

# Thimble Collectors Club Thimbles

Palissy <--> Prinknash Pottery

## Thimble Collectors Club

### Butterflies and Thistle PALISSY, England

The strikingly marked small tortoiseshell butterfly is indeed a herald of spring, its red and yellow wings edged with brilliant azure that shimmers in the midday sun. Throughout Britain and Europe, it is often the first butterfly to be sighted each year, bringing a promise of warmth to come. Here, a group of small tortoiseshells flutter above a field of downy thistle heads. One alights and shows the clever colouring on the underside of its wings – shades of brown that make the resting butterfly resemble a dead leaf lying on the flower head. Should a bird fly down to investigate, the tortoiseshell will flash open its wings, scaring the intruder with a vivid lightning streak of emblazoned colour. Butterflies are truly 'jewels of creation', and to see them dancing gracefully in a meadow of flowers is sure to bring delight to us all.

This scene of natural beauty was painted by Norman Barber, an experienced artist who has specialised in botanical studies for more than forty years. The thimble comes from one of England's most respected porcelain houses, Palissy. Established in the mid-nineteenth century, and justly proud of its enviable reputation for high-quality table and giftware, in recent times Palissy has become closely associated with the Aynsley group of china makers.

## Thimble Collectors Club

### Strawberries PALISSY

What else captures the taste of summertime as well as the lovely English Strawberries pictured on this beautiful thimble?

Palissy was formed around 1854 in Longton, Stoke-on-Trent, and began life producing several bone china products, although little is known of this period. Work continued up to the turn of this century when, under the new ownership of Albert E. Jones, they began to build the fine reputation that "Palissy Ware" has today. Palissy is now part of the world famous Royal Worcester/Spode Group.

The strawberries on this thimble evoke the long tradition of fruit decoration on high-quality English ware, and the pattern used is typical of those used on Palissy products for well over a century. The attractive creamy color of the body is particularly characteristic. This thimble is exclusive to the Thimble Collectors Club.

## Thimble Collectors Club

### Strawberries Thimble



### PALISSY CHINA - England

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# Thimble Collectors Club

## Violets Thimble

**Palissy**  
ENGLAND  
EST. 1853

### PALISSEY CHINA — England

The simple elegance of a violet, a delightful surprise in a grassy meadow, is one of nature's modest beauties. This graceful flower is vibrantly captured on a fine English bone china from the prestigious house of Palissey China.

Palissey China was formed in 1853 in Longton, Stoke-on-Trent. The firm's beginnings were humble, producing only a limited line of bone china products. Although little is known of this early period, it is certain that the company was named in honor of Dr. Bernard Palissey, a French ceramist who was widely recognized for his distinctive sculptures. Palissey was later purchased by the Albert E. Jones Company and shortly thereafter, began to establish the exceptional reputation that "Palissey Ware" now enjoys.

Two gold bands encircle the characteristically creamy white china that distinguishes this maker of fine bone china from its peers. The "Violets" thimble is available exclusively from the Thimble Collectors Club.

# Thimble Collectors Club

## Tree of Kashmir PARAGON, England

The snow-capped peaks and limpid lakes of Kashmir in northern India made it the favoured retreat of the great Moghul emperors from the heat and dust of the lowland plains. Near the elegant capital of Srinagar they created gardens of unparalleled beauty known as "Shalimar", the Abode of Love, "Nishat", the Garden of Pleasure and "Chashma Shahi", Royal Spring, where the giant Chinar trees grow. The essence of this earthly paradise is brought to you in miniature by the exquisite decoration of the Tree of Kashmir thimble.

Founded at the turn of the century by Herbert Aynsley, a member of a family whose name is synonymous with the manufacture of fine china, the Star China Company produced English bone china tea and breakfast services of superior quality. The company's name was changed in 1919 to Paragon, the name of one of its particularly successful lines.

In addition to its superb tableware, Paragon has become known for a range of commemorative and fancy pieces. Since it was first granted a royal appointment by Queen Mary in the 1920s, the firm has established a tradition of producing a lovely cup to mark every special royal occasion. This beautiful thimble, crafted in fine bone china and bearing a delicately coloured design, testifies to a heritage of excellence.

