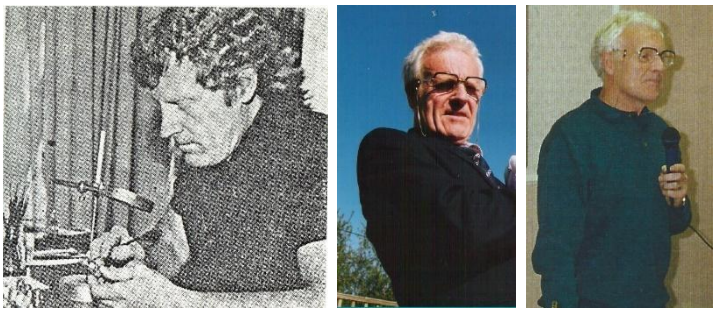
Peter Swingler's handpainted enamelled thimbles
1968-2014
England

I have undertaken two previous British enamelled thimbles topics – Crummles and Graham Payne handpainted thimbles, which includes his enamelled range. I have always shied away from featuring Peter Swingler's thimbles: I had never even handled one of his treasured creations - never mind owning one. Working with over 1100 photos that are now included here is such a treat.

Lydia Hamilton has inspired me to bring this topic to life, with her love and interest in Peter's creations.

Swingler's thimbles are different from those of Crummles and Payne. Their thimbles are of enamelling on brass and there were several handpainters employed in the creation of their range. Swingler was a vitreous enameller and a freehand painter. He alone painted the enamelled miniature portraits on sterling silver blank thimbles. Peter's miniature painting is so fine that it was accomplished only with the use of a magnifying glass.



L: working with a magnifier – C: Peter supplied by the Swinglers - R: Peter Swingler 1999

Swingler was born in England in 1937. According to Zalkin, Swingler began handpainting thimbles in 1973: other sources name 1972 or 1975. The 1969 thimbles of the Investiture of Prince Charles should be his earliest, but it is unclear when these thimbles were painted.
Peter died in August 2015 and during that period of over forty years, his output was prodigious, even tho his thimble editions were small.

Zalkin described Swingler's thimble enamelled painting: 'In his method, each colour used to decorate the thimble must be fired in a kiln separately, requiring firing as many times as there are different colours used.'
This could be done for seven or eight times. Flux, a colourless glass, was then applied to protect the enamel, which was again fired. What a painstaking procedure. For the most elaborate of his creations, it would have taken him up to eight hours to complete one thimble.

According to Norma Spicer, Swingler worked with 's James Swann & Son (JS&S) from 1969, painting his enamelled thimbles on their plain sterling silver thimbles. The JS&S registered mark, with the hallmark, will be found in either of two places – on the outer rim (when the enamelling doesn't reach the rim) or up in the apex when it does. These thimbles tend to have the scenes painted all round.

It was during this period that Swingler seems to have signed his thimbles with 'PS' – look for his signature almost hidden in the design of his enamelled thimbles.



signed 'PS' – mainly used on the JS&S sterling silver thimbles

After a few years Swingler used sterling silver thimbles with his own registered sterling silver mark. Tho the thimbles bear the mark of PS, the blank thimbles were still made for him for enamelling, by JS&S. According to an article in *Thimble Talk* about Swingler in January 1984, this was in 1975.

When the enamelling covers most of the outer thimble, look for his mark inside on the rim or up in the apex. They are die struck in the flat and then pulled round to form the thimble and the join is then soldered. The top or apex is then soldered on.

Swingler used whatever assayed thimbles were to hand.





Peter Swingler'sregistered sterling silver mark – P and S in separate diamond shapes
C: hallmark on inner rim – R: marks up in apex with additional lettering 'Made in England'

PS hallmarked thimbles are taller, and the enamelling is done on two roundels on an enamelled ground. Often the roundel is of white enamelling with identifying lettering. These are separated by applied beautiful silverwork.
He switched to using the full form of his name.
According to Shaneyfelt, the date was occasionally included next to the signature.

As a miniaturist, Swingler perfected painting portraits of people rather than scenes and buildings.





Peter Swingler's full signature – R: short signature
the majority of thimbles have the long signature – so not recorded here

Once Peter retired, he accessed blank sterling thimbles from both Andy Poole (AJP) and Gladman & Norman (G&N). He retired from painting thimbles in around 2002, when he moved from Birmingham to live in Ottery St Mary, in Devon. He was persuaded by collectors to come out of retirement in 2005 and was still painting thimbles in 2014.




AJP - G&N

Peter produced the Kings and Queens of England sets and sets of Presidents of America, almost simultaneously. When thimble collection of the late Mary Cruwys, went up for auction by Bleasdales Limited in 2016, it included a thimble set of the Presidents of America, as well as a letter from Swingler to Mary.
A set of Mary's Kings and Queens of England set sold at the July 2017 Bleasdales Limited auction.

Swingler undertook personal commissions, which were one-off creations.

In spring 1978, thimbles could be commissioned to order thru Roz Belford's *The Sewing Circle.*
In winter 1983, Belford again offered this service to collectors with the following options:

1. They supply a clear facial close-up photo, with colour of hair, eyes, clothing, allowing 8-10 weeks for delivery
2. a choice of the colour of the background enamelling
3. the preferred design on the name roundel (flowers, leaves etc)

Until recently when I had encountered a number up in the apex of a Swingler thimble with his mark, I had presumed they were thimble size numbers. I think they indicate the **edition number** of the thimble in any one series.
The thimbles hallmarked with JS&S marks have the thimble **size** number on the band.

You will also notice how varied are the apexes of the sterling silver thimbles used.
The most decorative are the set of the Kings and Queens of England, which have an enamelled, domed apex.
For special commemoratives, like the wedding of Prince Charles and Lady Diana Spencer, there is a special raised decoration on the apex.


JS&S-made - generally a flatter indented apex


PS-design and JS&S made - domed apex which is accompanied by elaborate side panels


PS-design - longer indentations


AJP-made - more pointy apex


AJP-made - flatter apex


flatter apex with wider-spaced indentations


rare use of panels on apex


PS-design - enamelled and sterling apex for Kings and Queens set etc




PS-design - raised silver apex for 1981 wedding



enamelled 2011 apex

The sterling silver side panels on Swingler thimbles are striking and elaborate.



these two side panels have identical patterning
L: 1976 - R: 2005
the patterning is less crisp as the thimble dies aged.

In all the literature and sales catalogues, I have only encountered a few references to the dimensions or weight of the Swingler designed sterling silver thimbles i.e. height: $1^{1/8}$ ins (28.5mm). This is for one of the taller domed thimbles. In a recent ebay listing, the weight is given as 14.3-15 grams.

In 2021 I stumbled across the first advertisements for Swingler thimbles in *The Thimble Guild* catalogues, as late as 1995. They were offered as a (valuable) first prize in their monthly draws on three occasions. I will record this with the thimbles I encountered there.

Was your Swingler thimble sold in a cardboard thimble box? This is what one looked like – with the lettering on the inner lid of the box 'Enamelled Hand Painted Sterling Silver Thimble'. The name Swingler does not appear here.



If you are a member of Thimble Collectors International (TCI), please read Linda Shaneyfelt's excellent article on her collection of Swingler thimbles in the fall 2009 *TCI Bulletin*, which is illustrated in full colour. Linda went on to share her love of Swingler thimbles with her presentation to the 2010 TCI Convention in downtown Cincinnati. Thru research for both the article and her talk, Linda had contact with Maureen and Peter Swingler who were generous with their time.

To quote Shaneyfelt, in contact with Peter Swingler - 'According to his estimates, he has painted around 2500 and 3000 thimbles over the last forty years.'

As thimble collectors, we tend to think of Swingler only in terms of thimbles.
His profession was as an enameller and handpainter of Masonic regalia and jewellery, which would have included fine miniature work, including portraits and he continued with this while then taking thimble commissions.

Swingler was a guest speaker at the Dorset Thimble Society in 1999 and showed examples of his thimbles. He also displayed other examples of his enamelled work viz. Masonic badges – teaspoons serviette rings – boxes. Shaneyfelt adds dressing table sets and compacts to the list.

I have removed enamelled thimbles initially thought to be painted by Swingler.
These include Anne Hathaway's cottage - Buckingham Palace – Edinburgh Castle - Houses of Parliament Worcester Cathedral.
They have the painter's initials of CH for Chris Harmer, who also painted enamelled thimbles for JS&S.
They have previously been ascribed to PS, who as it becomes more evident, only painted buildings on private commission.
I have found at least two other examples of handpainted enamelled thimbles ascribed to Swingler that have the painter's initials of 'CH' or 'C Harmer' clearly embodied in the enamelled design e.g., 'Adventures of Tom Sawyer 1876-1976' and 'To the Bride 1977'. Buyer beware.



