British royalty on thimbles

HM King Charles III

Diana – Camilla

14 November 1948

I have followed the production of royal commemorative thimbles since I began collecting thimbles.

I lived in London during 1969 and tho I watched the Prince Charles's Investiture on television, buying a commemorative thimble never crossed my mind - commemorative stamps were more in vogue then.

The big occasion for commemorative thimbles in the United Kingdom was the marriage of Prince Charles to Lady Diana Spencer in 1981. I eagerly sought one for my new thimble collection in 1984.

What has amazed me in doing this study on British royal thimbles, is how it reflects the history of the modern thimble making industry in the UK. I don't think there is a British modern thimble producer who has not had at least one royal commemorative thimble created in the last 70 years (Royal Doulton does spring to mind but they are not big thimble producers). The first commemorative china thimbles by Caverswall was as early as 1977 for the silver jubilee and no royal occasion passed until 1991 without a Caverswall commemorative thimble - Sutherland seems to have taken over this role when Caverswall closed and they were one of the few china producers making thimbles in any quantity in Britain until they closed. The 1980s' production of royal thimbles reads like a who's who amongst thimble producers/manufacturers. To date **97** different British thimble makers have produced at least one royal commemorative thimble design.

There are **28** British silversmiths who have produced royal commemoratives of which 21 produced only one royal commemorative thimble design - they will be well worth seeking out. I hope that some of these royal thimbles produced in the last 70 years become the antiques of the future, matching the rare and highly desirable sterling silver thimbles produced in the middle of Victoria's reign.

Often there will be two thimbles for the same event by the same thimble maker - using the engagement photos of Charles and Diana for their wedding and then another with the wedding picture. Or "Birth of a royal baby..." thimbles designed before the actual birth and then a sequel with the actual details of the baby born.

The biggest number of different thimbles produced for any single occasion was that for the wedding of Charles and Diana: **79** different thimbles, many of which are sets!! Their marriage in 1981 was the heyday of modern collectables thimble making!!

I have chosen to list the thimbles in a manner which I hope will become familiar to you with use, and I know there are hundreds of royal thimble collectors out there - chronologically for each member of the royal family listing thimbles for all their various birthdays, marriages and in some cases memorial thimbles. I have grouped the family of each member of the royal family together ie Princess Anne's children are featured under the Princess Anne heading etc.

Being a British institution, 98% of royal thimbles produced were made in the UK, so it was surprising to find a few royals thimbles from Europe and three have now surfaced from the USA for more recent royal anniversaries.

The wording on each thimble is as varied as the number of thimbles produced - some have just a commemorative year; others fit an entire biography lettered on the verso. There are always official royal photographs issued at royal milestones. Most thimble producers have ignored these and created a unique design different from their competitors, reflecting their prestige in the souvenir market.
Prince of Wales feathers feature prominently.

I am sure there are many royal thimbles that have not yet crossed my path - there are around **1800** recorded here across all the royal family- please be sure to share your favourite royal thimbles that I may have missed.

For other British royalty topics see
Queen Victoria commemoratives

Prince Charles

Birthdays

40th birthday 14 November 1988



Tony Bouchet



Caverswall





Siegfried Flitsch Pforzheim
silver-plated & enamelled cameo
some have a ruby in apex
limited to **1000** pieces



Woodsetton Peeps

50th birthday 14 November 1998



Tony Bouchet



Julie Menzies



Museum Collections



55th birthday 14 November 2003



60th birthday 14 November 2008





65th birthday 14 November 2013



66th birthday 14 November 2015



67th birthday 14 November 2016

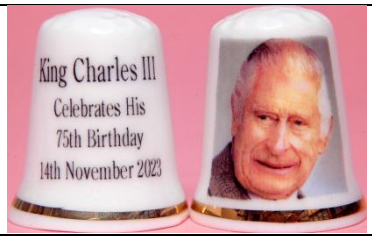


70th birthday 14 November 2018





75th birthday 14 November 2023



Investiture as Prince of Wales

1 July 1969 Caernarvon Castle Wales

 **St George**	 **James Swann & Son** b&w photo	 **James Swann & Son**
 **Peter Swingler/James Swann & Son**	 **Peter Swingler**	 pottery tailor's shape Tywysog Cymru 1969 on verso b&w photo

