

Morioti of Norwich wooden thimbles 1985-1990

Maurice A Rhodes is name of the craftsman in Norwich in England who made the Moriotti inlaid wooden thimbles.

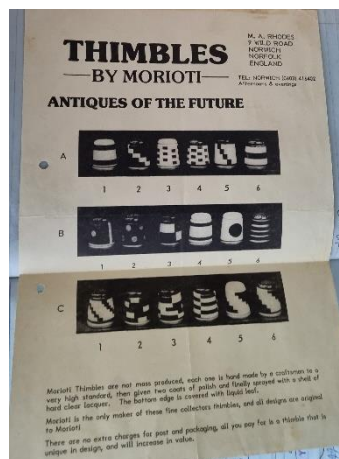
A maximum of 50 wooden pieces were glued together, tho many of his thimbles had far fewer pieces – a painstaking process. This process is also recognised as stickware but these designs were uniquely those of Moriotti.

The pieces were cut, shaped and glued together, a process which took four days. Two coats of polish were then applied and a final coating of lacquer. The rim was covered with gold leaf.

Look inside and the stickware design is the same inside as the outer.



I bought my first Moriotti thimble directly from Rhodes in October 1985 and this is the accompanying leaflet – in black and white but the designs can clearly be seen. There are 18 designs and this was his entire output. The leaflet described them as antiques of the future.



Two types of wood were used: mahogany (dark) and sycamore (pale) and this created a pleasing chequerboard design. I have only found one reference to any other timber.

The thimbles are not marked in any way: neither a signature nor the type of wood used.

The apex is indented. The top varies from being quite bulbous tho flat, to a non-bulbous version.

Bridget McConnell (TSL) describes his thimbles as modern Tunbridge ware stick ware.

In their typical way, The Thimble Guild referred to Moriotti as Morioto for the three thimble designs they offered for sale.

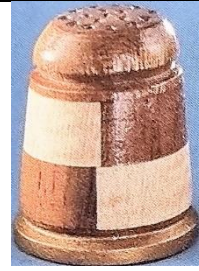
mahogany with sycamore inlay



TO winter 1985



PJW 85-86



PJW 85-86



PJW 85-86



two at R: non-bulbous apex
limited to **450**
TTG April 1990



PJW 85-86



PJW 85-86



b&w leaflet 1985



b&w leaflet 1985



b&w leaflet 1985



b&w leaflet 1985



b&w leaflet 1985



b&w leaflet 1985



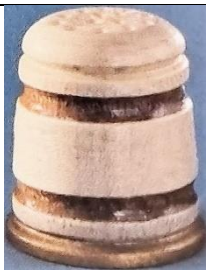
TSL winter 2008



TSL winter 2008



sycamore with mahogany inlay



PJW 85-86



PJW 85-86



b&w leaflet 1985



b&w leaflet 1985



KS winter 1985



TO July 1987



KS July 1987



limited to **500**
TTG December 1989



b&w leaflet 1985

sycamore with wenge inlay



TTG February 1990

Contributors

Eva B | Andrea Griffiths | Diane Poesk

This listing of Moriotti of Norwich wooden 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.

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December 2024**