

# Thimble Collectors Club Thimbles

George Jones <--> Grosvenor Collection

## Robin and Pheasant

With the mark of GEORGE JONES, England

Two beautiful but very different birds, rarely seen together in the wild, have been combined here to make a highly attractive pair of thimbles. The native robin is one of our most endearing birds. It flutters cheekily around our gardens, darting forward for tasty snacks, and will build its nest in any cosy nook. From its cheerful demeanour, even in the coldest winter snows, the robin redbreast has become a symbol of Christmas.

The pheasant is an Asian bird, brought into Britain in medieval times from the Caucasus. The white-collared variety, which is the one seen on our thimble, was introduced from China in the seventeenth century. A shy bird, quite the opposite of the robin, it likes to take cover in trees and low vegetation.

George Jones and Sons was founded in 1861 in Stoke on Trent, at the heart of the Potteries. Making bone china from 1872, the company soon made its name as a source of fine quality gift and tablewares. It is sometimes known as Crescent China, from its distinctive trade mark.

## Thimble Collectors Club

### Tom, Tom, the Piper's Son

With the mark of GEORGE JONES, England

*Tom, Tom, the piper's son,  
Stole a pig, and away did run.  
The pig was eat, and Tom was beat,  
And Tom went howling down the street!*

It would be interesting to know more about the Tom of this well-loved nursery rhyme – but at least we can hope that he was given a taste of the bacon later! This delightful thimble is decorated in the charming country style so beloved of the late nineteenth century. It shows a rustic scene of cottages and a group of skipping girls, surrounded by garlands of flowers. Young Tom is seen sprinting off, the pig firmly tucked under his arm.

George Jones and Sons of Stoke on Trent was founded in about 1861, and became one of the most important potteries in the second half of the Victorian period. Producing fine bone china from 1872, the company is often known as Crescent China, from its distinctive mark, which appears on our thimble.

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## Bamboo

### GEORGES BOYER, France

The graceful bamboo must be one of the most versatile plants with which nature has provided us. The young shoots are famous as the staple diet of the endearing giant panda, while mature plants may reach 40 metres in height; the hollow, jointed stems furnish the inhabitants of tropical regions with excellent building material. In Britain, the delicate foliage enriches many a garden, bringing an exotic touch to our temperate climate; and indoors we may find it making another appearance, perhaps as a pretty screen or shelf, or as furniture for our conservatories.

This delightful design echoes that of the most popular tableware produced by Georges Boyer, a French factory based in Limoges. The company was founded in November 1919 by Jean Boyer, who was a specialist in the freehand painting of porcelain, and it rapidly prospered. In 1934 it passed into the control of Georges Boyer, son of the founder, and a second factory was opened to meet the ever rising demand for its products. By 1978 the workforce of 180 people were engaged in producing the tableware and collector's plates on which the company's reputation was founded, and today it maintains its claim to fame as a leader of the field in French porcelain designs.

# Thimble Collectors Club

## Flowers of Brazil

### GERMER, Brazil

Brazil is a land of vivid colour and wild excitement, of spectacular carnivals and magnificent natural scenery. It is no surprise, therefore, that the flowers that grow in this most vibrant of countries should reflect its character, with their ostentatious, hothouse appearance, exotic, heady perfume and riot of brilliant colour. The Brazilian landscape varies greatly from region to region – from cool highlands to temperate coastal lowlands, from prairies of tall, willowy grasses to lush, tropical forests. With their variety of climates, these areas produce a rich and varied vegetation, so that each region has its own wonderfully special flowers. Pink mandevilla, blue passion flower, crimson and pink laelia and scarlet siphonitis – each tries to outshine its neighbour with its own display of jewel-like splendour and dazzling radiance.

This exquisite thimble has been produced by the Brazilian porcelain house of Germer. Situated in the state of Rodovia, the company was founded in the 1950s. The skilled, loyal workforce are justly proud of their pristine whiteware and ornate, beautiful decorations.

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## Shepherd GEROLD

The colourful and unusual design on this interesting thimble, entitled "The Shepherd", portrays the basic peasant livelihood associated with the part of Germany where Gerold are situated. The region is known as the "Bavarian Siberia" because of its harsh climate. Sheep rearing and wool weaving are natural occupations in such an environment.

