

# Modern British handpainted china thimbles

1978-2022

At the start of the modern thimble collecting era of the late 1970s, some of Great Britain's china houses produced handpainted thimbles. This was a time consuming and costly exercise. The demand avalanche for instant and cheaper thimbles swamped thimble manufacturers as we entered 1980.

The porcelain houses realised that creating their own decals or transfers using a skilled artist would speed up production and an unlimited number could be churned out.

Initially, companies like Caverswall had their artists hand-touch their designs with spots of paint and you will find artists' names like William Tipton, John Ball, C Nunn, Holmes Gray or Mary Grant named on the thimbles. These are not handpainted thimbles: just hand-touched.

Sutherland, who produced china thimbles the longest, made thimbles in the same way – but didn't even follow the hand-touched route. Some of their thimbles are labelled hand enamelled. Rather a few spots of enamel enhances the design – this is known as champleve. JB, ME and PH (Pauline Haughton) are initials found on Sutherland thimbles enhanced in this manner.

Royal Worcester, the doyenne of handpainted thimbles from the 1870s, faced the same problem. They did not want to employ more artists and thimbles are time-consuming to paint freehand with at least three firings. In the 1970s, the foreman of the painters' division, Edward Townsend, came up with a solution. He designed a number of outline prints – which were printed onto the blank thimbles. The artists did not have to create an individual painting but merely coloured in the blank design. This speeded up the process noticeably. Even that didn't help as by 1986, the last handpainted RW thimble was painted. They turned to decaled thimbles to keep up with demand.

The pendulum did begin to swing back in the 1990s and handpainted thimbles came back into their own in the small numbers as before.

The artists had access to blank thimbles from any source. This would give them creative freedom and some commercial success.

Handpainted thimbles take a while to paint, so they are created in a limited supply.

Many of the artists didn't only paint thimbles – they formed a minute part of their output. They painted vases, plates, brooches, lidded jars, figurines of fauna, paintings, coffee pots, miniatures and handpainted enamel boxes etc.

A few of these artists have painted on wood, glass and silver thimbles and on enamel. They are outside the scope of this topic. Thimbles with handpainted flowers affixed will also not feature here.

See my topics on specific British painters of china thimbles:

Graham Payne (1981) who employed at least six freelance painters  
Gerald Delaney

Jasper's of Yorkshire (Margaret and Mandy Palmer)

Francesca employed at least 16 thimble artists and other character head thimbles makers number 20  
Royal Worcester thimble painters

I have featured **34** British thimble handpainters.

When I have fewer than five thimble examples from specific painters – they will follow at the end of the section of thimbles - both in alphabetical order by painter's surname.

If the thimble only has the painter's initials, they follow on from this section.

Lastly is a very small section where the handpainted thimble is obviously British from the topic or the shape.

Along the way I have learnt heaps – and I can now recognise thimbles painted by these artists.

It takes sheer talent to paint accurately on such a small area of china.

I hope you will enjoy the journey as much as I have.

For other handpainted thimble topics see

Australian handpainted thimbles and sewing tools 1973-2014

Cornish Enamels thimbles 1995-1997

Francesca character head thimbles

Gerald Delaney handpainted thimbles

Graham Payne handpainted thimbles 1981-1996

Hazrah handpainted bronze thimbles (Mauritius) 2006-2009

Iles' handpainted and decaled plastic thimbles

Jacqui and David Parker of Olivia (Birmingham) thimbles 1983-1996

Jasper's of Yorkshire handpainted thimbles

Merryfield Pottery (Devon) thimbles

Modern British hand-decorated wooden thimbles

Roger Gibbons pewter thimbles 1984-1990

Roger Harrison of Kelso thimbles 1983-1988

Royal Worcester thimble painters

Scottish wooden thimbles

### Lorraine Bates

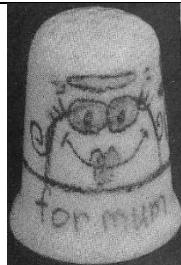
born 1964

graduate of Bath Academy of Art 1986

daughter of Gill and David Bates of Woodsetton Peeps

set up her own pottery, Woodsetton Arts Pottery, alongside that of the family business

handpaints some of their enamelled brass thimbles



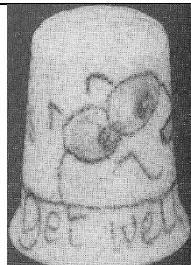
'for Mum'  
TTG February 1986  
b&w photo



Easter 87  
TTG April 1987  
b&w photo



elf  
TTG June 1987  
b&w photo



'Get well soon'  
TTG May 1986  
b&w photo



Teddy  
TTG September 1986  
b&w photo

## Anne Blades

Blades was born in Port Talbot in 1953, grew up in Guildford and returned to live in Wales in 1968  
she studied industrial ceramics and china painting became her passion  
in 1984 opened her ceramics studio – Anne Blades Ceramics

Anne opened her own shop and gallery, Blades – The Artworks in 1997 in Mumbles (Mwmbwls), Swansea in Wales

her thimbles are distinctive in that they have a daffodil design pressed into the apex  
AB with a date letter is her maker's mark on the inside  
source: <https://www.anneblades.co.uk/about/>





Worms Head

### David Bowkett

Bowkett was a Royal Worcester trained artist and worked there between 1948-1962  
he moved to Cornwall and bought a pub in the 1970s

David opened his own studio in Devon  
he began to paint thimbles in 2002

this is where his RW training came to the fore – using birds and fruit themes painted on bone china  
these included the signature on the outside and the traditional sprig on the verso  
thimbles have the David Bowkett backstamp and his signature is D Bowkett

Bowkett died in 2009

if there is a small china hook on the back of the item – it is a tiny candlesnuffer – they can be mistaken for thimbles. His figurals have indentations on the head



candlesnuffer



R: his mark for character-shaped thimbles



	<b>bird - Kingfisher</b>		<b>choirboy - i</b>		<b>choirboy - ii</b>
		<b>cricketer</b>			<b>golfer</b>
	<p>the character-shaped, this is not a candlesnuffer      backstamp is slightly different for the character-shaped thimbles      fine bone china</p>				

## Gigi Branch (1983-1984)

Gigi trained at Limoges in France then settled in Devon

thimbles signed inside Gigi

see also topic Glass and crystal thimbles for her painting on glass thimbles



Christmas 1983  
carolers



Christmas 1983  
holly leaves  
red enamelling on lace-like ground  
dated and numbered  
limited to **100**



Forget me nots  
May 1983  
b&w photo



Prince William 1<sup>st</sup> birthday  
21.6.83  
royal symbols painted all round



stylised flowers  
limited to **150**  
August 1984

## Christopher Burns (1987-1994, 2005)

Chris Burns is a Royal Worcester trained artist

in 1987 when RW were no longer producing handpainted thimbles, Burns opened his own studio in the Malvern Hills, Worcestershire

here he established Harcourt China

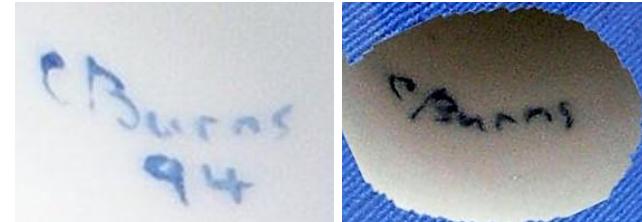
before the use of this mark, the thimbles were marked Malvern England

he provided thimbles to The Thimble Guild. I have used the catalogue dates

his thimbles are not dated (with one exception in **1994**)

there is a lovely range of designs capturing the surrounding English countryside. His thimbles evolved to sculpt thimbles in relief giving a three dimensional aspect

thimbles have the Harcourt China backstamp and his signature C Burns is located on the inside  
thimbles are not named – I have used names from the TTG catalogues etc



L: early blue Malvern mark (Type 1) - C: no brand name Handpainted in England (Type 2)

A stroll thru the woods limited to <b>200</b> TTG June 1993	Autumn fruits TTG November 1990	Barn owl TTG August 2005	bee TTG June 1993
bird of prey pink ground	bird of prey pink ground	Blue tit TTG January 1988	Blue tit TTG January 1988
British garden birds Blue tit TTG October 1987 (set of twelve)	British garden birds Bullfinch TTG October 1987		British garden birds Firecrest TTG October 1987



British garden birds  
Goldfinch  
TTG October 1987



British garden birds  
Robin  
TTG October 1987



British garden birds  
Sparrow  
TTG October 1987



British garden birds  
Thrush  
TTG October 1987



British garden birds  
Wren  
TTG October 1987



British garden birds  
TTG October 1987



Christmas 1991  
TTG December 1991



comet Hale-Bopp



Cottage  
TTG October 1998



Cottage  
TTG October 1998



Cottage  
TTG October 1998



Cottage  
TTG October 1998



English cathedral  
TTG December 1993



English cathedral  
limited to 450  
TTG April 1992



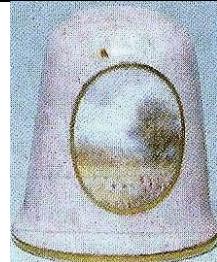
English countryside  
set of six on pink ground with cameo scenes  
TTG July 1989 – TSL summer 1989



English countryside  
blue ground with cameo scene  
with tree  
TSL summer 1989



English countryside  
blue ground with cameo scene



English countryside  
pink ground with cameo scene  
TSL summer 1989



English countryside  
pink ground with cameo scene  
Type 2 backstamp



Holly  
pink ground with champleved holly  
Thimble Society of London winter 1989  
limited to **450**  
TTG December 1992



Kingfisher with fish  
L: type 1 mark



Kingfisher  
limited to **200**  
TTG June 1988



Ladybird  
thimbles have the 1994 dated signature  
TTG July 1994





Little owl  
limited to **200**  
TTG August 1991



Madonna  
TTG December 1991



Malvern Hills  
1993  
panorama scene all round  
limited to **375**



Mercat Cross  
(street in Wyre Evesham)  
limited to **250**  
TTG February 1993



Mr and Mrs Owl  
TTG July 1992



Peregrine  
TTG February 1990



pig  
TSL summer 1991



Postbox at Crophorne  
(in Evesham)  
limited to **375**  
1993



robin



robin  
pink ground with cameo



Rose cottage  
TTG January 1992



Salmon  
pink ground  
limited to **250**  
TTG December 1991



Shepherd's cottage  
TTG January 1992



£3  
Snowy Owl  
Snowy owl  
TTG August 2005



St Paul's Cathedral  
limited to **375**  
TTG November 1992  
TSL spring 1993



Summer Serenity  
TTG June 1990



Thatched cottage  
TTG January 1992



The lone shepherd  
September 1992



Village church  
limited to **250**  
September 1991



Wren  
1987



Windmill  
TTG March 1989  
TSL autumn 1990



woman shopping


## Peter Carver

I first came into contact with Peter Carver from Solihull in West Midlands in 2013 thru a Canadian thimble collector

