

Olympic Games thimbles 1896-2016

There have been commemorative or souvenir thimbles created for most of the modern Olympic Games. These are mainly made for the Summer Games, held every four years (where possible) since 1896. There are fewer produced for the Winter Games. Even fewer for the Paralympic Games.

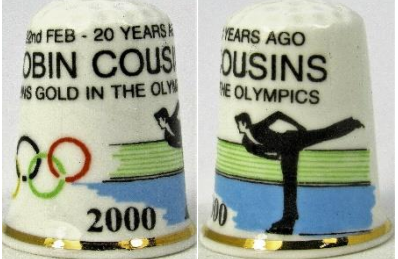
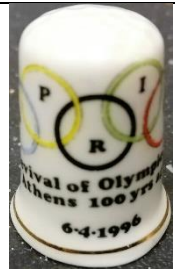
Thimbles commemorating the Invictus Games and the Commonwealth Games are outside the scope of this topic.

The topic ends with 2016: no thimbles for the Olympic Games have been made since then. That date also coincides with the demise of The Thimble Guild in 2018?

We can track the introduction of new sports as they were introduced from 1896 onwards, where athletics titles were then the only sports competed for.

Olympic Games

these thimbles don't pertain to any specific Games. If you know differently, I would love to hear please

 <u>Birchcroft</u> 'Bob Beamon created Olympic long jump record 8-9 ms.' commemorating 30th anniversary 18-10-98	 <u>Birchcroft</u> Olympic flag	
 <u>Bronte</u> 'Robin Cousins 20 years gold medal in the Olympics 1980-2000' skating with Olympic rings	 <u>Caverswall</u> athletics Union Jack with Olympic rings and laurel wreath	 <u>Lindner</u> 1996 '100 Jahre Olympische Spiele'
 <u>Paragon</u> from Hallmarks of the world set of 50	 'To commemorate the centenary of modern Olympic Games 1896-1996'	 Paris 'survival of Olympics 100 yrs' 6-4-1996



'United States Olympic Swimming Center
Colorado Springs'



'United States Olympic Training Center
San Diego'



'24 years ago
Jane Torvill and Christopher Dean
Olympic gold medallists
14 February 1984'



SUMMER GAMES

1896 Athens Greece



Settmacher
brass with paper inset
Parthenon

1908 London UK



Settmacher
brass with paper inset
hurdler

1912 Stockholm Sweden



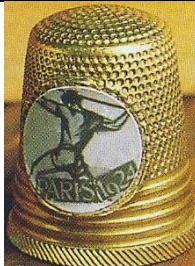
Settmacher
brass with paper inset

1920 Antwerp Belgium



Settmacher
brass with paper inset
discus thrower

1924 Paris France



Settmacher
brass with paper inset
javelin thrower

1936 Berlin Germany



Settmacher
silverplated with anodised band
'Germany Berlin 1936'



Settmacher
silverplated in colour
'Germany Berlin 1936'

1948 London UK



Settmacher

brass with paper inset

woman discus thrower superimposed over Big Ben and Houses of Parliament

1960 Rome Italy



Settmacher

brass with paper inset and stone top
she wolf with Romulus and Remus

1976 Montreal Canada



Hagop Israel
sterling silver

Olympic rings, Nadia Comaneci gymnast and basketball players, with Canadian maple leaf on apex



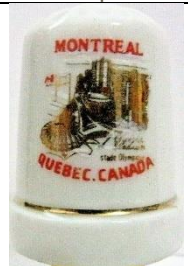
enamelled with brass
apex
handpainted maple leaf



enamelled with brass apex
handpainted Olympic rings and
clock



Olympic stadium on
metal badge



'Montreal Quebec,
Canada stade Olympic'



enamelled with brass apex
handpainted Olympic rings

1980 Moscow Russia

 <u>Belmar Editions</u> Olympic rings and Kremlin	 <u>Hollohaza Hungary</u> boxing	 <u>Hollohaza Hungary</u> sailing
 <u>Hollohaza Hungary</u> table tennis	 <u>Mount Royal</u> torch bearer	 <u>Thimble Collectors Society</u> Afghanistan invaded-games boycotted by U.S. and others

