

# Thimble Collectors Club Thimbles

Campbellfield <--> Crysglass

## Flora

A tribute to CAMPBELLFIELD, Scotland

A delightful design of leaves, flowers and berries in a cool, refreshing colour scheme adorns this pretty octagonal thimble. Floral subjects have been popular on ceramic thimbles from the early days of European porcelain making, in the eighteenth century. The Meissen factory, in Germany, was the first to produce porcelain in Europe, and was making thimbles from about 1735. Porcelain and pottery thimbles were never intended for use as sewing implements. They were made as charming little 'toys', or presents, of the kind known in Germany as *Galantieren*, that a young man might give to his sweetheart – and what more suitable decoration could there be than a tiny bouquet?

Once the secret of porcelain making was known, the whole of Europe worked to satisfy the demand for this durable and attractive new material. It was expensive, however, and the more humble earthenware pottery continued to be highly popular for domestic use. The Campbellfield Pottery Company, of Springfield, Glasgow, was founded in 1850 and flourished until 1905. It used various different printed or impressed marks on its earthenware, some of them showing a Scottish thistle.

Thimble Collectors Club

Crown-Vetch Thimble



CARDINAL CERAMICS  
MANUFACTURING, INC.

CARDINAL CERAMICS - The Philippines

The subtle shades of the Crown-Vetch's delicate pink blossoms have been lovingly hand-painted onto this fine porcelain thimble from Cardinal Ceramics.

Cardinal Ceramics was established in 1975 with the goal of providing skills for out-of-school and impoverished youth in the area surrounding the Tala Leprosarium. Funding for the idealistic project was generously provided by an act of the "Sovereign Military Order of Malta." Named after Cardinal Rufino Santos, Cardinal Ceramics started as a small producer of ashtrays and premium items for sale in the Philippine market. In 1979, production was changed and the manufacture of well-designed, high grade, hand-painted porcelain began. This decision was made by Antonio Infante, whose son now manages the factory employing 200 workers.

The "Crown-Vetch" thimble with its simple, yet elegant styling was developed by Cardinal Ceramics expressly for members of the Thimble Collectors Club.

# Thimble Collectors Club

## Edelweiss Thimble



Carl Schumann Porcelain Factory  
Bavaria, West Germany

Blossoms of edelweiss, delicately sculpted in raised relief and embellished with touches of gold, decorate this exquisite bisque porcelain thimble from the Carl Schumann Porcelain Factory. The beloved white wildflower, native to the high mountain slopes of the Alps, was especially selected to grace the first thimble ever produced by this distinguished Bavarian porcelain house.

Founded by Carl Schumann in Arzberg, Bavaria, in 1881, the firm is one of the two original factories which made the name of Arzberg synonymous with exceptional porcelain whiteware. By the turn of the century, the Schumann factory had become noted for porcelain "cutware," a lacy, openwork effect created by cutting out sections of porcelain. Schumann's son and two grandsons followed in the founder's footsteps and continued to build the company's reputation. Today this outstanding porcelain house is owned by the Netzsch family, a leading manufacturer of porcelain-making equipment.

The "Edelweiss Thimble," available exclusively from The Thimble Collectors Club, showcases the Carl Schumann Porcelain Factory's unwavering dedication to the highest standards of quality.

# Thimble Collectors Club

## "Songbird" Thimble



CARL SCHUMANN PORCELAIN - Germany

A timid songbird, its brilliant colors blending with the soft pink apple blossoms, perches itself on the brilliant white background of this uniquely shaped thimble from the Carl Schumann Porcelain Factory.

Founded by Carl Schumann in Arzberg, Bavaria in 1881, the firm is one of the two original factories which made the town synonymous with exceptional porcelain whiteware. By the turn of the century, the Schumann factory had become noted for porcelain "cutware," a lacy, openwork effect created by cutting out sections of porcelain. Schumann's son and two grandsons followed in the founder's footsteps and continued to build the company's reputation. Today, this outstanding porcelain house is owned by the Netzsch family, a leading manufacturer of porcelain-making equipment.

The "Songbird" thimble, topped by a glistening band of 22kt gold and available exclusively from the Thimble Collectors Club, showcases the Carl Schumann Porcelain Factory's unwavering dedication to the highest standards of quality.

## Little Fawns CASTLE POTTERY, England

**T**HIS attractive thimble for animal lovers bears a design of young fallow deer that have ventured out to graze and play in the rolling English countryside. These charming fawns are seen here in their spring and summer colours. They display the distinctive pale biscuit colour and the white spots that we associate with them, but when the colder weather comes they will lose these and grow warm grey coats for the winter. There is no sign yet of the antlers that the young males, or 'prickets', will soon develop to become the handsome adult animals we love to see in the wild. Shy, quiet beasts, deer like to live near dense woodland, and the slightest disturbance to their peaceful browsing will send them leaping nimbly for cover.

Castle Pottery was founded in 1863 in Fenton, the 'pottery town' to the west of Stoke on Trent, and for many years specialised in the production of high-quality fine bone china giftware and thimbles. Their attractive backstamp shows the castle from which they take their name.

## Thimble Collectors Club

### Chaffinches CAVERSWALL, England

This attractive thimble crafted by the potters of Caverswall depicts one of Britain's most profuse and popular birds, the Chaffinch (*Fringilla coelebs*), whose springtime song is remembered with longing in Robert Browning's famous poem "Home Thoughts from Abroad".

The commonest of the finch family in Western Europe, Chaffinches are found throughout the British Isles and are especially noticeable in the autumn and winter months when they form large flocks in the countryside. The male bird is identified by its distinctive colouring. It has a bluish crown, contrasting with its rust brown back and wings, and a green rump, whilst its face and breast are of a subtle rusty pink. The female is a more uniform greenish brown. She is responsible for building the grass nest in which her pale blue eggs with dark red flecks are laid. After some twelve days' incubation, the task of feeding the brood is shared by both parent birds.

The Staffordshire firm of Caverswall is famous as a manufacturer of fine bone china pieces. The stylised design of this beautiful thimble, which shows a pair of birds on a bough of blossom, bears witness to Caverswall's tradition of expert craftsmanship and sophisticated decorative skills.

