

Mother thimbles

Mother's Day is celebrated around the world on the second Sunday in May. The exception to this is the United Kingdom, who celebrates Mothering Sunday on the third Sunday in March. Is it because of the importance of Mothering Sunday in the UK that the branded china thimbles are all British-made?

Some thimbles are lettered "To Mother" with the date; others just have "Mother" plus the date. Some don't even contain the date.


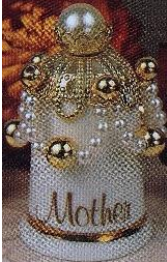
There are not many thimbles made with 'Mother' on them. Caverswall, with their dated series, has the biggest selection that runs parallel to their Easter and Christmas series.

This is another series on a thematic thimble collection, and as such I have included thimbles, which feature Grandmothers and the pairs that represent Mothers and Daughters. I have noticed that the unbranded china thimbles often placed the word 'Mother' on the verso of their usual run of thimbles.

It is not surprising that there are no 'Father' thimbles - after all, it is the mother who is usually the sewer!! I now discover that Hurley painted a Fathers' Day thimble in 1978!! It features a tailor sewing - and one design in 1981 of a train (both by Hurley Porcelain, USA).


Albertine

England, gold-plated pewter on fine bone china

| | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
|  | Mother (1995) mother bird feeding her chicks |  | Mother (1996) pearlised beads |
|--|---|---|--|

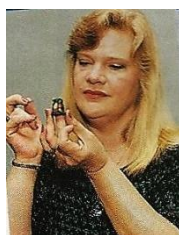
Ashleydale

England, china

| | | | |
|--|---------------------------------|--|--|
|  | Mother <i>undated</i> | | |
|--|---------------------------------|--|--|

Debbie Beam

Edgecomb, Maine, USA, handpainted wood




1996

| | | | |
|---|------------------------------------|--|--------------------------|
|  | Happy Mother's Day 1996 |  | Mother's Day 1998 |
|---|------------------------------------|--|--------------------------|


Birchcroft

Staffordshire, England, fine bone china

| | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
|  | Happy Mother's Day <i>undated</i> tulips | | |
|--|---|--|--|

Jenny Blair Designs

York, England, handpainted frosted glass

| | | | |
|---|-------------------------|--|--|
|  | Mother (1991) | | |
|---|-------------------------|--|--|

Gail Boekel

Florida, USA, handpainted porcelain
her earlier thimbles marked with her initials **GTB**



1997

| | | | | | | |
|--|--|--------------------------|--|--|--|--------------------------|
| | | Mother's Day 1995 | | | | Mother's Day 1998 |
| | | Mother's Day 1997 | | | | Mother's Day 1999 |

Caverswall

Caverswall is one of the largest groups of branded thimbles and had the longest period of modern china
thimble manufacture: 1977-1993

shape is dominant, with little variety in shape over 15 years

there are signed designs, where the artist would have added a small amount of handpainting over decal of
this design

most well-known of the Caverswall painters are Mary Grant, William R Tipton and John Ball.

| | | | | |
|----------|--|--------------------------|--|---|
| no photo | | Mother's Day 1978 | | Mother 1986 playing with a child |
| | | Mother's Day 1979 | | Mother 1987 baby on mother's lap |
| | | To Mother 1980 | | Mother 1988 roses bouquet |

| | | | |
|---|--|---|---|
|  | <p>Mother (1981) mother and baby</p> |  | <p>Mother 1989</p> |
|  | <p>Mother (1982) mother and baby</p> |  | <p>Mother 1990 mother and pram</p> |
|  | <p>To Mother 1983 signed John Ball</p> |  | <p>To Mother 1991 mother sewing</p> |
|  | <p>To Mother 1984 breakfast in bed</p> |  | <p>To Mother 1992 Old Mother Hubbard who lived in a shoe ...</p> |
|  | <p>Mother (1985) with children of the world</p> |  | <p>To Mother 1993</p> |
|  | | <p>Grandmother and Granddaughter (sic) undated this is an appropriate naming of these thimbles as it is usually the grandmother who teaches her granddaughter to sew</p> | |