# Thimble Collectors Club

## "Tree of Kashmir" Thimble



**PARAGON**

### PARAGON CHINA - England

The eternal fascination of the Western mind with the exotic cultures of the East is reflected by this lovely English-crafted thimble. When the British Empire flourished, during the late 1800's and early 1900's, sumptuously decorated porcelain in the styles of Persia and India was extremely popular in England, America and throughout Europe.

Like a number of prestigious porcelain houses at the time, Paragon China produced some elaborately-detailed Eastern motifs, employing a rich palette of colors, for its fine bone china. The arresting combination of intricate pattern, myriad colors and pristine English bone china can be seen on the "Tree of Kashmir" thimble.

Originally known as the Star China Company, this outstanding firm was founded in 1899 by Herbert Aynsley — one of a long line of famous English ceramics-makers. In 1903, Star introduced a new line called Paragon China, which met with such success, that the company changed its name to Paragon China in 1919. Since that time, the firm has become widely admired for its excellent bone china dinnerware featuring delicate patterns. Paragon China has received royal appointments from three successive Queens of England.

# Thimble Collectors Club

## Golden Trellis PARBUS, West Germany

For gardeners, the delight of building trellises, arbours and pergolas, and planting flowers to grace them with their beauty, is given an extra fillip when they see the creatures of the wild appreciate their labour. And who does not love the blue tit, with his yellow breast, blue wings, and piping, chattering call? The tiny crest on his head gives him a cheeky air as he performs the acrobatics for which he is famed, even as he feasts on the picnics we cannot resist putting out for his pleasure!

Parbus is situated in the dense forests of Bavaria, where many porcelain houses were founded in the early nineteenth century, drawn by the ready supply of wood for the kilns. The scenic nature of the area made it easy for the factories to attract the most skilled craftsmen, among them a master porcelain decorator called Rudolf Parbus. In 1904, Parbus founded his own firm in Oberkotzau and within a few short years it had achieved widespread recognition. Today, Parbus is run by the third generation of the founding family and maintains the proud traditions of producing the finest porcelain ware.

## Thimble Collectors Club Summer Blossoms Thimble



### PARBUS PORZELLAN - W. Germany

Delicately drawn in exquisite detail and painted in soft pastel shades highlighted with touches of white — full-blown flowers of the summer are portrayed on this delightful thimble from Parbus Porzellan of Bavaria, West Germany.

Since the mid-1800's, when the first porcelain factories were established in Bavaria, German porcelain-makers have been attracted to this deeply forested region, where wood to fire the kilns was in abundant supply. Among the artisans who set up businesses in Bavaria was Rudolf Parbus. A master porcelain decorator, Parbus founded the firm which bears his name in Oberkotzau, Bavaria, in 1904. Within a brief time, Parbus Porzellan has gained recognition throughout Germany and all across Europe.

Combining advanced technology with the founder's emphasis on the highest standard of decorative painting, Ilse and Erich Parbus uphold the third generation of their family's outstanding porcelain-making reputation.

The pristine Bavarian porcelain, lustrous glaze and superb decorative artisanship which have been identified with Parbus for more than eighty years are exemplified by this beautiful thimble.

# Thimble Collectors Club

## "Cobalt Rose" Thimble



PHOENIX CHINA - England

Alternating panels of bright red roses and deep cobalt blue, accented by 22kt gold latticework are the strikingly vibrant design highlighting the very first thimble ever produced by Phoenix China.

Founded in 1912 by Thomas Forester and Sons of Longton, Phoenix China has been highly noted throughout Europe for the high-quality decorative tea, dinner and ornamental ware they produced. Their factory's chimney quickly became a local landmark in the already famous Stoke-on-Trent district, standing 218 feet high and dominating the skyline. As one of the only factories to calcine animal bone for use in their porcelain, Phoenix used the extremely tall chimney to help dissipate the pungent odor created by the calcining process.

The high quality demanded by the owners of Phoenix China is immediately evident in this "Cobalt Rose" thimble. Accented by twin bands of 22kt gold, the unique shape of this thimble along with the creamy-white bone china serve to make this a treasured addition to any collection. The Thimble Collectors Club is proud to offer this thimble exclusively to its members.