25th anniversary 1 July 1994



Sutherland

40th anniversary 1 July 2009



50th anniversary 1 July 2019





55th anniversary 26 July 2013

the actual date Prince Charles became Prince of Wales 26 July 1958



Engagement

Lady Diana Spencer 24 February 1981



Caverswall



Caverswall



Highland China

no photo

Mount Royal
pair

Marriages & anniversaries

Lady Diana Spencer 29 July 1981 St Paul's Cathedral



AJL



Ammonite
Prince and Princess of Wales July 1981





Ammonite
Charles and Diana 29th July 1981
also available in silver gilt



Ammonite
Prince and Princess of Wales July 1981



Avalon



John Michael Bickerton



Brylian Porcelain California
limited to **1500**
see also Heirloom Editions



Clive Edward Burr
top: sterling silver – lower: silver-gilt
see also identical design by **Robert Legg**



Caverswall



Caverswall



Caverswall



Caverswall
as Duke of Cornwall



Caverswall



Caverswall



Caverswall



Caverswall



Coalport



Constantia South Africa



Cottage China



Crummles Enamels



Crummles Enamels



Crummles Enamels



Michael I Dorman-Brailsford



Fenton



Fenton



Fenton



Fenton



Finsbury



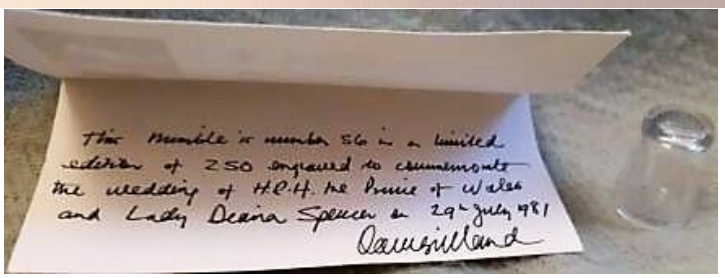
Shirley Frost



Shirley Frost







David Gulland Scotland



Hammersley



Hammersley



Harlequin Design Studio



Healacraft



Heirloom Editions
USA
handpainted by Judy Krč
limited edition of **1000**
see also Brylian Porcelain



Hexagon Studio



Highland China



Hurley
handpainted by Wendy Bowen NY



Iles & Gomms



Lady Eleanor



Robert Legg (engraver)
see also identical design by **CB** and **MN&WB**



Lysander



Mappin & Webb



Mappin & Webb



Mason's



Anthony Nicholls



Oakley



Olde England



Queens



Royal Albert



Royal Brierley Crystal
L: frosted – R: clear
made by Ullmannglass of Germany



Royal Staffordshire



Royal Worcester



Royal Worcester



GPS

Prince Charles Lady Diana Spencer 29 July 1981



Spode



Staffordshire Enamels



Staffordshire Enamels



Sutherland



James Swann & Son



James Swann & Son



James Swann & Son

this version shows the names on the incorrect side of the heart
they were redone but the image is blurred

b&w photo



James Swann & Son



James Swann & Son



Peter Swingler



Peter Swingler



Peter Swingler



Toye Kenning & Spencer



Victoria China



Wedgwood



Wedgwood



Julius Wengert













Charles & Diana 29th July
St Paul's Cathedral on verso





glass



1981 and the Spencer coat-of-arms and bells, with floral emblems for Ireland Scotland England and Wales around the rim



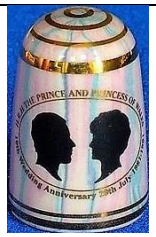
lace bobbins

1st anniversary 29 July 1982



Highland China

10th anniversary 29 July 1991



Tony Bouchet



Caverswall



Caverswall



Regal Etruria



Sutherland
limited to **1000**



Woodsetton Peeps

Camilla Parker Bowles 9 April 2005 Windsor

some thimbles have 8 April 2005 date



Birchcroft



Carol Ann Miniatures (UK)



Stephen Frost/Warwick Models



Julie Menzies



Julie Menzies



Museum Collections



Peter Swingler



Peter Swingler



Woodsetton Peeps















1st anniversary 9 April 2006



Cottage Thimbles

10th anniversary 9 April 2015



Birchcroft



15th anniversary 9 April 2020



… picture of contentment … on the doorstep of Birkhlaa, Scotland withtheir 2 adorable pups

