim
Nimmo used various body finishes: satin finish – frosted – textured



satin finish – frosted – textured

There are a few examples with an antiqued finish
Nimmo's domed apexes are fairly standard with about a range of five different stamps used



various marks on Nimmo's thimbles

griffin mark – assayed mark 2013- - Nimmo mark + STERLING – range of marks used on his sterling thimbles



brass – nickel silver – sterling

You may notice that a few of Ray's thimbles have a number (DORA, showing 8 and 9) – this is not a size mark as his thimbles were not sized. In this case it is the year that they were made



RN's distinctive style of displaying his thimbles for sale 2014



Birmingham Assay Office RN maker's mark stamp granted 11 June 2013



stamp mill used for making silver sheets thin enough for creating RN thimbles



range of Fish of the day designs – pincushion, thimble holder and various size or type of thimble

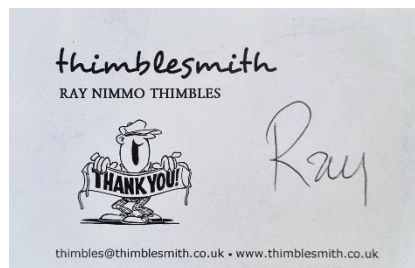


Ray Nimmo 2010

Thimbles are arranged with no regard for their date they were made. Most of Nimmo's thimbles have a distinctive front side – this is the only side shown I've used - where the design wraps around, the full scene is shown

Nimmo uses Indian silver for a few of his thimbles. These reflect Raj designs. They are not marked in any way as he couldn't guarantee the silver as sterling

If you are interested in knowing how Ray went about his creating his thimbles, please just ask for a copy



2007



example of Ray's certificate of authenticity 2013

Ray died 2026

Sterling silver thimbles - general



'2009'
snowflakes



'2012'



(bee) MINE (rebus)



(heart) ME
two L: post medieval style*



ai*
(tapir)



alien road map*
2013



anchor



art nouveau fairy*



art nouveau flower* (2013)
different rims

					
art nouveau girl* L: 2015		art nouveau moon girl*		atom flowers	
					
atomic* 2013			bark* #		
					
beach*			beaten surface #		
					
BEE MINE	blackberries 2013		Blackpool Tower		BOLLOCKS!
					
Boots THE CHEMISTS		broken glass*			
					
bubbles* # R: post-medieval style		BUGGER BOGNER		bullseye*	



butterfly
C: 2015



cabbage rose*
R: 2015



catch of the day* 2015

design copied from two brass bangles, flattened and then pressed onto a sterling sheet having been pressed thru the rolling mill. Gives a mirror image



2013 2020



ring





cats



Celtic knot*



Charles loves Diana



cherub



Christmas holly*
2015



close dimpling * #
C: cartouche
R: post-medieval style



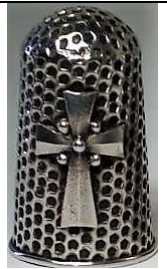
cloth weave*



compass



crazy paving



cross
L: in a heart



cross pattee*
2013



cupid



daffodils
bee on apex



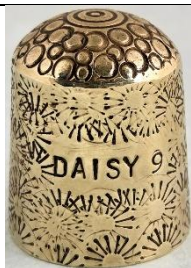
daisies all over*



daisies in rows



daisies in vertical rows



DAISY
nickel silver
2009



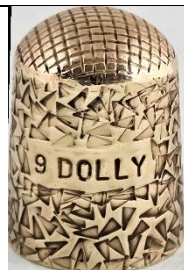
deco flower*



deco waves* #



deer
Indian silver



DOLLY
nickel silver
2009



dolphin



donkey with saddle



DORA
R: nickel silver
2008 2009



DORKUS
2009 2013



dormouse



dots with flower border



dove



DREENA
2013

						
Durer's Praying hands			DUROID		eagle	
						
EIIR 60		elephant R: made from Indian silver 2 nd R: with palms 2015				eyes* 2013
						
farthing		fingerguard griffin mark		fleur de lis		
						
flower border		flowers* 2014		flowers (stylised)		
						
			flowers* L: 2013			



flowers and leaves



flowers and leaves

Indian silver – showing insides similar to Raj thimbles



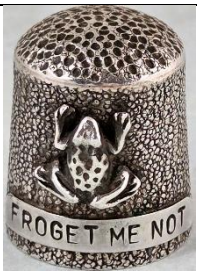
forget-me-nots
L: 2013



four leaf clover*
2015



frog



FROGET-ME-NOT



frogs



FU EU



galerie



geometric



geometric pattern*
L: 2013



GOOD LUCK HORSESHOE
R: 2013



grid diamonds



GRIPPA



hearts



hedghog



Hermes*



HIC (drunk)