# Thimble Collectors Club

## Doves of Peace

### PHOENIX CHINA, England

When Noah built his ark, and led the animals in two by two, he had good reason to include a pair of doves. For later, when he sent the female to seek out land, he knew that she would return to her loving mate. Return she did, exhausted, having found nowhere to rest. A week later he sent her out again, and she returned with a leaf from an olive tree, so he knew that this time she had found dry land, where no flood water remained. Down the years, the dove has become a well-known symbol of peace, and of marital harmony. Our charming thimble shows a pair of snow-white fantail doves perched, billing and cooing, on a slender branch of a pink rambling rose.

Phoenix China was a name used by Thomas Forester and Sons of Longton, Staffordshire. This family business flourished between 1912 and 1959, and was renowned for its fine-quality decorative tea and dinner services and other ornamental wares. The kiln chimney stood 218 feet high, a well-known landmark which dominated the Stoke-on-Trent skyline with its graceful form. With great pleasure, we have reintroduced the Phoenix name to make this exquisite thimble for our club.

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# Thimble Collectors Club

## Pansies Thimble



### PICKARD PORCELAIN - U.S.A

This fine Pickard porcelain thimble, decorated with a lavish and finely detailed pansies motif, is The Thimble Collectors Club's first offering from an American porcelain house.

The only major American porcelain firm still under the management of its founding family, Pickard was established as a small decorating studio by Austin Wilder Pickard in 1893. In 1894, the studio was moved from Edgerton, Illinois, to its present location in Antioch — in order to enlist the talent of artists from the nearby Chicago Institute of Art. In addition to the exquisitely painted fruit and flower designs for which this firm has always been known, Pickard has also won acclaim for its fine, light porcelain, introduced in 1938.

The delicate details and rich blue-violet, black and gold color scheme of the "Pansies Thimble" displays this outstanding porcelain house's superb mastery of the art of porcelain decorating. The Pickard "Pansies Thimble" is available exclusively from The Thimble Collectors Club.

# Thimble Collectors Club

## Tanagers PICKARD, USA

All over the Americas the liquid song of the brilliantly plumaged tanager cascades through the woodlands, bringing a lift of the heart to all who hear it. As can be seen from its thick bill, this charming little bird is very similar to the members of the finch family. Here it is depicted perching on a branch of the aspen, that tree most beloved of the poets for its romantic, tremulous quality. Because the leaves are attached to the stem by long, flattened stalks the slightest breeze sets them a-quiver, dancing and quaking in seemingly shy alarm.

Pickard was established in Edgerton, Wisconsin, in 1894, subsequently moving to Chicago in 1897. Since most china was manufactured abroad at that time, it was for some forty years a decorating company, specialising in handpainting imported blank tableware, and these early pieces are now much sought after by collectors. In 1930 experiments began in the manufacture of china and by 1937, when the firm moved to Antioch, Illinois, the Pickard 'secret formula' was fully developed, creating a warm white china with one of the finest glazes known. Today, the company is famous for its fine china tableware and its range of exquisite decorative accessories such as this delightful thimble.

# Thimble Collectors Club

## Western Tanager Thimble



### PICKARD CHINA - U.S.A.

A pair of Western Tanagers, with their striking, brilliant colors, adorn this unusually shaped thimble from Pickard China, the only American porcelain house to be included in the Thimble Collectors Club.

Pickard was established as a small decorating studio by Austin Wilder Pickard in 1893, and to this day remains the only American porcelain firm which still operates under the management of its founding family. Moved in 1894 from Edgerton, Illinois to its present location in Antioch, the firm enlists the aid of the many talented artists who attend the nearby Chicago Institute of Art. By continually tapping this talent, Pickard has won wide acclaim for the exquisitely painted fruit and flower designs which routinely decorate its wares.

Made of an exclusive fine, light porcelain introduced by Pickard in 1938, this thimble, with the deep, rich colors and hand-rendered detail of the "Western Tanager" design, is a fine example of the decorative motifs used by Pickard China. The Thimble Collectors Club is proud to offer this thimble exclusively to members.

# Thimble Collectors Club

## Butterflies

### PIRKENHAMMER, Czechoslovakia

Two glorious butterflies – surely nature's prettiest creations – flutter over this charming thimble. A handsome Red Admiral adorns one side, while a Peacock, showing the strong 'eye' markings on its wings, is its counterpart. To entice these summer beauties into your garden, you must ensure a plentiful supply of nectar by planting their favourite flowers – sweet purple alyssum, phlox and hyssop, lavender and thyme, buddleia and hebe. If you want the butterflies to take up permanent residence, however, making their family home in your garden, you'll need to relax your rules, for the caterpillars' chosen food is stinging nettles!