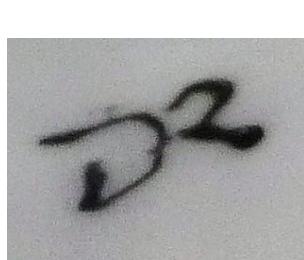
she encouraged Peter to try painting thimbles

Carver's specialty is painting birds – see for yourself his quirky, almost humorous style on his retirement, with interests in professional watercolour painting, furniture restoration and painting enamel boxes amongst many others, with typography and graphic design in his working life, he accepted the challenge

having a kiln, Peter was able to make his own china thimbles – he gilded some of his apexes and these are distinctive as the gold only covers the immediate indentations

he experimented with poly clay, which enabled him to try sculpted thimbles

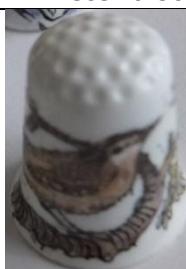
Carver's thimbles are signed PC (but look like DR): you can see for yourself with three examples the thimble names are those of the painter but not lettered within thimble (2013-2014) but thimbles are not dated



Peter also painted on enamel



Badger



bird



Blue tit  
cutaway to reveal nest  
inside



Book at bedtime  
gold painted apex



Christmas 2013



Christmas 2013



Christmas 2013  
'Deck the halls with  
boughs of holly'



Christmas 2013



Christmas robin



Cockerel Moon



Corgis – Monte & Ozzie  
painted on commission



dolphin



Fox



Hare



Iron Bridge



Leaves and berries



Leaves and berries



London Bridge



Otter/beaver



Owl



Packwood House



Pheasant



Pheasant



poly clay set of six



Rabbits



Robin



Star Dust



Three rabbits



Tower Bridge



William Morris



William Morris



William Morris



William Morris



William Morris



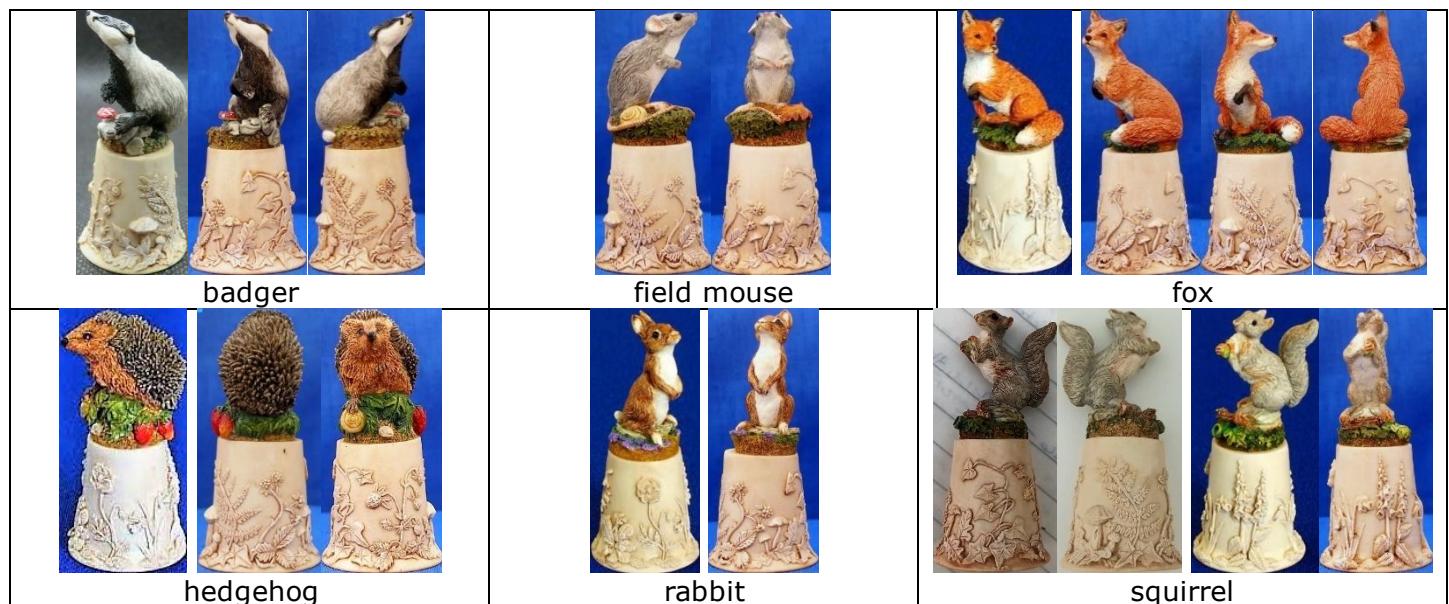
Wren



## Country Artists

This set of six Woodland Animals is created of bisque porcelain.

The thimble base has plain bisque woodland flowers or fruits in relief all round – this includes foxgloves, daffodils, bluebells and primroses - brambles, mushrooms and strawberries.



## Nigel Creed - Ken Russell (1987-1999)

Creed is a Master Painter and worked at Royal Worcester in 1963

Russell (1934-2010) was Royal Worcester's last Master Gilder

Thimble Society of London commissioned Nigel and Ken to produce handpainted thimbles for sale thru their thimble catalogues

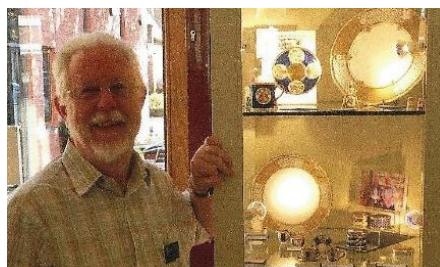
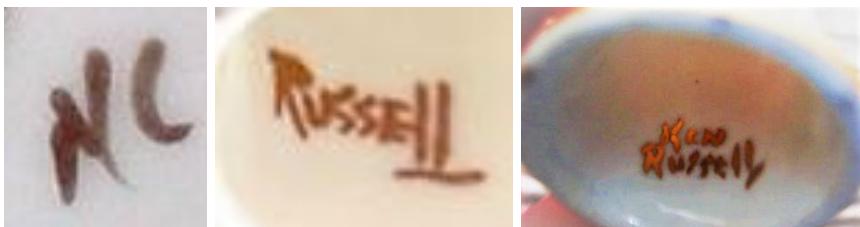
Nigel signed his thimbles with his initials NC on the outside near the painted part

Ken was the gilder and used 24ct gold. Sometimes the apex is gilded. Russell is signed inside

Ken had retired by 2004. He gilded thimbles for other thimble painters

names used are purely descriptive, not being named by the painters – thimbles are not dated

Royal Worcester collectors will recognise many of these designs as those that came from the factory, given a modern look



Ken Russell 2010



Creed also painted on enamel

Apple blossom TSL autumn 1993	Baltimore Oriole TSL spring 1994
Blackburnia bunting TSL winter 1994	Blue bird TSL autumn 1993



Blue tit  
limited to 50



butterfly



butterfly  
TSL winter 1992



butterfly



Cactus wren  
TSL winter 1993



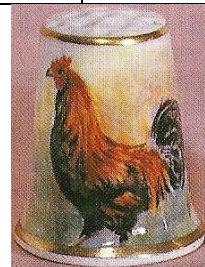
Cherokee rose  
TSL spring 1994



Christmas  
TSL autumn 1990



Chrysanthemum  
TSL autumn 1990



Cockerel  
TSL summer 1991



Crocus  
TSL summer 1991



Daffodil  
limited to 50



freezias?



Gold flower  
TSL summer 1999



Gold



Gold



Gold  
signed Ken Russell



Gold jewels swags  
shell pink ground  
TSL autumn 1996



Goldcrest  
TSL spring 1993



Goldfinch  
L: TSL autumn 1990



Imari  
TSL autumn 1989



jewelled  
TSL spring 1996



jewelled  
in panels



jewelled  
TSL summer 1996



jewelled



jewelled



jewelled



jewelled



jewelled  
TSL winter 1989



jewelled



jewelled



jewelled



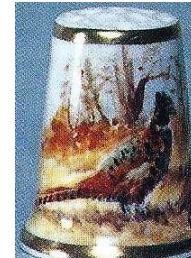
Jewels with coral  
TSL autumn 1989



Kingfisher  
TSL spring 1990



Larch spray  
TSL winter 1994

			
Lattice	Lattice gold black & white panels TSL summer 1996	Lattice gold on white TSL summer 1999	Owl TSL autumn 1995
	   		
Peacock butterfly limited to <b>100</b> TSL summer 1992	Pheasant TSL autumn 1991		
 			
Poinsettia TSL autumn 1991			
  	 		
Ptarmigan TSL winter 1991	purple flower		
     			
Robin limited to <b>50</b> TSL winter 1989			
   			
Rose TSL spring 1990			



Rose  
TSL winter 1991



Ruby jewelled  
limited to **100**  
with TSL mark for Thimble Society of London  
TSL summer 1987



Snowdrop  
limited to **50**  
TSL winter 1989



Thistle  
limited to **100**  
TSL summer 1992



Tulip  
TSL spring 1992



Turquoise jewelled  
limited to **100**  
TSL summer 1987



Turquoise jewelled  
TSL summer 1999



Turquoise jewelling  
TSL winter 1989



Turquoise jewels  
TSL autumn 1996



Wild lupin  
TSL spring 1994



Woodcock  
TSL spring 1992



Wren  
TSL autumn 1990



yellow flower



yellow flower  
TSL spring 1992  
rhodedendron?



## Janice Daughters (1991-1997)

Daughters is an artist in Leyburn, Wensleydale North Yorkshire trained in graphic design, Janice moved from London to set up her studio in 1986, where she was able to freelance in graphic design

she had developed a love for the countryside, with its flora and fauna as an added interest, she began to paint on porcelain and china, including thimbles her signature details are on the inside rim and the date is included



apples



cottage



Duckling  
1991



Duckling  
1992



Duckling  
1997



Flower garden  
1992



Harvest mouse



Poppies



Sheep in Dales  
1991



Sheep in Dales

### Robert Earwicker (1984-1997)

China Cottage, Cornwall

his characters and buildings are made of Cornish clay – quirky. The characters rarely have facial features. In June 1984 issue of the TTG, Bryn was first named as Eric. Earwicker's thimbles often have colourways, probably changed to at a later date. In 1990 Robert introduced thimble holders of clay to display his various thimbles.

