

Thimble Collectors Club Thimbles

Nanzan Porcelain <--> Nouveau Pottery

Thimble Collectors Club Iwadori Thimble



NANZAN PORCELAIN - Japan

A brightly plumaged pair of Oriental pheasants, guarding their nest in the low branches of a peony bush, provide a spectacular motif for this fine porcelain thimble from Nanzan. Called "Iwadori," Japanese for "Pheasant on the Rock," the thimble design was inspired by the ancient belief that the pheasant brings good luck to the home.

Founded in Tajimi in 1953, Nanzan Porcelain's fifty-five skilled artisans combine centuries-old traditions of Japanese porcelain-making with modern technology. Under the direction of the firm's chairman, Takaichi Kato, a number of historic decorating styles, originally developed for export wares to the West, are now applied to a wide range of beautiful porcelain articles. Among these is the famous "Imari" style, featuring brocade-type patterns in strong reds and blues, lavishly embellished with gold.

The Nanzan "Iwadori Thimble," available exclusively from The Thimble Collectors Club, is an outstanding example of Japanese "Imari" ware — widely sought after by collectors around the world.

Windsor Castle NAUTILUS POTTERY, Scotland

William the Conqueror ordered the building of this famous royal residence as a fortress to stand guard over the western approach to London. The early buildings probably consisted of a motte, or steep mound, and two baileys, surrounded by palisades. The stone fortifications were built two or three hundred years later, and the present exterior is largely the result of extensive restoration and additions carried out in the nineteenth century. Always one of the favourite residences of the reigning monarch, Windsor Castle is also a much-loved venue for visitors and tourists coming from London and the south-west of England. Enclosing nearly 13 acres, it is the largest castle in Britain, and the surrounding Windsor Great Park is famous for its beautiful gardens.

The mark of the Nautilus Pottery takes us to Glasgow, Scotland's largest city and the home of some of Britain's finest municipal art collections. Glasgow produced some of Scotland's best-known painters, and Charles Rennie Mackintosh, famous for his work in the Art Nouveau style, designed the Glasgow School of Art in 1895. Nautilus was founded in the following year, and continues to produce a successful range of delightful china wares. Our thimble is a tribute to its high-quality craftsmanship.

NG Portugal

In vakkringen is de naam van het porseleinhuis NG Portugal, dat in 1986 in de stad Aveiro opgericht werd, een bekende naam. Alhoewel het huis nog erg jong is, is men er in een korte tijd in geslaagd een belangrijke plaats in te nemen op de ranglijst van beroemde porseleinhuisen over heel de wereld. NG onderscheidt zich door een sublieme kwaliteit en eigen originele ontwerpen. Dat alles is het resultaat van het harde werken van een team kunstenaars en de best geschoolde ambachtslieden dat schoonheid en kwaliteit als maatstaf hanteren.

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Die schönsten Fingerhüte
The most treasured thimbles
De mooiste vingerhoeden

NG Portugal


In Fachkreisen ist der Name der Porzellan-Manufaktur NG, Portugal, die 1986 in der Stadt Aveiro gegründet wurde, gut bekannt. Obwohl sie zu den ganz jungen Porzellan-Häusern zählt, ist es ihr gelungen, in kurzer Zeit in den Rang der renommiertesten Produktionsstätten der Welt aufzusteigen. NG zeichnet sich durch hohe Qualität des Porzellans und anerkannt gutes Design aus. Dies ist der harten Arbeit eines Teams von Künstlern und bestgeschulten Handwerkern zu verdanken, die sich Schönheit und Qualität als Maßstab setzen.

NG Portugal

In expert circles, the name of porcelain manufacturer NG Portugal which was founded in 1986 in the town of Aveiro, is already well known. Although a newcomer as a porcelain house, it has managed to join the elite world ranking of famous production centres. NG is distinguished by the high quality of its porcelain and by its own distinctive designs. This is thanks to the hard work of a team of artists and trained craftsmen, who set themselves exacting standards of beauty and quality.

Thimble Collectors Club

Hibiscus



NG OFICINA DE PORCELANAS, LDA - Portugal

The Hibiscus, with its showy golden flowers turning to bronze, beautifully and simply adorns this petite thimble from NG Porcelain.

