

Thimbles made from unusual materials

These thimbles were created for the collectables market – created mainly in 1980s and 1990s. There must have been a big demand for thimbles made of different materials for such a huge number created. There are still thimble collectors today who specialise in the unusual materials range.

I knew of the popular types of material like stone thimbles or those crocheted from cotton – the papier mâché from the Philippines. Once I started to find photos for this topic, I was stunned – there are thimbles from over 100 different and unusual materials. 1% of them were created in the late 1800s and during the 19th century: gutta percha, tortoiseshell (no apologies for including John Piercy's thimbles here) and vulcanite.

Some of the materials used were quite fragile, so unable to retain their thimble shape. In this instance they were placed over metal, wood or plastic thimbles (like beaded thimbles). Some were made to be used for the purpose created – like leather thimbles. I have made it clear under the specific materials, the thimbles that are not included within the scope of this topic.

Clever craftsmen created some of these thimbles to be able to exchange their thimbles with other collectors
(Yvonne Winspear of Australia)

I have attempted to list the materials in the following order within each group: maker, then country of origin and then the rest where neither of the above is known.

I have included as many catalogue references as I can find to help with the year they were made, using the following abbreviations:

CC – Collectors Circle (New York)
Fel – Feldman (Germany)
Gim – Gimbels (Maine)
KS – De vingerhoed (Netherlands)
PJW – PJ Walter (Germany)
TCI – Thimble Collectors International Bulletin (USA)
TTG – The Thimble Guild (Scotland)
TO – Thimbles Only (Jean Shoup USA)
TSL – Thimble Society of London
VH – John von Hoelle
VN – Vingerhoednieuws (Netherlands)

For similar topics see

Bog oak thimbles
Glass thimbles
Horn and bone thimbles
Ivory thimbles
Jenny Blair Designs' thimbles

abalone

see also: paua shell



in acrylic

acetate



France
mother of pearl style

agate



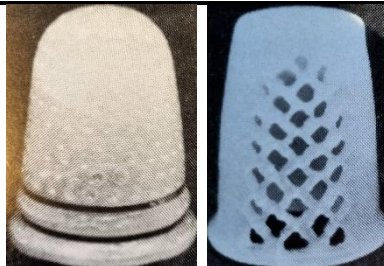
over brass

alabaster

see also: lavender alabaster - pink alabaster – strawberry alabaster – white alabaster



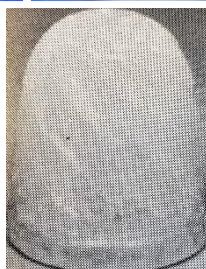
Italy
MR
handpainted



Philadelphia USA
John von Hoelle
L: gold bands
VH 13-14
b&w photo



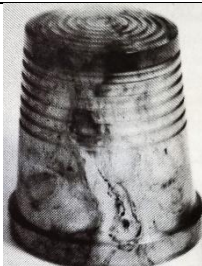
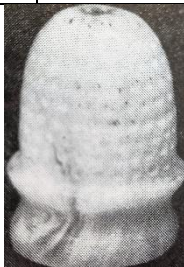
Argentina



Italy

				
Italy decals TTG July 1991				Penzance UK

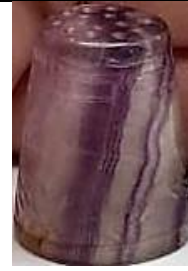
amber
fossilised pine resin from Russia

			
Baltic	Baltic	Baltic	
			
Germany <u>Birgit Lux</u> TTG October 1990	Germany Fel 2 1987 b&w photo	Germany Fel 16 1991	
			
Germany	Philadelphia USA <u>John von Hoelle</u> VH 15 b&w photo	Poland VN 2009	Poland VN 2009
			
South Africa amber bead ivory apex VN 2001	VN 2004	VN 1996	mammoth tooth elephant carving atop

amethyst



India
carved lotus
limited to **50**
TTG March 1990



aventurine



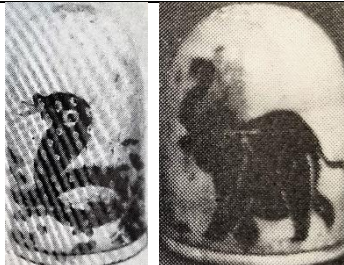
India
L: blue – R: green
carved lotus
limited to **50**
TTG March 1990

bamboo

see also: wicker



China
TTG March 1991



India
VH 1178, 1180
b&w photo



Philippines

bark



Healesville Australia
Michael Morris
1989



Melbourne Australia
Ann Shuttleworth
salmon gum bark with
paperbark apex
over metal thimble
1990



Sydney Australia
Yvonne Winspear
handpainted paperbark
over leatherwood
TTG January 1987



Australia
plaited

beads



Egypt
Randa Ahmet Unique Design



Bellevue WA USA
Bead Loom Gallery
 includes Swarovski crystals
 several made as British royal commemoratives



Canada
Olga Bushkova
 over metal thimble
 2010-



Mexico
B Kena (Huichol)
over wood



Russia
Olga Malyshkina
over plastic thimbles
2003



Japan
Miyuki



Mexico
Nicholas and Adolina (Huichol)
 over ceramic
 TCI winter 2013



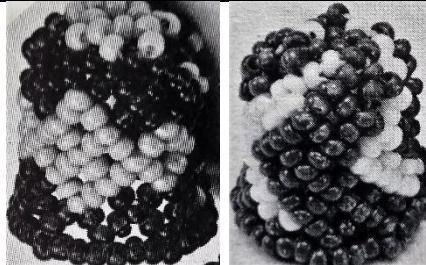
Sarah Lee Parker
 mainly open-topped
 L: over metal thimble



USA
Janet Pitts
 Bee – Twin Towers 9-11-01 – candy cane – butterfly – black birds – palms stag - masks
 beads glued onto wooden thimbles