HOME SWEET HOME
2014



HOPE



horseshoe



I (heart) QUILTING



I (heart) TO QUILT



ICH DIEN
Prince of Wales feathers



ichthus



Indian dieties
made from Indian silver



Irish claddagh ring
L: 2015



Jacobean style (strapwork)



JOY



JUDY



kokopelli



KURIT



KWILTA



leaves* (2nd L 2013)



lighthouse



Lincoln imp*
L: 2013



lion



LLAMEDOS
(sod em all - backwards)



LONDON 1960



Louise (asterisks)



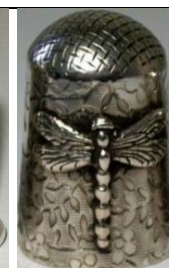
LOVE



Madonna* - Mary*
L: 2013



Madonna and child
2015



mayfly*
(dragonfly)
L: 2015



medieval style*
griffin mark mark
2013



meese*



merde



MMX



MMXX



morning glory



MOTHER



mouse



MYRA
St Nicholas



Nepal (style)



NIPPA



NOBODY'S PREF3CT
R: kokopelli



open top*
L: Louise – R: daisy
2015



owl and moon



pansy



peace



phoenix



pigs might fly



post medieval style*



PRINZ-OBERON
(ferry)



random close punched*



Raphaël's Angel*
L: 2013



reclining nude*



relief stars*



rose



safari*
giraffe antelope buck elephant



safari*
lion porcupine zebras baboon giraffe



safari*
porcupine zebras giraffe

design copied from napkin ring, flattened and then pressed onto a sterling sheet having been pressed thru the rolling mill. Gives a mirror image
2020





scottie



Scottish thistle*
L: 2015 - C: 2013



sea waves*



Shakespeare?



shamrock*



sheep



shell* (fan)
2014



SILVA



RD. 16



SILVA



SILVA



SILVA

SILVA
nickel silver



snake



snowflake



spread eagle*
2015



St Christopher



stars*
R: 2013



			
studded cross*	sun	SWAN LAKE with articulated swan opening to reveal ballerina	
			
swastika	symbols	symphon (unfinished symphony)*	
			
teddy	thread winder	threaded needle	three lions*
			
tiny stars*	TITAN	TITANIC	
			
tortoises with other animals	Trinity celtic knot* 2015	triskelion	TRY GOD
			
turtle	VICTORIA 1837-1901		

						
Victorian designs	VICTORY	waffle* flower border	waffle* alternating diamond blocks			
						
Westminster Abbey	WISH (rebus) wish upon a star	yacht				
						
Yorkshire rose* (2 nd R: 2015)						
						
						
						
abstract, stylised or geometric designs, many used as base thimbles (bottom: griffin mark) #						

In 2020 Nimmo commissioned engravings by Master Engraver Keith A Raes (KAR) on RH blank thimbles



'Hey Diddle Diddle'



'Humpty Dumpty sat on a Wall'



'Little Miss Muffet'



'Simple Simon met a pieman'



'Three Blind Mice'



'The Royal Coat of Arms' 'Dieu et Mondroit'

Sterling silver thimble holders with matching thimbles



art nouveau flower



catch of the day
pin poppet – pincushion – thimble holder



cloth weave



DORA



forget-me-nots



Raphaël's Angel



safari



shamrock
pin poppet



Sterling silver thimbles – placenames

Using his variously patterned thimbles as the base, Nimmo engraved placenames or applied city coat-of-arms



ALBION



ALTENBURG



AUSTRALIA



AVIGNON



B SCHANDAU



BAHAMAS
2013



BALLYMEN

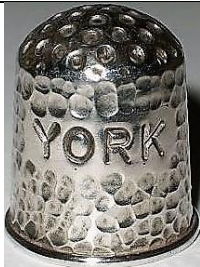
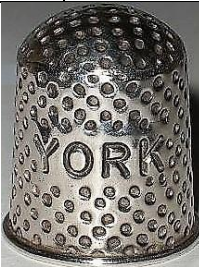


BARMOUTH

				
BASTOGNE	BATH 2013 2014 2020			
				
BEVERLEY	BIGSWELL	BLACKPOOL	BOCHUM	
				
BREMEN	BUCKINGHAM PALACE	BUDE 2020		BURY 2020
				
CALAIS	CANADA 2013	CHARTES	CHESTER	
				
DEAL 2020	DOME-KÖLN 2013	DONCASTER	DOVER CASTLE	
				
DUNKERQUE brass applique	EIRE	ELY 2020	ENGLAND	

 ESSEN 2013	 FIRCOMBE HALL	 GELDERLAND	 GERA
 GUERNSEY R: 2104		 HAHNENKLEE	 HAMBURG
 HARZ-HEXE	 HESSE	 HULL 2020	 I.O.M
 ISLE OF WIGHT 2015	 JERSEY R: 2013		 KIEL 2014
 KNARESBOROUGH	 KÖLN	 LEIPZIG 2014	 LIECHENSTEIN
 LINCOLN	 LONDON	 LOOE 2020	 LUBECK