TTG sold all these thimbles.



'1599 Defeat of the Armada'  
limited to **1000**  
July 1986



Abbey House  
October 1985



Alpine church  
April 1995



antique shop  
July 1995



badger  
April 1988 – February 1992\*  
\*limited to **150**



bell ringer  
January 1989



Cambridgeshire cottage  
July 1992



castle  
September 1993

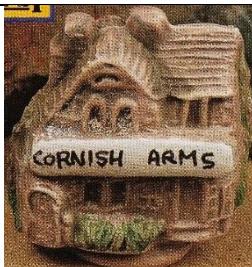


chestnut seller  
July 1994

6



corner shop  
May 1995



'Cornish Arms'  
can be personalised  
December 1995



church



'Columbus 1492'  
May 1992



Cornish engine house  
June 1987



Derby Day  
June 1989



dairy  
December 1989



doll



Elizabethan cottage  
September 1984  
b&w photo



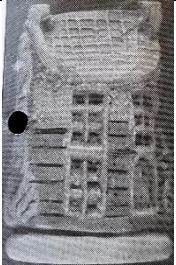
fisherman's cottage  
January 1984



frog  
March 1988



gabled house  
September 1986



Georgian house  
September 1996  
b&w photo



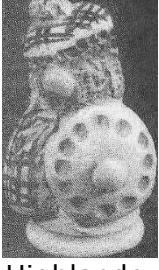
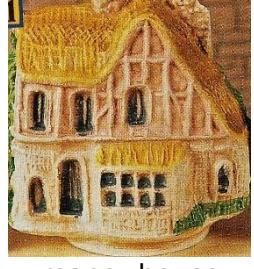
'Guy Fawkes'  
October 1988 – October 1991



'GWR 1835-1985'  
March 1985



Haunted house  
January 1986

 <p>hedgehog January 1997 – April 1993</p>		 <p>Highland castle November 1986</p>	 <p>Highland woman May 1986 b&amp;w photo</p>
 <p>Highlander March 1986 b&amp;w photo</p>	 <p>holiday cottage May 1996</p>	 <p>horse</p>	 <p>hot air balloon September 1992</p>
 <p>house</p>	 <p>Humpty Dumpty November 1993</p>	 <p>Kentish house August 1995</p>	
 <p>knight May 1988</p>	 <p>leprechaun</p>	 <p>lighthouse February 1992</p>	
 <p>Little Maplestead Round Church Essex November 1994</p>	 <p>Little Red Riding Hood April 1994</p>	 <p>lodge house February 1986</p>	
 <p>manor house January 1995</p>	 <p>milkmaid March 1989</p>		 <p>monk January 1988 - April 1996</p>



motorbike  
July 1994



mushroom house  
February 1985



mushroom house  
March 1991



Musketeer  
July 1989



Nobody Inn  
November 1992



Norman church  
September 1985 - May 1997



nurse  
February 1989



oast house  
May 1995



owl  
February 1987



pig with piglets  
March 1987 - October 1992



'Post Office'  
February 1994



pirate  
July 1986 - May 1989 - August 1991



post-box  
October 1993



red-tiled house



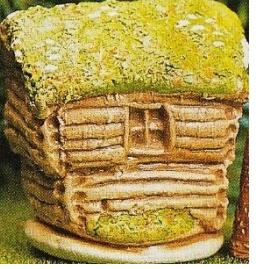
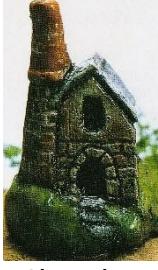
regency house  
October 1989



Robin Hood  
August 1988



round house

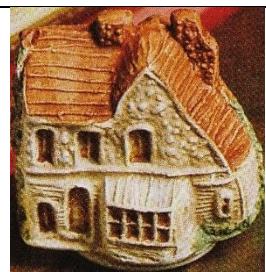
			
round house	santa	santa November 1989	santa's home November 1996
			
santa's house November 1985		scarecrow February 1988	
			
Sir Lancelot June 1988	Snowman '1984' November 1984	teddy bear blue bow – pink bow December 1988	
			
thatched house June 1984	The old woman who lived in a shoe	'Thimble Tours' April 1992	
			
	'Thimble Guild' December 1991 - August 1993		
			
tin mine March 1997	Tour de France September 1994	town house January 1984 b&w photo	



tram  
January 1993



Truro Cathedral  
July 1987



vicarage  
July 1993



windmill  
June 1986 – March 1990 – May 1993 – August 1996



Wimpey house  
February 1996



witch  
October 1994  
limited to **250**



woman shopping with child



woman with dog



woman with pram



holder: city street



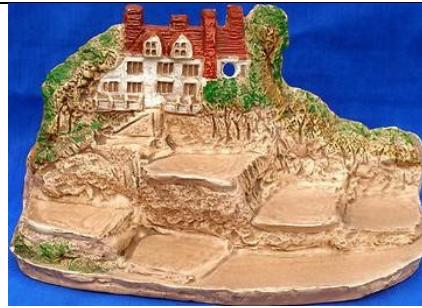
holder: garden party with unpainted figures  
July 1991



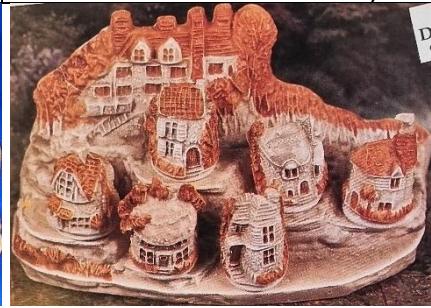
holder: house



holder: train station with train  
limited to **50**  
February 1993



holder: village  
October 1990



## Raymond Everill (1988-1989)

Everill works out of Lime House Studio in Staffordshire, since he retired from Spode  
his trade mark is Raymond Everill & Sons England  
you can't mistake his bright pink signature R.Everill  
thimbles are not named – some are dated (1988-1989)  
the apex is painted with 22ct gold



bird  
1989



blackberry  
1988



blackberries and cherries



bullfinch  
1988



cherries



cherries



goldfinch



grapes with cherries  
1989



cherries



grapes



plums



summer meadow  
1989



## Vivienne J Evison (1992-1997)

Evison runs Lyme Studio in Cheshire with her husband Paul (she was first identified by TTG as Christine)  
her thimbles are of fine bone china finished in 22-24ct gold  
many of her thimbles are painted using precious metals – no two are ever the same  
signed Vivienne J Everill or V.J.E



After Lowry  
TTG June 1996

Earl's golden coronet  
TTG September 1995



Lightning  
TTG December 1996

Peacock feather

set in precious metals lustre  
showing 6 of 7  
TTG December 1992



'Amber'

'Garnet'



Malachite

Petrol



'Rose'



'Ruby'



Weights  
1/2lb Mushrooms ...  
TTG October 1995



Weights  
1/4lb Tea 125grams (0.275)  
TTG October 1995



Weights  
1lb Tomatoes 1/2  
kilo (1.1...)  
TTG October 1995



Weights  
1 oz chillies ...  
TTG October 1995



Weights  
5lbs Potatoes ...  
TTG October 1995



gold painted apex

## Helen Halloran

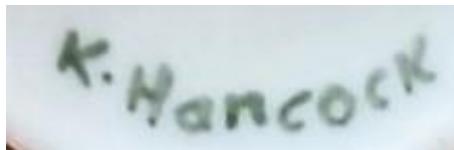
Halloran worked for Royal Worcester, Halcyon Days and Elliot Hall Enamels  
her bone china thimbles are one-off pieces  
apexes are painted with 24ct gold  
these six flower thimbles are from 2022  
not signed

		
Campion	Celandine	Cherry blossom
		
Primrose	Speedwell	Violets

## Keith Hancock (1983)

Hancock worked for Sutherland in Stoke-on-Trent and Caverswall, handpainting thimbles for their brand these are not decaled as the bulk of the Sutherland and Caverswall thimbles were they are all signed – and numbered inside when they are limited in number

The Thimble Guild commissioned two sets of thimbles from Hancock signature is K. Hancock or Keith Hancock. The black signature is signed inside



apples  
also available with Swarovski crystal apex



apples  
Caverswall



Autumn vale (Four seasons)  
limited to **200**  
TTG September 1983



Autumn – reaping  
1983

 <p>blackberries Caverswall</p>	 <p>blue tit Swarovski crystal in apex</p>
 <p>daisies Swarovski crystal in apex</p>	 <p>flowers green Swarovski crystal in apex</p>
 <p>flowers</p>	 <p>Robin red Swarovski crystal in apex</p>
 <p>Romany art TTG summer 1983 b&amp;w photo</p>	 <p>Romany art green with handpainted enamel limited to <b>200</b> TTG September 1983</p>
 <p>Romany art maroon with handpainted enamel limited to <b>200</b> TTG March 1983</p>	 <p>Romany art pink with handpainted enamel limited to <b>200</b> TTG May 1983</p>



Romany art  
blue with handpainted enamel  
limited to **200**  
TTG July 1983



Spring vale (Four seasons)  
limited to **200**  
TTG April 1983



Summer vale (Four seasons)  
limited to **200**  
TTG July 1983



The red dragon  
more gilding than the TCC Red dragon  
issue  
limited to **1000**  
TTG December 1983



Winter vale (Four seasons)  
limited to **200**  
TTG February 1983



Meissen style – cobalt ground with two different  
cameo scenes



Meissen style – terracotta ground with two  
different cameo scenes

## Agneta Hickley (1988-1992)

Rimpton Yeovil

her thimbles all have a scalloped gold-painted rim

Hickley's thimbles have painting all round – except her bird thimbles



Blue butterflies  
1988



Country cottage  
1988



Goldfinch



Hedgehogs  
1988



Kingfisher  
1988



Kingfisher  
1992



Pink flowers  
1988



Red butterflies  
1989



Robin  
1989

## Neil Higgins (1983-1985)

Higgins first came to my attention as the handpainter of the Robin Hood set of six character head thimbles, with the brand name Healacraft, using the initials of NH inside the thimbles his name has also been associated with Sutherland. I speculate that's where he learnt his skills as a handpainter of thimbles?