I have arranged the thimbles by their name or topic, rather than by the date they were created, using the lettering/name on his thimbles. Each thimble was handpainted, so I will include all examples that I have found – until it becomes impractical!! Images of the thimbles in the round will really show us the true artistry of this magnificently talented man.
I have grouped all 'Birds' together, and all 'Pets' and all 'Personalised', rather than separating them by individual names as the rest.

for other enamelled thimbles topics see

British modern enamelled thimbles
Cornish Enamels thimbles
Crummles enamel thimbles
Graham Payne handpainted thimbles

Alexandra

see also: Kings and Queens of England
privately commissioned

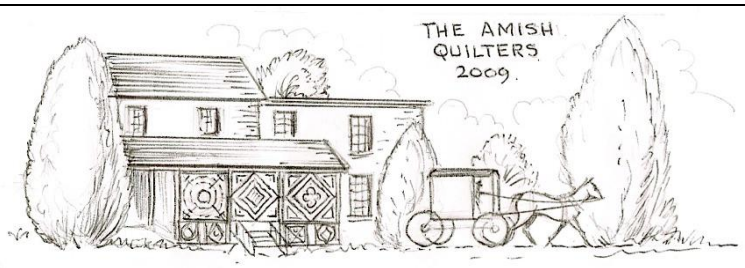


1981
applied silverwork patterning on side panels

THE AMISH QUILTERS 2009

privately commissioned (Daria Phair)





with Swingler's drawing

ANDREW SARAH THE DUKE & DUCHESS OF YORK WEDDING1986

privately commissioned (Celia Barrington)



PS 1986
navy enamelled band with lettering
lettering on white and blue enamelled banner on verso
a double portrait in one roundel – separated by a small silver finial decoration

PRINCESS ANNE AND MARK PHILIPS WEDDING 1973

According to Norma Spicer, Swingler was painting thimbles for JS&S for this design – look for his signature. The portraits seem different in each version?

1.

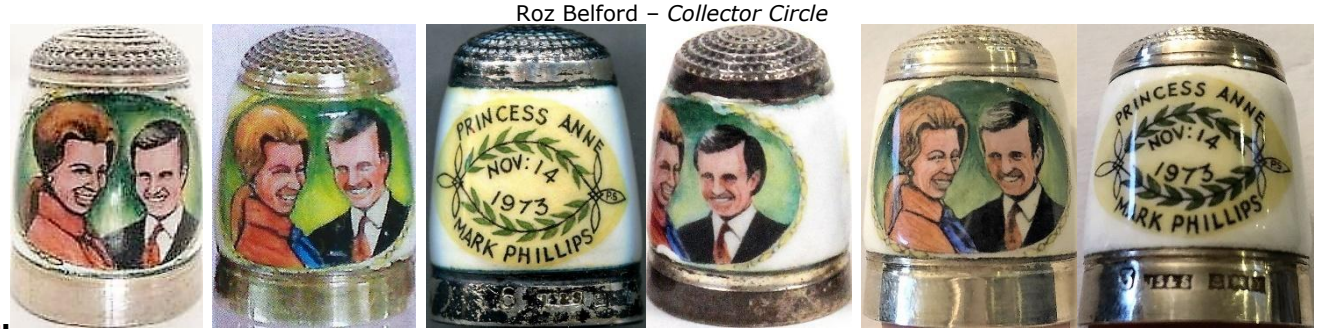


JS&S 1972
commemorating 'Princess Anne Mark Phillips Nov 1973' (ie no actual date lettering)



1972 b&w advertisement – also with missing '14' date lettering
Roz Belford – *Collector Circle*

2.





JS&S 1968 1973
commemorating 'Princess Anne Mark Phillips Nov:14 1973'

1-2. double portrait on white enamelled ground
signed 'PS' in right leaf of the wreath
L: Princess Anne's scarf isn't blue

Princess Beatrice 1988

with her mother Sarah the Duchess of York



'To commemorate the Birth of Princess Beatrice 8-8-1988'
commissioned for sale by the Thimble Society of London
applied silverwork patterning on side panels

Ludwig van Beethoven 1770-1827

privately commissioned



JS&S
cobalt blue enamelled sides
this may not have been signed

Betsy Ross



scene all round showing Betsy Ross sewing stars onto the US flag
enamelling right to the rim

birds



1.

Bullfinch
on both sides
JS&S 1972
signed 'PS'



JS&S 1975
enamelling right to the rim
bird appears on **both** sides
signed 'PS' in white within the blue



2.



PS 1981



PS 1981

1-2. bird appears on **both** sides with slightly different images on the enamelled roundels commissioned for the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
limited to **100**
Thimbles Only winter 1984



3.

AJP



'Blue Tit'
AJP 2004
with sprigs of blue flowers and pink roses



AJP
with different sprigs of blue flowers and pink rose



AJP
with sprigs of blue flowers

1.


Ducks
JS&S
C: signed 'PS'
offered as a special prize by The Thimble Guild in February 1995 (R)
R: flatter apex with wider-spaced indentations
L & second R: enamelling right to the rim

2.


JS&S
R: signed 'PS'

3.


JS&S
signed 'PS'
R: offered as a special prize The Thimble Guild February 1995

4.


PS 1979

5. 

JS&S 1972

6. 

AJP
blue enamelled rim

1. 

Kingfisher
PS 1981
cobalt blue enamelled sides
painting the same on both sides, with minor differences
apex indentations are longer

2-3. 

AJP

4. 

JS&S
signed 'PS'




5. Malachite kingfisher
JS&S
signed 'PS'



owl
enamelling right to the rim





pheasants
AJP
see a similar design for Christmas 1977




pheasants
PS 1979
these thimbles are much shorter than usual



swallow
JS&S 1972



JS&S 1972



early bird …
JS&S 1972

Robert Burns - Robbie Burns 1759-1796



1.

PS 1976
'Robert Burns 1759-1796'
with thistles



2.

green applied enamelled silverwork patterning on side panels

JOHNNY CARSON 1977

These first appeared for sale in the US thimble catalogues by Roz Belford – the *Collector Circle* commissioned for her members.



'The Thimble Full of Admiration 15 years of T.V. Magic Oct. 1st 1977'
blue enamelled applied silverwork patterning on side panels

MRS ROSALYNNE CARTER 1977

see also Jimmy Carter – Presidents …



'First Lady's Joy 1977 Mrs Rosalynn Carter'
JS&S 1975
showing Mrs. Rosalynn Carter – with her daughter Amy – at her sewing machine
lettering with a spool of thread and needle
enamelling right to the rim

Prince Charles' Investiture 1969

These thimbles' assay date post-dates the Investiture. Why would PS paint these thimbles for a date that had passed?
Are these the earliest thimbles that were painted by PS?
According to Norma Spicer, Swingler began painting thimbles for JS&S with this thimble.
limited to **10** (information from PS)

1.



'1969'
JS&S 1972
R: unsigned

1b.



JS&S 1968



details of unsigned 1968 thimble

2. 

'1969'
these enamelled bands were used by JS&S so would have been available for Swingler to paint

3. 



'Carnarvon 1969'

<u>JS&S 1973</u>

'Charles Prince of Wales'



<u>JS&S 1972</u>

'Charles Prince of Wales'
the Carnarvon lettering is missing, as well as the yellow shading behind the head
short signature

PRINCE CHARLES & PRINCESS DIANA 1981

1-4 in a double portrait – separated by a small silver finial decoration

1.



elaborate apex with applied scrolled crown
with 'Ich Dien' and PoW feathers with '1981' on sterling apex
navy enamelled band commemorating 'HRH Prince & Princess of Wales – the Wedding'
Charles – red uniform
pre-wedding portraits?

2.



<u>PS 1981</u>
elaborate apex with applied PoW feathers with 'Ich Dien' and with '1981'
navy enamelled band commemorating 'HRH Prince & Princess of Wales – the Wedding'
verso for this double portrait thimble with St Pauls Cathedral in relief

3.



<u>PS 1981</u>
elaborate apex with applied PoW feathers with 'Ich Dien' and with '1981'
navy enamelled band commemorating 'HRH Prince & Princess of Wales – the Wedding'
verso for this double portrait thimble with St Pauls Cathedral in relief
the Prince is not smiling

4.



navy enamelled band commemorating 'HRH Prince & Princess of Wales – the Wedding'
no date on apex



5.

according to Norma Spicer, Swingler was painting thimbles for JS&S for this design – look for his PS signature
no lettering around rim

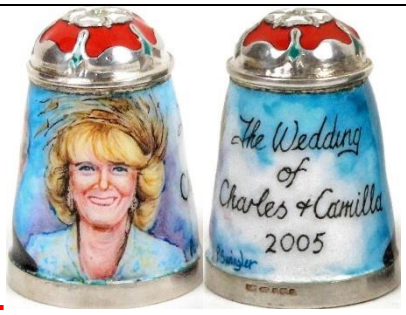
H.R.H THE PRINCE of WALES





PS 1982
lettering with Prince of Wales feathers
spelling error – Ich **Deim** instead of Ich Dien?