## Thimble Collectors Club Chaffinches Thimble



Caverswall

### CAVERSWALL CHINA - England

This beautiful bone china thimble from the Staffordshire porcelain house of Caverswall features a European-inspired motif, exquisitely painted in the stylized Oriental manner.

Colorfully-plumaged birds amid flowering boughs have been one of the most enduring subjects in porcelain decoration throughout the history of ceramic art. First seen on the legendary wares of ancient China, then refined and superbly rendered by the master porcelain painters of early 17th-century Japan — now this centuries-old tradition is practiced to perfection by modern-day British artisans at Caverswall. The distinctive blue tones and rust-brown hues of the strikingly marked chaffinch — one of Great Britain's most numerous and well-loved birds — are depicted in authentic detail, while the blossoms and fruit on the slender branches are rendered in a more imaginary style.

Located in one of England's oldest pottery-making centers, Caverswall is famous for its fine bone china. The superb, snowy-white color of this thimble, with its expertly executed decorative motif represent the outstanding craftsmanship of this outstanding English firm. The "Chaffinches" thimble is available exclusively from The Thimble Collectors Club.

# Thimble Collectors Club

## Christmas 1991 CAVERSWALL, England

Think of Christmas, and we think of robins and holly, mistletoe and plum pudding, sleighbells and skating. In times gone by, English winters could be harsh, and a white Christmas was not so unusual. Lakes and rivers would freeze over and all the folk, young and old, would turn out to glide gleefully over the ice. Sometimes the ice was so thick that a huge bonfire could be built and a whole ox roasted, making a magnificent focus for a jolly Christmas celebration.

This evocative thimble is brought to you by Caverswall China, a dynamic porcelain house in Stoke-on-Trent, home of the finest English bone china. Following the great traditions built up over the centuries in the Potteries, exacting care is taken with every stage of manufacture and the company ensures that the quality of craftsmanship is second to none. This perfectionism has won Caverswall a reputation for supplying some of the finest bespoke china in Britain, and it has found favour among the most influential families in the Middle East. This delightful Christmas thimble, with its emblems of seasonal cheer, is a perfect example of this company's exquisite china.

# Thimble Collectors Club

## Christmas 1992 CAVERSWALL, England

Jingling sleigh bells, festive holly, smiling snowmen and the laughter of happy children – the pleasures of Christmas are eternal, linking generations across the centuries. Today, the toys may come with batteries, and a great Yule log may be hard to find, but the simple joys are still there to delight us all. Building a snowman just like grandad did a lifetime ago, sledging down a hill where countless children have tumbled merrily into the snow, and singing carols in a church that has rung to their tender music for hundreds of years – that's what Christmas is all about.

This delightful Christmas thimble, surmounted by a delicate snowflake and embellished with a fine band of gold, comes from Caverswall China, producers of fine bone china in the best English tradition. From its inception in 1973, Caverswall China has nurtured the skills of bygone generations in the making and hand decoration of bone china; their close attention to detail reflects the traditions of quality and care that have been the hallmark of the Potteries since the eighteenth century. Those enjoying the luxury of Caverswall china include not only thimble collectors, but prestigious companies and institutions and some of the most eminent families in the Middle East. Made in England, and respected worldwide.

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# Thimble Collectors Club

## Christmas Bell 1993 CAVERSWALL, England

On this bright little thimble, a group of children in fancy dress dance and skip merrily round Santa, excitedly anticipating their long-awaited presents. We can all remember the special pleasures of a childhood Christmas – starting with the thrilling rustle of a stocking bulging with tiny treats, followed by a crisp morning walk to church, the singing of carols, the family party and traditional meal. But the climax of the day is the appearance of Father Christmas! He looks oddly familiar – just a little like Daddy? Or Uncle? But when he opens his sackful of toys such concerns are quickly forgotten, and the gaily wrapped presents come tumbling out into eager little hands.

This pretty thimble, surmounted by a golden snowflake and adorned with a Christmas bell, red ribbon and holly, is brought to you by Caverswall China of Stoke-on-Trent, in the heart of the Staffordshire potteries. Founded in 1973, Caverswall is a young company which is rapidly gaining a fine reputation for its carefully crafted and decorated dinner services, individually ordered pieces and special gift items. This little taste of Christmas cheer is a charming example of its artistry.

# Thimble Collectors Club

## Newborn Lambs CAVERSWALL, England

A flock of sheep, accompanied by a shepherd with his crook and keen-eyed collie, has long been a familiar and well-loved sight in the British countryside. Yet the wool which we wear so casually comes to us only after bitter winter days spent digging lost sheep from the snow, and long nights helping to deliver weakly bleating lambs into the world. In just a few short hours, however, those lambs' little legs gain sufficient strength to send them bouncing, as if on springs, to gambol with their peers. And who can fail to respond to the sight of them frisking along beside their staid mothers in the warming sunshine of April and May?

Founded in Stoke in 1973, the Caverswall China Company has already gained a high reputation for its fine bone china, continuing the long-established traditions of the Potteries, where the quality of craftsmanship is second to none. The company pays scrupulous attention to detail throughout all the stages of manufacture. This has won it a particular niche in the supplying of personalised and bespoke dinner services in the United Kingdom, and for some of the most influential families in the Middle East. The qualities that have made Caverswall ware so desirable are displayed to perfection in this charming thimble with its idyllic pastoral scene.

# Thimble Collectors Club

## Pastoral Thimble



Caverswall

## CAVERSWALL CHINA - England

A solitary shepherd and his loyal sheep dog guide their woolly white herd to pasture in the English countryside in the miniature artistic masterpiece chosen by Caverswall China for this fine bone china thimble.

Headquartered in one of England's oldest pottery-making centers, Stoke-on-Trent, many of Caverswall's craftsmen are descended from craftsmen who trained under the founding fathers of Wedgwood, Spode and other venerable English porcelain houses. The superb creamy-white bone china and expert decorative design exemplify the modern-day perfection of a centuries-old tradition in the art of British porcelain making.

Glowing with vibrant colors and embellished with a luxurious band of gleaming gold, this lovely Caverswall "Pastoral Thimble" is available exclusively from The Thimble Collectors Club.