Neil's signature of N. Higgins is always lettered in brown in his thimbles and may be found lettered on either the inside or outside thimbles are not dated. He painted thimbles for a short period, Higgins often uses a blue wash as the ground for his painting

Higgins undertook commissions thru The Thimble Guild – including a few of pets he subsequently painted for Staffordshire Enamels (1995)



<p>'1903 Georges Richard' Ltd to <b>10</b> TTG July 1983</p>	<p>'1909 Humber'</p>
<p>'Alpha Romeo BC - 2300'</p>	<p>'Anne Hathaway's Cottage'</p>
<p>bird</p>	<p>bird</p>
<p>his birds are not named so for an Australian unfamiliar with British birds ... they are named bird</p>	



bird



bird



bird



Blue tit



'Bridge House Ambleside'



'Bronte House'  
TTG September 1984



building (name illegible)



butterfly



'Carillion Loughborough'



'Chichester'  
(Yarn Market)



choristers  
with attached pendant loop  
limited to **250**  
TTG November 1983  
b&w photo



cottage



'Derby Cathedral'



'Gloucester Old Spot'



King Charles spaniel



Kingfisher



Labrador



Lapwing



'Pershore'  
pink wash



'Portland ram'



'Rippon Cathedral'



'Shakespeare's birthplace'



snowman  
with attached pendant loop  
limited to **250**  
TTG November 1983  
b&w photo



snowman



Springer spaniel  
TTG November 1983



'The Bell Tower'

The Thimble Guild commissioned this thimble of the building where their thimble business was housed  
TTG June 1983



'The Orchards'



'Thimble Hall'



'Wells'

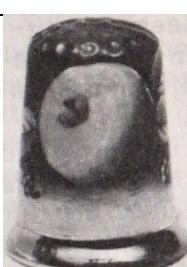


'Womborne Church'

### Bruce Higham (BH) (1988-1989)

Higham is a ex-Coalport and Staffordshire Enamels (1995) painter  
Worcester-based

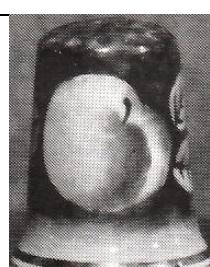
heavily painted gold apexes and thick gold painted rims  
some seem to have pale lettering on the cream ground



apple  
1988  
pale green apple on green ground  
b&w photo



apple



apple  
1989  
b&w photo



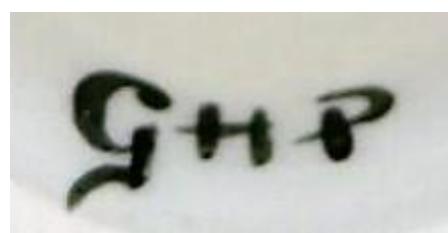
### Griselda Hill

Wemyss Ware was founded in 1882 in Fife Scotland. It took its name from a nearby Castle  
in the 1920s the studio moved to Devon – it closed in 1957

in 1985 Griselda revived the Wemyss Ware® style  
handpainting to their style at her The Griselda Hill Pottery Ltd® in Kirkcaldy, Fife  
the most recognisable style has a rim of painted blue scallop - signed inside GHP

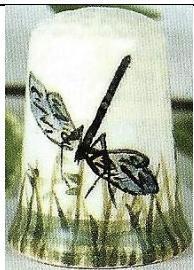
<https://wemyssware.co.uk>

thimbles are still produced but currently out of stock. They may be ordered



Hill at L





dragonflies



flower



flower



flower



flower



flower



flower



flower



flower



lemon



orange



plums



violet

## Milwyn Holloway (1987)

Holloway (b.1940) is a Royal Worcester trained artist (1954-1971)  
 there he specialised in painting birds  
 most of Milwyn's thimbles since then have no inner markings  
 some examples have a generic backstamp  
 the thimble backstamp used is for Claymore Ceramics  
 Milwyn's bird thimbles are always signed MH near the bird  
 thimbles are not dated, nor are the birds named



	<p><b>Blue tit</b>          birds' set of 12 thimbles 1987 (TTG)</p>	
	<p><b>Chaffinch</b></p>	
	<p><b>Firecrest</b></p>	
	<p><b>Great tit</b></p>	<p><b>Jay</b>          not in birds' set of 12</p>

						
Kingfisher not in birds' set of 12				Magpie		
						
Nuthatch		Robin				
						
Song thrush		Woodpecker not in birds' set of 12				
						
Wren						
						
Yellowhammer						
						
not in birds' set of 12		not in birds' set of 12		Highland cow		

## Christopher Hughes (2003-2005)

Hughes (born 1948) began his apprenticeship with Royal Worcester in 1960 and branched out on his own in January 1980

he has a studio in Holly Green Worcestershire where he painted thimbles from 1987

the backstamp inside the thimble is The Christopher Hughes Collection or Christopher Hughes (later)

his thimbles are signed Christopher Hughes on the outer rim

thimble apexes are completely gilded, and sometimes they join the upper gilt line – he uses a thicker rim of gilding than other British painters. All are painted on fine bone china

thimbles are painted all round even if the verso is just a pale matching wash

thimbles are not named, nor dated



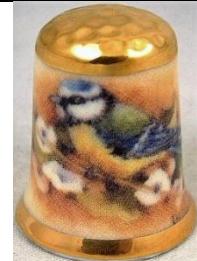
apple



Barn owl  
TTG August 2005



Bird of prey



Blue tit



Butterfly



Butterfly



Butterfly



Butterfly



Butterfly  
with and without gold apex



Chrysanthemum

 <p>Church</p>	 <p>Common Blue butterfly with and without gold apex</p>	 <p>Daffodil</p>
 <p>Finch</p>	 <p>Fuchsia</p>	 <p>Harebell</p>
 <p>Grouse</p> <p>R: no gold apex with birds positioned differently TTG April 2003</p>	 <p>Highland cattle with and without gold apex L: TTG April 2003</p>	
 <p>Highland stag with and without gold apex</p>		 <p>Hollyhock</p>
 <p>Kingfisher</p>		 <p>Little owl September 2005</p>
 <p>Pear with strawberry</p>		 <p>Red plum</p>



Peregrine falcon  
TTG September 2005



Pheasants  
with and without gold apex  
TTG April 2003



Rose



Robin



Sheep  
with and without gold apex

£3



Snowy owl  
with and without gold apex



Sparrow



White plum



Wren



Peregrine falcon TTG September 2005	Pheasants with and without gold apex TTG April 2003
Robin	Rose
Sheep with and without gold apex	Snowy owl with and without gold apex
Sparrow	White plum
Wren	

## Julie Menzies (1993-2016)

Menzies grew up the Biggar area in the lowlands of Scotland  
 she was never formally trained in art tho painting was a passionate hobby  
 Julie worked in the despatch section of The Thimble Guild (TTG) in Biggar until the owner, Arthur Bell,  
 discovered her artistic abilities  
 she began to handpaint thimbles commissioned and personalised by thimble collectors thru TTG – painting  
 their pets, homes, gardens etc

she specialises in portraits and for five years Menzies was the TGG's chief thimble artist  
 she became their chief designer of art in 1998-2005, which required her to create thimble designs  
 these were translated into lithographs or transfers/decals

tho her thimbles seem to be handpainted, all Menzies thimbles after 1998 are decaled thimbles  
 handpainted portraits fill the entire front of thimble – her decal thimble portraits are more cameo sized  
 her handpainted thimbles bear the signatures J.M., Julie. M. or Julie Menzies on fine bone china  
 with 22ct gold rims

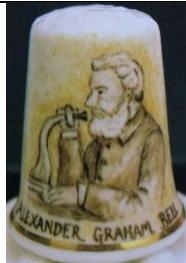
Menzies can handpaint three thimbles a day – no wonder they were offered in limited editions  
 some thimbles will have the backstamp The Thimble Guild

Julie was also a designer for Sutherland China

Julie also painted wooden thimbles



Menzies January 1991 and 1999

 <p>90<sup>th</sup> anniversary 1921-2011      lettered in gold      Royal British Legion      limited to <b>250</b> - ed lettered om      verso      TTG November 2011</p>	 <p>Alexander Graham Bell      limited to <b>100</b>      TTG March 1997</p>	 <p>Art deco      Fruit      TTG August 1999</p>
 <p>Art deco      Geometric      TTG September 1999</p>	 <p>Art deco      House on a hill      six-sided      TTG June 1999</p>	 <p>Art deco      turreted apex      TTG July 1999</p>



Art deco  
TTG October 1999



Best wishes New Year 2005  
TTG December 1994



Billy Wright  
limited to **200**  
TTG October 1994



Burt Lancaster  
TTG December 1994



Caernarvon Castle  
favourite ship could be personalised  
TTG February 1998



children's portraits  
portraits could be personalised  
TTG October 1993



Clydesdale  
limited to **250**  
TTG March 1997



Colin Macrae (rally driver)  
limited to **250**  
TTG January 1996



Cross  
limited to **200**  
TTG March 1994



Donald Pleasance  
limited to **100**  
TTG March 1995



Doris Speed  
TTG December 1994



dream home  
your home could be personalised  
TTG August 1996



E & S (Edward and Sophie)  
19.6.99  
there is also a decaled version



Fred Perry  
limited to **100**  
TTG March 1995



garden  
your garden could be personalised  
TTG April 1994



'Hale Bopp 1997'



'Hale Bopp 1997'

L: first edition which has more detail - limited to 250

R: city scene – lower: country scene  
two unlimited editions with less detail

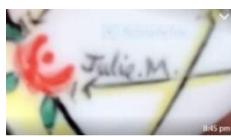
TTG May 1997



Henry VIII  
limited to **75**  
TTG February 1997



Jose Carreras  
commissioned by the singer who is a thimble collector  
TTG May 1994

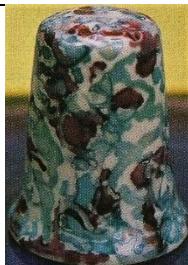


initials

Menzies follows 18<sup>th</sup> century French designs  
your initials could be commissioned  
limited to **175**  
TTG July 1993



Lustreware



Lustreware  
TTG March 1997



Lustreware  
TTG September 1999



Lustreware  
TTG September 1999



Lustreware  
December 1999



Meadow flowers  
limited to **100**  
October 1996



Neil Armstrong  
limited to **150**  
September 1994



Montserrat Volcano 1997



North Sea oil  
Swarovski crystal in apex  
limited to **250**  
TTG December 1994



Peace and goodwill  
limited to **125**  
TTG December 1995



Peace in Northern Ireland  
limited to **150**  
TTG March 1995



pet  
your favourite pet could be  
personalised



Queen Elizabeth II 70<sup>th</sup> birthday  
19.4.96  
TTG April 1996



Queen Elizabeth II 80 years  
21.4.2006



Queen Elizabeth II 85<sup>th</sup> birthday  
19.4.2011  
limited to **85**  
TTG April 2011



Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip  
60 years 1947-2007



Queen Elizabeth the  
Queen Mother 95<sup>th</sup>  
birthday  
Swarovski crystal in apex  
limited to **350**  
TTG August 1995