The Pirkenhammer porcelain company is one of the oldest in Czechoslovakia, having been founded in 1803 at Brezova, in the romantic Tepla valley. By the middle of the century its products had become respected and sought-after all over the world for their beauty and fine quality. A well-known French artist, A. Carrier, worked at Pirkenhammer in the second half of the nineteenth century, encouraging the fashion for hand-painted china. The company specialises in luxurious tableware and highly decorative gift items such as vases, ornamental plates, pierced dishes – as fragile and dainty as lace – and thimbles, such as the attractive ones which Pirkenhammer make especially for the Thimble Collectors Club.

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# Thimble Collectors Club

## Rose Garland

### PIRKENHAMMER, Czechoslovakia

A sweet, natural fragrance stirs with the evening breeze as it whispers over a garland of traditional roses. Found wild throughout the countryside of the northern hemisphere, the rose's special beauty and scent has so captivated man that it is believed to be the first flower brought under cultivation. In every hue from pure white and rich creams, clear yellows, soft peaches and glowing pinks to flaming oranges and brilliantly vibrant reds, the rose has been grown for its beauty since ancient times. It is a special part of nature's bounty, as a single perfect specimen, a tumble of heady flowers over a garden pergola or as a garland of multi-coloured blooms captured for ever by the artist's brush.

Collectors of porcelain have long valued the decorative gift china produced by Pirkenhammer. The company was founded at the very beginning of the nineteenth century and began production in the romantic valley of the River Tepla at Brezova, in Czechoslovakia. The long-standing tradition of exceptionally fine craft work is jealously guarded and is particularly evident in the rich, hand-decorated wares for which the company is renowned.

# Thimble Collectors Club

## The Koala PLATYPUS GALLERY, Wales

The engaging little koala has become one of Australia's unofficial national emblems. Koalas are not bears, of course – but early visitors to Australia thought they were, and the name stuck! They are marsupials, the mother carrying her baby in her pouch for about five months, and at this age it is strong enough to climb out. Then, as pictured on our charming thimble, it rides on her back until it is able to venture forth on its own. With its grey fur and appealing looks, and nibbling eagerly away at its favourite food of eucalyptus shoots, it looks for all the world like an animated cuddly toy.

The Koala thimble has been lovingly designed and made for us by an Australian lady, a newcomer to Wales who has enjoyed seeing a great many of these delightful small animals in their natural habitat. She writes books for children, mainly about Australian wildlife, and produces thimbles, chiefly for the Australian collectors' market. The memorable name of her one-woman business, Platypus Gallery, celebrates another interesting Australian mammal!

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## Thimble Collectors Club Country Berries Thimble



POOLE POTTERY - Poole, England

Plump red berries, accented with dark green leaves, impart a charming country look to this bone china thimble from England's famous Poole Pottery.

Located on the coast of the English Channel, the port of Poole has long been familiar to ceramics and chinaware collectors as the home of the illustrious Poole Pottery. Established in 1873 as a manufacturer of ceramic tiles, the firm soon turned its attention to stoneware and earthenware made from the fine clays yielded by the Dorset Hills. These high-quality wares inspired an interest in artistic innovation, and a number of noted regional artists began contributing their talents to Poole Pottery.

Today this outstanding company is acclaimed for an unusually varied range of wares – including lovely sculptures of animals and marine wildlife, superb reproductions of 1920's art pieces, and fine crystal-glazed bone china tableware.

The "Country Berries Thimble," available only from the Thimble Collectors Club, features a motif adapted from Poole's much-admired Cranborne dinnerware pattern.

# Thimble Collectors Club

## Seabirds POOLE, England

The tradition of pottery production on Poole Quay goes back to 1870, although the present Poole Pottery really has its origins in the work of Owen Carter who started making his famous lustre tiles and other pieces there at the turn of the century. Production increased during and after the First World War, when the wares from the Poole pottery became known for their strong designs. Owen died in 1921, in the years to come the Carter family remained associated with the company.