Charles and Camilla 2005



1.

AJP 2005
commemorating *'The wedding of Charles & Camilla 2005'*
elaborate red enamelling and sterling apex
this apex is the same one used on the Kings and Queens of England set



2.

commemorating *'HRH Prince Charles & Camilla Parker Bowles'*
a double portrait in one roundel
Prince of Wales feathers 'Ich Dien' on verso

Cheetah

privately commissioned (Irene Schwall)



AJP 2003
'Serengeti 2003'
signed 'PS'
painted from a private photograph

Frederic Chopin

no photo

Christmas

annual thimbles

These first appeared for sale in the US thimble catalogues by Roz Belford – *The Sewing Corner* – from 1975 - commissioned for her members.



JS&S 1972
nativity



1975
the Adoration of the Magi
robin on verso
signed 'PS'
enamelling right to the rim
limited to **15**



b&w image which has the robin on a branch





JS&S 1976
enamelling right to the rim
R: offered as a special prize *The Thimble Guild* November 1996
limited to **15**









1977
JS&S 1977 1978

pheasants in a snowy scene
enamelling right to the rim
bottom: a dot on either side of the date
limited to **15**
see similar design in Birds section where birds face in the opposite direction



1978
PS 1978
yellow 'candle glow' around the tree
limited to **15**

2.





1978
PS 1978
slightly different with no candle glow nor holly on verso
the star at the top of the tree changes with each thimble



1979
limited to **15**



1980
enamelling right to the rim
limited to **15**



1981
limited to **15**

1. 

1984
PS 1984
'First Edition *Santa*' – sprig of holly on verso
lettering with cobalt blue enamelled sides

2. 

1984
PS 1984
'1st Edition Santa' – no sprig of holly
cobalt blue enamelled sides



3.



PS 1984
these were offered for sale by the USA's Jean Shoup in *Thimbles Only*, winter 1984
'Christmas in London 1984'





1987
PS 1987
'Prettige Feestdagen 1987'
Dutch lettering
commissioned by Kay Sullivan *De Vingerhoed*
'KS' (mark for Kay Sullivan's *De Vingerhoed*) and ZI [the import marks into The Netherlands] stamped on the apex
limited to **35** - fewer than this were made
(information from PS)



PS 2004
no Christmas lettering
additional band of holly and ivy lettered around the rim
signpost: 'To London'

The Christmas thimbles from 2009–2014 were privately commissioned (Lydia Hamilton).



2009
AJP 2009



2010
AJP 2010
(hallmark is very finely stamped on outer rim)
the two children are Peter's grandchildren
the dog in the foreground is Peter's favourite dog 'Scottie' – there is a small robin painted on the right edge of the wall



2011
AJP 2011
(hallmark is very finely stamped on outer rim)
apex is handpainted enamel
the figures in foreground are Swingler and one of his grandchildren – and his dog walking in the snow at Ottery St Mary with the local church



2012
AJP 2012
(hallmark is very finely stamped on outer rim)



2013
AJP 2013
(hallmark is very finely stamped on outer rim)
the Madonna's face is painted in exquisite detail – photos don't do her justice



2014
AJP 2014
(hallmark is very finely stamped on outer rim)
was this Swingler's last thimble?

church



b&w photo

WINSTON CHURCHILL

according to Norma Spicer, Swingler was painting thimbles for JS&S for this design – look for his signature in the leaves



1.

1874-1965
JS&S 1972 1974
signed 'P.S.' in leaf at right of wreath
cobalt blue enamelled sides



2.

1874-1965
PS 1981
different apex, enamelling going down to fine band
signed 'PS' in leaf at right of wreath - extra signature within portrait



3.

1874-1965
PS
cursive lettering



4.



1874-1974
JS&S 1975 1977
signed 'PS' in leaf at right of wreath
cobalt blue enamelled sides
enamelling to the rim
these were offered for sale by the US *The Sewing Corner*
lower: light colouring around the roundel



4a.

1874-1974
JS&S 1976

signed 'PS' in leaf at right of wreath
cobalt blue enamelled sides
enamelling to the rim - flatter apex

5. 

1874-1974
PS 1976
signed 'PS' in leaf
light colouring around the roundel
limited to **6** (information from PS)

4-5. issued for Churchill's centenary

clowns

These first appeared for sale in the US thimble catalogues by Roz Belford – *The Collector's Choice,* spring 1979 – commissioned for her members.



1st annual series 1978



2nd annual series 1979

Corn Palace

privately commissioned (Linda Shaneyfelt)



2009
commissioned by Linda Shaneyfelt for the Corn Palace in her hometown of Mitchell, South Dakota

Diana Princess of Wales 1961-1997



G&N 1997
with rose
lower: G&N 925 (unassayed)

The Dog & Bird



2004
'The Dog & Bird'
PS 2004

1.





AJP 1997

2-3.



AJP 2008



AJP



AJP

Dutch Queens

commissioned by Anne Jansen of The Netherlands
applied silverwork with different colour enamelled patterning on side panels



'Emma Koningen der Nederlanden 1890-98'
black enamel



'Wilhelmina Koningen der Nederlanden 1898-1948'
yellow enamel



'Juliana Koningen der Nederlanden 1948-1980'
yellow enamel



'Beatrix Koningen der Nederlanden 30th April 1980'
yellow enamel



Queen Beatrix
taking the oath
20 April 1980



b&w photo

Dutch scene

privately commissioned



R: 1979
enamelling right to the rim and wraps all round the thimble

Easter 2011

privately commissioned



AJP 2005

Eiffel Tower Paris

privately commissioned



JS&S
enamelling right to the rim

Elephants

privately commissioned (Irene Schwall)



AJP 2003
'Ngorongoro 2003'
signed 'PS'
painted from a private photograph

Queen Elizabeth II

see also: Kings and Queens of England

1. 

'1977 EIIR'

JS&S 1977

commemorating 'The Queen's Silver Jubilee 1977'

cobalt blue enamelled sides

enamelling right to the rim

these first appeared for sale by Roz Belford *The Sewing Corner*

signed 'PS' in white

limited to **15**

according to Norma Spicer, Swingler was painting thimbles for JS&S for this design – look for his signature above the left shoulder

2. 

enamelled coat-of-arms on verso

2a. 

PS 1970s

privately commissioned by a Canadian collector (information from PS)

2b. 

PS 1977

lower boxed: available from 'Sewing Corner Whitestone New York'

'23' stamped up in apex

height: $1^{1/8}$ ins (28.5mm)

3.







PS 1977
commemorating 'Queen Elizabeth II Royal Silver Jubilee 1977'
the lettering is around the rim of royal blue enamelling
a double portrait of Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip in profile in one roundel
elaborate silver royal coat-of-arms applied on verso, which includes daffodils roses etc, with no enamelling
limited to **250**
boxed: shows the hallmarks on the outer rim and a thistle - shamrocks - English rose - daffodil supporting the enamelled portrait

3a.



PS 1977
commemorating 'Queen Elizabeth II Royal Silver Jubilee 1977'
(marked on outer rim)
the lettering is around the rim of royal blue enamelling
a double portrait, facing forward, in one roundel
elaborate silver royal coat-of-arms applied on verso, with no enamelling

4.



JS&S 1978

commemorating 'Coronation of Queen Elizabeth 1953-1978'
pale blue enamelled sides
stone' in apex

4b.



<u>JS&S 1978</u>
commemorating 'Coronation of Queen Elizabeth 1953-1978'
pale blue enamelled sides

5.



commemorating 'The Queen's Golden Jubilee 2002'
applied silverwork sides' patterning

H.R.H. QUEEN ELIZABETH THE QUEEN MOTHER

1.



<u>JS&S 1975</u>
'H.R.H Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother'
L: signature within wreath
lettering on a yellow scroll
enamelling right to the rim

2.



commemorating 'H.R.H the Queen Mother 75th Birthday 1975'
lettering on a yellow scroll
enamelling right to the rim

3. 



PS 1980
commemorating '80th Birthday Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother 1980'
applied silverwork patterning on side panels
limited to **25**

4. 

PS 1984
where the crown and her jewellery are different
'To commemorate the Queen Mothers 90th birthday 4-8-90'
applied silverwork patterning on side panels
commissioned by Thimble Society of London
L: with lilies and leaves

Elgar

Worcester Cathedral on verso



1.

JS&S

cobalt blue enamelled sides



2.