 <p>Rose TTG April 1997</p>	 <p>Roy Castle limited to <b>250</b> TTG October 1994</p>	 <p>Sam symbol of the koalas injured in Victorian 2009 bushfires</p>
 <p>Scenes of Jubilation 50 years limited to <b>500</b> TTG April 1995</p>	 <p>Snowflake spot of gold paint in each flake limited to <b>150</b> TTG January 1997</p>	 <p>Soufrière Hills Volcano Montserrat TTG October 1997</p>
 <p>Strawberry limited to <b>20</b> TTG August 2016</p>	 <p>Teddy bear baby's name can be personalised TTG December 2009</p>	 <p>The Golden Hind limited to <b>450</b> TTG March 1996</p>
	<p>The Longest Day 50 years limited to <b>250</b> TTG May 1994</p>	
 <p>The night before Christmas TTG November 1996</p>	 <p>To a mouse (after Robbie Burns) limited to <b>149</b> TTG January 1994</p>	 <p>Toy train baby's name can be personalised TTG December 2009</p>



UFO  
limited to **450**  
TTG May 1998



Viva Espana!  
limited to **75**  
TTG July 1994



West Highland Terrier  
favourite pet can be personalised  
TTG March 1998



Xmas 1999  
pontilist style  
TTG November 1999



William & Kate 29<sup>th</sup> April 2011  
golden lovebirds  
TTG April 2011

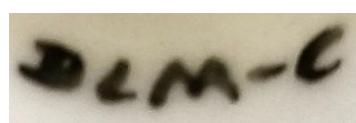


### **Dorothy Mortimer-Coy (DLM-C)**

Flowercraft  
Sponden Derby

former Royal Crown Derby artist

her thimbles are signed inside – further information is on a sticker on base of thimble box



BONE CHINA FLOWERCRAFT  
HAND MADE and HAND PAINTED by  
DOROTHY MORTIMER-COY  
17 LEEWAY  
SPONDON, DERBY DE2 7GG  
TEL. 0332 670986



Anemone



Apple blossom



Blackberries  
TTG August 1987



Blue poppy



Buttercup



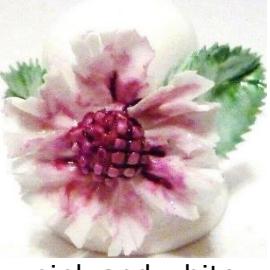
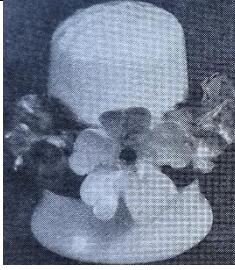
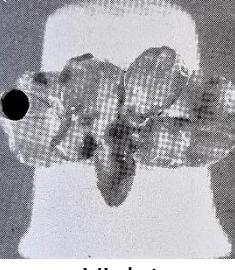
Crab apple blossom



Daffodil  
TTG March 1987



Dog rose  
TTG July 1987

				
		Easter lily Forget-me-nots TTG June 1986		Holly TTG December 1986 b&w photo
				
Narcissus	pink	pink and white		pink rose
				
Primrose TTG July 1986 b&w photo	Scabiosa	Snowdrop TTG March 1987 b&w photo		Vinca
				
Violet TTG April 1987 b&w photo	Violet ?	Violets		yellow rose
				
	Wild rose TTG May 1986			

## Peter Platt (1991-1992)

Platt (born 1935) was commissioned by The Thimble Society of London to paint thimbles in 1990s for sale thru their catalogues

he is Royal Worcester trained (from 1951)

Peter's thimbles, once he left RW, are uniquely his own: plenty of gilding and the subjects are set in an ornate cameo

signature is P Platt which can usually be found in the lowest part of the cameo



EIIR 1952 - 1992  
gilded by Russell  
commissioned by TSL



Flowers  
gilded by Russell



flowers



Fruit – apples  
TSL summer 1991



Fruit – apples



Fruit – apples  
TSL summer 1992



Kingfisher  
gilded by Russell

## Ryoko Ottignon (1978)

Ryoko's studio - Ottignons of Norfolk - is in Starston where she is the hand decorator and ceramist  
 Ottignon's thimbles are based on copies of Georgian designs from 1780s - designs found on cups and  
 saucers of Lowestoft (1757-1802) and New Hall (1781-1835) porcelain factories

maker's mark in the form of a sandglass ii burnished gold is painted on the inside

(it may look like the Roman numeral for ten when the dot isn't clear)

her thimbles require five firings to fix the colours and glaze on the cream porcelain

thimbles are presented in thimble boxes handturned in mahogany and waxed to give an antique patina  
 accompanied by a signed, dated and numbered certificate - the list of what else Ottignons retails is listed  
 on the verso of each certificate

the glaze has crazed with age on her white thimbles





R: certificate October 1978



Ladybird  
R: certificate July 1978

morning glory

### Rachel Pugh (2000-2004)

Pugh handpainted bone china thimbles for The Thimble Guild from September 2000  
she was also a designer at TTG from 2000-2005 where her art was translated into decals  
Pugh was born in Cumbria. She lives in Cyprus where she still designed thimbles for TTG

Rachel's signature R.Pugh is on the inside of the thimble, often using gold paint  
if the thimble is named, it is lettered inside. In some instances The Thimble Guild backstamp is present.



Ambergate daffodil  
gold apex  
TTG April 2002



Armistice poppy  
gold apex  
TTG November 2001

<p>Ambergate daffodil gold apex TTG April 2002</p>		<p>Armistice poppy gold apex TTG November 2001</p>
--	--	--



'Armistice'  
TTG November 2000



'Autumn'  
TTG October 2000



Christmas rose  
TTG December 2000



Cyclamen  
gold apex  
TTG October 2002



'Daisy field'  
TTG June 2001



Deck chair  
raised paint  
TTG August 2004



Dove of peace  
textured paint  
TTG June 2003



Early snowdrop  
raised paint  
TTG January 2001



Exploring Mars  
Swarovski crystal in apex  
TTG April 2004



Frosty snowman  
raised matt glaze  
TTG December 2004



Giraffe  
raised patterning  
TTG October 2003



Iris reticulata  
gold apex  
TTG February 2002



Jungle Flowers  
after Henri Rousseau  
TTG August 2001



Leopard  
raised spots  
TTG December 2003



Keiserskroon tulip  
gold apex  
TTG May 2002



Lily  
gold apex  
TTG September 2002



Mars  
Swarovski in apex



Moorcroft style  
raised design  
TTG May 2004



'Peace on earth'  
suede glaze to create sandy surface  
TTG November 2003



Peacock feathers  
TTG April 2004



Poinsettia  
gold apex  
TTG December 2002



'Poppies at Argenteuil'  
limited to **50**  
TTG June 2004

<p>Iris reticulata gold apex TTG February 2002</p>	<p>Jungle Flowers after Henri Rousseau TTG August 2001</p>	<p>Leopard raised spots TTG December 2003</p>
<p>Keiserskroon tulip gold apex TTG May 2002</p>	<p>Lily gold apex TTG September 2002</p>	<p>Mars Swarovski in apex</p>
<p>Moorcroft style raised design TTG May 2004</p>	<p>'Peace on earth' suede glaze to create sandy surface TTG November 2003</p>	<p>Peacock feathers TTG April 2004</p>
		<p>'Poppies at Argenteuil' limited to <b>50</b> TTG June 2004</p>



Purple pansy  
gold apex  
TTG March 2002



Rose  
gold apex  
TTG June 2002



Snowdrop  
gold apex  
TTG January 2002



Springtime  
TTG April 2001



Sunflower  
gold apex  
TTG August 2002



Sweetpea  
gold apex  
TTG July 2002



Summer  
TTG September 2000



The Great Pine after Cezanne  
TTG October 2001



The Lily Pond  
after Monet  
date next to signature  
TTG July 2001



'Thimble' in Braille  
in raised writing  
TTG June 2003



Tiger  
raised painted stripes  
TTG September 2003



Tropical fish  
TTG September 2004




Valentine  
TTG January 2004



Van Gogh  
TTG August 2001



Winter snowflake  
white glaze  
TTG January 2003



Winter wonderland  
raised matt glaze  
TTG December 2003



Wintertime  
TTG February 2001



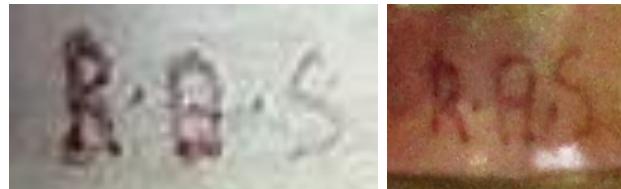
Yellow freesia  
gold apex  
TTG November 2002



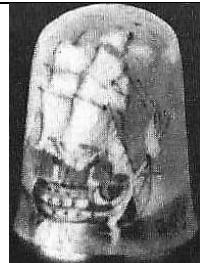
Zebra  
raised painted stripes  
TTG November 2003

## Roger Shufflebotham (R.A.S.) (1883)

Shufflebotham was an early painter for Caverswall  
he is known as a marine artist  
his thimbles are signed R.A.S.



fruit



H.M.S Victory  
limited to **40**  
TTG June 1983  
b&w photo

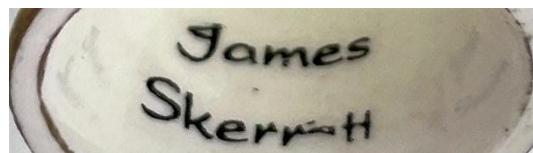
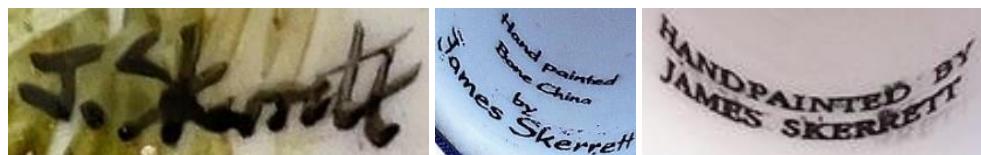


Thames barges  
limited to **40**  
TTG April 1983

## James Skerrett (JS) (2012)

Skerrett trained at Royal Worcester

in 2012 he was the artist-in-residence at the Worcester Porcelain Museum  
James's JS signature is found on the outside. Earlier thimbles signed JS  
there are several varieties of decaled marks inside Skerret thimbles





fruit  
signed 'JS'



hedgehog



roses

### Ann Taylor (1992-1993)

Scotland  
signed A Taylor



Brig o' Turk  
limited to **99**  
TTG July 1992



Chinese male character  
limited to **100**  
TTG April 1992



Chinese man serenading woman  
limited to **100**  
TTG April 1992



Choirboy  
limited to **245**  
TTG November 1992



Dragon  
limited to **100**  
TTG April 1992



Sewing  
limited to **150**  
TTG July 1993

## Trude Crafts (1992)

Penmaenmaer, Wales

I have seen some of her thimbles that are decaled



A white porcelain thimble featuring a hand-painted blue tit bird. The base is inscribed with 'Blue tit' and '1992'.	A white porcelain thimble featuring a hand-painted blue tit bird. The base is inscribed with 'Blue tit' and '1992'.	Three white porcelain thimbles, each featuring a hand-painted chiffchaff bird. The bases are inscribed with 'Chiffchaff'.
Two white porcelain thimbles, each featuring a hand-painted green woodpecker bird. The bases are inscribed with 'Green woodpecker'.		Two white porcelain thimbles, each featuring a hand-painted grey wagtail bird. The bases are inscribed with 'Grey wagtail'.
A white porcelain thimble featuring a hand-painted robin bird.		A white porcelain thimble featuring a hand-painted siskin bird. The base is inscribed with 'Siskin'.
A white porcelain thimble featuring a hand-painted song thrush bird. The base is inscribed with 'Song thrush'.		A white porcelain thimble featuring a hand-painted scene of Conwy Castle.
A white porcelain thimble box featuring a hand-painted Fragonard-style scene of figures in a garden.	A white porcelain thimble box featuring a hand-painted Fragonard-style scene of figures in a garden.	A white porcelain thimble box featuring a hand-painted Fragonard-style scene of figures in a garden.