## Art Deco CELTIC CROSS, Wales

A new style emerged from the exhibition of decorative arts held in Paris in 1925. After the enthusiasm for machines and industry which abounded in the nineteenth century, a fresh emphasis was placed on individual craftsmanship. The abundant curlicues of the Art Nouveau style gave way to a cleaner, more angular look, with finer lines and less ornamentation. This became known as Art Deco, and was quickly taken up by America, which adapted it and popularised it as the new streamlined look for house interiors on both sides of the Atlantic. It became very fashionable, and was regarded as chic and modern by that generation of young people who set up home in the late 1920s and 1930s; many of us will have at least a family picture frame, or vase, or plate from that time, and can see for ourselves the charm of the Art Deco style. Our handsome Art Deco thimble acts as an enticing reminder to look again at the treasures of that time.

Celtic Cross Pottery is a young, flourishing small business in the Llynfi Valley, South Wales. It combines a high standard of workmanship with a refreshing sense of artistry, design and attention to detail which would have delighted the masters of Art Deco.

## Thimble Collectors Club

### Castell Coch CELTIC CROSS, Wales

Timeless fantasy and the romance of fairytales are captured in the Victorian Gothic reality of Castell Coch – a dream-come-true-castle just north of Cardiff. Built in the late nineteenth century, it was the creation of two men described as being 'hopelessly in love with the Middle Ages', the fabulously wealthy Lord Bute and the architect, William Burges. As the bricks and mortar took shape, their castle became a magical vista of round towers, conical turrets and cobbled courtyards – an idyllic setting for the imaginary adventures of all our childhoods. The enchantment continues inside, where rich decorations and colourful murals depicting Aesop's fables adorn the ceilings and walls of the magnificent rooms. Castell Coch is truly romance on a hillside – a visionary masterpiece that allows all of us our own private visit to never-never land.

This delightful thimble with its immaculate portrayal of a famous local landmark is brought to you by Celtic Cross Pottery. Situated in South Wales' Llynfi Valley, Celtic Cross is a small, thriving concern which since its inception has rapidly gained a high reputation for the quality of its fine bone china.

## Thimble Collectors Club

Castell Coch Thimble

Celtic Cross

WALE\$

Pottery

CELTIC CROSS - England

Castell Coch (which means Red Castle) was the creation of Lord Bute – a man hopelessly in love with the middle ages. Built as a country home to complement his opulent castle in the center of Cardiff it was completed in 1891, and quickly became a local landmark. Overlooking the rolling hills of Scotland, its round towers and conical needle-sharp turrets have graced the countryside for over 100 years.

Celtic Cross Pottery is a family-owned shop nestled in the Llynfi Valley. Until recently, this tiny pottery has been known only for its enchanting figurines and giftware. Although a relative newcomer to the manufacture of thimbles, Celtic Cross is quickly gaining acclaim for its white china and delicately molded thimbles. The manufacture of these thimbles is supervised entirely by the owner of Celtic Cross Pottery. With her personal involvement, you can be sure that only items of the highest quality leave her pottery.

This exquisite thimble, its regal castle set among lush green hills, is accented with a band of gleaming 22kt gold, available exclusively from the Thimble Collectors Club, it is an important addition to your thimble collection.

# Thimble Collectors Club

Foxcubs Thimble

Celtic Cross

WALES

Pottery

CELTIC CROSS POTTERY - Wales

Peeking their tiny heads out from the protective underbrush, a litter of shyly curious foxcubs begin to explore the strange world which surrounds them. This endearing scene, hand-painted by noted wildlife artist Michael J. Clarke, is vividly brought to life by the artisans of Celtic Cross Pottery.

A family-owned shop nestled in the Llynfi Valley of Wales, Celtic Cross Pottery has, until recently, been known mainly for its enchanting porcelain figurines and giftware. Although a relative newcomer to the manufacture of thimbles, this tiny pottery is quickly gaining acclaim for its white china and expertly molded thimbles. The manufacture of these thimbles is entirely supervised by the owner of Celtic Cross Pottery, and with her personal involvement, you can be sure that only items of the highest quality leave her factory.

With its wide base and accent of 22kt gold, this "Foxcubs" thimble is a strong example of the pride each employee of Celtic Cross Pottery takes in their handiwork. This thimble is only available to members of the Thimble Collectors Club.

# Thimble Collectors Club

## Nut Harvest CELTIC CROSS, Wales

The rich, mellow colours of Autumn embellish this attractive thimble. As long summer days draw in, as mists descend and a hint of chill in the soft breeze reminds us that Winter is not far away, Nature steps in to cheer us with her warm bounty of red and yellow leaves, luscious fruits, and nuts galore. Baskets of walnuts, hazelnuts, chestnuts and almonds are gathered into store for the long, dark evenings ahead, when the nutcrackers, put away after last Christmas, will be retrieved for use again, and the heady scent of roasting chestnuts is once more in the air. Nothing will be left on the nut trees in winter, for any that have remained unseen by human eye will soon be spotted by the squirrels, who will busily complete their own nut harvest, stripping the branches bare and carrying the products of their labours off to their hiding places - to be eagerly dug up again and enjoyed on the coldest winter days.

Celtic Cross Pottery was recently founded in the Llynfi Valley, in South Wales. Now a flourishing small business, it has quickly gained a reputation for the high quality of the design and workmanship of its fine bone china figurines and small gift items, such as this charming thimble.

# Thimble Collectors Club

## Spider Monkey CEMARPA, Venezuela

Deep in the rainforests of South America, where huge snakes slither through the undergrowth and brilliantly coloured birds flutter among the trees, lives the spider monkey. This appealing creature, with his two-tone coat and queesting face, is the acrobat of the jungle. With his long limbs, dexterous hands and strong, flexible tail, he is able to swing from branch to branch with ease, traversing the dense tree canopy with amazing speed. Spider Monkeys are noisy and sociable animals, living in groups of about thirty, and you may be sure that when one of these groups is around the other animals get no peace. Their repertoire of disruption includes hurling dead branches to the jungle floor, bombarding their enemies with nuts and fruit and barking like dogs!