PS 1981

applied silverwork patterning on side panels

different view of the Cathedral

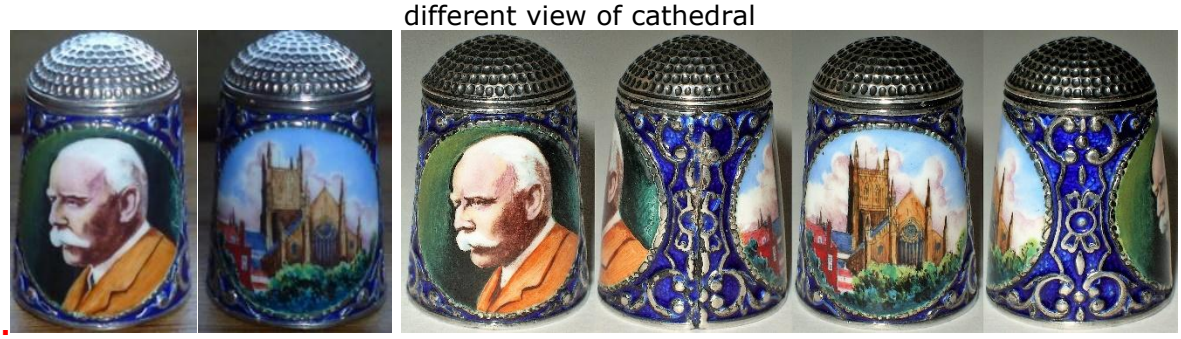


3.

applied silverwork patterning on side

Elgar's blue jacket

different view of cathedral



4.

PS 1981

blue enamelling

Elgar's mustard-coloured jacket

thimble was commissioned to commemorate the unveling of the statue of Elgar by H.R.H Prince Charles on 2 June 1981

limited to **8** for an antique dealer in Worcester

Princess Eugenie 1990

with her mother Sarah the Duchess of York



1.

'To commemorate the Birth of Princess Eugenie of York 23-3-90'
commissioned for sale by the Thimble Society of London
applied silverwork patterning on side panels



2.

'To commemorate the Birth of Princess Eugenie 23-3-90'

Falklands 1982

According to Norma Spicer, Swingler was painting thimbles for JS&S for this design – look for his signature.



'To Commemorate the British Victory of the Falklands 15th June 1982'
enamelling right to the rim

"Full sail"

privately commissioned



AJP 2005

Girl in a Straw Hat

privately commissioned
see also The Straw Hat



G&N 2007
with rose

THE GOOD SHEPHERD

privately commissioned



lettered in upper case

The Hunt

These first appeared for sale in the US thimble catalogues by Roz Belford – *The Sewing Corner* – commissioned for her members.
According to Norma Spicer, Swingler was painting thimbles for JS&S for this design – look for his signature.

Swingler lettered three of these designs with named titles.

1.



enamelling right to the rim
limited to **8**

2.



"The Fox Hunt"

PS 1977



3.

JS&S 1989
enamelling right to the rim
a more naïve study than other two designs



4.

AJP
with hounds



5.

AJP
with hounds



6.

"Hunting scene"
AJP
rider facing right
signed 'P.Swingler'



7.

"The Last Hunt"
AJP
with white horse

8. 

"Huntsmen & hounds"
AJP 2005

THE JAZZ SINGER 1977

These first appeared for sale by Roz Belford *The Collector's Choice* spring 1979

1. 

PS 1977
'The Jazz Singer October 1927 Half a Century Golden Sound'
'1927-1977'
limited to **200**

2. 

'The Jazz Singer October 1927 Half a Cent**e**ry (sic) Golden Sound'
'1927-1977'
the miss-spelling was corrected on later examples

3. 



PS 1979
shows a small rim of yellow trim at apex rim

Josephine 1763-1814

privately commissioned
see also Napoleon



with red rose and blue flowers

Kings and Queens of England

Each thimble is a work of art with the stunning red enamelled domed apex. The apex is crowned with a silver edged English rose, which is of white enamel within a red enamelled English rose design. Some of the enamelled rose apexes have green enamelling inserts (centre photo below). The silver rose inner apex is also shown.



The lettering - 'Kings and Queens of England' – is around the thimble rim of royal blue enamel. There is elaborate applied silverwork of a lion rampant and a unicorn on each side of the roundels.



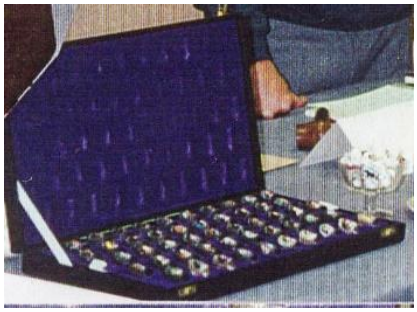
signed 'P.Swingler' at edge of each portrait.

The images used to paint each monarch were taken from 1930s cigarette cards, given away in packets by John Player & Sons (information from Peter Swingler to Lydia). This was a necessity as the portraits of royalty belong to the Crown.
The set of 40 which began in 1982, and continued until 1997, has the monarch's name and reign dates lettered (mainly in cursive) on a white roundel on the verso, with silver scrolls under the roundel. The set now numbers 41 in July 2018 with the addition of an earlier King Ethelred.

Thimble Society of London had single thimbles for sale at £52 each from 1983.

These individual popular monarchs could also be commissioned from Swingler but judging by the examples, they were a plain version with only the portrait and bio details. There was no red enamelled apex nor was there the blue enamelled rim with the lettering 'Kings and Queens of England'.

The set was boxed and lined with blue velvet.



set of 40

According to the TSL in summer 1983, the thimbles would be issued from 1983, when there was only one full set available. They named the set 'Reigning Monarchs of Britain'.

The thimbles of this set weigh 14 grams.

Limited to **5** sets

The reigning monarchs

set of 40



King Ethelred
978-1016
PS 1985
this earlier king has not been included in this Kings & Queens of England set before commissioned by The Thimble Guild, Scotland



King William I
1066-87
R: PS 1989



King William II
1087-1100
PS 1989



King Henry I
1100-35
L: PS 1986
R: PS 1989



King Stephen
1135-54
L: PS 1986
R: PS 1989



King Henry II
1154-89
L: PS 1984
R: PS 1989

4 

King Richard I
1189-99
L: PS 1986
R: PS 1989



King John
1199-1261
L: PS
C: PS 1989
R: PS 1985



King Henry III
1216-72
L: PS 1985
2nd L: PS 1984
R: PS 1986



King Edward I
1272-1307
L: PS 1986
R: PS 1989



King Edward II
1307-27
L: PS 1984
R: PS 1989



King Edward III
1327-77
PS 1989



King Richard II
1377-99
L: PS 1986
R: PS 1989



King Henry IV
1399-1413
L: PS 1984
C: PS 1985
R: PS 1989



King Henry V
1413-22
L: PS 1984
C: PS 1986
R: PS 1989



King Henry VI
1422-61
L: PS 1984
C: PS 1986
R: PS 1989



King Edward IV
1461-83
L: PS 1985
R: PS 1989



King Edward V
1483
L; PS 1986
R: PS 1989



King Richard III
1483-85
L: PS 1985
C: PS 1986
R: PS 1989



King Henry VII
1485-1509
L: PS 1985
C: PS 1986
R: PS 1989
see Elizabeth of York



King Henry VIII
1509-47
L: PS 1983
C: PS 1986
R: PS 1989
see his six wives



King Edward VI
1547-53
L: PS 1985
R: PS 1989



Queen Mary I
1553-58
L: PS 1986
2nd R: PS 1989
R: G&N 1997



Queen Elizabeth I
1558-1603
2nd R: PS1985
R: PS 1989



King James I
1603-25
PS 1985 1989



King Charles I
1625-49
L: PS 1985
C: PS 1989
R: G&N 1997
monarch facing in different directions
see Queen Henrietta Maria



King Charles II
1660-85
L-R 1: PS 1985
2: PS 1986
3: PS 1989
4: G&N 2002
see Catherine of Braganza



King James II
1685-88
L: PS 1984
C: PS 1986
R: 1989
C: blue background – L&R: black background



King William III
1688-1702
L: PS 1984
R: PS 1989
see Queen Mary II
who was joint monarch with William
see also: Willem III (Dutch)



Queen Anne
1702-14
L&C: PS 1985
R: PS 1989



King George I
1714-27
R: PS 1989
L: G&N 1997



King George II
1727-60
C: PS 1989
R: G&N 1997
see Caroline of Ansbach



King George III
1760-1820
L: PS 1982
R: PS 1989
C: G&N 1997
see Queen Charlotte of Mecklenburg