Fragonard style

### Bryn Weightman (1986-2003)

Gwahaniaeth Crafts, Wales

Weightman with his wife Doris creates these bone china thimbles mainly as figures. Some are of polymer clay moulded over metal thimbles. This clay is used for embellishments

Thimbles which were modelled with no handpainting are not included

TTG had all these thimbles for sale

signed Bryn (TTG in March 1987 named him as Bryan ...)



Beaver scout



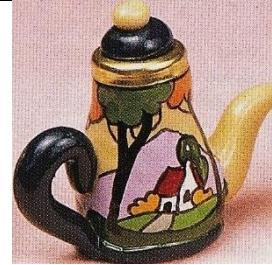
'Brownie'



Brownie



chef  
December 1995



coffee pot  
design style of Clarice Clift  
over metal  
limited to **250**  
August 1996



coffee pot  
cottage shape  
over metal



cottage  
TTG June 1986



crusader  
February 1987  
b&w photo



dolphin  
May 1998



Friar Tuck  
April 1995



Friar Tuck  
April 1986



Girl Guide



Girl Guide



Girl Guide  
'Chapel'  
January 1993



Grandma  
January 1994



gypsy



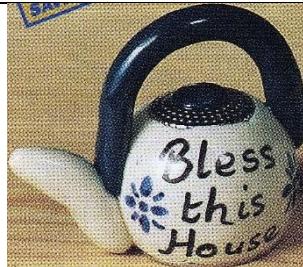
Highland cow  
March 1992



'HMS Thimble'  
May 1994



kettle  
barge painting  
over metal  
March 1991



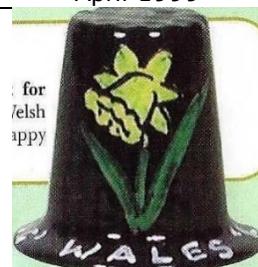
kettle  
'Bless this house'  
over metal  
April 1999



kettle  
'Home is where the heart is'  
over metal



kettle  
over metal



'Land of song Wales'  
February 2003



Liverpool  
June 1987



Manchester City



Manchester United  
December 1998



Matroshka  
February 1986



pig reading



Pirate  
limited to **250**  
over metal  
January 1998



pitcher jug  
design style of Clarice Clift  
over metal  
limited to **250**  
July 2007



policeman



professor  
limited to **250**  
over metal  
August 1998



RAF officer  
85<sup>th</sup> anniversary  
August 2004



Robin Hood  
January 1990



sailor



santa  
L: November 1986



santa's helper  
October 1993



'school'  
in memory of Dunblane school  
March 1996



scout



scout



'1897 Sherlock Holmes 1987'  
March 1987  
b&w photo



snowman



teapot  
over metal  
design style of Clarice Cliff  
limited to **250**  
February 1996



teapot  
over metal  
design style of Clarice Cliff  
limited to **250**  
February 1996



teapot  
cottage  
over metal  
February 2002



teapot  
over metal



teapot  
cottage  
over metal  
May 2005



Teapot  
'Home sweet home'  
over metal  
April 1993



teapot  
over metal



teapot  
barge painting  
over metal



teapot  
over metal



teapot  
over metal



teapot  
blackberries  
over metal



teapot  
over metal



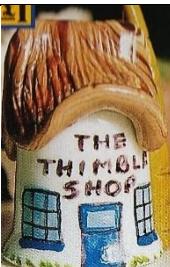
teapot  
strawberries  
over metal



teapot  
strawberries  
over metal



'The Bra 1907-2007'  
over metal  
July 2007



'The Thimble Shop'  
May 1995

'Trefoil Guide'

Venture scout



Viking  
over metal  
January 1996



Welsh guard



Welsh woman  
November 2005



wizard  
glittery  
over metal  
August 1989



woman with necklace



Wolf cub  
July 1989

<p>'The Thimble Shop' May 1995</p>			<p>'Trefoil Guide'</p>			<p>Venture scout</p>
<p>Viking over metal January 1996</p>			<p>Welsh guard</p>			<p>Welsh woman November 2005</p>
<p>wizard glittery over metal August 1989</p>			<p>woman with necklace</p>			<p>Wolf cub July 1989</p>

## Sheila Whitcombe (1988-2005)

Whitcombe (nee Watson) began painting portraits at 16

she became a modeller for Royal Worcester, so never painted thimbles for them

Sheila paints under the name of Dunheved from Cornwall

signed S Whitcombe on the front of bone china thimbles – sometimes inside, in lower case

Dunheved thimbles are unusually large measuring 30-35cm in height

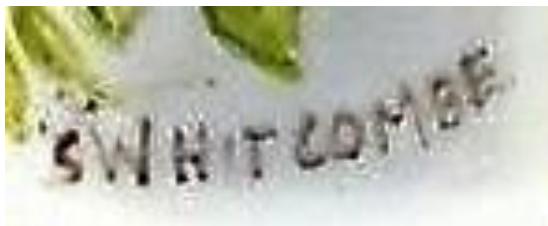
this gives the artist a larger surface to paint

she needed specialised knowledge of ceramic oxides to paint her historical figures with their jewel colours

the name is lettered on the outside verso

Sheila's painting may creep onto the apex to complete the picture

her artwork is quite pale – the colours here are stronger for clearer pictures



Armada 400 <sup>th</sup> anniversary 1588-1988	Charles I TTG October 1994	cheetah	Chevaliers Gardes Officer 1796	Chopin 1810-49	Cornish pixie limited to 84	Devon

 <p>dog</p>	 <p>First Fleet departure 1787 set of twelve painted for Australia's bicentenary 1988</p>	 <p>First Fleet departure 1787</p>
 <p>First Fleet departure 1787</p>	 <p>First Fleet departure 1787</p>	 <p>First Fleet Tenerife 1787</p>
 <p>First Fleet Rio de Janeiro 1787</p>	 <p>First Fleet Cape of Good Hope 1787</p>	 <p>First Fleet arrival 1788</p>
 <p>First Fleet arrival 1788</p>	 <p>First Fleet arrival 1788</p>	 <p>First Fleet arrival 1788</p>
 <p>Frog TTG March 1993</p>	 <p>Fruit – berries TTG May 2005</p>	 <p>Goose</p>



Goose



Harebell  
with Venus Looking Glass  
TTG August 2001



Henry VIII  
TTG February 1992



Ladybird  
with dog rose



lion



Lorna Doone farm



Padstow



Pansy flower fairy



Polperro



Poppy flower fairy



Queen Elizabeth I  
limited to **90**  
TTG June 1996



Queen Elizabeth II 1993  
TTG May 1993



Queen Mother



Queen Mother



Queen of the Meadow flower fairy



Queen Victoria

limited to 350

TTG November 1992



Rabbit



Rabbit



Reindeer  
Christmas 1988



Richard III  
TTG March 1992



Roses



Roses & forget-me-nots  
TTG July 2002



Sir Francis Drake



Strawberry flower fairy



Snowdrop flower fairy



terrier



The Cobb Lyme Regis





Thrift flower fairy



Unicorn



Weston Super Mare



## Derek Wilson (1983-2011)

Wilson is a Royal Worcester trained artist, 1930-1954

he paints under the name of Dunheved from Cornwall, in his studio near Launceston signed D Wilson, often cleverly camouflaged, on the outside of the bone china thimble  
Dunheved thimbles are unusually large measuring 30-35cm in height ('generously sized')

this gives the artist a larger surface to paint

being a birdwatcher and a wildlife artist, Derek's thimbles are painted around British birds, wildflowers and animals, and some of the Cornish countryside also feature. The latter may have been sold all over Cornwall?