Cemarpa is a young porcelain house which is growing dramatically. Equipped with the most modern technology, including electric computer-controlled kilns, and staffed with skilled local artists and technicians trained at Germany's foremost porcelain college, the company looks set to be one of the coming names in the world of fine porcelain. Our thimble is a first for this exciting new porcelain house, and astute collectors will recognise it as a highly desirable piece of ware that may become a part of porcelain history.

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Monkeys Thimble



EXCLUSIVIDADES CEMARPA - Venezuela

A family of playful monkeys frolicking in the trees adorns the very first thimble ever produced by Caracas, Venezuela's Exclusividades Cemarpa CA.

Founded in 1982, Cemarpa has quickly established a reputation as one of the finest ceramic houses in the world. By utilizing technologically advanced, computer-controlled kilns, the firm's German-trained artisans are able to manufacture porcelainware to exacting detail. Local artists, hired by Cemarpa's founders, supply the finishing touches to their products, adding a unique slice of Venezuelan culture.

This thimble, simple in shape yet unique in detail, makes a fine addition to your collection and is available exclusively from the Thimble Collectors Club.

## Persian Falconers

A tribute to CERAMART, England

THESE splendid figures are depicted in the famous Russian miniature style, which can be seen on the tiny, exquisitely decorated lacquer boxes and the other little painted objects at which the Russians excel. With their gleaming white horses and fine clothing, these princely huntsmen, one with a falcon on his wrist, are rich and romantic figures indeed. They are surely inspired by folklore – Russia was for several hundred years ruled by the great Khans of the Golden Horde, and no doubt many heroic tales were told of exploits and daring. This design is based on a Persian miniature painting, but has been beautifully interpreted in the Russian decorative tradition.

The skilled craftsmen of the Ceramart pottery were working around the middle years of the twentieth century. As the name of their house implies, they were dedicated to making good-quality ceramic products ornamented with artistic decoration. We feel that this finely detailed thimble would have delighted them, and it is our tribute to a small but flourishing house.



## Elephants CHARMAINE, France

A train of Indian elephants in bright primary colours marches along against a bold and vibrant background, scattered and surrounded with stars and motifs borrowed from Eastern carpet styles. The delicate flower shape at the top of the thimble acts as a stunning centrepiece.

Kaolin is, of course, an essential ingredient of porcelain. The Limoges region of France added its name to the ceramics world in 1771, when the discovery of kaolin deposits at St Yrieix caused the founding of the famous Limoges porcelain factory there. Many other factories established themselves in the surrounding area in the following years. A later addition that was nevertheless steeped in the traditions of the area, Charmaine specialised in the production of dainty china flowers and baskets. These, arranged on a dining table to decorate an informal lunch party, were a delightful and unusual alternative to the heavy silver and silver-gilt ornaments that had been fashionable for so long. Alongside this highly successful line, Charmaine made many other small china trinkets and gifts, and was one of the few manufacturers to produce decorative thimbles.

## Thimble Collectors Club

### Children's Strawberry

In the style of CHELSEA, England

In our memories of the long, warm summer days of childhood, one fruit stands out as favourite among all the rest – the strawberry. Its short season made us all the more eager for another taste of this luscious berry, before time stole it from us for another year. Picnics were not the same without strawberries dipped in sugar – and a bowl of strawberries on the table was the high point of a meal. What better motif, then, to adorn our latest porcelain treasure – a child-sized thimble, especially made for a tiny finger. Any little girl would be proud to wear this thimble, and would surely sew her seams and her samplers more cheerfully!

The Chelsea factory was short-lived – it flourished from about 1745 to 1770 – but it must be among the best-known and most highly esteemed of English porcelain houses. Famous for its charming designs of naturalistic subjects – flowers, animals, insects, fruit – against a pure white ground, Chelsea porcelain remains one of the most sought-after types of ceramic ware in antique shops and auctions today. Our pretty thimble, embellished with golden bands, is a delightful modern example of the Chelsea tradition, and is sure to be a firm favourite with collectors everywhere.

## Thimble Collectors Club

Child's Thimble

CHELSEA  
PORCELAIN

CHELSEA PORCELAIN - England

In Victorian times, sewing was a national pastime in both England and America. Thimbles were in demand by parents to give as gifts to their children when first learning needlecraft and were available in a variety of sizes. This dainty child-sized bone china thimble from Chelsea Porcelain is simply adorned with newly-formed strawberries.

Carrying on a cherished tradition from the past, Chelsea Porcelain took its name from the famous factory at Chelsea, near London, where England's first soft-paste bone china was manufactured from around 1745 to 1784. At Chelsea, every article imaginable – from ornate chandeliers to scent bottles and boxes – was sculpted in fine bone china for the fashionable and wealthy members of 18th century English society. The modern Chelsea factory produces the fine hard-paste bone china which has long since replaced the soft-paste type. The romantic heritage of yesteryear lives on, however, in all other aspects of this English porcelain house's work.

The creamy white bone china, elegantly simple motif, and twin bands of gleaming 22kt gold exemplify the fine craftsmanship of the artisans of Chelsea Porcelain – one of England's most historic porcelain houses. "The Child's Thimble" was made expressly for members of the Thimble Collectors Club.

# Thimble Collectors Club

## Spring Garden

A thimble in the style of CHELSEA, England

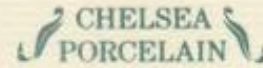
A fragrant bouquet of flowers from a garden in spring brings a special joy. Gone are the dismal dark days of winter – the fresh young blooms tell us that the earth is warmer now, and although April showers will doubtless fall, the long summer days will soon be with us.

This pretty thimble, its delicately painted posies crowned by a single moulded flower-head, is in the traditional style of Chelsea, the first English factory to make soft-paste porcelain. Chelsea was founded in about 1745 at what was then a small village on the river near London! The factory became well known for its lavishly coloured and gilded pieces, many of which were based on designs from Meissen and Sèvres. It was bought by Duesbury of Derby in 1770, producing under the name 'Chelsea-Derby' until it closed in 1784.

Chelsea's fashionable clients were also attracted by its little scent bottles, boxes, 'toys' (tiny curiosities and miniature figurines for adults to admire), needle-boxes and thimbles. Such dainty objects made ideal love tokens – and the romantic association of flowers and courtship ensured the popularity of floral motifs. 'Spring Garden', made to the exacting standards of yesteryear, is our tribute to the elegance and fine craftsmanship of this famous English porcelain house.