HRH Diana Princess of Wales

Birthdays

21st birthday 1 July 1982



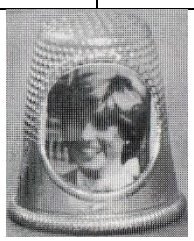
Caverswall



Caverswall



Highland China



Settmacher
b&w photo



Settmacher
b&w photo

25th birthday 1 July 1986



Royal Grafton

30th birthday 1 July 1991



Tony Bouchet

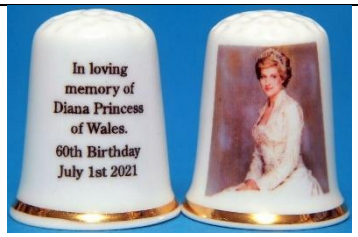


Woodsetton Peeps

60th anniversary of her birth 1 July 2021



Birchcroft
Diana A Princess remembered



In loving memory of Diana Princess of Wales 60th birthday …

In Memoriam 31 August 1997



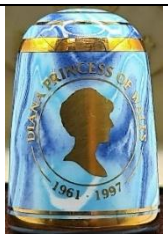
Althorp



Althorp



Birchcroft



Tony Bouchet



Fenton



Stephen Frost/Warwick Models



Alicia Gordon
designer: Kuo-chi Lin



Alicia Gordon



Alicia Gordon



Thorvald Greif Germany



Thorvald Greif Germany
limited to **36**



Mayfair 1



Mayfair 2



Mayfair 3



Mayfair 4



Mayfair 5



Mayfair 6



Mayfair 7



Mayfair 8



Mayfair 9



Mayfair 10



Mayfair 11



Mayfair 12



Mayfair 13



Mayfair 14



Sutherland



James Swann & Sons sterling
Diana on a blue ribbon and a flower
limited to **100**



Peter Swingler



The Thimble Guild



The Thimble Guild



The Thimble Guild
Diana lettered diagonally



Trude Crafts
Penmaenmawr Wales





















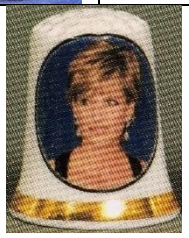




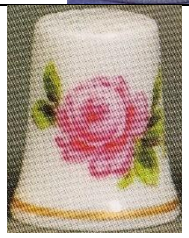




A queen of people's hearts



Rose of the nation 1961-1997



De rose van Engeland



The Diana Princess of Wales Memorial Fountain

10th anniversary 1997-2007



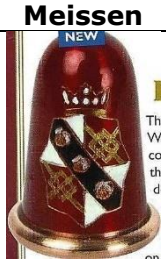
Meissen



Harvey Sillis



Wedgwood



Woodsetton
with her coat-of-arms





Diana





Diana Memorial Fountain 10th Anniversary

15th anniversary 1997-2012







Remembering Princess Diana July 1st 2020 marked the Princess's 59th birthday Over 20 years since Diana tragically died She's still remembered with great love and affection

20th anniversary 1997-2017



Julie Menzies



Julie Menzies



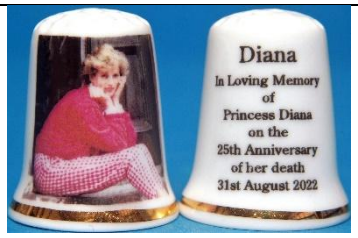
How proud Diana's two boys 20 years on Prince William with Kate & Prince Harry 2017



Memorial garden. The White garden opened at Kensington Palace to mark the 20th anniversary of her death 1997-2017



25th anniversary 1997-2022



… in loving memory …

Ascension to the throne

8 September 2022



King Charles III's royal cypher



Birchcroft
To Honour new King Charles III



Coronation

6 May 2023



Birchcroft
God save the King & Queen



Birchcroft



Birchcroft



Birchcroft



Birchcroft
God save the King



Birchcroft
St Edwards's crown





designed by College of Arms



Others – Charles – Diana – Camilla



Birchcroft
rincess Diana meets Mother Teresa Chrity Tour United States June 1997



Birchcroft



Birchcroft
magazine covers featuring Diana
Diana – Diana's World - Match – Newsweek – Sun – Sunday Mirror – Time - Vanity Fair (2) – Vogue (2) – Woman's Weekly