Coalport

England, china

| | | | |
|--|--------------------|--|--------------------|
|  | Mother 1978 |  | Mother 1980 |
|  | Mother 1979 |  | Mother 1981 |


Countess

England, china

| | | | |
|--|---------------------------------|--|--|
|  | Mother <i>undated</i> | | |
|--|---------------------------------|--|--|

Gail Cucksey

Tulalip USA, handpainted china

| | | | |
|---|--|--|--|
|  | Mother <i>undated</i> swans | | |
|---|--|--|--|

Gili Davis

South Africa, porcelain

Handpainted porcelain (from 1986 on her own thimbles) died 2015
only signed 'Gili'



| | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| | Grandmother and grandchild (1996) | | |
|--|---|--|--|

Val de Vries

Clare, South Australia, handpainted porcelain



| | | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|
| | Mother's Day 2002 roses | | Mother (2004) pansy |
|--|-----------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|


Delft USA

Holland, Michigan, USA – handpainted porcelain

| | | | |
|--|---------------------------------|--|--|
| | Mother <i>undated</i> | | |
|--|---------------------------------|--|--|

Leonore Doskow

Montrose, NY, USA – sterling silver
died 2008

| | | | |
|---|---|--|--|
|  | MOM with hearts in centre of Ms <i>undated</i> | | |
|---|---|--|--|



Enesco

bisque porcelain

| | | | |
|--|--|---|---|
|  | Mother 1981 'Happiness is a Mother like you' |  | Mother <i>undated</i> |
|  | Mother <i>undated</i> mother in rocking chair |  | Dear God Thank you for mothers <i>undated</i> |


Fenton

England, fine bone china

| | | | |
|---|--|--|---------------------------------|
|  | Mother <i>undated</i> a poem on verso |  | Mother <i>undated</i> |
|---|--|--|---------------------------------|

Finsbury

England, fine bone china

| | | | |
|---|---|--|--|
|  | Mother <i>undated</i> posy | | |
|---|---|--|--|


Franklin Porcelain

in 1980 Franklin Porcelain issued a set of four thimbles for Mother's Day
thimbles are not marked with any mother lettering, just the date inside
'Precious Moments in a Mother's Day' set
each shows a mother animal and her babies

| | | | |
|---|--------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
|  | cat with kittens 1980 |  | duck with ducklings 1980 |
|  | squirrel family 1980 |  | Bassett hound with puppies 1980 |


Stephen Frost – Warwick Models

England, pewter

| | | | |
|---|--|--|--|
|  | <i>undated</i> they are in two sizes representing mother and daughter | | |
|---|--|--|--|

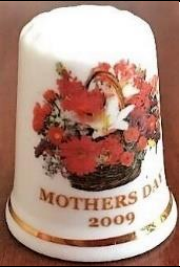
Frika

Netherlands, china

| | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
|  b&w photo | Voor Moeder <i>undated</i> heart | | |
|--|---|--|--|


Gimbel & Sons

Maine, USA
made in England, fine bone china

| | | | |
|---|--------------------------|--|--|
|  | Mother's Day 2009 | | |
|---|--------------------------|--|--|

Peter Gosling

England, china

| | | | |
|---|---------------------------------|--|--|
|  | Mother <i>undated</i> | | |
|---|---------------------------------|--|--|

Heirloom Editions

California, USA, porcelain

| | | | |
|---|------------------------------------|--|--|
|  | To Mother <i>undated</i> |  | Mother <i>undated</i> h/p Kyn |
|  | To Mother <i>undated</i> |  | Happy Mother's Day <i>undated</i> roses |
|  | To Mother <i>undated</i> |  | To Grandmother <i>undated</i> rose |

Hurley

USA, porcelain

Hurley china 'Mother' thimbles are handpainted by Wendy Bowen and others of her studio

| | | | |
|---|---|--|---|
| no photo | Mother's Day 1978 Mother's Rose |  | Mother's Day 1980 horse & foal h/p by Lynn |
|  | Mother's Day 1979 peonies |  | Mother's Day 1981 girl picking flowers |