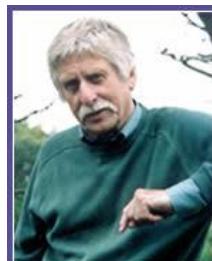
bird name is lettered on inside rim – places on the outside verso

when the number painted is limited, the number is printed on the inside

Derek works on two sizes of Dunheved thimbles – the smaller size thimblette is used in the catalogues. These were used more frequently towards the end of his career

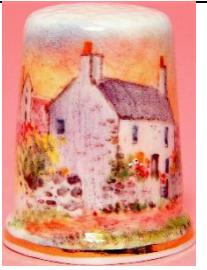


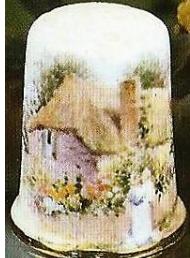
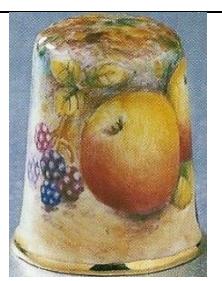
green Dunheved mark is from late 1970s when smaller sized thimbles were used - not signed



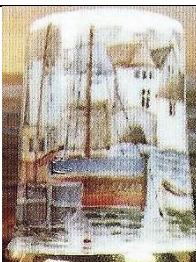
Anne Hathaway's cottage limited to 250 TTG May 1992	Avocet TTG June 2005	Badger	Badger and robin limited to 195 TTG January 1998
Badgers TTG July 1998	Badgers TTG June 2009	Barn owl TTG June 2004	Barred owl TTG July 2004

			
Bearded tit TTG May 2005	Black grouse TTG October 2005	Black grouse TTG January 2007	Black redstart
			
Black tailed godwit	Blackbird TTG December 2002	Blackbirds TTG January 2007	Blackbirds
			
Blackcap TTG February 2006	Blue tit TTG December 2002	Blue tit TTG June 2010	Bluethroats TTG October 2006
			
Brambling TTG September 2003	Bramblings TTG May 2006	Budgerigars TTG August 2004	Bullfinch limited to <b>150</b> TTG June 1994
			
Bullfinch limited to <b>200</b> TTG June 1998	Bullfinch TTG July 2004	bunny	Chaffinch limited to <b>125</b> TTG September 1999
			
Chaffinch TTG May 2005	Chaffinch	Chaffinch	Chaffinches TTG July 2007

			
Cheddar Gorge	Chiffchaff TTG January 2011	Choughs TTG September 2005	Christmas rose Christmas 1990
			
Church with sheep	Cirl bunting	Cockerel and hen TTG June 2004	Collared (sic) doves TTG August 2007
			
Comma butterfly TTG February 2011	Corky the Cock limited to 200 TTG October 1993	Cornish cottage	Cornish Tin Mine - Levant 1983
			
Crested tit TTG March 2005	Curlew TTG June 2007	Dabchicks TTG August 2007	Dartford warbler limited to 200 TTG August 2000
			
Devon estuary - Polperro limited to 150 TTG April 1993	Dipper TTG August 2006	Dormouse TTG March 2004	Ducks

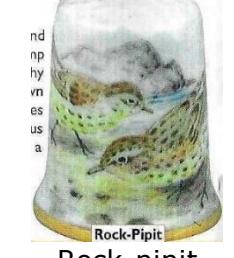
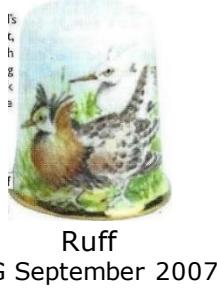
			
Eagle owl TTG September 2002	English cottage TTG June 1991	Field fare	Firecrest TTG September 2003
 Fox and robin limited to 150 TTG February 1999	 Frenchman's Creek	 Fruit TTG March 2004	 Geese limited to 150 TTG November 1997
 Gloucester Old Spot pig TTG April 1995	 Goldcrests	 Golden eagle TTG October 2008	 Golden Hind
 Golden oriole TTG November 2004	 Golden plover TTG March 2006	 Goldfinch TTG February 2005	 Goldfinch TTG March 2009
 Goldfinch	 Goosanders TTG January 2008	 Goose	 Great crested grebe TTG June 2005
 Great spotted woodpecker limited to 100 TTG December 1995	 Great tit TTG August 2001	 Green woodpecker	 Greenfinch TTG April 2004

				
Greenland falcon TTG January 2007	Grey seals TTG April 1998	Grey thrush TTG July 2002	Grey wagtail TTG April 2006	
				
Grey wagtail TTG November 1995	Guy Fawkes TTG November 1995	Hare TTG July 2011	Hare and robin Christmas 1996	
				
Harvest mouse TTG April 1993	Hedgehog limited to 150 TTG November 1996	Hedgehog TTG November 1996	Hedgehog and robin TTG April 1996	
				
Heron TTG June 2005	Highland cattle limited to 150 TTG February 1996		Honey buzzard 1985	Hoopoe TTG April 2005
				
House Christmas 1998	House martin TTG April 2007	House-sparrows TTG May 2008	Jack Russell TTG April 1994	
				
Jamaica Inn TTG April 2002	Jay TTG January 2005	Kestrels TTG November 2007	Kingfisher TTG April 2006	

				
Kingfisher limited to <b>200</b> TTG June 1993	Kittiwakes nesting TTG July 2005	Knot TTG June 2008	Lapwing	
				
Lesser spotted woodpecker	Linnets	Long eared owl	Long tailed tit TTG February 2009	
				
Looe	Lovebirds TTG June 2006	Mallard	Mandarin ducks	
				
Market House Chagford February 1983			Meadow pipit TTG September 2010	
				
Mevagissey		Mistle thrush with mistletoe berries	Mole TTG January 2010	mouse
				
Mousehole limited to <b>250</b> TTG September 1992		Mousehole limited to <b>250</b> TTG August 1996		Mute swan TTG August 2006

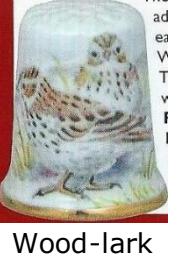
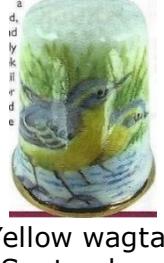
			
Newlyn limited to <b>150</b> TTG May 1995	Nightingale TTG April 2006	Nuthatch	Nuthatch TTG August 2002
			
Nuthatch TTG September 2004	Old Spot	Orchard blackbird TTG July 2010	Osprey TTG January 2006
			
Otter limited to <b>125</b> TTG May 1993	Otter TTG February 2003	Otter TTG November 2009	Over the Bar Bideford TTG September 1993
			
Oystercatcher TTG June 2001	Partridge & rabbit Christmas 2006	Partridges Christmas 2006	Peacock
			
Penguin Christmas 1991	Peregrine falcon TTG October 2004	Pheasant TTG December 2001	Pheasant and partridges Christmas 1989
			
Pheasant and partridges TTG December 2005	Pheasants limited to <b>195</b> TTG December 1992	Pheasants TTG December 2007	Pied flycatchers TTG October 2006

			
Pink cockatoo TTG July 2003	Polar bears Christmas 1992	Polperro	Ptarmigan TTG October 2005
			
Puffin TTG February 1994	Puffin TTG October 2003	Quail TTG October 2006	R.M.S Titanic sank 2.20am April 15 1912
			
Red fox TTG October 1994	Red grouse limited to 175 TTG August 1993	Red grouse TTG July 2006	Red squirrel TTG July 2009
			
Red starts	Redwing TTG February 1994	Redwings TTG February 1994	Redwings TTG February 2008
			
Reed buntings TTG April 2008	Ringed plovers TTG January 2008	Robin 1986	Robin Christmas 1987
			
Robin TTG November 1995	Robin TTG November 1997	Robin TTG November 2000	Robin TTG January 2003

			
Robin TTG January 2005	Robin TTG November 2005	Robin TTG November 2006	Robin TTG Christmas 2007
			
Robin TTG December 2007	Robin with house	Robin with blue tit	Robins TTG November 2005
			
Robins	Rose-coloured starlings TTG April 2007	Rock-pipit TTG September 2006	Ruby throated hummingbird TTG May 2003
			
Ruff TTG September 2007	Sanderling TTG June 2008	Sand-martins TTG May 2008	Scops owl TTG June 2003
			
Sheep limited to 145 TTG September 1996	Shepherds Christmas 2000	Shore-lark TTG September 2007	Sidmouth
			
Skylark TTG May 2007	Snipe TTG April 2008	Snow bunting TTG January 2001	Snow goose TTG November 2003

			
Snowman	Snowman Christmas 1990	Snowman Christmas 1997	Snowman TTG November 2000
			
Snowman tobogganning TTG November 1994	Snowy owl TTG November 2003	Snowy owl	Somerset cottage
			
Song thrush TTG May 1994	Song thrush Christmas 2006	Sparrowhawk	Spotted crake TTG October 2007
			
Squirrel TTG November 2001	St Michael's Mount TTG February 1993	Stonechat	Suffolk sheep limited to <b>150</b> TTG March 1995
			
Swallows TTG March 2004	Swallows	Tawny owl TTG December 2008	Tawny owl TTG March 2002
			
Teal limited to <b>150</b> TTG January 1997	Teddy bear	Thatched cottage TTG August 2009	Thomas Hardy's cottage

 <p>Thrush TTG January 2004</p>	 <p>Tintagel Castle limited to <b>250</b> TTG August 1996</p>	 <p>Tomago House N.S.W. D. Wilson</p>
 <p>Treecreeper TTG September 2004</p>	 <p>Treecreeper TTG October 2007</p>	 <p>Turkey Christmas 1994</p>
 <p>Turtle dove TTG September 2006</p>	 <p>Twite TTG January 2009</p>	 <p>Valley of Rocks Lynton limited to <b>83</b></p>
 <p>Water-rail TTG June 2007</p>	 <p>Water shrew</p>	 <p>Waxwing TTG April 2003</p>
 <p>Wheatear TTG February 2006</p>	 <p>Whinchat TTG February 2007</p>	 <p>White stork TTG June 2006</p>

 <p>Willow tits TTG November 2007</p>	 <p>Willow warbler</p>	 <p>Windsor Castle limited to 350 TTG December 1992</p>	 <p>Winter TTG December 1996</p>
 <p>Winter partridges TTG October 2002</p>	 <p>Witch limited to 150 October 1995</p>	 <p>Woodcock TTG August 2005</p>	 <p>Wood-lark TTG December 2005</p>
 <p>Woodlark TTG March 2007</p>	 <p>Wren 1987</p>	 <p>Wren TTG July 1997</p>	 <p>Wren TTG January 2003</p>
 <p>Wren TTG May 2005 /February 2008</p>	 <p>Wren TTG March 2007</p>	 <p>Yellow wagtail TTG September 2008</p>	 <p>Yellow hammer TTG April 2003</p>
 <p>Yellowhammer TTG February 2005</p>			

**Georgina Winkley (GMW) (1997)**  
Wales

Handpainted by  
GMW  
Georgina Winkley



**Anne Young (1993-2003)**

Young's barge or canal ware painting is uniquely British  
she certainly mastered this folk art form in the miniature size required to paint on thimbles  
most of her thimbles are signed and some are dated – they range from 1980s-1990s  
Anne's thimbles are signed on the inner rim Anne Young – lettered upside down  
dates when included are also inside  
there are traditional background colours and the lovely gloss adds to their appeal  
it's the trim around the rim where one sees the details  
the main design is replicated on the verso  
Young also painted wooden thimbles



L: 1998 – her book – sticky label





black



black



black



blue  
2003



green  
1993



green



green



green



green



green  
distinctive yellow rim



red  
1998



red



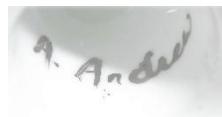
red



white

## Other painters - named

### A Andrew



poinsettia

### Ann



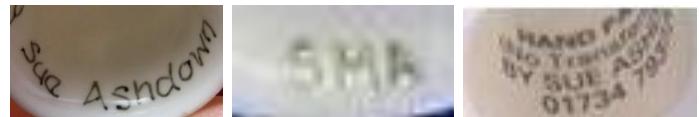
forget-me-nots

### Angie



fish

**Sue Ashdown**  
Reading  
'handpainted – no transfers or decals used'



'Welsh Thimblers  
limited to **30**  
TTG September 1990'  
Daffodils with their thimble emblem on verso