The Gerold factory is located in Tettau, Bavaria, and was founded in 1904 by two members of the Gerold family. Despite the extreme difficulties relating to the war and post-war periods, they not only survived but flourished under the excellent management of Fritz Gerold, a superb technician and skilled artisan.

Today the company enjoys worldwide recognition for its quality giftware, particularly the delightful Danish style figurines they produce.

# Thimble Collectors Club

## The Shepherd Thimble



## GEROLD PORZELLAN - West Germany

Located in a rugged region of Germany known as the "Bavarian Siberia," where raising sheep is a major occupation, Gerold Porzellan has selected a charming pastoral scene as the motif for this finely crafted porcelain thimble.

Gerold Porzellan was founded in 1904 in the mountain village of Tettau, the site of Bavaria's earliest porcelain works. In keeping with the area's rich tradition of porcelain-making, the family-owned firm soon gained recognition for its fine white porcelain wares. The noteworthy success of this small porcelain house has been largely attributed to Fritz Gerold, who was just twenty-one when he assumed management of the business in 1925. A superb technician and gifted artisan, Gerold concentrated on the production of hand-painted birds, figurines, and other giftware for which the firm now enjoys a worldwide reputation.

The whimsical artistic treatment, vivid colors, and unusual combination of high-gloss glaze and bisque finish displayed on this thimble exemplify the extraordinary craftsmanship and innovative artistry which distinguish Gerold Porzellan wares.

# Thimble Collectors Club

## Lilypond GIEN, France

In the world of water, life is very different from that on land. Flowers thrust their stems from the muddy depths to float their heads languidly on the shimmering surface; those little aquatic insects we call water boatmen row energetically back and forth; reeds and rushes tower above; and there may be a 'splash!' as a bright green frog, his eyes gleaming like jewels, launches himself from a lily pad.

The porcelain house of Gien, about seventy miles south of Paris, was founded in 1822 by an Englishman, Thomas Antoine Edmé Hulm, also known as 'Hall', and the plain pipeclay crockery which was the firm's early specialisation bears his name. The company was to change hands several times through the years as it developed new techniques to manufacture the hard, fine faience that became the fashion after it was displayed at the Paris Exhibition of 1834. Gien's search for artistry in its work led to experimentation in decoration that set it above other French manufacturers and gained it an award at the Paris Exhibition of 1839, just five years after the first fine ware had been shown. Gien then went from strength to strength, attracting the finest artists and inaugurating new skills, and its products today are the result of 160 years' innovatory excellence.

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## Granduca RICHARD GINORI, Italy

Marquis Carlo Ginori founded the original Ginori porcelain factory on his estate in Doccia, near Florence, in 1735. Since then Ginori has become one of the most honoured names in the world of porcelain. Clients have included many leading European families including the House of Savoy, the Austrian Emperor Joseph, a member of the House of Bourbon and the Austrian Princess Maria Luisa, wife of Napoleon. Later, a universally admired pattern was specially created for the Khedive of Egypt to commemorate the historic opening of the Suez Canal.

Granduca was in fact Carlo Ginori's very first stock design produced in 1745. The influence is Oriental, like many patterns of the great porcelain houses of the period. The innovation and skill of Ginori are demonstrated by the use of a wide variety of colours, as until then only reds and blues had been readily available. It is a mystery why this important design was only continued for five years until 1750, although it always remained a hallmark of Richard Ginori.

In 1985, to mark the pottery's 250th anniversary, it was reintroduced from the original museum pieces, with great success. The quality of this early design has been brilliantly captured on this beautiful thimble, creating a collectors' item worthy of Ginori's international reputation.

The thimble is filed under Ginori – not Richard ...

## Millennium GLASGOW, Scotland

To celebrate the first year of the new Millennium, we have commissioned this attractive new thimble on the theme of 'Time'. The measurement of time was, of course, at first based on people's observations of night following day, the waxing and waning of the moon, and the changing seasons of the year. With the invention and development of timekeepers of various kinds, we became more precise, and day and night were divided into hours, minutes and seconds. A clock can now be adjusted to use natural atomic vibrations, and to keep time that is accurate to one second in 300 years. Beyond the mundane measuring of time, however, the arrival of the new Millennium reminds us of the eternal cycles of nature and the universe, and the heavenly music of the spheres.