During the Second World War production was often interrupted by air raid alerts at Poole, a wartime flying boat base, and part of the works was occupied by B.O.A.C. After the war a new factory was built with the latest technological innovations and the works were again extended in the 1970s to include a new manufacturing unit, a showroom, retail shop and pottery museum.

The Seabirds thimble demonstrates the high quality of workmanship and design which characterises Poole wares. The subtly coloured decoration, featuring gulls, guillemots and cormorants and bearing the signature of the artist, is applied by hand using transfers designed at the factory. It is a piece which is beautiful in its simplicity and worthy of Poole's famous dolphin backstamp.



## Thimble Collectors Club Seabirds Thimble



### POOLE POTTERY - England

Gulls, guillemots and cormorants — depicted on this lovely English thimble from Poole Pottery — are but a few of the fascinating species which gather during migration at Brownsea Island, a marine bird sanctuary just off the coast of the English Channel port town of Poole.

Established in 1873, Poole Pottery is named for the town in which it is located. Like several other prominent English porcelain houses, Poole's original products were floor tiles, wall tiles and other utilitarian ceramic articles. Soon, however, the firm began manufacturing high-quality earthenware and stoneware. Today, the well-known Poole Dolphin hallmark is found on both fine earthenware and bone china. Poole has won admiration and praise among knowledgeable collectors throughout the world.

The "Seabirds" thimble exemplifies the superior quality in materials and craftsmanship, as well as the innovative design concepts, which characterize Poole wares. To foster individuality and creative expression, Poole's porcelain decorators are encouraged to sign their work — and the artist's signature, reproduced on a hand-applied transfer, can be seen on the enchanting Brownsea Island bird scene which decorates this thimble, available exclusively from The Thimble Collectors Club.



## Seevögel POOLE, England

Die Tradition der Porzellanherstellung in Pool Quay geht auf das Jahr 1870 zurück. Die heutige Pooler Porzellanherstellung hat jedoch ihren wahren Ursprung in der Arbeit von Owen Carter, der um die Jahrhundertwende seine berühmten Kacheln und andere wertvolle Stücke herstellte.

Die Produktion stieg während und nach dem Zweiten Weltkrieg an, als die Poole-Keramik bekannt wurde.

Owen starb 1921, im selben Jahr, als seine Familie mit der Firma eine Cooperation bildete.

Während des Zweiten Weltkrieges wurde die Produktion oft durch Luftangriffalarne unterbrochen.

Nach dem Krieg wurde eine hochmoderne Produktionsstätte errichtet, und 1970 wurde sie durch neue weitere Produktionsräume, einen Ausstellungsraum, einen Laden und ein Keramikmuseum erweitert.

Der Seevogel-Fingerhut ist ein Beispiel für die hochwertige Qualität der Handwerkskunst und für das Design, für das die Pooler Porzellanwaren bekannt sind. Die feinen Verzierungen, die charakteristischen Möwen, Lurmen und Kormorane sowie die Unterschrift des Künstlers sind handgemalt. Es ist ein Stück, das in seiner Schlichtheit wunderschön ist.

## Thimble Collectors Club

### Beauty of the Rose KUNST KRONACH, Germany

The rose has for centuries been seen as the most decorative, fragrant and desirable of blooms. One of the attributes of Venus, goddess of Love, the rose is the flower of romance. Descended from forebears in the ancient gardens of China and Persia, modern roses, in all their variety, are the culmination of centuries of loving, skilled care by generations of devoted horticulturalists. With a hundred subtle variations of shade and shape, the beautiful rose in all its glory rombles, climbs, tumbles or gracefully poses in gardens throughout the world. Our gold-capped thimble shows two perfect roses, typically luxurious and velvety, on a pure white background.

The thimble is especially made for the Thimble Collectors Club by Kunst Kronach of Weissenbrunn-Hummendorf, a little hamlet which has now been incorporated into the city of Kronach, a stone's throw from the German border with Czechoslovakia. This area has a two-hundred-year-old tradition of porcelain making, and the family firm of Kunst Kronach uses the talents of many highly accomplished local artists and craftsmen, who today combine the skills of yesteryear with contemporary designs.