Coventry UK
Jacqui Walker
 L: limited to **195**
 L: TTG January 1989



Denmark
 KS June 1985
 b&w photos



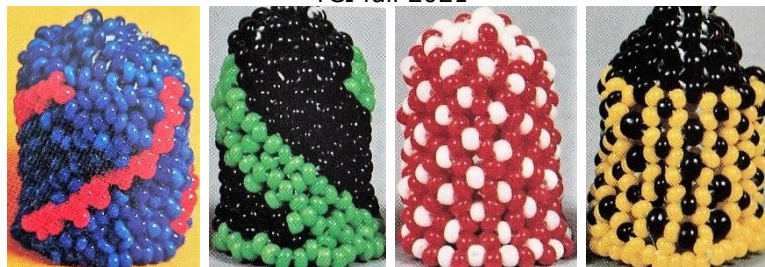
Kenya
 TTG September 2005



Russia
over wood (except bottom row R)
bottom R: rainbow colours limited to **250**
some Matruschka-shaped
TTG 1998-2001 – VN 2006-2009



South Africa
using galvanised wire
TCI fall 2021



South Africa
Fel 12 1990 - VN 1994



South Africa
Zulu beads



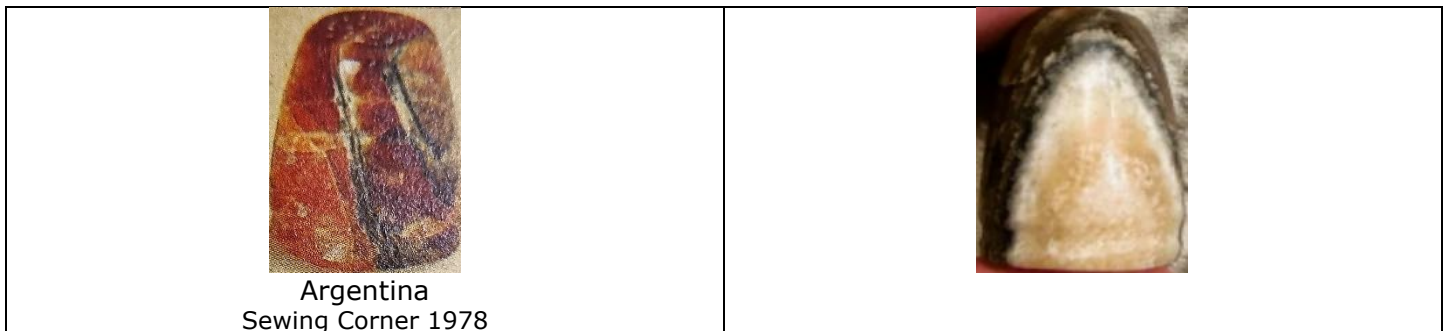
South Africa
over plastic



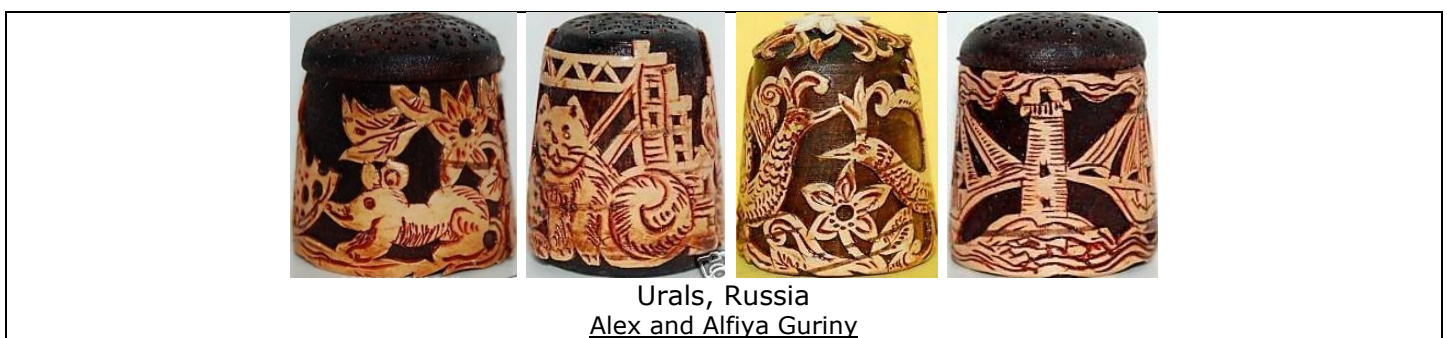
UK
Tailor of Gloucester, Ribby - over wood



bear claw quartz



birch bark



black marble



UK
Caroline and John Smith
marble from Belgium
TTG June 1988



Taiwan
Sewing Corner 1978



VN 2001

black onyx



India
carved lotus
limited to **50**
TTG March 1990

blue onyx



Argentina
Juan Arrieta Quiroga

Blu Tack

commercial putty-like adhesive, Leicester UK 1969-



Brisbane Australia
Sandra Menger
'Thimbles of Australia Sue Gowan 1998'

brick



UK
house brick
limited to **750**
TTG August 1991

calabash



Argentina

Carrara marble



marble mixed with resin

carrot



Finland
VN 67 2001



Finland
VN 77 2003



USA

chalk



UK
Kingmaker
bonded resin
TTG September 1986

coal



Wales
Kingmaker
bonded resin
miner's face (plain and handpainted) – miner - pithead - miner's lamp and tools
all commemorating the end of the 1985 miner's strike
(plain and handpainted limited to **3500**)
some miner's face thimbles are signed EJ for Eddie and Janet
TTG March 1985



Wellsburg West Virginia USA
compressed
TO 1980-1983 – VH174

coconut shell



Diamantina Minas Gerais Brazil

AP

late 19th century

maker's initials on apex

18ct gold apex and clouté studs in a ring

R: carved simple fleur de lis pattern by local women



Diamantina Minas Gerais Brazil

late 19th century

18ct gold apex and clouté studs in two rings



Egypt

Randa Ahmet Unique Design



Philippines
over metal thimble
TTG March 1996

concrete



UK
Christine and John Smith
 created from old pavement
 TTG September 1989

coral



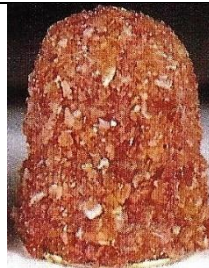
France
 carved
 19th century
 Christies 1995 117