Small potteries sprang up in every part of the British Isles where there was a reasonable supply of the raw product – a suitable clay – to support them. Although relatively few established themselves for long in Scotland, we are delighted to celebrate the work of the little Glasgow Pottery by using its mark on our Millennium thimble in recognition of Glasgow's fine reputation as a major cultural centre.

# Thimble Collectors Club

## Puffin

GLYNCOCH, Wales

One of the common names given to the puffin is 'Sea-parrot', and with its bright, multi-coloured bill and cheerful demeanour, it is not hard to see why! Puffins – sea birds which live on small fish and shellfish – fly in to land in May, and nest and breed in grassy cliffside or island burrows, sometimes ousting a surprised rabbit from its own home! They pair for life, the male helping the female to dig the burrow, incubate the single egg and feed the infant. They return to the same burrow year after year. These busy, friendly little birds with their comical faces and gregarious habits delight all who watch them. They are illustrated on this attractive thimble alongside hummocks of pink sea-thrift – a pretty, sturdy little plant which withstands the cold winds and salty air of the puffins' seaside home.

Glyncoch is a small company named after the Welsh farm, ten miles west of Carmarthen, at which it is based. This tiny pottery is also the home of Rowland and Jean Evans. While her husband grows and markets soft fruit, Jean paints the wildlife she loves – especially flowers and birds. She is particularly noted for the fine detail in her work and has sold her porcelain collector's items throughout Britain, the USA and Canada.

# Thimble Collectors Club

## Puffin Thimble



## GLYN COCH DESIGNS - South Wales

Specializing in wildlife motifs, Glyn Coch Designs has chosen the charming little Puffin as the subject for this fine bone china thimble. Also known as the "sea parrot," the black and white Arctic sea bird, with its distinctively-shaped head and beak, bright orange legs and webbed feet, nests in colonies on islands and rocky shores of the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans.

Glyn Coch Farm, near the town of St. Clears in South Wales, is the headquarters of this small porcelain painting studio which has achieved widespread acclaim among porcelain collectors. Founder Jean Evans is noted for her exquisite portrayals of birds and flowers which grace Glyn Coch fine bone china giftware. Her work is sold throughout the United Kingdom, Canada and the United States.

The meticulous detail and delicate colors which distinguish Jean Evans' designs are beautifully displayed against the thimble's pristine white bone china. Glyn Coch Designs' "Puffin Thimble" is available exclusively from The Thimble Collectors Club.

# Thimble Collectors Club

## Welsh Poppy

GLYN-COCH, Wales

The endearingly pretty Welsh poppy now spreads its lemon-yellow petals widely over coastal areas of Europe; but it was from Wales that the first specimens came. In late spring it blooms up and down the west coast of Britain; from the Devon moors, through mountainous Wales to the Cumbrian lakesides, it is a sight to gladden the eye and lift the spirits. The Welsh poppy is particularly welcome because it favours moist, shady glens and damp, rocky places, where its carpet of yellow brings a glow of sunshine to the misty gloom. This beautiful perennial, with its radiant blooms and fresh, fernlike leaves, is the only British poppy of the Meconopsis family of plants – renowned world-wide for their delicate beauty. Long may our native herald of summer hold up its shining head to proclaim its origins and brighten our countryside.

With admirable patriotism, this beautiful thimble has been produced in Wales by Jean Evans of Glyn-Coch Studio. The studio is housed at the Evans family farm, close to Carmarthen, where Jean specialises in portraying wildlife – flowers and birds in particular. Her fine china has won Glyn-Coch commissions in Britain, the United States and Canada.

# Thimble Collectors Club

## Hana-Dori GOHO, Japan

The design on this lovely thimble has been copied from a painting on a sliding screen by the artist Kano Motonubu (1476-1559). The original painting still exists, now mounted as a hanging scroll. The Japanese name for the design, 'Hana-Dori', means 'landscape with flower and bird', reminding us that painters in Japan have always been influenced by their beautiful surroundings. Subjects from nature, such as birds, flowers, trees, mountains, butterflies, abound in all art forms. In the fifteenth century the Japanese aristocracy employed artists and craftsmen to make them more and more splendid articles to support their luxurious lifestyles, and this brought about a wonderful flowering of the arts. Admiration for the beauty of nature grew into an almost religious reverence, and inspired the artists to even greater heights. The 'Hana-Dori' design embodies the typically Oriental combination of brilliant colour and striking composition which translates the simplest and most universal of subjects into a true work of art.