## Thimble Collectors Club

Roses Thimble



POPP PORZELLAN - W. GERMANY

"A rose by any other name would smell as sweet"

Many are the poets, artists, and dreamers who have contemplated the rose. Inspiring feelings of romance, the rose has long been considered a symbol of beauty and purity. Its essence is captured in this beautiful thimble produced by the craftsmen of Popp Porzellan in Kronach, West Germany. The red and yellow roses which gracefully adorn this snow white porcelain thimble, evoke images of vitality, youth, and romance.

The city of Kronach has long been known for its artistic excellence. Lying close to both the East German and Czechoslovakian borders, Kronach enjoys a rich artistic heritage. It is the birthplace of painter Lucas Cranach, who stands foremost among the many noted artisans from the region. Today, the many porcelain factories based in and around Kronach preserve and continue the tradition, employing skilled artisans as they have for close to two hundred years.

Popp Porzellan is highly regarded among the region's porcelain makers. Founded in 1949 by Mr. Fritz Popp, the house today is managed by his daughter Ehm, and his daily visits to the studios which bear his name assure a continuing dedication to craftsmanship and artistic excellence. These skills are captured in this beautifully decorated thimble, making it a pleasing and welcome addition to any collection.

# Thimble Collectors Club

## Camargue Horses AVIGNON, France

In the marshy expanses of the Camargue, in southern France, the wild horses make a fine sight as they roam the countryside. Predominantly white in colour, sturdy and tough, they make ideal mounts for the French 'cowboys' who herd the fighting bulls that are bred in this swampy landscape. The area is rich in bird life, too, with many wading birds drawn to the wild, unspoilt wetlands. But it is the horses that capture our imagination most as they gallop through the shallows, their white manes tossing in the spray sent up by their flying hooves.

Artist Libby Turner's love and knowledge of our equine friends is very evident in the portrayal of Camargue horses which graces this delightful thimble. She began her career as a painter of equestrian subjects by illustrating books and magazines, and her range grew to include greetings cards, giftware and commissions to paint the portraits of many of Britain's most illustrious thoroughbreds. In the past year her designs have become much sought after by prestigious porcelain houses in England, Germany and America, and for this thimble she collaborated with Avignon, a French house which has maintained a fine reputation for more than a century.

# Thimble Collectors Club

## The Camargue Horses Thimble



PORCELAINES AVIGNON - France

Wild horses graze and roam freely in the marshy expanses of the Camargue in southern France. Porcelaines Avignon has selected this native French scene to grace their fine porcelain for this striking thimble.

Named for the historic French city in which it is located, Porcelaines Avignon was founded in 1870. Keeping with the French tradition of lavishly decorated and elaborately styled porcelain, Avignon's skilled artisans produce a wide range of giftware of the finest French porcelain. Sparkling white, strong and resilient, it provides a perfect background for the exquisitely detailed motifs for which Avignon has become famous.

Available exclusively from the Thimble Collectors Club, the "Camargue Horses" thimble with its milky white porcelain, luxurious 22kt gold band, and meticulously detailed motif is an important addition to your thimble collection.

# Thimble Collectors Club

## Umbrellas AVIGNON, France

Despite their reputation for chic and stylish dressing, on wet days the French, ever practical, happily sacrifice style to expediency. While southern France basks in the long hours of Mediterranean sunshine, further north the climate can be as changeable as our own, ensuring that every household has an umbrella to hand.

We all know those days when wet and gusty weather blows us down the street, tossing hats into puddles and sending dogs scuttling for shelter. On such days, a busy street will suddenly sprout a roof of umbrellas, bobbing along in the pouring rain. But for some unfortunates, the battle is over before it is joined, when the wind snatches at their umbrellas, turning them inside out and leaving the hapless owners exposed to the elements!

The house of Avignon was founded in France in 1870. It has a proud tradition of producing fine bone china, and this delightful thimble is the latest in a wide range of wares. Artist Eric Kincaid, who created this amusing cameo, is a leading book illustrator whose work has been sold in over eighty countries. His humorous touch and eye for detail have been faithfully captured on this thimble of quality, which will surely enchant discerning collectors everywhere.

# Thimble Collectors Club

"Cardinals" Thimble



PORCELLANA ANCAP - Italy

Sitting atop a dogwood branch, its fragile pink blossoms in full bloom, a lovely pair of cardinals bask in the noonday sun. A simple yet stylish thimble, masterfully designed by Porcellana Ancap of Italy.