King George IV
1820-30
L: PS 1986
R: PS 1989
see Queen Caroline of Brunswick



King William IV
1830-37
L: PS 1986
R: PS 1989
see Queen Adelaide



Queen Victoria
1837-1901
1: PS 1984
2: PS 1986
3: PS 1989
4: G&N 1997



King Edward VII
1901-10
L: PS 1989
R: G&N 1997
see Queen Alexandra of Denmark



King George V
1910-36
L: PS 1989
R: G&N 1997
see Queen Mary



King Edward VIII
Jan.20-Dec.11 1936 1936
C: PS 1986
R: PS 1989
monarch's name is printed (L) – in cursive (R)



King George VI
1936-52
C: PS 1989
R: G&N 1997
monarch's name is printed (L) – in cursive (R)
L: b&w image



Queen Elizabeth II
1952
L: PS 1989
different portraits (crowns) with image on R a Coronation painting

I understand that there are now 56 thimbles in one of the sets of the Kings and Queens of England, which includes sixteen of the 'wives' (some of the spousal thimbles don't have their dates). This bigger set of 56 was offered at auction. Some of these extra thimbles have the hallmark date of 1997 and the mark is for **G&N**

Is there more than one of these expanded sets? With three different assay dates, there are **3** sets



boxed set of 56 with includes the 16 queens

Queens of reigning monarchs



Queen Adelaide
G&N 1997
wife of William IV



Queen Alexandra of Denmark
G&N 1997
wife of Edward VII



Anne Boleyn
G&N 1997
2nd of Henry VIII's wives



Anne of Cleves
1515-57
PS 1986
4th of Henry VIII's wives



Caroline of Ansbach
G&N 1997
wife of George II



Queen Caroline of Brunswick
PS 1986
wife of George IV



Catherine Howard
G&N 1997
5th of Henry VIII's wives



Catherine of Aragon
PS 1982 G&N 1997
version at L has an additional mark of I, indicating which of Henry VIII's wife she is
1st of Henry VIII's wives



Catherine of Braganza
G&N 1997
wife of Charles II



Queen Charlotte of Mecklenburg
G&N 1997
wife of George III



Elizabeth of York
wife of Henry VII



Queen Henrietta Maria
wife of Charles I



Jane Seymour
1504-37
PS 1982 G&N 2002
version at L has an additional mark of III, indicating which of Henry VIII's wife she is
lower: tho labelled *Jane Seymour*, this is *Mary Queen of Scots* with Seymour's dates PS 1986
3rd of Henry VIII's wives



Katherine Parr
1512-48
PS 1986
6th of Henry VIII's wives



Queen Mary II
1688-94
2nd R: PS 1986
R: PS 1989
joint monarch with William III
see also: Willem III (Dutch)



Queen Mary
1910-36 R: no dates
R: G&N 1997
wife of George V

Kudu

privately commissioned (Irene Schwall)



AJP 1996
'Zimbabwe 1996'
signed 'PS'
based on a watercolour painting

The Lighthouse Keepers Daughter

privately commissioned



G&N '925' (not assayed)
R: posy

Little Girl in Blue

privately commissioned



'Verspronck 1597-1662'
painted from a private photograph

Louis XVI King of France 1754-1793

privately commissioned
see also Marie Antoinette



SIR MALCOLM SARGENT 1895-1967

privately commissioned



mustard enamelling
lettering on white in blue roundel with wreath

Marie Antoinette 1755-1793

privately commissioned
see also Louis XVI



with rose

Marie Louise 1791-1847

privately commissioned
see also Napoleon



with two roses and blue flowers

Mary Queen of Scots 1542-87

privately commissioned
see also: Kings and Queens of England



PS 1982
with thistle

Mother's Day

annual issues
These first appeared for sale in the US thimble catalogues by Roz Belford – *The Collector's Choice/The Sewing Corner* – commissioned for her members.
According to Norma Spicer, Swingler was painting thimbles for JS&S for some of these designs – look for his signature.

1.




1975
JS&S 1975
a mother's rose
enamelling right to the rim

2.


'1975' painted in a different position and lettering for Mother's Day different









1976
JS&S 1975
aka 'Whistler's Mother'
lettering in cursive
enamelling right to the rim
limited to **18**



1977
JS&S 1977
mother and baby
lettering in cursive
L: mother facing left
enamelling right to the rim





1978
JS&S 1978
sister and with a baby brother
lettering in cursive
L: red dress – R: blue dress
Lower: this is the prototype offered by The Collector's Circle in 1978. The painting goes all round the thimble: not contained within the roundel

no photo

1979
mother and toddler

EARL/LORD MOUNTBATTEN 1900-1979



1.

1979
PS 1979
'Earl Mountbatten of Burma 1900-1979'
blue enamelled applied silverwork patterning on side panels



2.

1979
'Lord Mountbatten Admiral *of* the Fleet 1900-1979'
C: blue enamelled applied silverwork patterning on side panels
showing his insignia of office

Mozart

privately commissioned (Celia Barrington)



PS 1991
'To Commemorate The Bi-Centennial Mozart 1791-1991'
applied silverwork patterning on side panels
L: patterned collar

"My Dear Mother"

privately commissioned



G&N 925 (not assayed)
with rose and blue flowers

NAPOLEON BONAPARTE 1769-1821

privately commissioned



PS 1976
red enamelling

NAPOLEON I 1769-1821

privately commissioned



PS 1984
with rose

NAPOLEON II 1811-1832

privately commissioned



with rose

HORATIO NELSON and **EMMA HAMILTON**

1.



PS 1975
upper images: (the hallmarks are unusually placed on the apex)
'1758-1805' - portrait facing left
with royal blue enamelling
enamelling right to the rim
portrait cameo bound by a silver plaited rope border on both sides
signed 'PS' on right leaf of the wreaths

2.



PS 1976
boxed set completes the set of two
'Emma Hamilton 1761-1815' - 'Horatio Nelson 1758-1805' (facing right)
signed 'PS' on right leaf of the wreaths
no enamelled sides

3.





G&N 2005
'Lord Nelson Bi-Centenary Anniversary 1805-2005' - "Emma" Lady Hamilton 1765-1815' pair
with rose on Emma's
applied silverwork patterning on side panels
commissioned by Thimble Society of London to commemorate the bicentenary of the Battle of Trafalgar
it was planned - to offer ten pairs in gold
unknown how many of these were made

The Old Lace-maker

privately commissioned



JS&S
white roundel with two crossed lace bobbins and two roses
royal blue enamelling

personalised

Swingler undertook personalised commissions
There may be many more of these one-off thimbles commissions painted by Swingler



'Albert & Mildred Jarvis Nov.23rd 1994 50th anniversary'
TCI spring 2011



'Jina Samulka 2009 Thimble Collector'
AJP 2009
with rose
applied silverwork patterning on side panels



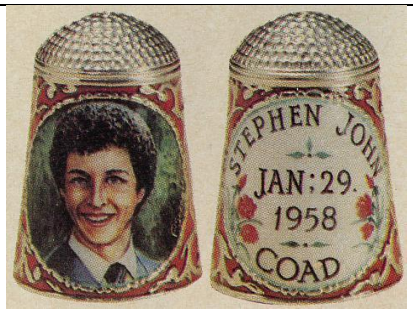
'Karel Anne Jansen'
25th – 30th (pearl) – 35th (coral) wedding anniversaries
the 30th had two pearls - the 35th two coral – 25th



'Kathryn Aileen Shoup Oct. 11th 1982'
commissioned by her mother Jean Shoup
with sprigs of flowers
applied silverwork patterning on side panels



'Linda Shaneyfelt 2006 thimble collector'
with rose
applied silverwork patterning on side panels



'Stephen John Coad Jan 29 1958'
commissioned by his mother Leona
with red roses
red enamelled applied silverwork patterning on side panels
Collectors Corner spring 1978



PS 1988
'Martha Arrufat'
commemorating '25 years Bay Area thimble Society 1978-2003'
BATS symbol with blue flowers
thimble designed by Martha and several other BATS members commissioned commemorative thimbles

pets

privately commissioned





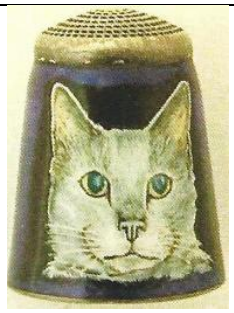
'Black Douglas 'Dougie''
AJP 925
with rose
Swingler's dog



'My Boy "Scottie"'
AJP 2004
with blue flowers and thistles
Swingler's dog



'Red'
'8-2-88/9-19-00'
with posies of roses and blue sprigs
Swingler's dog



'Roger the Cat'
enamelling right to the rim
TCI fall 2006



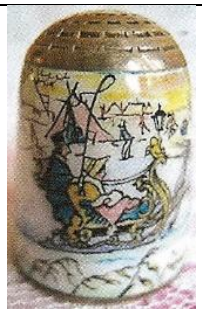
JS&S 1975
'Rhodesian Ridgeback'



Scottish Terrier
with thistles
Swingler's dog

Anton Pieck

privately commissioned



one of this Dutch artist's paintings

The Poor Bird

privately commissioned



L: G&N 925 (unassayed)
with roses and blue sprigs

Presidents of America

'Presidents of America' – is lettered around the rim of navy-blue enamelling and there is elaborate applied silverwork of an eagle on each side of the roundels - with each eagle facing towards the President's portrait.