Birchcroft



Birchcroft
Princess Diana Patron of International Red Cross



Caverswall
Royal visit to Australia 1983



Caverswall
HRH the Prince of Wales



Caverswall



Caverswall



Caverswall
birth of Prince William Diana becomes a mother 1982



Caverswall



Connoisseur Collectables
see also Sterling Classic



Crescent Silver
2012
Ich Dien
Highgrove



Ipswich Collectors
Princess' visit to Suffolk Show
Ipswich May 28 1986



Felix Morel Bath
Ich Dien



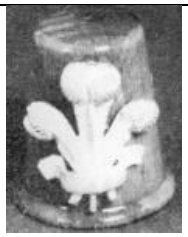
Felix Morel Bath
Ich Dien



Felix Morel Bath
Ich Dien



Ray Nimmo
2011
Ich Dien



Ian Parry Coventry
1985
Ich Dien
b&w photo



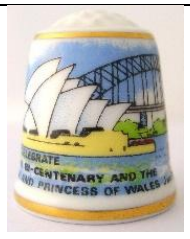
St George



St George



Sterling Classic
see also Connoisseur Collectables



Sutherland
visit for Australian Bicentenary
1988



Sutherland
The Prince of Wales



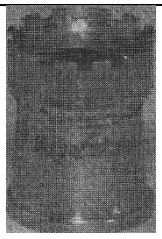
Sutherland



Peter Swingler
1982
H.R.H The Prince of Wales



Thimble Collectors Socy
Uttoxeter
The Prince and Princess of Wales pay a 17-day state visit to Italy April 1985



Woodsetton Peeps
Royal Princes peep with their mother 1985



Woodsetton Peeps
Prince of Wales
Australia Bicentenary visit 1988



Woodsetton Peeps
visit to Hungary 1990



1987



Camilla Countess of Cornwell
63rd birthday
17 July 2010



Camilla Countess of Cornwell
65th birthday
17 July 2012



Camilla Countess of Cornwell awarded Dame Grand Cross ... 2012



1969 Investiture of the Prince of Wales – 2013 the Prince, husband, father, grandfather



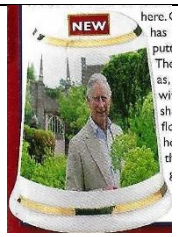
Christmas card 2013



longest heir apparent 2014



Greetings from Charles & Camilla
Christmas card 2014



Prince Charles at Highgrove 2014



HRH Prince Charles & Princess Diana Australia 1983
Will & Kate's visit 2014



royal family Christmas morning church service 2016



Christmas card 2016



visit to Hull February 2017



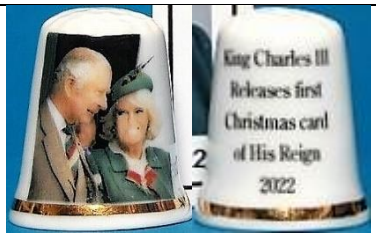
Camilla 70th birthday 2017



Prince Charles with Camilla at Birkhall Gardens Scotland Christmas card 2020



Royal christening 21st Nov 2021 Royal Chapel of All Saints Windsor August Philip Hawke Brooksbank Lucan Philip Tindall



King Charles III releases first Christmas card of his reign 2022



The King & Queen wave to the crowds after the King's first Trooping the Colour as monarch 17th June 2023



King Charles with Princess of Wales Princess Charlotte palace balcony Trooping the Colour 15th June 2024



Charles with sons







… wearing the ceremonial uniform of the Welsh Guards



greetings from Charles & Camilla





Great Britons



Prince Charles leads tributes at the Remembrance Day Service at the Cenotaph London …

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Charlotte Goldberg. *Hurley porcelain thimbles* TCI Bulletin winter 2009
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The Thimble Guild, Scotland *Catalogues*
The Thimble Society [of London] *Catalogues*

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Kay Sullivan-De Vingerhoed | Jean Taylor | Erin Titmus | Norbert Ullmann-Ullmannglass | Hans-Ulrich Vogel
Krystyna Zagajewska

This listing of British royalty on thimbles 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

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October 2006