

Pewter thimble makers of the world with their marks

When I created the topic Marks on British silver thimbles, in 2002 I never dreamt it would be the most visited section in my Learn More About ... Thimbles topics. I am hoping to fill a gap that has long existed in creating a similar database for pewter marks – this time from around the world. Maybe it too can become the source for thimble marks on pewter?

Pewter thimbles began to appear for the thimble collectables market – ie thimbles not made to sew with – in the late 1970s. That and the following decade were the heyday for the makers and collectors of this medium. Many were handpainted, had figures atop (also known as toppers). Now we can look back on 100,000s of pewter thimbles!

According to Edwin Holmes, pewter is an alloy of tin (93.6%) lead, copper and antimony is it known as poor man's silver. Modern pewter thimbles are lead-free. Pewter is a soft malleable medium ideal for sculpting in fine detail, with the sculptor or designer limited only by his imagination and much it is cheaper than silver. Pewter thimbles are mostly too heavy to be used for sewing.

Being a darker medium than silver, pewter thimble marks are more difficult to photograph. The great majority of pewter thimbles are unmarked. If we are lucky, the thimble has remained with its presentation box, where the maker's marks may be gleaned.

I have included all names that have come to my attention thru selling thimbles of every variety over the last 35 years and those mentioned in thimble catalogues from 1970. I am interested to hear from you please if your country's pewter makers don't appear here.

Looking back thru the thimble catalogues of the 1970s and 80s, confusion may arise as the sellers were loath to reveal the thimble makers' names for fear of competition. Sometimes they used just the sculptor's name (ie John Ball) and not the firm for whom he worked (McMillan & Wife). By creating this database, we may be able to link one or more makers and sculptors or designers from one stable together?

I have concentrated on listing makers of thimbles wholly made of pewter. Sterling Classic, who have created many pewter pieces for placement on top of their Fine bone china thimbles, are not included here.

Nor will you find makers of wooden thimbles with pewter items affixed, nor resin, nor glass.

Swarovski crystals may be included as part of the design as long as pewter is primary.

Do you know who created the fire-hydrant thimbles with enamel discs affixed?

As in the previous topic I created, Pewter character head thimbles, I noticed a far greater use of the copyright symbol © on the pewter thimbles listed. This mark never occurs on sterling silver thimbles; it is infrequently found on china thimbles. I have recorded it when I found a copyright mark on pewter thimbles.

I have noticed many identical pewter thimbles – from differing manufacturers. This database hopes to link these sculptors thru their various paths. Warwick Model's Stephen Frost carried the moulds with him from McMillan & Wife (such a name from the early 80s wouldn't be used today?) when they closed. Many thimbles are articulated, some hinged, or having moving parts.

I was intrigued to find an extra British mark on pewter thimbles that I'd never noticed before: **ABPC** for the Association of British Pewter Craftsmen.



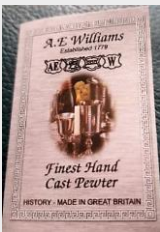






It is not a maker's mark. The mark may accompany a maker's mark.

I have included this mark in the alphabetical listing and when it has been used.

One example of each thimble is included, with a purely descriptive title. As I launch this topic, there are **125** makers represented.

Marks

arranged by first letter of name

thimble	maker	marks	dates found	Notes with probable dates
 The Shrewsbury quest	<u>A E Williams (AEW)</u> 6 Well Lane Digbeth Birmingham UK www.aewilliamspewter.com	 		on verso oldest family-run pewterers 1779- 
 knight	<u>Academy Pewter</u> 112 Blakedown Road Halesowen West Midlands UK			unmarked Academy took over making thimbles from Felix Motel of Bath when he retired in 2002
 iris - whale	<u>Admiral Z</u> Hawaii USA	A S  		walrus tooth scrimshaw set into apex ©
	<u>Association of British Pewter Craftsmen (ABPC)</u> UK	 (BPC inside A)	founded in 1970	on verso often an additional group mark <u>Pewter Made in England</u> seahorse trademark





