Tilly Kadletz


Austria, lacquered brass using Settmacher thimbles
in matching designs but differing sizes
some are handpainted and those were painted by US painters
no lettering on the pairs

| | | | |
|---|---|---|--|
|  | Mother 1978 mother & baby |  | Mom <i>undated</i> forget-me-nots |
|  |  |  | |
|  |  |  | |
|  |  |  | |




AJL

England, china

| | | | |
|--|--------------------------|--|--|
|  | Mother undated | | |
|--|--------------------------|--|--|


Lindner

Germany, porcelain

| | | | |
|--|-----------------------------|--|--|
|  | Mother & daughter (2007) | | |
|--|-----------------------------|--|--|

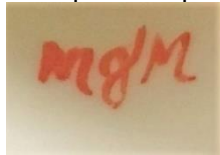
M'Helen Ltd (MariHelen Engellen)


USA, porcelain

| | | | |
|--|--------------------------|--|--|
|  b&w photo | Mother's Day 1981 | | |
|--|--------------------------|--|--|

Millie Miller (MGM)


USA, handpainted porcelain



| | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
|  | "To Mother with Love!" (1979) | | |
|--|---|--|--|


MOT (Martha Shaw)

Anderson, South Carolina, USA, handpainted wood
her paintings are in folk-art style

| | | | |
|---|------------------------------------|--|--|
|  | Mother's Day 2001 tulips | | |
|---|------------------------------------|--|--|


Munro

England, china

| | | | |
|--|---------------------------------|--|--|
|  | Mother <i>undated</i> | | |
|--|---------------------------------|--|--|


Nan

USA, handpainted china

| | | | |
|---|---------------------------------|--|--|
|  | Mother <i>undated</i> | | |
|---|---------------------------------|--|--|

Nuttall

USA, china

| | | | |
|---|---|--|--|
|  | To Mother <i>undated</i> finger-shaped | | |
|---|---|--|--|


Olivia (Jacqui & David Parker)

Birmingham, England, handpainted brass

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|--|--|
|  |  | Mother's Day 1990 ribboning threaded thru rim | | |
|---|---|---|--|--|

Graham Payne

Worcester, England, handpainted china

| | | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|--|--|
|  | Mother's Day '86 daffodils | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|--|--|


Pollyanna

England, china

| | | | |
|---|---------------------------------|--|---------------------------------|
|  | Mother <i>undated</i> |  | Mother <i>undated</i> |
|  | Mother <i>undated</i> | | |

H A Power

England, handpainted wood

| | | | |
|---|--|--|--|
|  | Mothering Sunday 1987 | | |
|---|--|--|--|

Queen's


England, china

Queen's produced a Grandmother thimble, featuring a Lily-of-the-valley

| | | | |
|----------|--------------------------------------|--|--|
| no photo | Grandmother <i>undated</i> | | |
|----------|--------------------------------------|--|--|


Rayma Robertson

USA, handpainted porcelain
apex always gold-painted

| | | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|--|--|
|  | Mother's Day 1981 roses | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|--|--|


Schmid

Germany, porcelain

| | | | |
|---|--------------------------|--|--|
|  | Mother undated | | |
|---|--------------------------|--|--|


Spoontiques

Massachusetts, USA, pewter

| | | | |
|---|------------------------------------|--|--|
|  | Mother undated © 1982 | | |
|---|------------------------------------|--|--|

St George

England, fine bone china

| | | | |
|---|--------------------------|--|--|
|  | Mother undated | | |
|---|--------------------------|--|--|

Sutherland

England, china

used the wording 'Mother's Day'

thimbles are not always dated but when they are the date is lettered on the inside

| | |
|---|--|
|  | Mother's Day 1984 this thimble was produced for Scotland Direct |
|  | Mother's Day 1984 |

| | |
|---|---|
|  | Mother's Day 1985 signed <u>Anthony Jackson</u> |
|  | Mother's Day 1985 signed <u>JB</u> |
|  | Mother's Day |

James Swann & Son (JS&S)