# Thimble Collectors Club

English Garden Thimble



CHELSEA PORCELAIN – England

Pastel blossoms in pink and lavender hues, sprightly daisies and dainty butterflies – the delights of an English garden in spring – are delicately captured on this fine bone-china thimble from Chelsea Porcelain.

Carrying on a cherished tradition from the past, Chelsea Porcelain took its name from the famous factory at Chelsea, near London, where England's first soft-paste bone china was manufactured from around 1745 through 1784. At Chelsea, ever article imaginable – from ornate chandeliers to scent bottles and boxes – was sculpted in fine bone china for the fashionable and wealthy members of 18th-century English society. The modern Chelsea factory produces the fine hard-paste bone china which has long since replaced the soft-paste type. The romantic heritage of yesteryear lives on, however, in all other aspects of this English porcelain house's work.

This exquisite thimble, with its creamy white china, delicately painted motif and moulded floral top is a testimony to one of England's most historic porcelain houses and is available exclusively from the Thimble Collectors Club.

# Thimble Collectors Club

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## Fluted Floral

A tribute to CHELSEA, England

Flowers – whether tied in a glorious bouquet, festooned in garlands, arranged in a vase, left as a mass of fragrant beauty in a herbaceous border or simply encountered as a riot of poppies and cornflowers in a field of waving corn – must always have been the Englishwoman's favourite form of decoration. With its three specimen blooms, this elegant little thimble, pure white and delicately fluted, will please lovers of flowers and thimbles everywhere.

In about 1745 a porcelain factory was set up by the river Thames in a small village named Chelsea, outside London. The earliest pieces of porcelain made there were white tableware and figures, mostly in the style known as *chinaware*, modelled in imitation of the much admired Chinese wares which had been trickling into the country since the time of Marco Polo. Later on, Chelsea became known for its brightly coloured naturalistic decorations of fruit, vegetables, flowers, butterflies and insects, all on delightfully modelled tureens, dishes, plates and other table pieces such as condiment sets and candelabras. Our latest thimble is a fitting tribute to the skilled artistry of the old Chelsea porcelain makers.

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# Thimble Collectors Club

## Frost Fair on the Thames

In the style of CHELSEA, England

In the winter of 1683-4, when Charles II was still on the throne, there was a famous 'freeze' all over the country. The Thames froze over, stalls were set up for entertainment and refreshment, and Londoners prepared to forget the cold and enjoy themselves. Skaters glided over the ice, children rushed and slid hither and thither, or set up games of ninepins, and the spectators laughed and ate and drank, stamping their feet to keep warm. Even horses and carriages ventured on to the ice for races, while boats for once lay abandoned and useless on the banks.

This busy winter scene is brought to us on a thimble produced in homage to the Chelsea porcelain factory, which flourished from about 1745 to 1784. Chelsea was famous for its colourful painted wares – its little statuettes, vases, scent bottles and boxes, which were characteristically adorned with naturalistic and figure subjects, embellished with golden decorative motifs. Our latest thimble, with its wealth of fine details, many colours and rich gilded bands, is a charming continuation of the Chelsea tradition. It is sure to please thimble collectors everywhere.

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# Thimble Collectors Club

Unicorn Thimble

CHELSEA  
PORCELAIN

Chelsea Porcelain - England

The mystical Unicorn, beautifully gentle creature of rhyme and verse, gallops across the face of this unique bone china thimble brought to us by Chelsea Porcelain.

Carrying on a cherished tradition from the past, Chelsea Porcelain took its name from the famous factory at Chelsea, near London, where, in 1745, England's first soft-paste bone china was manufactured. At Chelsea, every article imaginable – from ornate chandeliers to scent bottles and boxes – was sculpted in fine bone china for the fashionable and wealthy members of 18th century English society. The modern Chelsea factory now produces the hard-paste bone china which long ago replaced the soft-paste type. The romantic heritage of yesteryear lives on, however, in all other aspects of this porcelain house's work.

With its creamy white bone china, ornate design and twin bands of 22kt gold, the "Unicorn" thimble is uniquely reminiscent of the fine craftsmanship which has made Chelsea Porcelain one of England's most historic porcelain houses. The Thimble Collectors Club is proud to offer this thimble exclusively to its members.

# Thimble Collectors Club

## The Victoria and Albert Museum Thimble A reproduction based on a thimble made in 1765 by CHELSEA, England

It goes without saying that if an item warrants a place in one of our finest museums, the Victoria and Albert, it has to be of exceptional historical interest.

The Thimble Collectors Club is privileged to be able to offer you an exact reproduction created exclusively for us by one of Stoke-on-Trent's leading makers of fine porcelain and china. It represents the quality and beauty that English china has boasted for centuries.

The original thimble was created by Chelsea over two hundred years ago. It portrays a songbird and carries the inscription "Cage de mon amitié" - or "a token of my friendship". We are reminded that thimbles have long been used as simple but cherished gifts between friends. Very popular in the Eighteenth Century with fashionable high society, Chelsea produced some of the most exquisite collectors pieces ever made. This fine thimble is a fitting tribute to their past glory.

# Thimble Collectors Club

## Harvest Time CHODOV, Czechoslovakia

In years gone by, harvest was a time of anxious toil crowned by jubilation and celebration when all was safely gathered in. Every member of the family would take to the fields with sickle and scythe, working until late under the harvest moon to reap the fruits of their sowings before rain could sweep in to spoil the crop. Later, there would be much merrymaking as the country folk raised their glasses in a toast to the successful climax of another year's labour.

The Czech house of Chodov was founded by a local coal-mine proprietor who had bought a small castle for his residence at Chodov. By accident, a land slip in one of his coal shafts exposed a rich layer of china clay and so in 1810 the castle was converted into a porcelain factory for the production of fine china and earthenware. Over the years the factory expanded and changed hands and it is now part of the Karlovarsky Porcelan n.p. (Carlsbad China Company), specialising in exclusive items such as thimbles, vases and tableware in pink porcelain. The rarity of pink porcelain makes Chodov ware eagerly sought after by collectors all over the globe, and this thimble is a delightful example of its unusual appeal.