Nestled among the scenic hills of Northern Italy, the house of Porcellana Ancap has been kept a closely-guarded local secret. For generations, skilled craftsmen have manufactured exquisite sets of porcelain dinnerware exclusively for native inhabitants. Recently expanding their collection to include giftware items such as vases, bells and serving ware, Porcellana Ancap agreed to manufacture this beautiful thimble for our members.

This tiny thimble, a stunning example of expert craftsmanship, is available exclusively from the Thimble Collectors Club, and will be a prized addition to your thimble collection.

# Thimble Collectors Club

Primrose Thimble



PORCELLANA ANCAP - Italy

Fragile blossoms in subtle shades of red and blue accented by delicate leaves of green form the simple, yet stylish ornamentation for this fine porcelain thimble from Porcellana Ancap.

Nestled among the scenic hills of Northern Italy, the house of Porcellana Ancap has been kept a closely guarded local secret. For generations, skilled craftsmen have manufactured exquisite sets of porcelain dinnerware exclusively for native inhabitants. Recently expanding their collection to include giftware items such as vases, bells, and serving ware, Porcellana Ancap agreed to manufacture this beautiful thimble for our members.

This dainty thimble, graced by beautiful Primroses, is available exclusively from the Thimble Collectors Club, and will be a prized addition to your thimble collection.

# Thimble Collectors Club

## Alhambra PORDAMSA, Spain

As the last Moors left Granada in 1492 after seven and a half centuries in Spain, they mourned the loss of their most beautiful city. The legendary lament of Boabdil, the last Moorish king of Granada, "Ay de mi Alhambra!", still survives in the Spanish language as an expression of dismay, whilst a Spanish proverb exclaims there is no greater sorrow than to be blind in Granada.

The walls and fortifications of the Alhambra dominate this Andalusian city in southern Spain. The palace's name derives from the Arabic for "red", reflecting the colour of its outer walls. Inside these walls, courtyards, halls, gardens and fountains delight the eye with their intricate filigree carvings and bright decoration, combining traditional Moorish patterns and inscriptions in Arabic to the glory of Allah. In the gardens of the white summer residence of the Generalife nearby, the visitor is soothed by the sound of the clear fountains and the fragrance of rose and jasmine.

The exquisite Alhambra thimble is the creation of the young craftsmen of Porcelanas del Ampurdan, S.A. (Pordamsa), based near Gerona in north eastern Spain. Although it was only founded seven years ago, the company has expanded rapidly and now exports its fine porcelain wares to a number of European countries as well as to the United States.

# Thimble Collectors Club

## Botanic Garden PORTMEIRION, England

The name Portmeirion was invented by Sir Clough Williams Ellis for his picturesque holiday village in North Wales. The village gained particular fame when it was used during the 1960's as the setting for the TV serial "The Prisoner". It was Sir Clough's daughter, Susan, a talented sculptor and artist, who was largely responsible for the founding of Portmeirion Potteries in Stoke-on-Trent.

Susan William Ellis' most famous creation has been the Botanic Garden range of china. She chose plants and insects taken from fine hand coloured illustrations in early 19th century Natural History books to decorate her own pottery. However, Portmeirion had never made a thimble until the Thimble Collectors Club approached them. The result is the Botanic Garden Thimble — a famous pattern from a famous name.

# Thimble Collectors Club

## Botanic Garden Thimble

**P**ORTMEIRION  
ENGLAND  
POTTERIES

## PORTMEIRION POTTERIES - ENGLAND

The enchantment of an English country garden is captured in porcelain on this delightful thimble. Its depictions of flora and fauna, such as one finds in the royal gardens of Kew and Wisley in spring, evoke the poet Browning's yearning, "Oh, to be in England, now that April's there."

Portmeirion artists drew their inspiration for this delicate thimble from natural history books of the early 19th century. With painstaking precision, they sought to imitate nature's perfection using the truest colors and finest techniques.

The result is the wonderful blending of traditional and contemporary that has brought Portmeirion worldwide acclaim. Located in the heart of England's pottery district in Staffordshire, the firm was founded 25 years ago by artist Susan William-Ellis. Her fine hand is evident in every work produced by Portmeirion, since she personally models every shape.

