

Thimble Collectors Club Thimbles

Ibis Porcelain <--> Izawa Porcelain

Thimble Collectors Club

Bird Thimble



IBIS PORCELAIN - Portugal

Brightly feathered birds perched among the branches of a flowering fruit tree provide a delicate, decorative motif for this Parian porcelain thimble from Ibis of Portugal.

Located in the famous Aveiro region, the center of Portuguese porcelain-making since 1762, Ibis began manufacturing high quality, luxury porcelain wares in the 19th century. This well known firm has recently attracted widespread attention for its re-introduction of historic "Parian" porcelain. Very popular during the 1800's, the bisque-finished porcelain was named for its resemblance to the distinctive off-white marble fragments of the ancient "Parian Chronicle," discovered on the island of Paros in the Cyclades.

The vivid enamel colors, exquisite artistic design and beautiful Parian porcelain of the "Bird Thimble" exemplify the outstanding quality which has made Ibis one of Portugal's premier porcelain houses. This thimble is available exclusively from The Thimble Collectors Club.

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Floral Arrangement Thimble



IBIS PORCELAIN - Portugal

With its vivid enamel colors and hand-rendered detail, the "Floral Arrangement" pattern decorates the distinct Parian porcelain of this thimble brought to us by Portugal's Ibis Porcelain.

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Brilliantly finished with a hand-applied band of 22kt gold, the "Floral Arrangement" thimble exemplifies the outstanding quality which has made Ibis one of Portugal's premier porcelain houses. The Thimble Collectors Club is proud to offer this design exclusively to its members.

TS/088

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Pink Rose IBIS, Portugal

The delicate convolutions of a perfect, deep pink rose unfurl for our pleasure on this charmingly unusual thimble from Portugal. The rose illustrated is the beautiful, fragrant, semi-double 'Zéphirine Drouhin', a much-loved Bourbon rose with gracefully arching, thornless stems, which will climb to a height of about nine feet and bloom gloriously throughout summer and autumn.

The Ibis porcelain house is located in the Aveiro region of Portugal, south of Oporto, where kaolin – the type of clay essential for the making of porcelain – was found in 1761. The production of a strong, basic porcelain ware was begun there in the following year. At first used only for the more humdrum of domestic items, the porcelain produced in Aveiro gradually became more refined, until, with financial help from the Portuguese government, the region started to produce more luxurious items in the nineteenth century. Ibis, in the city of Aradas, has made a speciality of Parian porcelain – so called because its unglazed body has a particularly fine, translucent quality, comparable to that of the marble statues found on the ancient Greek island of Paros. Our thimble displays this to perfection.

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Kangaroo IMPRESS CERAMICS, Australia

Australia is a fascinating continent, with its wealth of unique wildlife and its startling landscape. The first settlers from Europe must have been astonished by the sight of the kangaroo, its long, powerful hindlegs taking it in swift bounding leaps across country, with its youngster, or 'joey', peeping out of its pouch. They surely wondered at the mocking cry of the kookaburra ringing from the trees and delighted at the flocks of brightly coloured budgerigars sweeping above their heads. And they must have sensed the magic of Ayers Rock, now on every tourist itinerary but over the centuries one of the most sacred sites of the aborigines, who named every feature of their ancient land in their ancestral songs.

Impress Ceramics is a small family studio which was originally based in Snowdonia, Wales. In 1987 the Townsend family emigrated to Phillip Island, Victoria, taking their skills and renown with them, and are now building on their reputation as manufacturers of specialist ceramic giftware. For this project they worked in collaboration with Colin Phillips, an artist who has made his name in the field of natural history painting. The result is an example of finest craftsmanship.



Teddy Bear Nursery

With the mark of IRONSTONE CHINA, England

The beloved furry companion of our childhood – a cheerful presence at play time, and a dependable comfort in quieter moments – is often the oldest inhabitant of the nursery. Other toys are banished or discarded, to be replaced by cricket bats, tennis rackets and the latest playground craze. But a teddy bear is often a cherished member of the family, lovingly kept for many years and passed on to the next generation. This charming and colourful thimble has an attractive repeated design of two little teddies – dressed as a boy and a girl – coming to life while their owners are elsewhere. Surmounted with an impressed daisy and encircled with fine gold bands, this is an appealing addition to any thimble collection.

Ironstone China was a durable white pottery patented by Charles James Mason in 1813, after the retirement of his illustrious father Miles Mason, a potter and dealer in porcelain and glass. The Mason company, of Fenton, just outside Stoke-on-Trent in the heart of the pottery country, was well known for its excellent hard-paste porcelain and bone china, which was decorated mainly in the Oriental manner.



Bouquet

A tribute to the ISLE OF WIGHT POTTERY STUDIO, England

THIS delightful floral design is similar to many antique wallpaper patterns. With its charming arrangement of flowers set against a delicate yellow and white striped background, one can imagine it as a fresh, light and lovely wall-covering for a young girl's bedroom – and how pleased she would have been to put this matching thimble on her polished dressing-table!

The thimble bears the stamp of the little-known Isle of Wight Pottery Studio, at Whippingham, just south-east of Cowes. It flourished from 1930 to 1940, under S. E. Saunders, whose initials appear in the monogram. The studio was situated not far from the gates of the beautiful Osborne House, which had been the rural retreat and 'little paradise' of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert. It is highly probable that the pottery studio produced charming little objects, such as thimbles, mugs, vases and plates, as gifts and souvenirs, to be eagerly snapped up by tourists visiting the area.

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Kanō Thimble

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源

IZAWA
JAPAN

IZAWA PORCELAIN - Japan

Centuries of Japanese tradition in the art of porcelain miniatures, as well as in the Zen tradition of the tea ceremony, are represented in this sumptuously designed, gold-tipped thimble from the house of Izawa. Members of Japan's illustrious Izawa family have been porcelain-makers and tea masters for generations. Their knowledge and understanding of traditional Japanese art continues in the exquisitely designed and delicately detailed porcelain wares produced under the guidance of Takeshi Izawa, the firm's current president.

The decorative design for this thimble was inspired by the historic "Kanō" school of painting — a prominent group of decorative artists during the Edo period, the two and a half centuries prior to 1868, when Japan remained closed from Western influence. Famous for their brilliant colors and lavish use of gold, the Kanō artists first became known for decorating the walls and ceilings of the massive, fortified castles of the Tokugawa shōguns (warlords.)