1984 Los Angeles USA

this is the first time the Games number was included in the thimble design (XXIII)

 A white ceramic thimble with a gold band at the base. It features the Olympic rings logo and the text "1984 OLYMPIC GAMES LOS ANGELES USA".	 Three white ceramic thimbles with gold bands. The first shows a female athlete running. The second says "OLYMPIAD '84" with a small illustration. The third features the Union Jack and Olympic rings.	 A white ceramic thimble with a gold band. It features the Union Jack, Olympic rings, and the text "GAMES OF THE XXIIIrd OLYMPIAD LOS ANGELES 1984".
<u>Avalon</u> gold Olympic rings	<u>Caverswall</u> athletes and Union Jack	<u>Fenton</u> Union Jack and Olympic rings
 A white ceramic thimble with a gold band. It features the Union Jack, Olympic rings, and the text "XXIII OLYMPIAD 1984 LOS ANGELES".	 Two gold-colored ceramic thimbles. The first shows a hurdler. The second features the Union Jack, a torch, and the text "LOS ANGELES OLYMPIAD 1984".	 Two white ceramic thimbles with gold bands. The first features the Union Jack and Olympic rings. The second features a laurel wreath and the text "LOS ANGELES 1984".
<u>Finsbury</u> Union Jack and Olympic rings	<u>Siegfried Flitsch</u> hurdling with Union Jack and US flag	<u>Paragon</u> Union Jack and Olympic rings
 A white ceramic thimble with a gold band. It features a cartoon mascot wearing a red and white striped shirt and a blue cap with the Olympic rings.	 A white ceramic thimble with a gold band. It features the text "Games of the XXIIIrd Olympiad Los Angeles 1984" and "© 1984 L.A.O.C.C.".	 A white ceramic thimble with a gold band. It features the text "1984 Los Angeles Olympic Games Collector's Thimble from PAPEL Official licensee".
<u>Papel</u> mascot		 A white ceramic thimble with a gold band. It features the Union Jack, Olympic rings, and the text "GAMES OF THE XXIIIrd OLYMPIAD LOS ANGELES 1984".
		<u>St George</u> Union Jack and Olympic rings



Sutherland
various sports in Olympic rings with Union Jack
designer: Anthony Jackson



Sutherland
various sports in Olympic rings with Union Jack
blue and clear Swarovski crystals



Thimble Cocctors Society
boycotted by Russia and the Warswa Pact
countiies who held "alternative" games



Wedgwood
torch bearer



cycling



'Go America'



Japan
Games' Sam mascot



pewter
torch bearers



skating



soccer



weighthlifting

1988 Seoul South Korea

 Korea athletics	 Woodsetton Olympic rings	 mascot b&w photo
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1992 Barcelona Spain

 Olympic rings	 'Chris Boardman wins a gold medal' British cyclist	 pewter discus – javelin - athletics
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1996 Atlanta USA

 Fort Olympic flame	 Pyramid Pottery Olympic rings and US flag
 boxed set of six	
 set advertising Coca Cola which comes from Atlanta	 boxed set of twelve

2000 Sydney Australia



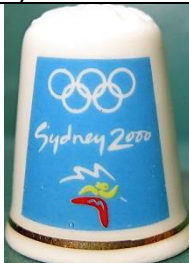
Thimble Collectors Society

'The prestigious Olympic Games for the year 2000 awarded to Sydney, Australia Sept. 1993'



Pan Arts

Olympics colours outline the Sydney Opera House



The Thimble Guild

Sydney Games symbol with Olympic rings



2004 Athens Greece



Stephen Frost
discus



The Thimble Guild
laurel wreath and Olympic rings

2008 Beijing China

thimbles feature British medalists



Bryn Weightman of Gwahaniaeth Crafts
cyclist



Bryn Weightman of Gwahaniaeth Crafts
kayaker



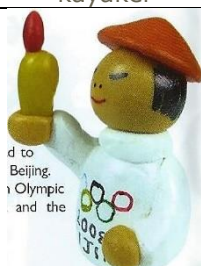
Bryn Weightman of Gwahaniaeth Crafts
rower