# Thimble Collectors Club

## Royal Rose PRINCESS ROYALE, England

*As the chosen badge of kings through the ages and an emblem of the Church since earliest times, no flower is more deserving of the title 'Royal' than the majestic rose. Roses have been cultivated in Europe since the fifth century BC, and today rose-growers strive to produce new and ever more exotic blooms, such as this perfect example of a modern floribunda rose. Like all such roses, it has been derived from crossing one specimen with another. And, as if to emphasize its royal status, the very first hybrid rose, which was produced in France in the early nineteenth century, was called 'Rose du Roi' – Rose of the King.*

This exquisite thimble has been produced by Princess Royale, a small but dedicated porcelain house in Stoke-on-Trent, the heart of the British pottery industry. The company was founded in the early 1980s by three recently retired men who had learnt their craft at Wedgwood. They brought to the new company the high standards they had maintained throughout their careers, so that, today, Princess Royale is widely respected in the bone china industry for its high quality wares.

## Teddy Bears PRINCIPALITY CHINA, Wales

**H**ow busy they are, this merry trio of little bears! It is autumn, and the leaves have fallen, so they must be swept up and the garden restored to order. Many paws make light work, and with the sweeping done and the wheelbarrow piled high, there's time for a chat with country friends. A cheeky robin redbreast, perching on the barrow, sings for his supper, a tiny mouse listens, while a bold squirrel scampers over the newly cleared ground to begin his search for nuts to bury for winter snacks ahead. A perfect gift for a child – or a light-hearted addition to any collection – this thimble is an appealing miniature souvenir for teddy bear lovers everywhere.

Principality China is a newly established small pottery which makes an appealing range of gift ware, including thimbles and other individual items with traditional Welsh designs. The many visitors to Wales enjoy buying mementos of their holidays, and local craftspeople – in particular, designers, artists and potters – join together to fulfil their wishes. Principality has recently been chosen to design and make thimbles for an Australian company – a just tribute to their fine workmanship, which now enjoys a world-wide reputation.

# Thimble Collectors Club

## The Gloucester Cathedral Thimble



PRINKNASH POTTERY - England

The Cathedral of Gloucester was originally a monastic foundation dating from A.D. 681. Developed into a large Abbey church after the Norman Conquest of England in 1066, it was known as the Benedictine Abbey of St. Peter, and grew in fame and wealth until the suppression of monasteries in 1539. In 1541, Henry VIII bestowed the title of "Cathedral" on the Abbey, and appointed a Bishop for the newly created diocese of Gloucester.

Centuries later, the Cathedral was purchased from the Crown and used as a manor home. This continued until 1928, when Thomas Dyer Edwardes returned it to the Benedictine monks. Immediately after regaining possession of the property, the monks built a new abbey and a pottery. This pottery, known as Prinknash (pronounced "Prinage") began producing a limited collection of giftware items depicting either local landmarks or religious themes. These unique pieces, with their exquisitely detailed motifs, and lustrous ivory glaze, quickly became sought after by collectors worldwide.

This thimble with its striking portrait of the famous Cathedral, glistening glaze, and hand-painted band of 24kt gold, is available exclusively from the Thimble Collectors Club.

# Thimble Collectors Club

Hands of Prayer



PRINKNASH POTTERY

PRINKNASH - England

Prinknash (pronounced "Prinage") Pottery was founded by the Benedictine monks who re-established a religious community in Gloucestershire around Prinknash Abbey in 1928. The Abbey had been in private hands for 389 years following Henry VIII's suppression of the monasteries. The last owner, Thomas Dyer Edwardes, became a convert to Catholicism and decided to restore the Abbey and its extensive grounds to the Benedictine monks of Caldey.

To cover the upkeep of the old Abbey and fund the building of a new monastery, the monks must work. The discovery of sizeable deposits of clay on the estate led to the beginning of the Prinknash Pottery, which has steadily gained a worldwide reputation for its attractive ceramic ware.

The hands portrayed on this thimble are by the sixteenth century artist, Albrecht Dürer, who studied in Venice during the Renaissance and became one of Germany's most highly respected painters.

# Thimble Collectors Club

## Serenity Prayer PRINKNASH, England

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The Serenity Prayer thimble has been made exclusively for the Thimble Collectors Club and features a prayer that contains a message for all of us from the monks of Prinknash.