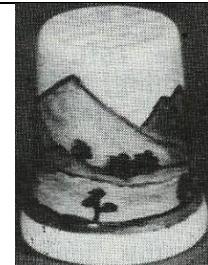
daffodils

**M Bates**  
painter for Caverswall



blackberries  
circa 1977

**Monica Bowron (MB)**



Highland landscape  
limited to **150**  
TTG October 1985  
b&w photo

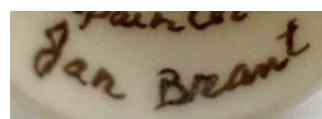


Stonehenge  
TTG May 1986



Wiltshire Downs  
limited to **150**  
TTG September 1986  
R: original catalogue entry

**Jan Brant**



Blue tit

**Joan Button**



'40'

painted for Sue Gowan's birthday 1986

**Don Cameron (DC)**

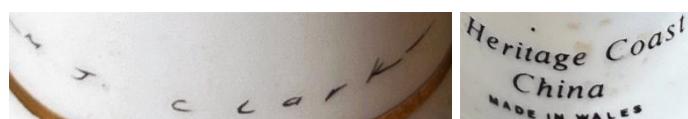


agateware  
TTG April 1977

**M J Clarke**

Wales

Georgina painted for Heritage Coast China. Signature is on the outside



owls

**D J Coggan**



'The Queen's 60<sup>th</sup> birthday 21 April 1986'  
commissioned by TSL  
limited to **800**



'A S (Andrew and Sarah) married 23 July 1986'  
commissioned by TSL  
bee is Sarah's emblem  
limited edition



'Ruby wedding of H.M. Queen Elizabeth II & Philip, Duke of Edinburgh 20 Nov. 1947-1987'  
gold apex

**Harry Colclough**  
worked for Royal Grafton for 30 years



cat



Horse and cart  
TTG June 1985  
b&w photo



'Tuppence'



'The Orchards? (1950)'  
backstamp is Healcraft Fine Bone China

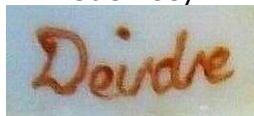
**Joan Dahl**



**Anne Dalton**  
Ottervale China Company Devon  
Anne also painted character head thimbles



**Deirdre**  
Guernsey



Goldfinch



**V Fawcett**  
Ilkley



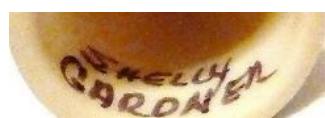
flowers

**D Fuller**



Wren

**Shelly Gardner**



Unicorn

### Irene Glendining



Wren

### Patsie Griggs



Chick



Flowers

### R Hall



pansy

### Ann Hickey and Dave Ball

Malvern Worcestershire  
(previously Preston)



canal boat painting



not signed

## J Humphries



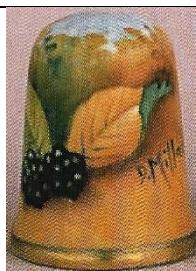
**Leslie Lamb**  
Ross-shire Scotland



Goldfinch  
TTG July 1984



**D Miller (DM)**  
painter for Caverswall  
some thimbles have the full signature, others the initials



fruit c.1985



dragon

**Clare Montgomery (CM)**  
Ballymena Northern Ireland

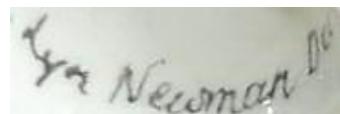


Wildflowers of Ireland  
**Rachel Munday**



Kingfisher  
limited to **245**  
TTG September 1999

**Lyn Newman**



## Dorothy Newsome



'DTS 2nd International Conference 7.8.9 June 1991'  
Dorset Thimble Society

their 3<sup>rd</sup> Conference thimble was made by Birchcroft probably with the design by Newsome  
limited edition



'Dorset Thimble Society 3<sup>rd</sup> International Conference 21-23 May 1993 Southampton'



'DTS 1985 - 2005'  
limited edition

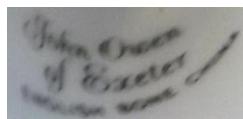


## J Oliver



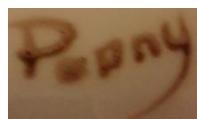
forget-me-nots  
1988

## John Owen of Exeter



Devon W.I.  
1920-1995  
violets

**Penny**



**A F Pinxt**



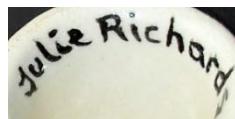
'Embroiderers' Guild 1906-1981'  
limited to **100**



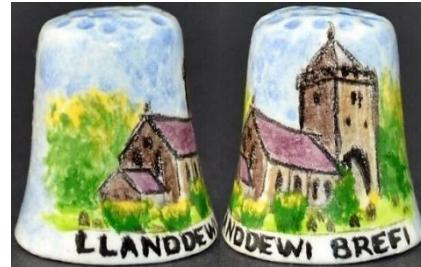
'Margate'  
1982  
TSL spring 1983  
b&w photo

**Julie Richards**

Wales



lettered upside-down



'Llanddewi Brefi'

**Susan Senior**

Scottish potter



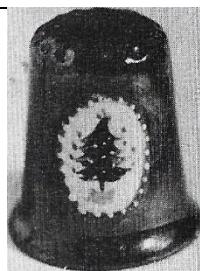
white porcelain cobalt blue butterfly

TTG June 1994

b&amp;w photo

**Len Skinner**Bwthyn Draenog Crafts  
(hedgehog home in English)  
Walescanal boat painting  
(1987)**Sylvia Smith**Latticed flowers – mauve  
TTG November 1990Latticed flowers – turquoise  
TTG November 1990

## Sheila Southwell



Christmas tree  
on pine green lustreware  
limited to **100**  
TTG November 1984  
b&w photo



rose  
on blue lustreware  
limited to **50**  
TTG August 1983

## Steffie



watchtower

## Stell



roses

## Ann Sullivan



'Little red riding hood'



Peter Pan

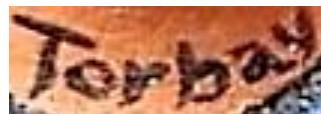


'Pinocchio and Jiminy Cricket'



The three bears

### Torbay Potters



'Barnstaple'

I couldn't omit this rare thimble even tho the painter is unknown

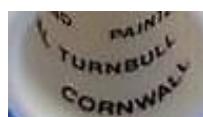
### E Trillsam



chickens

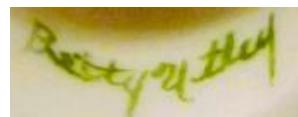
### Val Turnbull

Cornwall



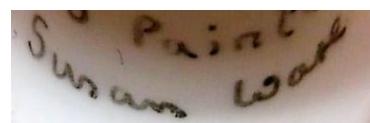
fuchsias

**Betty Uttley**



thistles

**Susan Ware**



snowman  
1986

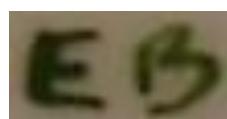
**Other painters – initials only**  
(arranged in alphabetical order by last initial)

**NA**



pottery

**EB**



forget-me-nots

**'C'**

**E M B**



signed on outside



blue tit  
lettered 'Anne'

**HSB**



harebells - heath

**J B**  
Henwick



fruit

**S.C.F.**



metal affixed

**FG**



anemones

**EH**



signed on outside



poppies

**JH**



'Mount Stuart House and Gardens'

**EJ**



poppies

**NJ**



**DK**



The initials are conjoined – there is a mystery mark on the left of the initials



**J.K.**



signed on outside



harebells

**MgM**



signed both on in- or outside – R impressed inside



swans



violet affixed

**RMcK**



Harebells



Snowdrops

**RSM**



violets  
1984

**JMN**



signed on outside



pansy



primrose



rose



**BR**

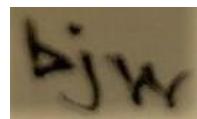


'Cuckoo pint' arum

**RS**



**bjw**



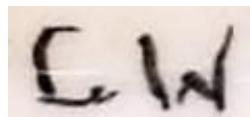
hedgehogs

**CTW**



ladybirds

**CW**



'Seacombe Pottery 1852-1864'

**D.W**



peach with plum

**P.W.**



fruit

**TW**



'Peel Tower Ramsbottom'

## Other painters – British topic or thimble shape but no marks

(saved here so they don't get lost or a painter's name comes to light – US porcelain thimbles are usually squat with a flat top)

They may have a signature but it is indecipherable

 <p>'Aquarius'</p>	 <p>forget-me-nots</p>
 <p>'Iona' Celtic pattern</p>	 <p>poppies 'Severn Valley'</p>
 <p>'Strontian' Scottish village sheep</p>	 <p>tree with fence</p>
 <p>roses same painter as violets indecipherable initials</p>	 <p>violets indecipherable initials</p>
 <p>canal boat painting</p>	 <p>rabbits</p>

## References

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Friedy Kamp *Vingerhoed Nieuws catalogues* 1993-2008  
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Thimble Society of London (TSL) *catalogues* 1981-2013  
Bertus van den Dikkenberg *Het Vingerhoedje*. 1998

## Contributors

Wendi Aguiar | Eva B | Sally Bailey | Joanna Blackie-Sew Many Bits | Yolanta Bogdziewicz | Paweł Brzyski  
Joy Carlsen Earles | Charlotte Goldberg | Andrea Griffiths | Linda Heggs | Lynda Herrod | Doreen Lilley-Pricklepin  
Simon Lloyd-Edwards | Carolyn Meacham-Elegant Arts | Amanda Nevin | Maurice O'Reilly | Diane Poesk  
Wanda Ralston-Boulder Bay | Sue Roberts | Mabel Rogers | Jean Rose-Miss Mouse | Linda Samaripa | Mer Saucedo  
Wolf-Dieter Scholz | Jean Taylor | Bertus van Dikkenberg | Michael Wheeler | Melissa Yauk | Krystyna Zagajewska

This listing of Modern British handpainted china thimbles does not purport to be complete or accurate in all aspects.  
Rather it invites comment and contribution to add to our knowledge. My thanks to the contributors.

EMAIL [thimbleselect@bigpond.com](mailto:thimbleselect@bigpond.com) TO SHARE YOUR KNOWLEDGE

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