Bryn Weightman of Gwahaniaeth Crafts
sailor



Bryn Weightman of Gwahaniaeth Crafts
swimmer



Bryn Weightman of Gwahaniaeth Crafts
torch bearer



The Thimble Guild
Britain's medal tally



The Thimble Guild
centenary of London Games

			
<u>The Thimble Guild</u> Chris Hoy Britain's gold medalist cyclist	<u>The Thimble Guild</u> Christine Ohuruogu Britain's gold medalist athlete	<u>The Thimble Guild</u> Michael Phelps America's swimmer wins eight gold medals	<u>The Thimble Guild</u> Rebecca Adlington Britain's gold medalist swimmer
			
<u>The Thimble Guild</u> Tom Ainslie Britain's gold medalist dinghy sailing	<u>The Thimble Guild</u> Olympic rings		

2012 London UK

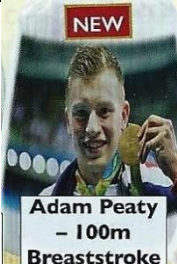
thimbles feature British medalists

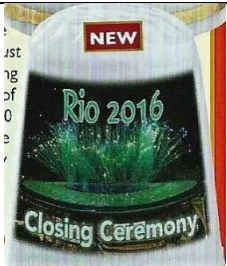
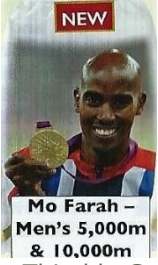
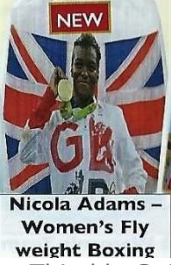
			
<u>Birchcroft</u> London Games symbol	<u>The Thimble Guild</u> MMXII with stadium	<u>The Thimble Guild</u>	<u>The Thimble Guild</u> flag
			
<u>The Thimble Guild</u> commemorating 1948 London Olympics	<u>The Thimble Guild</u> Andy Murray gold medalist	<u>The Thimble Guild</u> Jennifer Ennis gold medalist	<u>The Thimble Guild</u> Mo Farah gold medalist
			
<u>The Thimble Guild</u> Sir Chris Hoy gold medalist	<u>The Thimble Guild</u> The phoenix rises	<u>The Thimble Guild</u> 'Three cheers for Great Britain'	<u>The Thimble Guild</u> torch bearers

			
<u>The Thimble Guild</u> with British icons – date in flag colours	<u>The Thimble Guild</u>	<u>The Thimble Guild</u> with British icons – date in flag colours	<u>Woodsetton</u> Union Jack
			
British Olympic Appeal	The Mall	London Games symbol	
			
discus thrower with icons of London			

2016 Rio de Janeiro Brazil

most thimbles feature British medalists

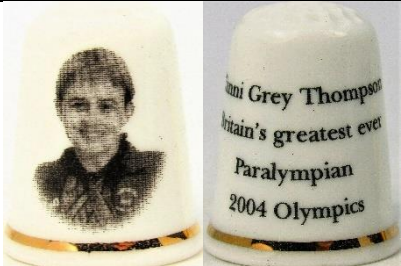
 <u>Birchcroft</u>			
 Adam Peaty – 100m Breaststroke <u>The Thimble Guild</u> Adam Peaty 100m breaststroke	 Alistair Brownlee – Triathlon <u>The Thimble Guild</u> Alistair Brownlee triathlon	 <u>The Thimble Guild</u> Andy Murray tennis	 Charlotte Dujardin – Dressage <u>The Thimble Guild</u> Charlotte Dujardin dressage equestrian