# Thimble Collectors Club

## Autumn Gold CLASSIC ROSE, Germany

An original and sumptuous border of 24-carat gold dots and bands perfectly frames this most enchanting flower, the Autumn Aster. Different varieties of aster growing together in the typical border of a country garden will burst into bloom with a riot of bold colour that ranges across the rainbow's whole spectrum. The more subtly coloured flowers of the Autumn Aster are a particular favourite among gardeners in the beautiful region of Selb, in Bavaria. This idyllic setting, full of a vivid display of asters and other flowers, provided the inspiration for the creation of this delightful thimble, the first to be produced under the prestigious Classic Rose hallmark.

Classic Rose is part of the world-famous Rosenthal company. Founded over a hundred years ago by Philip Rosenthal, Classic Rose continues its production at its original site in Selb. It is justly proud of its reputation for quality, and over the years has produced fine porcelain for many royal families, as well as for the White House and the Vatican.

# Thimble Collectors Club

## Dolphins CLAYMORE CERAMICS, England

Surely no-one can be immune to the charm of the dolphin, with its innate friendliness towards man and its mouth curved into a permanent smile. This supremely intelligent member of the whale family has a highly developed ability for social communication. It lives in large groups, which can sometimes be seen accompanying ships. Indeed, there are many legends which tell of dolphins coming to the rescue of sailors in danger of drowning by nudging them towards land. Whether in an oceanarium, showing off their ability to admiring crowds, or leaping above the waves of the open seas, dolphins never fail to arouse a sense of wonderment in all who behold them.

Artist Sue Camm is well known for her work on greetings cards, children's books and chinaware. Her love of natural history is evident in her attention to the fine detail of her subject – detail that has been painstakingly reproduced by Claymore Ceramics, a small company located in the heart of Worcestershire. Over the years they have built a firm reputation for the quality of their products, and they now export their ware to over twenty countries. Our beautiful thimble is the latest example of the excellence which collectors have come to expect from this house.

# Thimble Collectors Club

## Albany Flowers COALPORT, England

World-famous as a manufacturer of distinctive fine bone china tableware and decorative items, the English firm of Coalport can trace its origins back to the mid-eighteenth century, when Squire Brown of Caughley Hall began producing "Salopian" earthenware pottery at works standing on high ground above the River Severn.

In 1799 Thomas Turner, the proprietor of Caughley – and the man who introduced the renowned "Blue Willow" tableware pattern into England – sold his pottery to John and Richard Rose, who had established a porcelain factory at nearby Coalport about three years previously.

Queen Victoria commissioned Coalport, in 1845, to make a richly decorated dessert service – which she presented to Czar Nicholas I of Russia, after displaying it at the Great Exhibition of 1851, where it caused a great sensation. One of the plates from this service fetched £750 at auction in London in 1975.

In 1926 the Coalport firm moved from Shropshire to Stoke-on-Trent and 41 years later became a member of the Wedgwood Group.

The designers at Coalport selected one of their most popular patterns, the Albany flowers, for this exclusive thimble.

# Thimble Collectors Club

## Albany Flowers Thimble



## COALPORT - England

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# Thimble Collectors Club

## Balloons COALPORT, England

Balloons delight the eye of everyone, young and old. From the little balloons of children's parties to the mighty bulk of passenger-carrying giants, they hold a special fascination as they rise into the air. Balloonists provided the first form of air transport for mail, and the letters those intrepid pioneers of flight carried are now collectors' items in themselves. Today, more and more people are discovering the thrill of floating soundlessly through the blue skies, the bright balloons bearing them in gaudy convoy over the countryside. Artist Stephen Weston knows these pleasures well; a qualified flying instructor, he has recently turned to ballooning, and this thimble combines his art with his love of the air.

Coalport is one of England's most renowned china makers, with a proud history stretching back to the middle of the eighteenth century. In 1845, Queen Victoria commissioned a lavishly decorated dessert service, which was displayed at the Crystal Palace in the Great Exhibition of 1851 as representative of the very best in British design, and later presented as a state gift to Czar Nicholas I of Russia. Since those days, Coalport has maintained its reputation as purveyors of the very finest ware, and its legendary quality is typified by this delightful thimble.

# Thimble Collectors Club

## Balloons Thimble



## COALPORT CHINA - England

A colorful scene of hot-air balloons ascending high into the sky decorates this fine bone china thimble from one of England's most admired porcelain houses. With cloud-shrouded treetops below and snow-covered mountains in the background, "Balloons" evokes a remarkable sense of exhilaration.

Established in the town of Coalport, Shropshire, by John Rose in 1790, this now-famous firm quickly distinguished itself as the producer of "Coalbrookdale" wares – lovely chinaware decorated with enamel-painted flowers. Over the next few decades, Coalport China acquired three of England's most historic porcelain-making factories, incorporating their techniques and adding a number of highly skilled craftsmen to its staff. Coalport still upholds exemplary traditions of quality, producing a wide range of beautiful bone china at Stoke-on-Trent, where it re-located in 1926.

Coalport's all-round excellence is apparent in the clarity, bright colors and outstanding artistry of the "Balloons Thimble," available exclusively from The Thimble Collectors Club.

# Thimble Collectors Club

Adrienne Thimble



## COIMBRA PORCELAIN - Portugal

Pleasingly rendered in soft pastel colors, a charming provincial pattern called "Adrienne" has been selected as the decorative motif for this lovely porcelain thimble from Sociedade De Porcelanas De Coimbra of Portugal. Adapted from the exquisite dinnerware designs of Marian Vinot, the "Adrienne" pattern is perfectly suited to the thimble's gently curving contours.

Established in the famed university town of Coimbra in 1926, this outstanding porcelain house reflects a long tradition of Portuguese ceramic-making. Coimbra Porcelain's hallmark — the landmark tower of Coimbra University, founded in 1308 — has become identified with the finest Portuguese porcelain by collectors throughout the world.