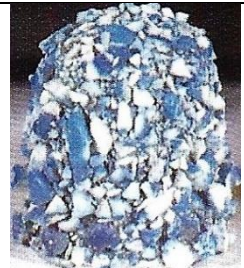
Philippines
 etched
 TO 1984 - VH



Thailand
 TTG June 1988



pink coral Great Barrier Reef
 over metal
 TTG April 1988



blue coral Indian Ocean
 over metal
 TTG April 1988



over metal

cork



Bridge of Weir Scotland
Carina Down



corn

plaited after the style of corn dollies



UK
Betty Blackwood
TTG June 1985

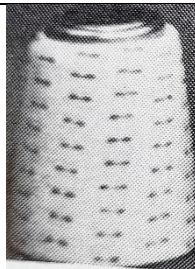


UK
Mrs Horsfall
butterfly
limited to **250**
TTG October 1998



UK
flowers

corncob



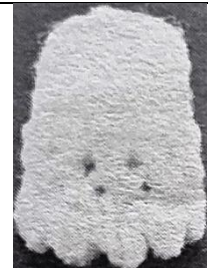
USA
brass apex
VH 1177
b&w photo

cotton

thimbles are created of crochet, tatting, knitting or lacemaking. They were usually stiffened with sugar water or starch. Many are embellished with beads and ribbon
see also: silk, linen



Valledolid Spain
Rosa Aragon
crochet
2025



Connecticut USA
Edith Archibald
crochet
TO 1984



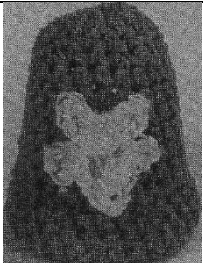
Toowoomba Australia
Beryl
crochet



Melbourne Australia
Joan Blaney
crochet



Shropshire UK
Vilma Buck
crochet

 Brisbane Australia <u>Kay Collins</u> tatting	  Illinois USA <u>Lurene Connor</u> crochet	 Gauteng South Africa <u>Gili Davis</u> crochet
 Queensland Australia <u>Elena Dickson</u> knotted lace over stiffened board	    Conwy Wales <u>Pat Durrant</u> crochet	
 Perth Australia <u>Betty Dutschke</u> crochet	 Helsinki Finland <u>Irja Helsila</u> tatting	 UK <u>Lynne Hutchings</u> crochet limited to 250 TTG May 1986 b&w photo
    Kilcoy Australia <u>Margaret Hickling</u> tatting		
 Perth Australia <u>Barbara Martin</u> sewing	   Brisbane Australia <u>Sandra Menger</u> crochet	



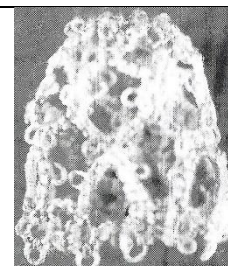
Melbourne Australia
Ann Shuttleworth
 crochet



Mexico
Nicholas and Adolina
 over moulded plastic
 TCI winter 2013



USA
Florence Regan
 crochet, some with crossstitch
 Gim 1996



UK
Christine Ross
 tatting
 limited to **200**
 TTG May 1987
 b&w photo



North Carolina USA
Jane Sapone
 crochet
 b&w photo



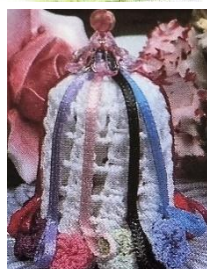
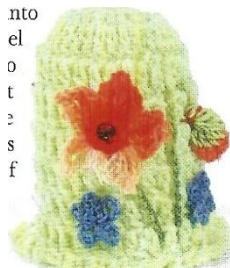
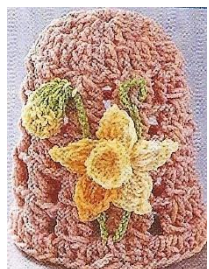
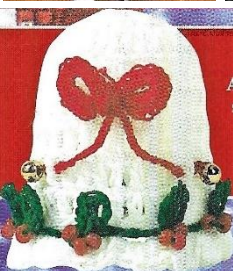
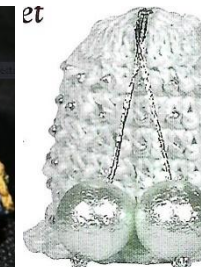
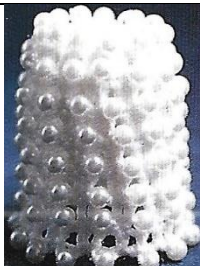
Connecticut USA
Doris E Shaw
 crochet



Melbourne Australia
Ann Shuttleworth
crochet



Netherlands
Miep van Eijk
crochet
TTG November 1983
b&w photo





Coventry UK
Jacqui (Jacqueline) Walker
 crochet

find those commemorating Armistice, Olympics and a chair shape
 mostly no limited numbers available but the limited editions range from **75** to **300**
 TTG from March 1985-2005



California USA
Chris Weber
 crochet
 TO 2007 - 2007 - 1984



USA
Helen Werner
for Hawkeye Thimblers 1991



UK
Cathy Whithead
crochet
limited to **250**
TTG May 1991



USA
R: created for Hawkeye Thimblers



Finland
needle lace



unknown makers

dark rose onyx



Mexico 1975

Deliciosa Monstera



Perth Australia
Barbara Martin
stitched dried calyx

fabric



USA
Status Thimble
kit to create this stitched fabric



Argentina
made from woven cloth

feathers



handpainted feathers over plastic
Marina Nestorova
 VN 67 2001



handpainted feathers over brass
Marina Nestorova

FIMO

commercial modelling clay



Benoni South Africa
Tessa Browne



Empangeni South Africa
Wendy Seymour



South Africa
 metal thimble

fish skin



Quebec Canada
Les Cuirs Fins de la Mer



USA
Boulder Bay
 carp with filigree cap



Scotland
 salmon
 over brass or metal
 TCI September 1989 – TTG July 1990



Scotland
 dyed fish scale over wood

fossils



UK

Pinpoint Design

(later name used by Christine and John Smith)

limestone

TTG May 1993

granite



UK

Caroline and John Smith

Berlin Wall - Italian granorosa - Russian pink

yemel

C - R : TTG February 1988 - TTG October 1991



grass

see also: raffia, straw



Robyn
basketry

green marble



UK

Christine and John Smith

marble from Portugal

limited to **200**

TTG December 1988



Taiwan

Sewing Corner 1978

gumnut



Kalbarri Western Australia

gutta percha

Rubber-like material discovered in 1843. Palaquium trees from Malaysia and Borneo
It is brittle and lightweight. It was used as mourning jewellery as well as jet