The Goho porcelain house is at the heart of Japan's ceramic art production, in the mountain-side village of Ichinokura, near Tajimi. It has been headed for nearly forty years by its founder, who upholds the long tradition of fine craftsmanship and artistry which has been the hallmark of Japanese porcelain for so many centuries.

# Thimble Collectors Club

## Bussan Thimble

**GOLD IMARI**



**ARITA**

## GOLD IMARI ARITA - Japan

Bright orange-red autumn flowers, lavishly enhanced with gilt, are stunningly displayed against the pure white porcelain of this Gold Imari thimble from Arita Bussan of Japan. Reflecting over three centuries of Japanese porcelain-making, the brilliant colors and distinctive decorative style of the motif can be traced to the craftsmen who constructed porcelain kilns at Arita, on the island of Kyushu, in the early 1600's, and later exported their beautiful wares from the nearby harbor at Imari.

History shows that the family of Tetsuo Matsumoto, who established the Arita Bussan porcelain works in 1906, had been practicing their craft in Japan's major porcelain-making center since about 1650. The firm adopted the "Gold Imari" hallmark in 1910, and today it is known and recognized throughout the world as representing the finest Japanese porcelain.

Characteristic of the first wares exported to Europe from Imari, the elaborate and boldly colored motif on this Gold Imari thimble carries on the decorating traditions handed down from generation to generation of the Matsumoto family.

For the UK certificate see Arita Gold

# Thimble Collectors Club

## Floral Panel Thimble

**GOSSEL**  
Germany

### GOSSEL PORZELLAN - Germany

Fragile blossoms of pale pink, accented with leaves of green and tiny brown berries, are captured in frames of gold on this unusually beautiful thimble from Gossel Porzellan of Germany.

Gossel (which is a German endearment for "Goose"), is a family-owned factory located in Germany's famous porcelain making region of Bavaria. A relative newcomer to the porcelain trade, Gossel Porzellan has already earned a reputation for combining the region's tradition for producing fine porcelain of matchless quality with fresh, innovative ideas on decoration.

This thimble, with its unique panelled shape, strikingly accented with clusters of flowers and loops of gleaming 22kt gold, is available exclusively from the Thimble Collectors Club.

# Thimble Collectors Club

## The Heavens Above GOSSEL, Germany

There's no doubt that we in England take a keen interest in our weather – a habit that is something of a mystery to those who live in more settled climates. Consequently, our gaze is always turning to the skies, hoping to discern whether we can safely embark on a picnic, whether to take the broly with us to the shops, whether it's worth setting off for the beach . . . Perhaps it's this concentration upon the skies that accounts for our interest in the universe, spread out above our heads at night like a starry carpet upon which we can weave our own fantasies of planets and meteors unknown.

Gossel is a hallmark of the Lindner porcelain house, set in deep forests close to Thuringia. It employs about 55 craftspeople, some of whom previously worked at Meissen, that legendary source of some of the world's finest porcelain. While Gossel is the name of Lindner's owner, it is also an affectionate term meaning 'goose' – hence the trademark of three stylized geese feet. This endearing personal touch is echoed throughout the company, in which no fewer than three family members strive to ensure that Gossel reaches the very peak of porcelain production.

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# Thimble Collectors Club

## "Moon & Stars" Thimble

**GOSSEL**  
Germany

### GOSSEL PORZELLAN - Germany

A quick trip through our solar system, including all nine planets, the Earth's Moon, the Sun and a belt of asteroids comprise the truly unique design that Gossel Porzellan of Germany has chosen for this unusually shaped thimble.

Gossel (which is a German endearment for "Goose"), is a family-owned factory located in Germany's famous porcelain making region of Bavaria. A relative newcomer to the porcelain trade, Gossel Porzellan has already earned a reputation for combining the region's tradition for producing fine porcelain of matchless quality with fresh, innovative ideas on decoration.

