

Thimble Collectors Club Thimbles

Oakley China <--> Ospag Porzellan

Thimble Collectors Club

The Indian Tree Thimble



Oakley
Fine China

OAKLEY CHINA - England

The "Indian Tree" is one of the most famous patterns to come from England's porcelain makers. Legend has it that the design was copied from a piece of Indian silk in the possession of an English officer in the Shropshire Light Infantry. The "Indian Tree" pattern was first introduced by Coalport in the early 1800s, and factory records show that a whole section was devoted to producing items with this pattern alone. It has since been used by many different porcelain makers to decorate their finest wares.

Oakley China Limited has reproduced this famous pattern using the time-tested traditional methods of producing fine bone china. Their craftsmen have employed the special techniques of hand-casting and hand-dipping that have been passed down from generation to generation to ensure a thimble of the highest quality. The finished product, as you'll surely agree, justifies their devotion to this traditional and time-consuming process.

Oakley's fine, milky-white bone china perfectly complements the delicately vibrant colors of this noted pattern. Further ornamented with an exquisite band of 22kt gold, the "Indian Tree" thimble is a priceless addition to any collection and was made expressly for members of the Thimble Collectors Club.

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The Little Owl OAKLEY, England

Gracing this fine little thimble is the Little Owl, one of this country's favourite birds. The original painting for this thimble was created by Maurice Pledger of Hertfordshire, a country man born and bred. Still at the early stages of what promises to be a brilliant career, Mr. Pledger has already been honoured by four one-man shows, including one at the prestigious King Street Galleries in St. James, London SW1. In 1981 his book "Game Birds" was published with a commendatory foreword by HRH Prince Philip, and text by Charles Coles, Director of the Nature Conservancy Council.

As a perfect complement to a charming bird and a famous artist, the fine bone china bearing the design was crafted by Oakley China of Stoke-on-Trent.

This small, highly professional pottery was founded by Tony Hammersley, whose family name has been synonymous with fine bone china for over five generations. He strongly believes that the finest china can only be created by traditional methods and craftsmanship which have been passed down from generation to generation - thus every thimble made by Oakley is cast, decorated and dipped by hand.

The finished product, with its delicate and individual styling, justifies this skilful and time-consuming process.

Thimble Collectors Club

The Little Owl OAKLEY

This lovely little thimble depicts one of Britain's most attractive birds - the Little Owl. The original painting for this thimble was created by Maurice Pledger, recognised as one of the finest bird artists of our time.

Oakley China Limited are one of the few manufacturers who have not abandoned the traditional methods of producing fine bone china for the lure of mass-production. Instead, Oakley's craftsmen continue to use the special techniques of hand-casting and hand-dipping which have been passed down from generation to generation. The finished product, with its delicate and individual styling, justifies this skilful and time-consuming process.

A shortened form of the original certificate
Maybe this was issued when the free thimble was issued
at a much later date?

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The Little Owl Thimble



Oakley
Fine China

OAKLEY CHINA, Limited - England

This lovely thimble depicts one of Britain's most attractive birds — the little owl. The original painting for this thimble was created by Maurice Pledger, recognized as one of the finest bird artists of our time.

Oakley China, Limited continues to employ the time-tested traditional methods of producing fine bone china. Oakley's craftsmen use the special techniques of handcasting and hand-dipping, which have been passed down from generation to generation. The finished product, with its delicate and individual styling, justifies this attention to tradition and time-consuming process.



This Green and Pleasant Land OAK TREE, England

THIS is a delightful and highly unusual thimble. On a peaceful summer's day, the sun shines over a very English scene of gentle hills and valleys. We can discern a church steeple and a charming flock of sheep, while a stately medieval castle looms from the highest peak. This miniature landscape is a reminder that our English countryside is always there, beckoning us to enjoy a Sunday afternoon ramble amongst its green and pleasant pastures.

The small Oak Tree porcelain house was established in 1867 for the production of fine bone china. The Victorians loved their knick-knacks, and many small ceramics companies sprang up to make all manner of attractive objects to adorn their mantelpieces and the surfaces of their many elaborate pieces of furniture. The characteristic style of the company featured designs with strong detail and colourful patterns. After the start of the new century, the range of designs changed dramatically to meet Edwardian tastes before returning once again to their favoured intricate design style.

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New Era ORB POTTERY, England

THE legend on our striking new thimble is 'A New Century: A New Future'. The first year of the new century – and, indeed, the new Millennium – has engendered fresh hopes, both for our planet and for ourselves. We achieved seemingly impossible goals in the last century, with space travel, moon walks and the extraordinary advances we made in all other branches of science. Now let us turn our thoughts to the saving and nurturing of our own green planet and to the achievement of peace throughout the world.

Orb Pottery was another of the small ceramics houses that sprang up in the nineteenth century to supply their Victorian clientele with the trinkets and ornamental pieces they held so dear. In addition to these smaller items, the company produced full dinner services, with all manner of sauceboats, dessert-plates and specialised dishes, richly decorated with bold designs at affordable prices for its growing market. Orb became highly original in its use of innovative designs, and its regal backstamp adorns our New Era thimble in the confidence that the original craftsmen would have fully approved of this striking piece.

Thimble Collectors Club Vienna City Scene Thimble



ÖSPAG PORZELLAN — Austria

Austria's glittering and stately old capital, Vienna, provides the scene for this fine porcelain thimble from Öspag Porzellan. Renowned as a cultural and intellectual center, this beautiful city on the banks of the Danube River is famous for its boulevards, coffee houses, museums, universities and landmark Gothic buildings — including St. Stephen's Cathedral, the Rathaus (City Hall) and the Staatsoper (State Opera house).

Öspag Porzellan traces its roots to a stoneware factory founded in Wilhelmsburg, Austria, in 1795. Acquired in 1883 by Heinrich Lichtenstern and his son, Richard, the factory was expanded into the largest stoneware company in the Austro-Hungarian Empire. New owners joined the Wilhelmsburg and Grunden-Engelhof factories to form Ostmark Keramik in 1938; and after World War II, the firm concentrated on developing two separate and distinctive lines of fine porcelain. Renamed Öspag in 1967, this impressive Austrian porcelain house is known today for its exceptional ceramic wares.

With its charming decorative motif, luxurious band of gold, and molded flower top, the Öspag porcelain thimble makes a prized addition to any collection. The "Vienna City Scene" thimble is available exclusively from the Thimble Collectors Club.