 Clark & Mills – The Thimble Guild Clark and Mills 470 sailing	 The Thimble Guild closing ceremony	 Giles Scott – Finn Sailing The Thimble Guild Giles Scott finn sailing	 Glover/Stanning – The Thimble Guild Glover and Stanning pairs rowing
 Jade Jones – Taekwondo The Thimble Guild Jude Jones taekwondo	 Jason Kenny – Cycling Sprint The Thimble Guild Jason Kenny cycling sprint and keirin	 Joseph Clarke – Kayak Slalom The Thimble Guild Jason Clarke kayak slalom	 The Thimble Guild Jess Ennis-Hall heptathlon – silver medal
 Justin Rose – Individual Golf The Thimble Guild Justin Rose golf	 Laugher/Mears – The Thimble Guild Laugher and Mears 3m synchronised springboard	 Laura Trott – Cycling The Thimble Guild Laura Trott cycling	 Liam Heath – Canoe Sprint The Thimble Guild Liam Heath canoe sprint
 The Thimble Guild Max Whitlock gymnast	 The Thimble Guild men's eight rowing	 Men's Four – men's four rowing	 Men's Team Sprint men's team sprint cycling
 Mo Farah – Men's 5,000m & 10,000m The Thimble Guild Mo Farah 5000m and 10,000m	 Nicola Adams – Women's Fly weight Boxing The Thimble Guild Nicola Adams fly weight boxing	 Nick Skelton – Equestrian The Thimble Guild Nick Skelton equestrian	 The Thimble Guild opening ceremony

 Women's Hockey The Thimble Guild women's hockey team	 Women's Team Pursuit - Cycling The Thimble Guild women's team pursuit cycling	 Rio 2016 The Thimble Guild	 The Rio Games 2016 The Thimble Guild
			

PARALYMPIC GAMES

2004 Athens Greece

 'Panni Grey Thompson' Britain's greatest ever paralympian'

2008 Beijing China

 'Sarah Storey' gold medal cyclist

2012 London UK

thimbles feature British medalists

 The Thimble Guild Ellie Simmonds swimming

2016 Rio de Janeiro Brazil



The Thimble Guild
'Team GB'

WINTER GAMES

1980 Lake Placid USA



'Athlete's village'
Olympic flame



ski ramps



Germany 925 silver



'XIIIth Olympics'
'Only a thimble full'



Olympic rings and
snowflake



skier



'U S A'
snowflake



Olympic rings
wood

1984 Sarajevo Yugoslavia



Caverswall
'ice-dancing Olympic & World champions
Torvill & Dean'



St George
Torvill and Dean



Sutherland/Scotland Direct
'Torvill & Dean gold medal'
with Union Jack and English roses



Sutherland
skier with Union Jack and Olympic rings
R: with Swarovski crystal in apex



Torvill Dean



'Jayne Torvill and Christopher Dean
World ice skating champions 1981/82/83/84
Olympic Games medallists'

1988 Calgary Canada



'Driemaal goud voor Yvonne van Gennip'
snowflake and Olympic rings
b&w photo

1992 Albertville France



Frika
Olympic rings and flame
'Goud voor Bart Veldkamp'

1994 Lillehammer Norway



1998 Calgary Canada



Woodsetton
'Eddie the eagle' and peep has Eddie's picture

2002 Salt Lake City USA



Paralympic flame and rings
blue or orange stones embedded in rim



2006 Turin Italy



Bryn Weightman of Gwahaniaeth Crafts
skier



The Thimble Guild
'Torino 2006' Olympic rings

2014 Sochi Russia

thimbles feature British medalists

 The Thimble Guild women's curling - bronze medal	 The Thimble Guild men's curling - silver medal	 The Thimble Guild L: Jane Etherington – bronze medal snowboarding
 The Thimble Guild John Curry OBE figure-skating	 The Thimble Guild Lizzy Yarnold skeleton	 The Thimble Guild L: Kelly Gallagher skiing Super-G

References

Barbara Acchino *A taste of New York – the Winter Olympics* [TCI Bulletin](#) winter 2015
Nicola Kissane *Olympic souvenirs* [Snippets](#) October 2022

Contributors

Eva B | Pawel Brzyski

This listing of Olympic Games 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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