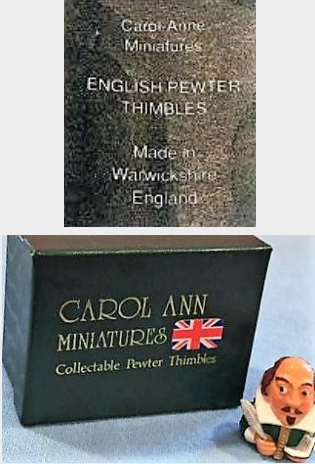
Philadelphia Thimble Society

Amish Kraft Company
USA

2010

named on box only

see Heirloom Editions	<u>Antiquities of the Holy Land</u> Jerusalem Israel			
	<u>Avebury Pewter</u> UK			
 women's faces	<u>Battersea Ltd</u> Colorado USA		1970 1978	named on underside of rim 1970s ©
	<u>Bernard G Butler (BGB)</u> North Wales UK			
 Celtic dog 2008	<u>Boulder Bay Thimbles</u> USA (Wanda Ralston)			
 Cleopatra	<u>Brieth Designs</u> Stratford on Avon UK (Anne Wareham)	-		unmarked handpainted articulated figures see also Minnie Maria Ltd

	<u>British Barbican Crafts</u> UK			handpainted articulated
 <u>Just a Thimble Full</u>	<u>British Nobleman Pewterware</u> Sheffield UK			<u>Made by Craftsman ...</u>
 Mr Pickwick	<u>BS5140</u> UK (B S Sills)			BS5140 is the British Standard for pewter ©
 American bison	<u>Carl Wagner</u> Colorado USA		1978	bronzed pewter
 hippo	<u>Carol Ann Miniatures</u> Isle of Portland UK			named on box handpainted figures many are identical to those of Warwick Models some of their boxes are lettered <u>Made in Warwickshire</u> so probably made by Warwick Models

	<u>Cartier</u> UK			Just a Thimble Full
 owl	<u>CAT Designs Fine Pewter</u> Grove City Ohio USA	 with an imprint of a cat in profile	1986	©
 Cross of St John	<u>Celtic Art</u> Scotland (Andy Hynd)		1983	plated in rhodium Andy is a silversmith, who also works in pewter
 tea table	<u>Cheryl Harness (CCH)</u> Missouri USA			1990s heavy in weight 
 King Arthur's castle	<u>Chris Kenny</u> UK			gilt pewter 1980s



Peter Pan

Colin Tyler
Worcestershire
UK
(Tyler Castings)
www.thimblegarden.co.uk
(painter Emily Rice)



includes stacking and nesting thimbles
set of four Kelly Gang thimbles thru
Scissorman, Australia
1980s



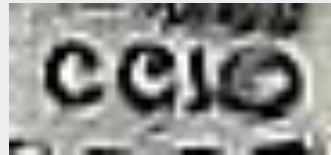
see also: Mary Tyler



Raggedy Andy_Ann

Comstock
USA

CCI



part-painted
Swarovski crystals



Wizard of Oz

Comstock Creations
Comstock Pewter
Durango
Colorado
USA



1998

see also **Gallo**
©



doctor with patient

Curtis
USA



1984

lettered around rim of apex
Norman Rockwell series



unicorn

Cuterl Pewter



© 1985























Spain


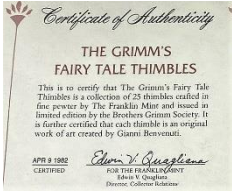










D&L



lettered on apex
large size

	<u>Danbury Mint</u> USA			some are articulated
	<u>Deborah Hulls</u> UK			
	<u>Disney</u> USA			made by Fort
	<u>Donohue Enterprises (DE)</u> Denver Colorado USA (designer: Paula Fried)(PF) her signature appears within the design		1987 1990	lettered on underside of rim some part-painted © many of their thimbles have a single ring of deep indents on the outer apex
	<u>Downs</u> USA		1984	
	<u>Earthern</u> (sic) <u>Ware</u> Cornwall UK			aided in set-up by Prince of Wales Trust see also PG Enterprises early 1990s