This elegant thimble, so unique in its shape and motif, is a striking addition to any collection, and is available exclusively from the Thimble Collectors Club.



## The Pagoda GREEN ISAF FARM POTTERY, Wales

Porcelain and fine ceramic wares had their beginnings in China. When the mysteries and techniques of china production were discovered and copied in Europe, Western craftsmen borrowed all the oriental decorative motifs as well! So, when we find a piece of eighteenth-century porcelain from one of the great factories – whether Meissen or Limoges, Chelsea or Spode, it is not unusual to see an embellishment of charming little Chinese figures, birds, animals, flowers, trees, houses – and pagodas! With its brightly coloured pagoda, flowers and butterflies, our fascinating thimble is a reminder of European porcelain of the late eighteenth century.

The intriguingly named Green Isaf Farm Pottery is a newly established small family business in Wales. It is run by a couple who have scaled down their own flourishing china manufacturing company in preparation for their retirement. They specialise in small quantities of high-quality, hand-painted, bone china items for collectors, such as figurines and thimbles, and their dedication to detail and fine workmanship is evident from this beautifully produced example of their wares.

## Thimble Collectors Club

### Autumn Feast GROSVENOR COLLECTION, England

When the days begin to shorten and early frosts bring a nip to the air, the little animals of our woodlands and fields scurry busily about to garner the best of the autumn harvest. The lovable dormouse, which in summer sleeps during the day and wakes at night to feed on nuts and berries, must start to store enough food to see him through his long winter hibernation. Hips, haws, acorns and seeds will be collected to form a little larder beside his nest in a tree trunk or beneath brushwood on the forest floor. Then, if he wakes briefly during the cold, dark days of winter, he can help himself to a nourishing feast before resuming his slumbers as he waits for spring to come.

The Grosvenor Collection was founded very recently and specialises in the crafting of high quality ware in fine bone china. The company is based in Worcester and the silhouette of that city's cathedral appears in their backstamp.

Artist Jimmy Channell is a true countrylover. Not only has he built a reputation as a natural history illustrator, he is also a keen wildlife photographer and conservationist. His collaboration with the Grosvenor Collection has resulted in a thimble of charm and distinction.



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## The Carousel THE GROSVENOR COLLECTION, England

There's nothing quite like the razzamatazz of a fair in full swing, with customers flocking to stalls where giant teddy bears are propped up as tempting prizes, children clutching great clouds of candyfloss that threaten to stick to the cheeks, and everyone's favourite – the carousel. Young and old alike love to ride the whirling horses as they rise and dip high above the heads of the watching crowd, breezy music playing and gaudy colours catching the sun. While other fairground fashions may come and go the carousel survives from year to year, the flaring red nostrils and crested manes of the horses echoing the Victorian carousels of old, when Galloper, Dancer and their companions were powered by steam.

The Grosvenor Collection was established in Worcester in 1986 as a subsidiary of Berkshire China. Its location meant that it was able to draw on the skills of craftsmen and women who had been trained at the world-famous Worcester factory – skills that were immediately manifested in its range of fine bone china figurines, florals and fine giftware. Our lively thimble is destined to take pride of place in the display of many a collector of fine porcelain.

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Thimble Collectors Club

Carousel Thimble



GROSVENOR - England

The carnival is in town and the carousel is running, the expertly carved wooden horses are ready to take the children on a thrilling ride! This joyous scene is sure to bring a smile to all, and the highly-skilled artisans of Grosvenor Collection wouldn't have it any other way.

The Grosvenor hallmark was founded in 1986 when a small group of highly talented craftsmen and women decided to leave the world famous Royal Worcester porcelain house and strike out on their own. Creating a range of fine bone china figurines, florals and giftware, the Grosvenor name quickly gained prominence among collectors of high-quality porcelain. Using the local countryside of Worcester to draw ideas from (the firm even took a drawing of the fabulous Worcester Cathedral and used it for their hallmark), the Grosvenor collection continues to grow in beauty and renown.

A charming and classically styled carousel perfectly complements the creamy white bone china of this expertly crafted thimble. Further enhanced by a hand-applied band of gleaming 22kt gold, this "Carousel" thimble is an exclusive offering solely to members of the Thimble Collectors Club.