Originally these were created as a set of 40 by 1983.

The set was offered for sale in a box lined with blue velvet, with spaces for the set to grow.

The President's name and term dates are lettered (mainly in cursive) on the verso in a white enamelled roundel, with applied sterling silver scrolls around the names' roundels.

The portraits are signed 'P.Swingler'.

These thimbles have the PS sterling marks lettered on the rim, with a variety of hallmark dates beginning in 1977 – 1984 – 1986 – 1990 – 2003.

The exception are the three additional thimbles, which were marked on the inner rim
G&N 2003

The boxed set below, was added to in 2009 when the owner, Mary Cruwys, commissioned the extra three Presidents (42nd-44th), who came to office after the first set was created.

As the thimbles in their various sets were painted over many years, you will notice different portraits of the same President – and the short/long forms of names and dates: some are even facing in the opposite direction and the background behind the portrait is of a different colour.

limited to **3** sets (information from PS)

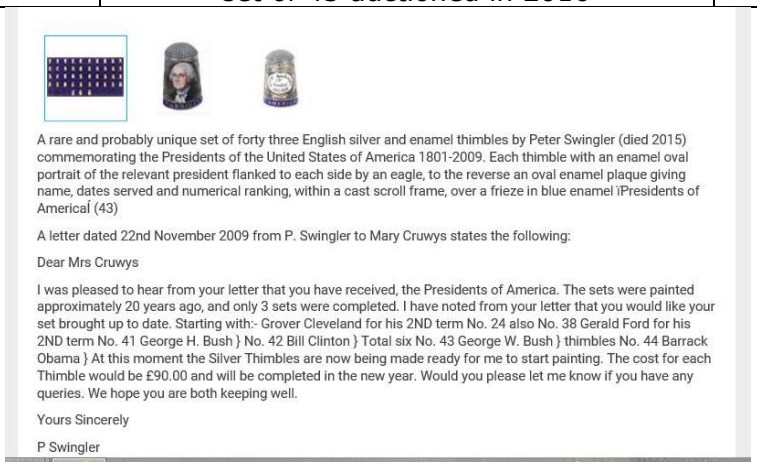
Swingler also painted privately commissioned single Presidents, but they did not have the royal blue rim with the 'Presidents …' lettering. Look for them under their individual names.





set of 43 auctioned in 2016


PS 1990 (Q)



A rare and probably unique set of forty three English silver and enamel thimbles by Peter Swingler (died 2015) commemorating the Presidents of the United States of America 1801-2009. Each thimble with an enamel oval portrait of the relevant president flanked to each side by an eagle, to the reverse an oval enamel plaque giving name, dates served and numerical ranking, within a cast scroll frame, over a frieze in blue enamel 'Presidents of America' (43)

A letter dated 22nd November 2009 from P. Swingler to Mary Cruwys states the following:

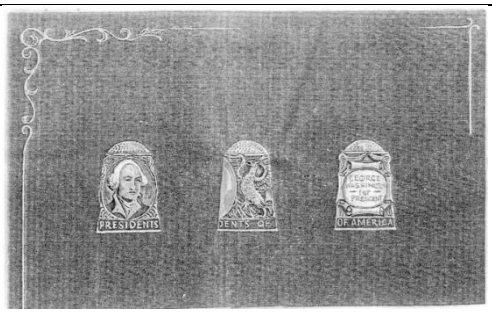
Dear Mrs Cruwys

I was pleased to hear from your letter that you have received, the Presidents of America. The sets were painted approximately 20 years ago, and only 3 sets were completed. I have noted from your letter that you would like your set brought up to date. Starting with:- Grover Cleveland for his 2ND term No. 24 also No. 38 Gerald Ford for his 2ND term No. 41 George H. Bush } No. 42 Bill Clinton } Total six No. 43 George W. Bush } thimbles No. 44 Barrack Obama } At this moment the Silver Thimbles are now being made ready for me to start painting. The cost for each Thimble would be £90.00 and will be completed in the new year. Would you please let me know if you have any queries. We hope you are both keeping well.

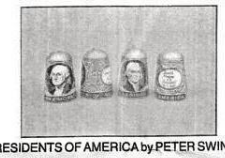
Yours Sincerely

P Swingler

copy of the handwritten letter from Peter Swingler to Mary Cruwys 2009, when the three additional President thimbles were purchased



This line-drawing example features George Washington without dates just 'First President'



PRESIDENTS OF AMERICA by PETER SWINGLER

All 40 United States Presidents are handpainted and signed by the famed English miniature artist, Peter Swingler. Hand crafted and hallmarked on antique sterling silver. Inscribed on the back in enamel; names, dates and number of each presidency. "Presidents of America" against cobalt blue hard enameling on rim. Eagles decorate each side. Purchase by series only, with delivery to begin February, 1984. A security deposit of $500.00 must accompany your order, to be held as payment for the last five #36 thru #40, this series qualifies for T.O.M., but all 40 must be purchased within one year. I have received the first 12 of my set, only the second set to be issued, and they are magnificent!!

Limited to 20 SETS world-wide!!

484 $100.00 each

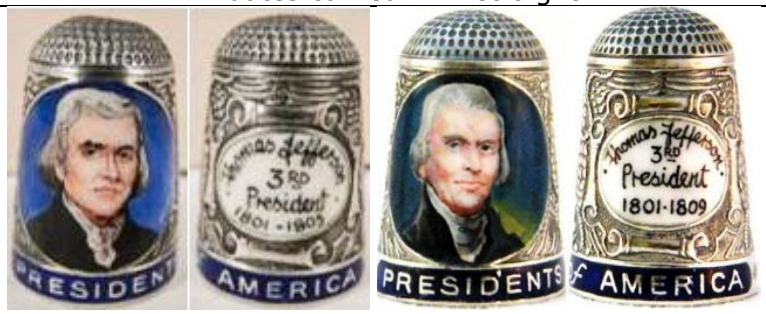
original advertising material for the Presidents of America set – unknown source & date



1st President George Washington
1789-1797
PS 1977
C: 1st President 1801-1809 [wrong dates] R: no dates



2nd President John Adams
1797-1801
L: PS
L: dates curved – R: straight



3rd President Thomas Jefferson
1801-1809
L: PS
L: dates curved – R: straight



4th President James Madison
1809-1813 [incorrect date]/*1809-17*
L: PS
L: dates curved – R: straight



5th President James Munroe
1816-25



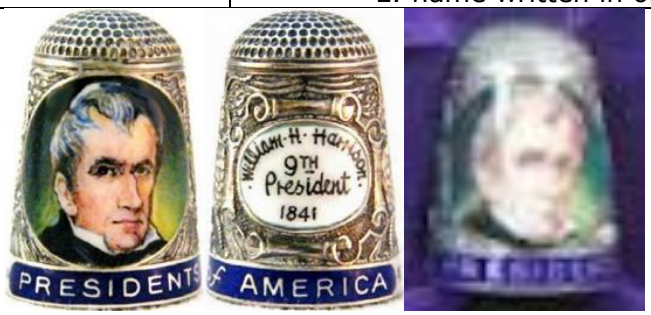
6th President John Quincy Adams
1825-29



7th President Andrew Jackson
1829-1837
L: PS



8th President Martin Van Buren
1837-41/1837-1841
R: PS 1984
L: name written in one line – R: in two



9th President William H Harrison
1841



10th President John Tyler
1841-1845/1841-45
L: PS
L: dates curved – R: straight



11th President James Knox Polk
1845-1849
R: PS 1986



12th President Zachery Taylor
1849-1850
L&R: PS 1986



13th President Millard Fillmore
1850-1853
R: PS 1984
president's portraits face in opposite directions



14th President Franklin Pierce
1853-1857
R: PS 1984



15th President James Buchanan
1857-61
president's portraits face in opposite directions