 <p>Mother so dear</p>	<p><u>Enesco</u> USA</p>		1981	some handpainted
 <p>Green finch</p>	<p><u>Exquisite Creations</u> Shirley Solihull UK</p>			<p>lettered in apex © see also W.A.P.W</p>
 <p>Jeremy Fisher</p>	<p><u>Frederick Warne & Co</u> UK</p>	<p>FW&Co</p>		holder of Beatrix Potter creations' licence enamelling, not a maker just a © mark
 <p>mermaid</p>	<p><u>Fellowship Foundry</u> Oaklands California USA</p>	 	1991 1992	<p>lettered above rim on verso some handapinted some Swarovski crystals</p>
 <p>Alaska</p>	<p><u>Fort Inc</u> East Providence Rhode Island USA (D Jacobs)</p>			<p>the most prolific US pewter thimble manufacturer 1983 "Little Farmers" series ©</p>
  <p>embroidered rose <u>I am thimble minded</u></p>	<p><u>Framework Miniatures Ltd</u> Birmingham UK (Elizabeth R Anderson) Bromley, Kent</p>			<p>unmarked kit with space affixed to fit embroideries in loket some examples have dried flowers in frame others created in pewter mid 1990s</p>







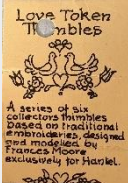






 <p>The peasant's wise daughter</p>	<p><u>Franklin Mint</u> near Philadelphia USA (designer Gianni Benvenuti)</p>			<p>includes Grimm's fairy tales set of 24 1982</p>
 <p>kiss me</p>	<p><u>G Martin</u> USA</p>		<p>1983</p>	<p>before the amalgamation as G&J Martin</p>
 <p>tortoise</p>	<p><u>G&J Martin</u> USA</p>		<p>1985 1986 1988</p>	<p>inside rim some articulated</p>
 <p>fish</p>	<p><u>Gallo</u> USA (modellers: EV for E Vincent D Sams SDK for Sheryl Keith Stella)</p>		<p>1983 1984 1986 1987 1989</p>	<p>see also Comstock ©  SDK </p>
 <p>puppy</p>	<p><u>Ganz</u> Taiwan</p>			<p>some handpainted</p>















teardrops flower










Gill Bates
Dudley
West Midlands
UK

see also Woodsetton

 <p>teepee</p>	<p><u>Grad Neeleo (?)</u> USA</p>	 <p>6646</p>		
 <p>The White Rabbit</p>	<p><u>Hallmark Cards</u> Kansas USA</p>		<p>1995 1996 1997 1998</p>	<p>handpainted figures includes Alice in Wonderland set ©</p>
 <p>horn of plenty embroidery stitches</p>	<p><u>Hantel</u> UK (Frances Moore)</p>	 		<p><u>Love Token Thimbles</u> embroidery stitch designs and ABPC mark © were Frances Moore and Frances Wilson the same person – one being a married name?</p>
 <p>teddy bear <u>Toys</u></p>	<p><u>Hantel Toys</u> Inverness UK (Frances Wilson)</p>			<p>specialises in toys atop thimbles; articulated figures atop are enamelled and are separate entities 1980s</p>
 <p>replica from Roman period</p>	<p><u>Heirloom Editions Ltd (HE)</u> USA (founded by Barbara Ringer 1978)</p>	<p>HE</p>  		<p>lettered inside rim includes a series of reproduction antiquities thimbles</p>  