			
LUXEMBOURG	LYON 2013	MALTA 2013	MALTA MOSTA DOME
			
MANNHEIM	METZ	MONA triskelion	
			
MONTE-CARLO	NEWFOUNDLAND 2013	NEWQUAY rebus 2013	NORGE 2014
			
OBERAMMERGAU	ONTARIO 2013	PARIS	
			
QUEBEC 2015	RHYL		ROUEN
			
			SCHWEIZ
			
SHEFFIELD 2013	ST. PAUL'S CATHEDRAL 2013	SUISSE	SVERIGE L: 2014

							
TIROL		TOUR EIFFEL 2014		TOWER BRIDGE		TOWER OF LONDON	
							
UTRECHT		WALHALLA REGENSBURG		WARWICK 2013		WHITBY	
							
WIEN		WUPPERTAL				WÜRZBURG	
							
		YORK C: 2020 – R: 2013			YORK MINSTER R: 2013		
							
	YORKSHIRE				ZEELAND 2014		

In 2020 and 2023 Nimmo commissioned engravings by Master Engraver Keith A Raes (KAR) on RH blank thimbles



DOVER CASTLE 2023



LINCOLN CATHEDRAL - IMP RED - ARROWS



MODERN LONDON SKYLINE



WINDSOR CASTLE

Sterling silver thimbles – slogans



AMORA



AMOU SANS FIN
(word play: Fou a coudre)



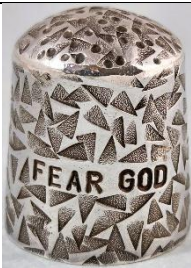
BE NOT IDELL



EVER TRUE



EVERE TRVE

 FEAR GOD	 FOREVER	 GOD IS LOVE
 GOTT MIT UNS	 I LOVE YOU	 MIZPAH
 MY HARTE IS THINE	 (STICK) TO ME rebus	

Embellishing other maker's sterling silver thimbles

Using Simons of Philadelphia's thimbles, which were plain with a plain wide band, Nimmo added his own embellishments

 cherub	 Federal Housing Administration	 home	 swastika
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Brass thimbles

- 2007 was the first year Ray began working in brass
-
- Quoting from emails from 2012, Ray wrote "Many of those abandoned in the garage are incomplete and will remain so because of the solder crisis! Not sure if I'll ever make a brass thimble again".



griffin mark

The brass section includes placenames and slogans



acanthus



amor omnia vinci

example shows the trouble Nimmo was experiencing with the solder joins



arabesque



BOLLOCKS



Boots THE CHEMISTS
R: die



bubbles
griffin mark



bubbles
central band of daisies



bugger bogner



catch of the day
brass with nickel silver



Chinese rings

L to R: plain - Boots THE CHEMISTS - DOWN LONDON - Feng Shui - stylised flower - flower



cloth weave



crown over dragon
griffin mark at centre



crown over horse



crown - over griffin mark



diamond grid



DICKENS
It was the best of times, it
was the worst of times



ever true



EVERE TRVE

 ewig dein L: griffin mark - R: ring	 fingerguards griffin mark		
 fleur de lis with blocks of diamonds	 forget-me-nots	 Fukitol™	
 geometric	 GOT MITTENS (word play)		 GOTT MIT UNS 2016
 HOPE with an anchor		 indentations griffin mark	 Louise
 medieval R: griffin mark		 merde	 paris



pebbles



pense moi ring



Raphaël's Angel



Regard



ring

L: Feng Shui – C: eagle on rim – R: griffin mark



safari



V R
crown



Y PRES



griffin mark

Brass thimble holders with matching thimbles



forget-me-nots
R: with red lining



flower and mistletoe

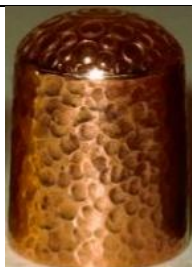


concentric rings holder with red lining, thimble and finger guard



catch of the day
brass and copper

Copper thimbles



beaten



Chinese ring



applied silver Gemini



SODA FIDE (word play)
2020

References

Di Pelham Burn *Welcome to the newcomer* [At your fingertips](#) January 2009

Contributors

Wendi Aguiar | Joanna Blackie | Ray Nimmo | Wolf-Dieter Scholz | Jean Taylor

This listing of Ray Nimmo's thimbles does not purport to be complete or accurate in all aspects. Rather it invites comments and contributions to add to our knowledge. My thanks to the contributors.

EMAIL thimbleselect@bigpond.com TO SHARE YOUR KNOWLEDGE

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