TCI winter 2021

haematite



heather

the roots are picked, dried, dyed, blocked, compressed, glued, turned and lacquered. First made into thimbles in 1980. Thimbles ceased by 2004



Pitlochry Scotland
Hugh Kerr of Heathergems
no two alike



Pitlochry Scotland
Hugh Kerr of Heathergems
metal rims



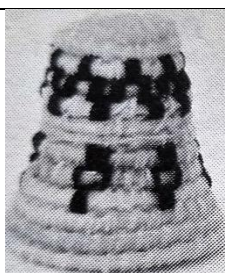
Pitlochry Scotland
Hugh Kerr of Heathergems
thistle-shaped

Helsinkiiitti



Helsinki Finland
Pekka Kiviluoto
 1990

horse hair



Arizona USA
Donna Mendoz
 TCI spring 2001
 b&w photo



Arizona USA
Leona Antone
 TCI spring 2001
 b&w photo



Arizona USA
Linda Hendricks
 TCI spring 2001
 b&w photo

jade

also known as nephrite

many jade thimbles are made with toppers – they are not included



Pilbara Australia



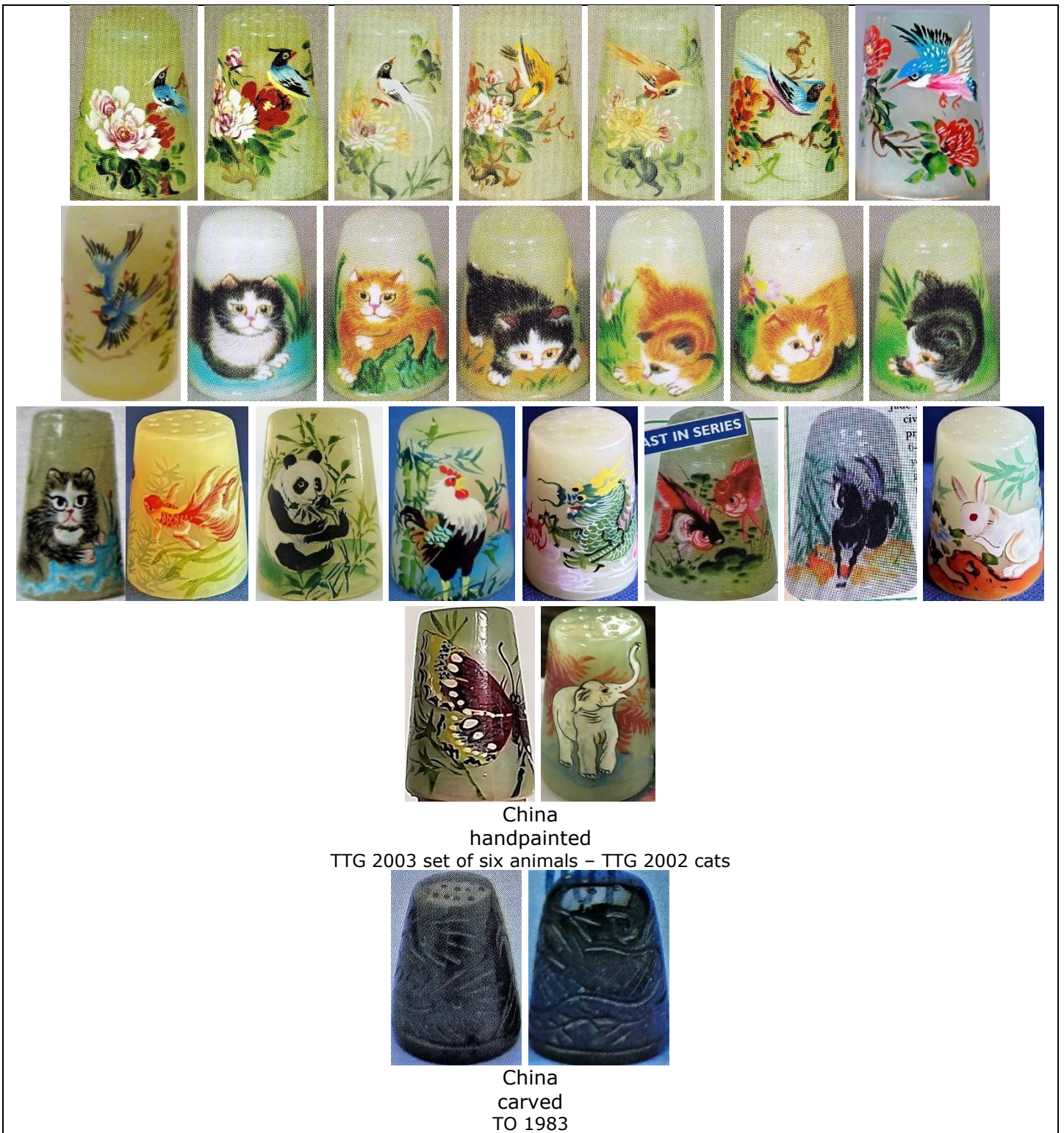
Bergenland Austria
 Fel 7 1988
 b&w photo