	UK	HM 		
 the Eskimo	<u>Ian Parry</u> Worcestershire <i>then:</i> Coventry UK			early 1980s includes 'The Thimbleys' shaped characters later his thimbles were of wood with pewter affixed to sides
		JJo 		lettered above rim on verso some handpainted
 Celtic design	<u>J.M. Crafts</u> Wales UK			1990s
 Virgo zodiac sign	<u>Keith Rowlinson</u> UK			includes a set of zodiac thimbles 1990s
 field mice		LAP		
 rabbits	UK	LM 		may be marked <u>Pewter Made in England</u> on verso © and ABLP group mark

 <p>Zodiac-Gemini</p>	<p><u>Laughing Monarch Products Ltd</u> (LMP) St Just Penzance Cornwall UK</p>			<p>may be marked <u>Pewter Made in England</u> on verso and ABLP group mark there is a crown above the maker's name 1970s ©  <u>Pewter Treasures Laughing Monarch Products Ltd British Made</u></p>
		LWD		
 <p>US constitution</p>	<p><u>Malcolm Jones</u> USA</p>			
 <p>koala</p>	<p><u>Marylyn Verstraeten</u> Melbourne Australia</p>			unmarked
 <p>President Ronald Reagan</p>	<p><u>Mark Models Ltd</u> Birmingham UK (Trevor Power) (TP)</p>		1984 1989	
 <p>Dandelion elf</p>	<p><u>Maureen & Edward Story Jones</u> Berriew Welshpool Powys Wales (Silver Scenes Ltd)</p>		1994	<p>includes flower fairies set silver-plated pewter</p>  

 <p>poppy</p>	<p><u>McMillan & Wife</u> UK (Robin & Jill McMillan) (Thimbles Unlimited) sculptors/modellers: John Ball; Stephen Frost; Maxine Sissons (of Worcestershire); hp: DH - DWD - JC - MH Linda - SJF</p>	<p>MW</p>  	<p>1979-1981</p>	<p>lettered inside rim from 1981 some are handpainted Maxine's includes 'Fingerhoots' a series of owls first British pewter thimbles to have moving parts</p> 
 <p>cat</p>	<p><u>Michel Laude Créations</u> Minerve France</p>	 		<p>cursive lettering above rim</p>  <p>this mark on the card appears on the thimbles but too difficult to capture</p>
 <p>The cow jumped over the moon</p>	<p><u>Minnie Maria Co</u> Stratford on Avon UK</p>			<p>handpainted figures see also Brieth Designs 1980s-1990s</p>











rocking horse

Moorland Miniatures
Devon
UK
(Andrew Copp)



unmarked
mostly with articulated limbs
1990s – 2000s
much larger than average
mainly depicting nursery rhymes



 <p>cart horse</p>	<p><u>Moorland Pewter</u> UK</p>			<p>unmarked 1990s</p>
 <p>ships bound for Australia</p>	<p>(Trevor Power) Birmingham UK</p>	<p>M.S.I. © M.S.I. 1987</p> 	<p>1987</p>	<p>base mark there is additional TP mark ©</p>
 <p>shamrock</p>	<p><u>Mullingar Pewter</u> Ireland</p>			
 <p>bear</p>	<p><u>Nathan Vandermee</u> Colorado USA</p>			<p>late 1990s</p>
 <p><u>Just a Thimbleful</u></p>	<p><u>Newburyport Pewter Towle</u></p>			<p>base mark</p>



Desert Shield-Desert Storm









Nicholas C Gish
New Jersey
USA













1981
died 2006

signature in cursive; some are articulated;
some have star indents or textures on the
apex
©
merry-go-round thimbles around an inner
thimble



 collie	<u>Nugaris Arts Works</u> Denver Colorado USA		1979	name above outer rim bronzed ©
 clubs	<u>Olivia</u> (Jacqui & David Parker) Birmingham UK			they mainly work in brass handpainted 1990s See also Learn: Jacqui and David Parker topic
 camel	<u>Oporto</u> USA			shapes are like Fort
 sulphur-crested cockatoo	<u>Oz Pewter</u> Logan Queensland Australia (Swagman Pottery)		1998-	no maker's marks large in size ©
 surfing koala	<u>Pan-Arts</u> Sydney Australia (Ray)			lettered inside rim ©