The "Adrienne" motif is one of a number of porcelain patterns commissioned by Coimbra Porcelain to the noted French porcelain painter, Marian Vinot. Inspired by the rustic countryside of France, Vinot's designs are reminiscent of the 18th-century decorations used on French faïence — the celebrated white or cream-colored glazed earthenware so admirably emulated by Portuguese artisans of the period. Today, these delightful border designs can be seen on numerous Coimbra Porcelain wares, including this delightful thimble.

# Thimble Collectors Club

## Portuguese Tiles COIMBRA PORCELAIN, Portugal

Anyone who has visited the Iberian peninsula will be familiar with the delightful ceramic tiles that are a common sight in homes, restaurants and shops. The characteristic clear blue of their filigree patterns conjures up the azure sky and sea of the long, hot Iberian summer, when the waves roll lazily in on Portugal's Atlantic coastline. From these shores, seafarers set forth westwards to the New World and southwards to establish trading routes round the vast continent of Africa. The two tile designs on this thimble show the white tower of Belem — dominating Lisbon Harbour, it was built to watch over the comings and goings of the many explorers, merchantmen and fishing vessels. Inland, rural life continues in time-honoured fashion as farmers sow the seed and reap the bountiful harvest of this fertile southern land.

This evocative thimble is from Coimbra, one of the foremost Portuguese porcelain houses. Since its establishment in the old university town of Coimbra in 1926, the factory has faithfully followed the long traditions of Portuguese ceramic-making and its products have received great acclaim. The hallmark of Coimbra Porcelain — an image of the tower of Coimbra university, founded in 1308 — is, in the eyes of collectors all over the world, synonymous with the finest contemporary porcelain ware.

# Thimble Collectors Club

## Grape Leaves Thimble



COLDITZ - Germany

Bunches of ripening grapes, intermixed with the bright green leaves of the vine adorn this beautifully simple design, the very first thimble ever offered to Club members from the Colditz Porcelain Factory.

The town of Colditz, nestled in the charming Zwickauer Mulde Valley located in the heart of the world-famous Saxony district, takes a great deal of pride in the number of porcelain houses operating within its borders. With heavy influence from the nearby town of Meissen, the city where European porcelain was born, the Colditz Porcelain Factory began operations in 1907. Featuring a line of high quality, elegantly designed dinner and tableware, the Colditz hallmark soon became a mainstay on the tables of many of Europe's most elegant and exclusive hotels and inns. Now a privately held company, the Colditz factory continues to produce a highly treasured range of wares.

The off-white background, a sharp contrast for the deep green of the design, helps to highlight the precision found in all Colditz products. This Grape Leaves thimble, a marvelous example of fine craftsmanship, is available exclusively from the Thimble Collectors Club.

# Thimble Collectors Club

## The Windmill The COLDITZ Porcelain House, Germany

Cool blues illustrate this peaceful scene, which is highly reminiscent of the Dutch landscapes portrayed on Delft porcelain. The creaking sails of a mighty windmill catch the brisk breezes gusting off the rippling sea and, turning, turning, turning, grind the day's measure of corn for the miller. Over the road, the baker's great ovens will soon be warming up, and fresh bread will be on everybody's breakfast table in the morning.

The town of Colditz, nesting in the beautiful Zwickauer Mulde valley in the heart of Saxony, prides itself on the number and quality of its ceramics houses. Strongly influenced by the nearby town of Meissen, the city where the secrets of porcelain making were discovered at the beginning of the eighteenth century, the Colditz Porcelain House was founded in 1907. Famed for the durability of its product and the attractive designs of its dinner services, Colditz for many years specialised in supplying porcelain for the tables of some of Europe's most elegant hotels and restaurants. Now a privately owned company, Colditz continues to produce an attractive range of table and gift wares, and is proud to present this latest example of its craftsmanship.



# Thimble Collectors Club

## Antelopes COUNTRYLIFE DESIGN STUDIO, England

This charming painting of impalas is by Jack Pelling, who has exhibited widely and illustrated many books. The shy and graceful antelope is one of the animals we most associate with the plains of Africa; they vary in size from the tiny mouse deer to the eland, which is the height of domestic cattle. Ranging from the extreme north to the Cape Province, they are superbly adapted to their environment. Fleet of foot and coloured to blend into the sun-bleached terrain, they might almost be taken for the movement of the wind-rippled grasses as they traverse the blazing savannahs.

Countrylife Design Studio was founded in 1980 by the brothers Gwyn and Melvyn Jones. Assembling a hand-picked team of craftsmen, they began production with a range of bird models, expanding over the years to encompass a variety of animals. They now have an established reputation for producing high quality items and, since the company is small, each member of it is able to take a personal pride in his part of the manufacturing process. This delightful thimble reflects the continuing tradition of excellence for which the Stoke potteries are famed.

# Thimble Collectors Club

## Chimps COUNTRYLIFE DESIGN STUDIO, England

To many of us, the chimpanzee is the most lovable of all the animals with which we share our beautiful planet. Like all the primates, he is our near relative. Yet, compared to the mighty gorilla, the orang utan or the gibbon he seems much more approachable, with his worried, friendly face and affectionate nature. The chimp is also blessed with formidable intelligence, communicating with the other members of his family group through a wide range of calls and facial expressions and, on occasion, using branches and rocks as tools. Some chimpanzees have even been taught to 'speak' using machines and sign language – and who has not seen a chimp in human dress, copying perfectly the everyday actions he has observed us performing?

This delightful thimble hails from the Countrylife Design Studio, which was founded in 1980 by brothers Gwyn and Melvyn Jones. They began their rise to prominence with a range of bird sculptures, and have since expanded to produce a wide variety of ceramic masterpieces. Their reputation was founded on the skills of their small team of hand-picked craftsmen, and their pride in the quality of the product is exemplified by our thimble, which is sure to find favour with collectors everywhere.

# Thimble Collectors Club

## Mexican Scene CREATIVA CERAMICA, Mexico

Situated at the northernmost gate of Latin America, Mexico is an exciting and colourful land of contrast. Here towering, snow-topped mountains, volcanoes and high, rolling plateaus give way to fertile valleys, tropical forests and, finally, arid burning deserts where nothing grows but the prickly cactus. Down on the coast, sparkling clear waters lap over long sweeps of sandy beach, attracting holidaymakers from all corners of the globe. The mixed ancestry of Indian and Spanish blends harmoniously and is much in evidence in the Mexico of today. In the cities, magnificently ornate churches and buildings grouped round sunlit plazas reflect their Spanish origins, while in towns and villages alike the open market place, always the centre of the Indian communities, is still the hub of social and trading life.