Austria
 mini size



Canada
 with a maple leaf etched

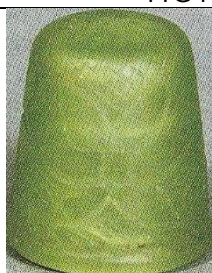




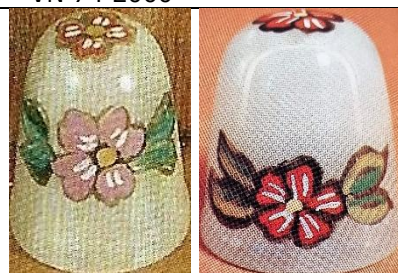
India

lower R: chang san crystal jade
limited to **50**

TTG March 1990 - CC 1978 - PJW 85-6 - VN 74 2000



Portugal
VN 92 2007



Turkey
handpainted
TTG April 1989



Taiwan



jadite



Jersey cabbage stalk



UK

jet

jet was used as mourning jewellery, replacing vulcanite and gutta percha



Missouri USA
Brad Elfrink Elvenkrafte Studios
thistle
with Siberian horn apex



Whitby UK



Whitby UK
carved
carved cottage - cathedral - toadstools
smooth

kangaroo skin



Sydney Australia
Yvonne Winspear
 brass kangaroo on boomerang pin
 1983
 TTG May 1984

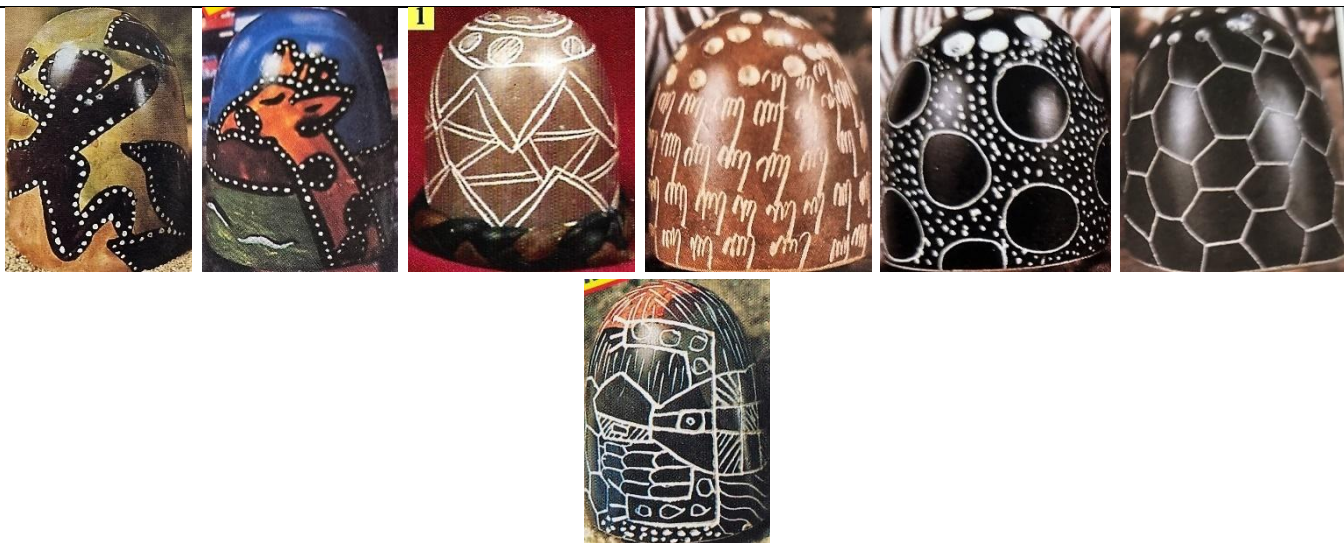
Kingman turquoise



Arizona USA

Kisii stone

mined by the Kenyan tribe of the same name



Kenya

L>R: handpainted figure - handpainted giraffe - leather rim - representing cheetah, giraffe, python
 TTG 1991 - 1994

lapis lazuli

 Argentina <u>Juan Arrieta Quiroga</u> R: with rhodochrosite	 Pakistan VN 92 1999	 Portugal CC 1978
 commissioned by The Rock Shop Perth from Asia 1990		

lavender alabaster

 Italy handpainted violet
--

leather

see also: Hinterland leather thimbles topic

 <u>Birch</u>	 <u>Clover</u> L: tailor's
 Japan <u>Olympus</u>	 Egypt <u>Randa Ahmet Unique Design</u> L: over plastic

			
<u>R Reidler</u>	New Lanark Scotland <u>Ronnie Parker</u> 'Easter 1984	Brisbane Australia <u>Sandra Menger</u>	Sydney Australia <u>Yvonne Wisnpear</u> handpainted chamois over wood beads on apex '1788-1988' limited to 100 TTG July 1988
			
India VH 648 b&w photo	Ireland sewing rind	Kenya	
			
Korea	Mexico	South Africa	
			
Thailand L: tailor's – R: tall for use with long fingernails		UK gold-tooled streted over metal	
			
UK gold-tooled streted over wood		USA Alaskan sewing kit with thimble and bone awl	



unknown country of origin



sailor's palms
with various metal pushers

linen



USA
Cael Chappell
 waxed thread
 R: b& w photo

Lucite

Gimbels used the term acrylic



USA
Davy Jones Locker
 imbedded starfish and seahorse and seashells
 limited to **250**
 Gim 1990 – Sewing Corner 1976



USA
 shredded US currency



malachite



Argentina



Egypt
Randa Ahmet Unique Design



Phalaborwa South Africa
John van der Westhuizen

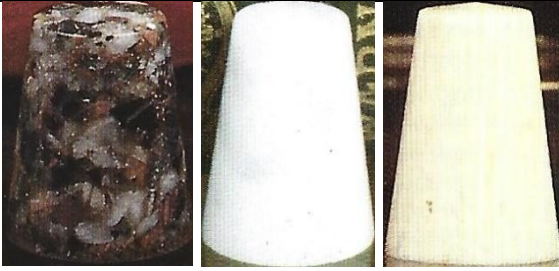


Gim 1990



marble

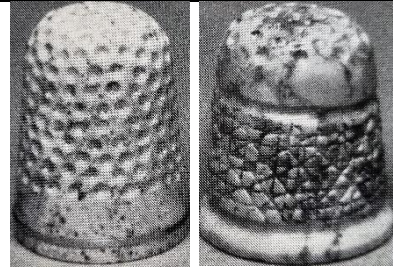
see also: black marble – Carrara - green marble – pink marble



UK

Christine and John Smith

L>R: marble of chips from around the world –
Carrara Italy – creamy
two at R limited to **250**
TTG May 1989 – January 1989 – December 1988