	<u>Peregrine Pewter</u> West Glamorgan UK			
	<u>Perfection Pewter</u>			
	<u>Pewter by Poole</u> UK			base mark
	<u>Pewtermill Crafts</u> Paddockholme North Kilbirnie Scotland UK www.pewtermill.co.uk			
	<u>PG Enterprises</u> Yorkshire UK (Thimbles and Things)	 		marked in apex see also Earthen Ware
	<u>Philip D.A. & Brenda Campbell</u> Tobermory Isle of Mull Scotland UK			handpainted gold-plated pewter 1980s



church – forge – post office

Pinder Bros
Sheffield



2010-2013

miniature village buildings atop pewter thimbles – trees in relief around thimble – some painted some are left plain
made thimblefuls and ABPC mark

 <p>frog</p>	<u>Platypus Pewter</u> Sylvan Melbourne Australia (Glenice Hope)			unmarked
 <p>bride</p>	<u>Plymouth</u> Stable House Gallery Devon UK			
 <p>There was an old woman who lived in a shoe</p>	<u>Pugwash</u> Nova Scotia Canada			1990s
 <p>Sputnik – space series</p>	USA	PW 	1981	lettered on lip of rim
 <p>"thimble" in runes</p>	<u>Quayside Enterprises</u> Cumbria UK			



Smokey Bear prevents forest fires

Quinn's Collectibles
USA



1982

lettered inside rim



sand dollar

Rawcliffe
USA



lettered inside rim
set of 12 ascribed to Rawcliffe: in italics
©



'International Design Collector's Thimbles 3 Piece Pewter Finish Thimble Set Collect Your Complete of 12 Today'
sold in 4 boxed sets of 3



echidna

Riccardo's Pewter
Sydney
Australia
(Riccardo Pizzimento)

Unmarked
his pincushions are marked
Riccardo P. & Son



blue tit

Roger Gibbons
UK












unmarked
part-handpainted
1980s















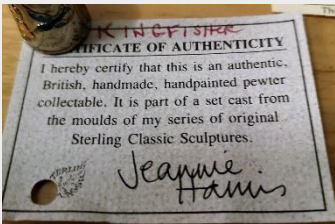









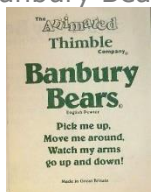
The owl and the pussycat


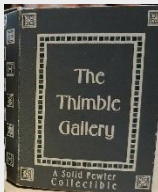







Roger Harrison
UK





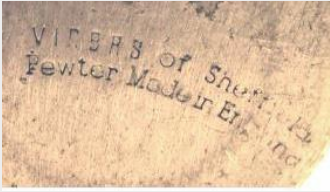



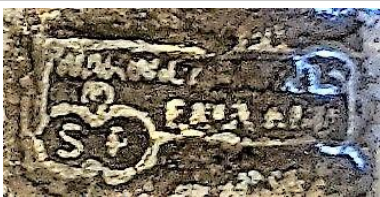

also modelled in applied pewter and silver
subjects
some designs handpainted
1980s

 xmas tree	<u>Roman (RR)</u> Taiwan			
 King Arthur Pendragon	<u>Ronald Davies</u> UK			handpainted new thimble maker in 1993
 City of Portsmouth	<u>Rowena Designs/Souvenirs</u> UK			Sometimes wrongly identified as Rowenta
	<u>Schmid</u> USA		197-	base mark
 turkey		SCJ MKTG 	1984	©
 butterfly	<u>Seagull</u> Canada		1992	lettered inside rim
 squirrel	<u>Shaw Leibowitz</u>		1979	lettered on lip of rim ©