This delightful thimble, with its rich depiction of Mexican scenery and life, is the first to come from Creativa Ceramica. Interestingly, this fine porcelain house was founded by a Japanese porcelain master, Mr Shokai, who has brought to the New World a centuries-old tradition of porcelain making.

# Thimble Collectors Club

## Woodpecker CROWN DUCAL, England

A handsome male great spotted woodpecker, its brilliant red nape and under-tail patches flashing in the sunlight, perches on a handy branch to feed its ever hungry, still fluffy youngster. With both parents constantly bringing tasty offerings to the chick, it will soon be ready to leave the nest, to build one of its own in a shady wood or parkland home. The great spotted woodpecker often gives away its whereabouts by the characteristic drumming noise it makes as it rains a series of rapid blows against the resonant surface of a hollow tree trunk or telegraph pole. It is a real thrill to see this shy woodland bird – also known as the pied woodpecker because of its mainly black and white plumage.

Renowned throughout the world for its high-quality decorative chinaware, Crown Ducal is proud to have produced this thimble with artist Norman Irvine, whose special love of wildlife is reflected in his illustrations. The company was established at the beginning of this century and has enjoyed associations with many of the leading names in ceramic design and art.

# Thimble Collectors Club

## Mexican Country Scene Thimble



## CREATIVA CERAMICA- Mexico

A typical Mexican country scene, complete with a snow-capped mountain, open-air market, majestic Spanish-style cathedral, towering saguaro cacti, and sapphire blue sky, is beautifully captured on this fine porcelain thimble – the first ever produced by Creativa Ceramica.

Located in the state of Coahuilla in northern Mexico, Creativa Ceramica was established in 1974 by a master porcelain-maker from Japan. Mr. Shokai brought together the rich ceramic-making traditions of two diverse cultures to create a new tradition. The boldness and bright colors of Mexican decorative motifs have found new expression against the delicate white porcelain favored in Japan.

The bustling countryside vividly portrayed in realistic color and exquisite detail on this pristine white porcelain thimble, exemplifies the unique beauty of Creativa Ceramica's wares. This "Mexican Country Scene Thimble" is available exclusively from The Thimble Collectors Club.

## Thimble Collectors Club

### Plough and Horses CROWN STAFFORDSHIRE, England

There are few more stirringly romantic sights than that of a team of magnificent shire horses ploughing a furrow across a field, driven by just one man. The rich, reddish-brown earth turns over in a perfect straight line behind the enormous, rhythmically plodding hooves. Although the shire horse is big in stature – the tallest horse in the world – gentleness and docility are the hallmarks of its character. It is said to have descended from the Great Horse of chivalric times, bred to carry the heavily armoured knights into battle. As the puller of the plough and the harrow it loses none of the nobility and romance of those former days. No wonder more and more people are interested in the revival of these gentle giants – the Pride of the Shires!

This scene of Britain's passing heritage has been captured for ever on this precious thimble by the great porcelain house Crown Staffordshire. Its founder, Thomas Green, was widely regarded as one of the finest potters of the nineteenth century. In Victorian times, the company's delicate tableware graced the houses of many of Britain's wealthy industrialists and, together with its many other china products, continues to win worldwide acclaim today.

## Thimble Collectors Club

### The Proud Mother CROWN STUART, England

Whether you are a farmyard tabby or an aristocratic, long-haired, white Persian, you share the same feelings when you look at your kittens – love and joy and maternal pride. No matter that those innocent-looking bundles are actually full of mischief – one playing with your tail, another hiding under the curtain, two more wreaking havoc with the silken curtain cord. And look over there, what is about to befall that pretty box of chocolates? Throughout it all, however, the proud mother remains calm, but ever watchful – ready to administer a firm paw if needed. And when the games are over, she'll be on hand to curl up in a circle of warmth with her sleepy babies, protecting them lovingly as they recover their energy – ready for the next round of playful antics.

This charming thimble has been created by Crown Stuart, based in the Staffordshire market town of Stone. Founded in 1976 by Stuart Robinson, formerly with Royal Doulton, it is deservedly proud of its growing reputation amongst discerning collectors as a maker of fine quality bone china.

# Thimble Collectors Club

## Flower Thimble

*Crysglass*  
MALTA

### CRYSGLASS - Malta

Of all of nature's treasures, flowers are the most beautiful and most fascinating. Crysglass of Malta has, therefore, chosen a spectacular pattern of curving vines and delicate purple flowers in full bloom to gracefully adorn their dainty thimble.

Crysglass of Malta is a small porcelain house that specializes in decorating fine porcelain with elegant lithographs of only the highest quality. The firm became noted for its sensational artistry on mugs, vases and coasters. It was, thus, ideally suited for the production of thimbles. Too small a community to support its own porcelain factory, Crysglass imports the finest German porcelain for decoration in their small, but state-of-the-art facility in Valletta, Malta.

Crysglass of Malta is proud to offer its first thimble exclusively to members of the Thimble Collectors Club.

### Pink Roses CRYSGLASS, Malta

In the form of a gracefully tapering, fluted bell, this is a most beautifully produced thimble. Its six panels hold an artistic design incorporating tiny, pale-pink Bourbon roses – both full blooms and buds – among delicately twining green foliage, on a soft white ground. Crowned with a little button of gold, it is a pretty reminder of the neo-classical style of the late eighteenth century, and we think it would have made an appropriate addition to the sewing basket of one of Jane Austen's heroines.

The house of Crysglass of Valletta, in Malta, is a small porcelain company of skilled craftsmen who specialise in the decoration of china with elegant lithographs. The company made its name with its innovative and intriguing illustrations and designs on gifts and tableware such as mugs, vases and coasters. Bringing in the finest German porcelain for its wares, Crysglass delights in producing decorative work of the very best artistic quality, using all the most up-to-date techniques at its disposal. This is a most attractive example of its craft.