Philadelphia USA

John von Hoelle

VH 1088-89

b&w photos



Barossa Australia



Taiwan

Sewing Corner 1978



VN 64 2001 – Gim 1983



meerschäum

This lightweight mineral, sepiolite, is a lightweight claylike material. It floats on water and this gives its name sea foam (direct translation from German word meerschäum)



Turkiye
Mustafa
handcarved

TTG November 1989 - VN 96 2008

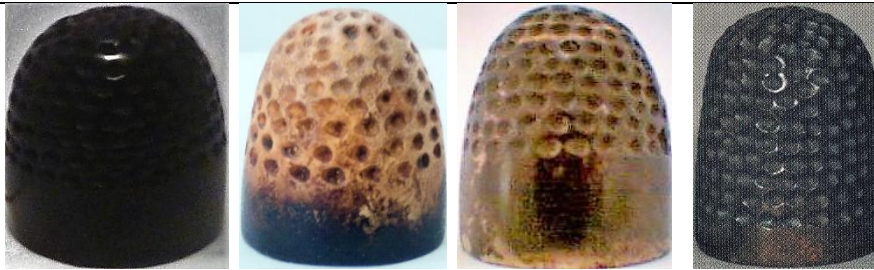


Istanbul Turkiye
Sinan Atilla
handcarved

two L: TTG August, October 2009



San Marcos CA USA
Royal Meerschäum



South Africa
baked Tanzanian meerschaum
Fel 20 1992



Tanzania
VN 46 1998



Türkiye
handcarved
top L: gold band
top 3rd L: brass apex
bottom R: 'Türkey'
four R: VN, 1996, 1998, 2007 – Gim 1997 – VH665



foxglove

nundoorite



commissioned by The Rock Shop Perth from Asia 1990

onyx

see also: black onyx – blue onyx – dark rose onyx



Argentina
Juan Arrieta Quiroga
with rhodochrosite



Argentina
Onyx-Mar
septagonal



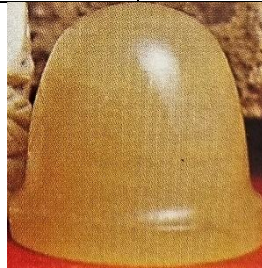
Mendoza Argentina
Sewing Corner 1976



India
carved lotus
limited to **50**
TTG March 1990



Karachi Pakistan



Scotland
Gem Rock Museum
TO 1993



paper



Argentina

papier mâché

flour, salt and water are added to rice paper pulp

often mistakenly described as wooden in second-hand market – a dead giveaway is Kashmir papier mâché
thimbles are black inside







				
				
				
Kashmir India handpainted and lacquered in small batches by small family businesses all black-lacquered inside TTG 1988-2001 – TO 1983-2007 – Gim 1980-1082 – PJW 85-6 - VH714				
 Japan TO 1983		 Japan	 Russia signed in cyrillic	 Thailand
 USA				

paua shell
see also: abalone



Mooloolaba Australia
Shell Museum
over plastic thimble



New Zealand
set mainly in Perspex or resin
L: silver kiwi – bottom R: over wood



Philippines

peacock feathers



peat



UK
handpainted The Lindow man
bonded in resin
TTG July 1997

picture jasper



commissioned by The Rock Shop Perth from Asia 1990

pink marble



Italy
MR
handpainted



UK
Christine and John Smith
limited to **200**
marble sourced from Portugal



Turkey
handpainted



handpainted

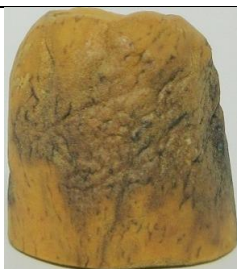


plum slate



Llanberis North Wales UK
Christine and John Smith (Guild members)
limited to **250**
TTG January 1988

potato skins



USA
Lucerne Wulf
2005

pumpkin skin



Argentina
carved by Toba peoples
TCI spring 2013

pyrophyllite



Swakopmund Namibia
L: 'Swakopmund'

raffia

see also: grass, straw



Coventry UK
Jacqui Walker
TGG April 1984
b&w photo

red agate



India
limited to **50**
TTG March 1990

resin



Newcastle-under-Lyne UK
Atlas tailors
available in five colours

resin stone



over plastic

rhodochrosite



Argentina
L: Sewing Corner 1976

rhodonite



commissioned by The Rock Shop
Perth from Asia 1990

rice paper



Japan
limited to **350**
TTG September 1987

rice stalks



Philippines
R: Fel 13 1990

rose quartz



Pakistan
VN 99 2009

rosso Alicante



UK
Pinpoint Design
(name used by Christine and John Smith)
stone sourced from Spain
limited to **300**
TTG September 1988

rosso Bilbao



UK
Christine and John Smith
stone sourced from Spain by these Guild members
limited to **250**
TTG April 1989

rubber

 California USA <u>Good Stuf</u> needle grabber	 USA <u>The Bionic Finger</u>	 'Fasta'	 clerk's
 clerk's	 clerk's		

salmon stone

 Philippines brass band Gim April 1984

sand

 Ryedale UK <u>Tony Barnes</u> sand from Gulf War TTG April 1991	 sand from Gulf War TTG April 1992	
--	--	---

seal skin



Alaska USA
handmade by indigenous peoples

serpentine



UK
Christine and Dave Smith
Cornish serpentine
limited to **500**
TTG April 1988



South Africa
Tswana Products
etched giraffe



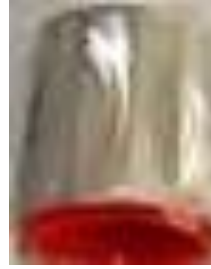
South Africa

shell

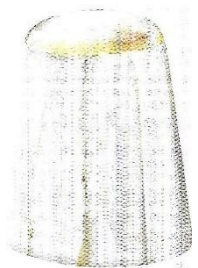
Mexican shell over alpaca thimbles are outside the scope of this study
see also: named shell ie coral



Kidwelly Wales
Andrea Griffiths
seashells over plaster of Paris



Mooloolaba Australia
mother-of-pearl over plastic thimble





Philippines
 shell applied over metal thimbles or moulded plaster-of-Paris
 shell in form of chips or slices
 TTG 1988-2001 – TO 1983-1993 – VH995-997