 <p>Cinderella</p>	<p>painter: (DS)</p>	<p>S.H.D.</p> 	<p>1980 1985</p>	<p>© bronzed</p>
 <p>TCI 1980</p>	<p>Simons Philadelphia USA (Mary and Nelson Keyser)</p>		<p>1980</p>	<p>lettered in apex; not cast in 1976, 1978 1980 and 1982 Simons produced pewter thimbles for attendees at US thimble conferences</p>
 <p>koala</p>	<p>Spoontiques (Spo) Massachusetts USA</p>		<p>1980 1981 1982 1983 1984 1988</p>	<p>©</p>
 <p>'One can too much of a good thing'</p>		<p>SS</p> 	<p>1995</p>	<p>©</p>
 <p><u>And did those feet in ancient times ...</u></p>	<p><u>St Justin Cornwall (SJC)</u> Cuxhaven Way Long Rock Penzance Cornwall UK www.stjustin.co.uk</p>	 		<p><u>Pewter Made in England</u> on verso ©</p>

	<u>Sterling Classic Sculptures</u> UK (Jeannie Harris)			
	<u>Stevelyn</u> UK			set of 14 'Cries of London' atop with Swarovski crystals 1980s
	<u>Sunbeam</u> USA			
	<u>Rune Tennesmed</u> Sweden			
	UK			Just a Thimble Full
	<u>The Animated Thimble Company</u> UK			Banbury Bears 

	<u>The Thimble Gallery</u> USA			
	<u>The Manx Cat</u> Pilgrims Rest South Africa			unmarked
	<u>The Witley Collection Limited</u> Sterling Classic Studios Somers Park Avenue Malvern Worcestershire UK			set of 60 thimbles with icons for each country
	<u>Theodore Paul</u> UK			
	<u>Thimble Craft</u> UK (Shirley Hewett)			articulated marked under cap THIMBLE CRAFT
	<u>ThimblesnObjectDart</u> Worcestershire (Mary Tyler)			not all her thimbles are marked see also: Colin Tyler 

 Troll	<u>Tinn-Per</u> Hanefors Norway			lettered on rim on verso
 leaf dropped rim	<u>Trevor Power</u> Birmingham UK			includes a set of replicas of old Spanish thimbles see also Mark Models Ltd and M.S.I
 <u>Just a Thimble Full</u>	<u>Viners of Sheffield</u> Sheffield UK			base mark
 Vermont beef	<u>W.A.P. Watson Ltd [W.A.P.W]</u> Shirley Solihull UK (Birmingham founder: Walter Archibald Parker Watson)			in apex ... <u>Made in UK</u> ©
 shearer with corks on hat	<u>Warwick Models</u> Rigby Close Heathcote Warwick UK (Stephen Frost)	 	1981-	some handpainted figures previously a modeller with McMillan & Wife he was able to use the same moulds from McMillan when they closed some hinged to open this maker has the largest collection of pewter thimbles in its portfolio

 <p>mouse kneeling at bed</p>	<p><u>S C Waskul</u> USA</p>		<p>1992</p>	<p>©</p>
 <p>teapot</p>	<p><u>Wentworth the Pewterers (WP)</u> Sheffield UK</p>			<p>late 1990s-2000s</p>
 <p>Egyptian hieroglyphs</p>	<p><u>Westair Reproductions</u> UK</p>			<p>some bronzed</p>
 <p><u>Just a Thimble Full</u></p>	<p><u>Williams Adams</u> Sheffield UK</p>			<p>base mark <u>Made by Craftsman ...</u> and ABPC mark</p>
 <p>Victorian fashion peep</p>	<p><u>Woodsetton Pewterers</u> Dudley West Midlands UK (Gill & David Bates)</p>	<p>W P</p> 		<p>above outer rim or on apex see also: Gill Bates</p>
 <p>thumb</p>	<p><u>Zoltan Egri</u> Hungary</p>			<p>thumbles (large sized thimbles) first thimble 1993</p>

References

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Contributors

The original query about an unknown maker's mark came from Mabel Rogers – thank you for the inspiration

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This listing of pewter marks 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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