16th President Abraham Lincoln
1861-1865
PS 1984



17th President Andrew Johnson
1865-1869
R: PS 1984
L: no dates



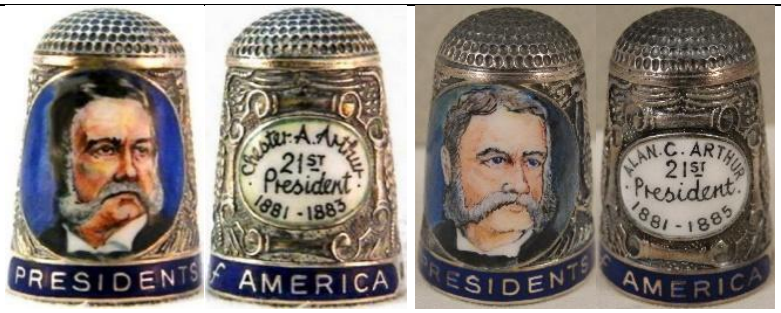
18th President Ulysses S Grant
1869-1877
R: PS 1986



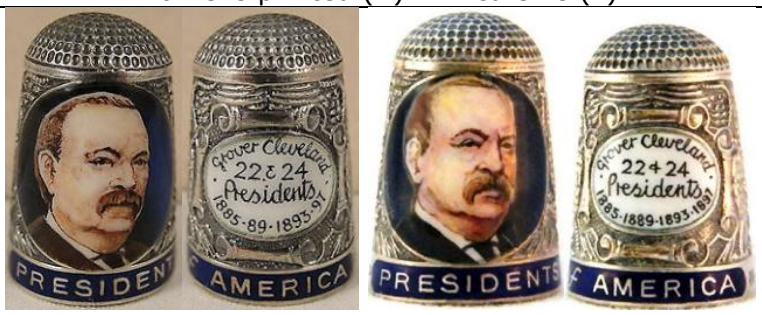
19th President Rutherford B Hayes/R B Hayes
1877-1881
R: PS 1984
L: no dates
L: name lettered in cursive – R: printed



20th President James A Garfield
1881
R: PS 1984
L: no dates
L: name lettered in cursive – R: printed



21st President Chester A Arthur/Alan C Arthur [incorrect name]
1881-1883
R: PS 1986
name is printed (R) – in cursive (L)



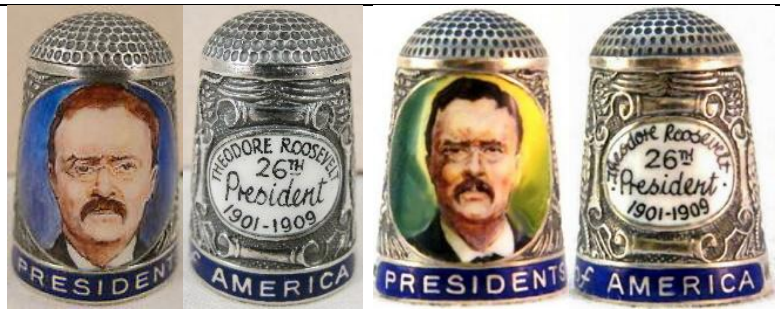
22 & 24 Presidents Grover Cleveland
1885-89 1893-97/1885-1889 1893-1897
L: PS 1984



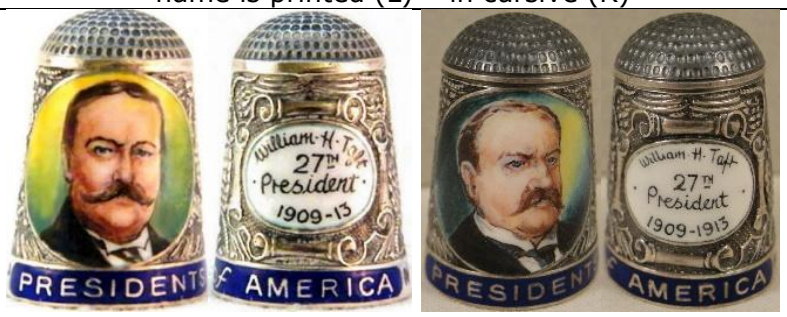
23rd President Benjamin Harrison
1889-93
R: PS 1984
name is printed (R) – in cursive (L)



25th President William McKinley
1819-1901/1897-1901
L: PS 1984
this president's portraits face in opposite directions
name is printed (L) – in cursive (R)



26th President Theodore Roosevelt
1901–1909
L: PS 1990
name is printed (L) – in cursive (R)



27th President William H Taft
1909-13/1909-1913
R: PS 1977 (C)



28th President Woodrow Wilson
1913-1921/1913-21
L: PS
name is printed (L) – in cursive (R)



29th President Warren Gamaliel/Warren G Harding
1921-23/1921-1923
R: PS 1984
name is printed (R) – in cursive (L)



30th President Calvin Coolidge
1923-1929
R: PS 1984
name is printed (R) – in cursive (L)



31st President H C Hoover/Herbert-Clark Hoover
1929-1933/1929-33
L: PS
name is printed (L) – in cursive (R)



32nd President – F D Roosevelt/Franklin Delano Roosevelt
1933-1943/1933-43
L: PS 1984
name is printed (L) – in cursive (R)



33rd President H S Truman/Harry S Truman
1945–1953/1945-53
L: PS 1984
name is printed (L) – in cursive (R)



34th President Eisenhower/Dwight David Eisenhower
1953-1961/1953-61
L: PS
name is printed (L) – in cursive (R)



35th President John F Kennedy/John Fitzgerald Kennedy
1961–1963/1961-63
L: PS 1984
name is printed (L) – in cursive (R)



36th President L B Johnson/Lyndon Johnson
1963-1969
L: PS 1984
name is printed (L) – in cursive (R)



37th President R M Nixon/Richard M Nixon
1969-1974
L: PS
name is printed (L) – in cursive (R)
L: mirror image



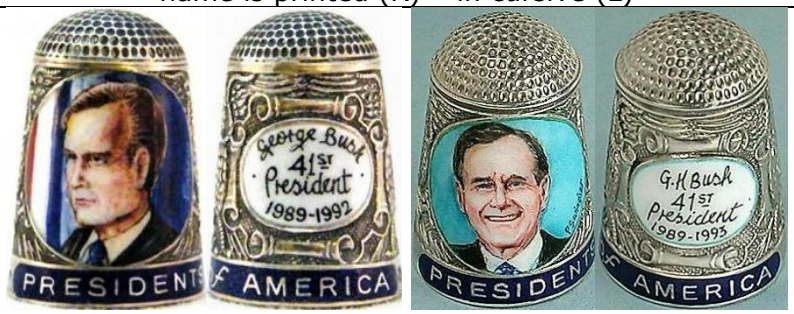
38th President G Ford/Gerald Ford
1974-77
L: G&N 2000



39th President J Carter/Jimmy Carter
1977-1981
L: PS 1984
name is printed (L) – in cursive (R)
see also: Rosalind Carter



40th President Ronald Reagan/R Reagan
1981-1984/1981-1989
R: PS 1984
L: PS
name is printed (R) – in cursive (L)



41st President George Bush/G H Bush
1989-1992/1989-1993
R: G&N 2003



42nd President B Clinton
1993-2001
G&N 2003



43rd President G W Bush
2001-09
G&N 2003



44th President B Obama
2009
L: G&N 2003

The Quilter

privately commissioned (Gary Shepard)



Hazel Reese
AJP 2004
with roses
limited to **2**

The Raising of the Mary Rose 1545-1982

privately commissioned



1982
'To commemorate the Raising of the Mary Rose 1545-1982'
enamelled white Tudor Rose on red on apex with extra green enamelling

Rembrandt 1601-1669



1.

applied silverwork patterning on side panels



2.

with rose and sprig



3.

applied silverwork patterning on side panels

SAINT MARKS VENICE

privately commissioned (Linda Shaneyfelt)



JS&S
lettered in upper case
enamelling right to the rim

The Seamstress

1. 

PS 1985
cobalt blue enamelled sides
with rose and blue sprigs

2. 

2000
applied silverwork patterning on side panels
with rose and blue sprigs

George Bernard Shaw

privately commissioned



blue enamelled applied silverwork patterning on side panels

SKILLED HANDS FOR INDEPENDENCE 1977

These first appeared for sale in the US thimble catalogues by Roz Belford – *The Collectors Circle* – commissioned for her members. *The Collector's Circle* reserved one Skilled Hands for Independence thimble for presentation to The Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) Museum in Washington D.C.



PS 1977 1978
issued in celebration of Independence Day, July 4, 1977
depicts a seamstress mending uniform of a colonial soldier
limited to **1000** – only **80** were painted
(information from PS)

SOUTH DAKOTA HOMESTEAD

privately commissioned (Linda Shaneyfelt)



interesting apex decoration

The Straw Hat

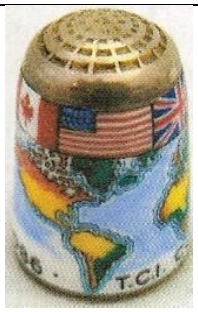
privately commissioned
see also Girl in a Straw Hat



G&N 2005 2008
with rose - with rose and forget-me-nots

T.C.I. CONVENTION 1986

privately commissioned (Inez Oaktree)



commissioned by the Dutch thimble collector
for the Philadelphia TCI Convention
the apex appears to be of a brass colour – it is silver

Taj Mahal

privately commissioned (Linda Shaneyfelt)



JS&S 1976
enamelling right to the rim

Thanksgiving

annual thimbles

These first appeared for sale in the US thimble catalogues by Roz Belford – *The Collector Circle/The Sewing Corner* – commissioned for her members.