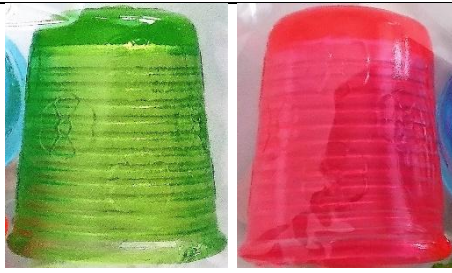
Thailand
 TTG August 2001

shingle



UK
 shingle collected from Criccieth beach North Wales

silicone



China
SewSweet
daisy shapes pressed into thimble



Sonic
nail-shaped



China
daisy shapes



silk

see also: cotton - fabric



Japan
Syuku Otsu



Japan
Quilt-Yui



Melbourne Australia
Ann Shuttleworth
weaving



Brisbane Australia
Tricia Smout



Sydney Australia
Yvonne Winspear
wattle



Victoria Australia



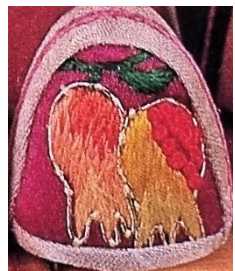


Japan

these ring silk thimbles are known as yubinuki
handmade, they are lined with fabric usually with a cardboard lining



Korea
Younmin Lee





Chuncheon Korea

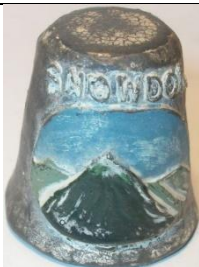
handmade, with silk stitches on padded silk or felt (some are quite crudely stitched)
known as kolmi

small opening at tip for fingernail

KS 9 1987 - Sewing Corner 1978 - TTG July 2004 - TO 1984 - VH 1000-1002 - Fel 10 1989

slate

see also: plum slate



Wales

Kingmaker

handpainted 'Snowdon'
bonded with resin
TTG February 1986



Wales

Pinpoint Precision

limited to **350**
TTG March 1993



Wales

Christine and Dave Smith

TTG August 1987



Westmoreland UK

Christine and Dave Smith

limited to **500**
TTG November 1987

snakeskin



USA
Boulder Bay (BB)
Asian ratsnake
filigree cap



USA
Texas rattlesnake
over wood
TTG June 1991 – Fel 18 1991

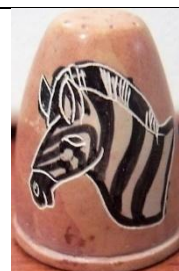
soapstone



Scotland
Gem Rock Museum



USA
Parson Hayes
Sewing Corner 1978



South Africa
etched zebra



India
TTG October 1989 – Gim 1997 – TTG March 1994



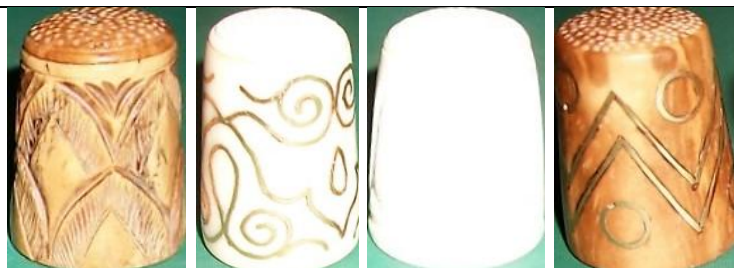
sponge



USA
Lucerne Wulf
over metal

stone

see also: named stones ie jade



Egypt

Randa Ahmet – Unique Design



Argentina

Juan Arrieta Quiroga



Argentina

Martin Arrieta Quiroga



South Africa
Susanne Rens



UK

Christine and John Smith
stone sourced from EuroDisney
limited to **475**
TTG September 1992



UK

Christine and John Smith
stone sourced from The Thistle
Mill Biggar Scotland
TTG September 1991



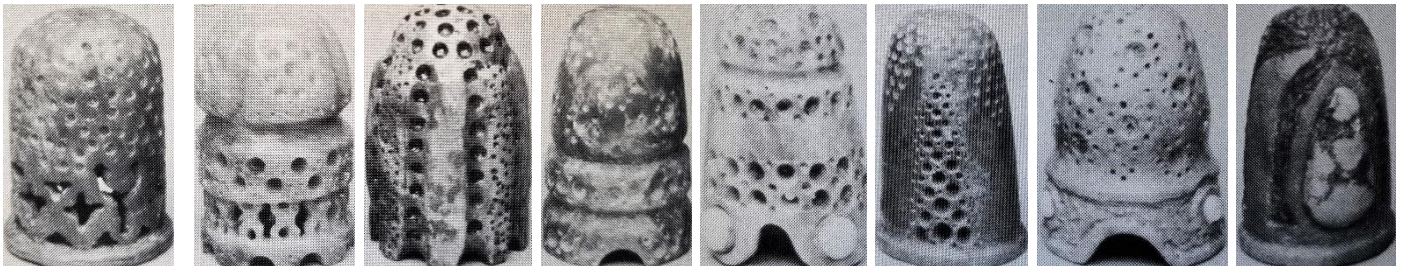
Argentina



Canada
indigenous peoples
VH 325-6



China
Fel 17 1991



India



unknown country of origin
R: commissioned by The Rock Shop Perth from Asia 1990

straw

see also: grass, raffia



Hungary



Paraguay



VN 57 1999 VN 93 2007



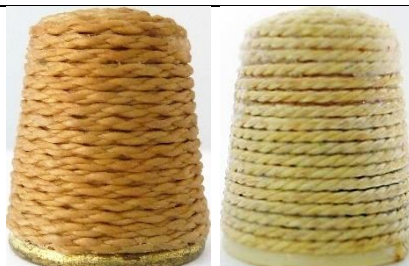
strawberry alabaster



Colorado USA
TTG July 1991

string

see also: Jacqui and David Parker of Olivia thimbles topic



Sydney Australia
Yvonne Winspear
L: wound over brass – R: over plastic

synthetics



Brisbane Australia
Ray Brittain



Scotland
Penelope Burgess
tartan under resin



Deborah Hull



Cirencester UK
History Craft
inset brass apex

described as polymer ivory from ivory dust or sweepings or rosin
a few have metal 'compass' in apex