Birmingham, England, sterling silver
Ray Coggle from 1970-2005

| | | | |
|--|--------------------------|--|--|
|  | Mother's Day 1988 | | |
|--|--------------------------|--|--|

Peter Swingler (PS)


England, handpainted enamel, over sterling silver
some of which were made by James Swann & Son (JS&S)

see: [Learn More About Thimbles](#) for more on this thimble maker

| | | | |
|---|---|--|---|
|  | Mother's Day 1975 <u>rose</u> |  | Mother's Day 1977 mother and baby |
|  | Mother's Day 1976 Whistler's Mother |  | Mother's Day 1978 sister and baby brother |


The Thimble Guild

Scotland, china
designed Rachel Pugh

| | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
|  | Mothering Sunday (2001) tulips |  | Mother's Day <i>undated</i> tulips anemones |
|  | Mother's Day (2006) sweetpeas |  | Mother's Day <i>undated</i> posy |
|  | Happy Mother's Day (2007) heart | | |


TLtd

UK, sterling silver

| | | | |
|---|----------------------|--|--|
|  | Mum (1987) | | |
|---|----------------------|--|--|


Jacqui Walker

Coventry, England, crochet

| | | | |
|---|---|--|--|
|  | Mother's day (2006) mother's chair | | |
|---|---|--|--|

Julius Wengert

Pforzheim Germany, sterling silver

| | | | | |
|---|--|-------------|--|--|
|  | | Voor Moeder | | |
|---|--|-------------|--|--|

Woodsetton Peeps (Gill & David Bates)

Dudley, England, lacquered brass

peep, viewed from the open end of the thimble, usually shows a related picture

not all Woodsetton thimbles have peeps

| | | | |
|--|----------------------|---|---|
|  | Voor Moeder (1998) |  | Mothering Sunday 2003 with golden rose atop |
|  | For Mother (2001) |  | For Mum (2004) |

unknown makers

| | | | |
|---|--|--|--------------------------------------|
|  | Mother's Day March 13 th 1994 |  | Mother rose |
|  | Mother basket of flowers |  | Mother violets |
|  | Mother primroses |  | Mother blue and yellow flowers |

| | | | |
|---|--|---|--|
|  | <p>Mother Fragonard scene</p> |  | <p>A Mums hug lasts long after she lets go pewter rose with Swarovski crystal</p> |
|  | <p>Mother's Day <i>undated</i> rose brass with enamelled badge commissioned by <i>Lilian Vernon</i> of New York</p> |  | <p>Grandma's Thimble Italy no later than 1979 pewter</p> |
|  | <p>Mom's Thimble Italy no later than 1979 pewter</p> |  <p>b&w photo</p> | <p>Mother's Day US bisque no later than 1979</p> |
|  | <p>Mother whalebone 1800s</p> |  <p>b&w photo</p> | <p>Mother's Day 1987 lilies h/p metal with yellow Korea</p> |
|  | <p>Mom china in cross-stitch design (from USA)</p> |  | <p>Mom handpainted porcelain (from USA)</p> |
|  | <p>Mother porcelain</p> |  | <p>Happy Mother's Day (2015) china watering can</p> |

| | | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|--|---|
| | | Happy Mother's Day (2015) china 'Mother's hold their child's hand for a moment and their heart for a lifetime ...' | | | Happy Mother's Day (2016) china |
| | | Mother's Day (2016) china tulips | | | Happy Mother's Day (2017) china |
| | | Happy Mother's Day (2017) china | | | Happy Mother's Day (2017) china |
| | | china (2017) 'To the world you are a Mother but to your family you are the World' | | | china (2017) 'God could not be everywhere so he created Mothers' |

References

Gimbel & Sons Country Store *catalogues*
Charlotte Goldberg *Hurley porcelain thimbles. TCI Bulletin* winter 2009
Mother's Day thimbles. TCI Bulletin spring 2022
The Sewing Centre *catalogues*
The Thimble Guild *catalogues*

Contributors

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Others who helped Sue are Cathy Pezzotta | Jenny Yuhas | Pamela Bull | members of the Dorset Thimble Society

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This listing of Mother 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.

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