

# Bing & Grondahl porcelain thimbles

Copenhagen Denmark

The most well-known thimbles from this Danish porcelain manufacturer, the second oldest in Denmark, are the blue Christmas or annual thimbles series, issued from 1978-1988. These were inspired by their Christmas plates, which were produced in 1895 and are still in production today, and their Christmas bells. The year lettered is in gold and portray fir branches or other seasonal trees and flowers, which completes each thimble design. These were the first thimbles produced [see exception below] by Bing & Grondahl.

John von Hoelle in his thimble encyclopedia, described B&G as "... famous for their blue underglaze".

The company was formed in 1853 when brothers Meyer and Jacob Bing joined Frederik Grondahl. The company was in the hands of Bing's descendants.

In 1987 Bing & Grondahl merged with the Royal Porcelain Factory under the name Royal Copenhagen.

The non-Christmas thimbles are not named inside the thimbles, but if you know the name B&G gave them, please share.

One of the notable differences from most other porcelain thimbles, is that some of the B&G thimbles are made to be worn as jewellery - ie they have a sturdy gilt chain affixed to the apex. The only other that has this feature that I am aware of, is Noritake's thimbles.

The Zodiac set is rarer and was probably made in small quantities?

The Thimble Collectors Club [TCC] issued three B&G thimbles for their members as well as one design in their The Hallmarked Thimbles of the World's Great Porcelain Houses set [1985].



B&G backstamp



B&G thimble box

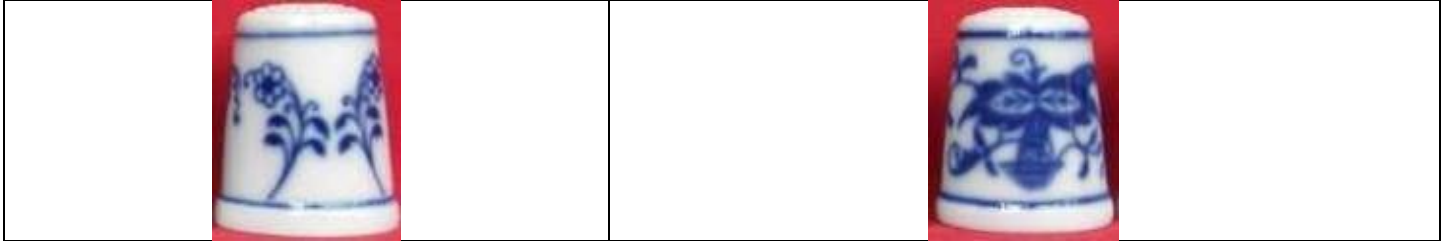


B&G thimble display box

# Christmas or Annual thimbles

 <p><b>Christmas 1978</b></p>	 <p><b>Christmas 1979</b></p>	 <p><b>Christmas 1980</b></p>
 <p><b>Christmas 1981</b></p>	 <p><b>Christmas 1982</b></p>	 <p><b>Christmas 1983</b></p>
 <p><b>Christmas 1984</b></p>	 <p><b>Christmas 1985</b></p>	 <p><b>Christmas 1986</b></p>
 <p><b>Christmas 1987</b></p>	 <p><b>Christmas 1988</b></p>	
 <p>example of Christmas thimble with chain</p>	 <p>example of Christmas design with no date</p>	

## Traditional blue patterns



### **Blue Traditional**

some versions have no gold rim  
some have a blue trim instead of gold  
issued in 1977



### **Empire / Imperial**

some versions have no gold trim  
some have a blue trim instead of gold  
issued in 1977



TCC's **Butterfly**  
with blue trim

# Signs of the zodiac



**Aquarius**



**Pisces**



**Aries**



**Taurus**



**Gemini**



**Cancer**



**Leo**



**Virgo**



**Libra**



**Scorpio**



**Sagittarius**



**Capricorn**

## Others



TCC's **Classic Selection**



TCC's **The Little Mermaid**  
from 1985



**fruit**



TCC's **Hallmarked thimbles**  
from set of 50 1985



**Red Rose**

R: version with chain



**Seagull**

with/without chain

this is B&G's signature design first used in 1892 on their porcelain ware

R: version with chain



**violet**



**Tutankahmen**

handpainted gold on cobalt  
limited to 5000

## **Contributors**

Doreen Lilley-Pricklepin | Wolf-Dieter Scholz | Norma Shattock | Joanna Waciorski-Sew Many Bits

This listing of Bing & Grondahl 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](mailto:thimbleselect@bigpond.com) TO SHARE YOUR KNOWLEDGE

**© Sue Gowan  
February 2010**