UK
Melissa Hookway



Dudley UK
Woodsetton

peep: Visit of Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip to China
TTG November 1986



Argentina
epoxy resin
made by Toba indigenous people



China
TTG June 2004
polyresin



UK
'Thimble Collectors Guild' – 'A
stitch in time'
TTG July 1987 August 1987



resin



resin



synthetic ruby



telephone wire



Johannesburg South Africa
Thabang Moloi

tiger iron



commissioned by The Rock Shop Perth from Asia 1990

tiger's eye



China
 TTG April 1989 – Fel 5 1988



India
 PJW 85-6



Pakistan
 VN 99 2009



tortoiseshell

plastic fingerguards were created in tortoiseshell colour in 1910s



Birmingham UK

John Piercy

in November 1816 Piercy took out a patent, 4077, to combine tortoiseshell with gold, sterling silver, steel

British coat-of-arms on the slant with 'Piercy's Patent' on a ribbon underneath is impressed into the shell. There is a gold rim and the width of tortoiseshell varies



another design has a large crown in gold with 'Piercy's Patent' on a ribbon underneath dainty flowers and leaves surround a blank cartouche on the verso



another design has pinchbeck cartouche surrounded by fine flowers and leaves, with 'Piercy's Patent' underneath



another design has 'Piercy's Patent' over two lines with rectangular cartouche surrounded by flowers and leaves on the verso



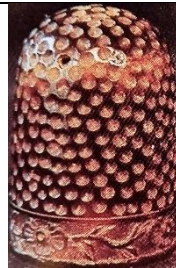
steel-top with cartouche surrounded by fine flowers and leaves with 'Piercy's Patent' on a ribbon in pinchbeck



very rare example with Queen Charlotte surrounded by laurel wreath
'Piercy's Patent' over two lines on verso
b&w photo



'Piercy's Patent' pierced pinchbeck thimbles over tortoiseshell
L: Christies 1995 115



China



Germany 1985



Germany or Austria



UK
carved
18th century
Christies 1995 110



UK
various gold pique designs – stars, flowers, leaves and crosses
9ct gold apex



UK
wide band of silver

travertine



turquoise



Egypt
Randa Ahmet Unique Design



pierced, with Chinese lettering
Gim 1991



velvet



Moscow Russia

plush with beads and brocade over wood

TTG October - December 2003

verdite



Phalaborwa South Africa
John van der Westhuizen



South Africa
Tswana Products



carved
VN 95 2008



VN 46 1998

volcanic ash



Washington USA
Mt St Helen's ash



Washington USA
Mt St Helen's ash



'Etna'

volcanic rock



Scotland

Christine and John Smith

sourced from rock of Edinburgh Castle Mount

TTG September 1992

vulcanite

hardened rubber, which was used as mourning jewellery. It was replaced by gutta percha and jet



USA
band of 14ct gold
size lettered on apex

wax



Bridge of Weir Scotland
Carina Down
candle with lace inset



Mind Your Own Beeswax



candle in shape of quilter's
thimble

white alabaster



Italy

wicker

see also: bamboo



UK
basket weave
TTG January 2001

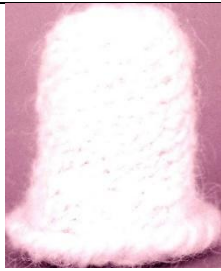
wire



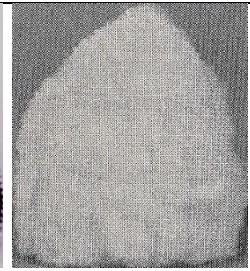
USA

Yael Falk (YoolaDesign)
stone apex

wool



Perth Australia
Barbara Martin
knitted



Sydney Australia
Yvonne Winspear
brass pin of map of Australia
b&w photo

zebra stone



Kununurra Australia
John Read

References

- Jenny Bockel *Telephone wire thimbles*. [TCI Bulletin](#) fall 2021
Mary E Craft *Thimble maker – Sinan Atilla and the art of carving meerscham*. [TCI Bulletin](#) spring 2010
Elsa Giampaoli *Juan Arrieta Quiroga – and a friend*. [TCI Bulletin](#) spring 2021
Irja Helsila *Stone thimbles*. [TCI Bulletin](#) fall 2002
Magdalena and William Isbister *South American thimbles*. 2016
Molly Pearce *A Piercy's patent commemorative thimble*. [TCI Bulletin](#) spring 2005
Noel Pearce *Gemstone thimbles*. [Thimble Collectors Club of South Africa](#) August 1991
Susan Peterson *The story of pipestone thimbles*. [TCI Bulletin](#) summer 2005
Wanda Ralston *Huichol Indian glass beaded & yarn art thimbles*. [TCI Bulletin](#) winter 2013
Irene Schwall *Gutta-percha*. [TCI Bulletin](#) winter 2021
John von Hoelle *Thimble Collector's encyclopedia*. 1986
Lucerne Wulf *Native American thimbles*. [TCI Bulletin](#) spring 2000

Contributors

Eva B | Joanna Blackie-Sew Many Bits | Jenny Bockel | Yolanta Bogdziewicz | Pawel Brzyski | Micky Garvey
Andrea Griffiths | Linda Heggs | William Isbister | Nicola Kissane | Caroline Meacham-Elegant Arts | Ray Nimmo
Syuku Otsu | Dianne Poesk | Wanda Ralston-Boulder Bay | Irene Schwall | Clara Sennheim | Gillian Seymour
Norma Shattock | Claude Sirjacobs | Jean Taylor | Erin Titmus | Sandi Wood | Lucerne Wulf | Krystyna Zagajewska

This listing of Thimbles made from unusual materials does not purport to be complete or accurate in all aspects.
Rather it invites comments and contributions to add to our knowledge. My thanks to the contributors.

EMAIL thimbleselect@bigpond.com TO SHARE YOUR KNOWLEDGE

© Sue Gowan
November 2024