1975

JS&S 1975

showing the Pilgrim Fathers – and the turkey

enamelling right to the rim



1976

enamelling right to the rim

R: mirror-image

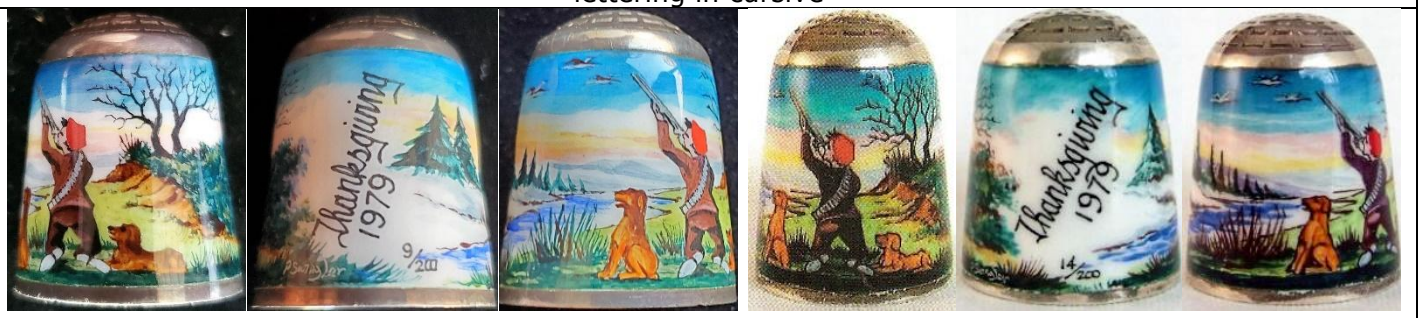




1977
JS&S 1977
lettering in cursive
signed 'PS' in white
enamelling right to the rim
2nd L: woman in a mop cap



1978
lettering in cursive



1979
PS 1979
lettering in cursive
limited to **200**



1.

'The R[T] Hon Margaret Thatcher Prime Minister 1979'
lettering in capitals on white roundel
blue enamelled applied silverwork patterning on side panels



2.

'Margaret Thatcher Prime Minister 1983-1987'
applied silverwork patterning on side panels
with rose



3.



<u>PS 1984</u>
'To Commemorate Margaret Thatcher 3rd Term of Office 1987'
green ground
commissioned by Thimble Society of London
all portraits seem different – top R no curl on R forehead?



4.

<u>PS 1982</u>
'To Commemorate Margaret Thatcher 10 years as Prime Minister 1979-89'

applied silverwork patterning on side panels
lettering in italics on white roundel



5.

'The Rt Hon Margaret Thatcher Prime Minister 1979-90'
applied silverwork patterning on side panels
lettering on white roundel



6.

'Baroness Thatcher Prime Minister 1979-1990 25th Anniversary 2004'
applied silverwork patterning on side panels

TO THE BRIDE

annual thimbles

These first appeared for sale in the US thimble catalogues by Roz Belford – *The Collector's Choice/The Sewing Corner* – commissioned for her members.

Was there a 1977 thimble issued by PS in this series?

According to CC the 1977 set was painted by Chris Harmer, whose initials appear below the bride's frock.

(photos included in the introduction)



1975
JS&S 1975
enamelling right to the rim
signed 'P.Swingler' or 'PS' (alongside bells at R)





1976
JS&S 1976
enamelling right to the rim
limited to **6**
lower: personalised '1929'



1978
enamelling right to the rim



1979

Queen Victoria

see also: Kings and Queens of England
both privately commissioned

1. 

G&N 925 (not assayed)
Queen Victoria 1819-1901

2. 

PS 1976 G&N 925 (not assayed)
Prince Albert and Queen Victoria
Queen Victoria 1837-1901
boxed pair
there is a patterned rim to the portraits
with rose

3. 

PS 1982
'Queen Victoria Prince Albert'
there is a patterned rim to the portraits
with roses

George Washington

These first three designs appeared for sale in the US thimble catalogues by Roz Belford – *The Sewing Corner,* spring 1978 – commissioned for her members, to commemorate the Bicentenary of Independence 1776-1976.

There are many versions of the 'Washington Crossing …' design over the years

see also: Presidents of America

1.



PS 1978

'Washington at Prayer Valley Forge/Christmas 1777 Remembered 1977'

upper R: the prototype offered by The Collectors Circle in 1978. The date on the verso is placed differently

limited to **25**

2.



JS&S 1973 1976 1977

'Washington Crossing the Delaware 1776'

based on the painting by Emanuel Leutze

signed 'P.Swingler' in white/'PS' on lower right next to scroll

limited to **25**
also offered for sale by Jean Shoup, Thimbles Only, winter 1984

offered as a special prize by The Thimble Guild in February 1995



3.







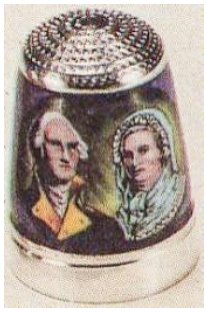
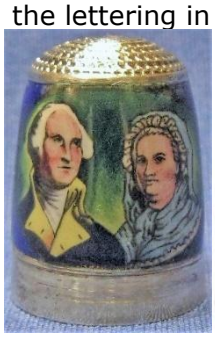

C: PS 1984



4.

tho the longer indentations are the same as the thimbles above, there is a white enamelled band with the lettering in cursive

5.





JS&S 1974 1976
'George and Martha Washington'
'Independence 4th July 1776'
(another not shown is for 1975 with JS&S hallmarks, marked 'Jerusalem Silver' in the apex with a rolled rim)
limited to **25**
signed 'PS' in the right leaf of the wreath

5a.




JS&S 1973 1976
'George and Martha Washington'
'Independence 4th July 1776'

missing buttons on R lapel



5b.

JS&S 1973

collar is erect – with larger figures than 1976 versions



6.

G&N 2005

'George Washington President 1789-97'

similar to the Presidents of America set. It has no navy blue rim which identifies that set

PRINS WILLEM III & PRINSES MARY II 1688-1988

commissioned by Kay Sullivan of *De Vingerhoed* in The Netherlands





PS 1988

'Prins Willem III & Prinses Mary II Nederland – Engeland 1688 1988'
lettered around royal blue enamelled band – blue enamelled medallion with the official emblem for the tercentenary (300 year) celebration of their marriage on verso
a double portrait in one roundel
with a sprig of leaves on each side of the portrait
see also: Kings & Queens - William III

Prins Willem Alexander and Prinses Maxima 2 Februari 2002

privately commissioned (Anne Jansen)



Dutch Royal wedding
applied silverwork sides' patterning

H.R.H. Prince William



1.

'To commemorate the birth of H.R.H Prince William of Wales June 21st 1982'
with his mother Princess Diana
applied silverwork sides' patterning



2.

commemorating *'The Royal Wedding of Prince William & Catherine 2011'*
lettering on blue enamelling
limited to **20**



3.

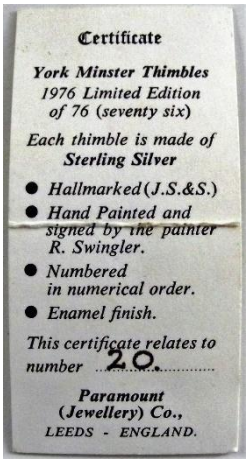
commemorating 'Prince William to Catherine The Royal Wedding'
lettering on white enamelled rim
'29th April 2011' on white and blue enamelled ribboning on verso
a double portrait in one roundel

YORK MINSTER 1976









JS&S 1976
enamelling right to the rim
lower R: a boxed example has accompanying certificate
from jeweller Paramount (Jewellery) Co, in Leeds
limited to **76**

The Young Bull / The Young Bull + Paulus Potter



PS



G&N



AJP 2003

Other Swingler handpainted items

boxes







G&Co Ld 1993
'Garrard & Co 112 Regent Street London' lettered on inside base
sterling box with enamelled lid
dimensions: 51×27.5×12 mm (the size of a large matchbox!!)
ascribed scene – **Birkhall** Aberdeenshire in Scotland (not named)
King Charles III's Scottish home at Balmoral

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This listing of Peter Swingler 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.

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