A relative newcomer to the manufacture of porcelain, NG Porcelain is quickly gaining world recognition for its fine white porcelain and strikingly realistic motifs. NG's expertise lies in the meticulous reproduction of rare antiques and museum pieces. Their attention to craftsmanship is evident in the production of the famous NG "Hard Porcelain", whose clarity and perfection rivals that of bone china.

Truly a masterpiece in miniature, this delicate thimble with its finely detailed motif and striking accents of gold, is available exclusively from The Thimble Collectors Club.

Thimble Collectors Club

Plum Blossom NIMURA, Japan

Tajimi, the home of Nimura, boasts a tradition of fine ceramics dating back over 1,200 years. Skilled porcelain craftsmen were drawn to the area and founded a thriving community of small workshops devoted to producing beautiful pottery for the Japanese tea ceremony.

In Japan, the making of ceramics is dominated by the pursuit of "Sabi" or gracefulness. Nimura have selected the delicate plum blossom to adorn their thimble. Note how the brilliant white of the top of the thimble stands out from the gentle colours of the design, encircled by glittering gold bands. This surely adds a worthy Oriental touch to any thimble collection.

Thimble Collectors Club

Plum Blossom Thimble



NIMURA CERAMICS - Japan

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Pflaumenblüte NIMURA, Japan

Tajimi, die Heimat von Nimura, kann auf eine zwölfhundert-jährige Tradition der Keramikherstellung zurückblicken. Erfahrene Porzellanhandwerker fanden sich hier in kleinen aber erlesenen Werkstätten zusammen, um für die japanische Tee-Zeremonie schöne Töpfereien herzustellen.

Die Japaner befließen sich bei der Herstellung von Keramiken besonderer Anmut. Als Schmuck für ihren Fingerhut hat Nimura dieses schöne Blütenmuster ausgewählt. Beachten Sie bitte, wie sich das brillante Weiß an der Spitze des Fingerhutes, das von glänzenden Goldbändern umfaßt ist, von den zarten Farben der Pflaumenblüten abhebt. Dieses kleine Exponat verleiht sicherlich Ihrer Fingerhut-Sammlung einen kleinen orientalischen Hauch.

Badgers NOIRLAC, France

One of the shyest and most entrancing creatures of our native land is the badger. Should you catch sight of one you are lucky indeed. Badger sets are dug deep beneath the ground and may run for long distances in many directions; the occupants sleep all day, only coming out at night. Badgers are scrupulously clean, regularly pushing their litter to the surface, and this is how you may recognise their lairs. Sit very still near one on a balmy spring evening, and you may be rewarded by the sight of a striped muzzle poking out to sniff the air. This could herald the emergence of a whole family, the adults to search for dinner while the cubs enjoy some rough and tumble.

This beautiful badger picture has been faithfully translated on to porcelain by Noirlac, a house founded in 1870 in a former Cistercian abbey of that name. The factory moved to Mehun-sur-Yèvre in 1890 to accommodate the new methods of firing with gas, and thirteenth-century Noirlac Abbey was restored to its former splendour to make it one of the finest historic buildings in France.

Bed of Roses

A tribute to the NORTHFIELD HAWLEY POTTERY, England

A winsome maiden rests on a luxurious bed of roses, delightfully breathing in their sweet fragrance. The most romantic bloom in the whole language and symbolism of flowers, the rose is the emblem of love, grace, beauty, purity, virtue, and lovers' meetings. In Victorian times, when a young man sent his sweetheart a bouquet of roses, there was often a meaning behind it. A single rose meant simple admiration, white roses signified 'I am worthy of you', and a riot of red rosebuds represented a paean of praise. There was a rose that brought the message 'meet me by moonlight', another proclaimed, 'love is dangerous', and yet another, 'our love must remain secret'. One hopes that the recipient of the roses knew the language as well as her suitor!

This pretty thimble bears the mark of the Victorian ceramic company of Hawley Brothers of Rotherham, in Yorkshire, or of the Northfield Hawley Pottery, which took over from the brothers in 1903 and used the same mark. The pottery continued to flourish throughout the early years of the twentieth century – when the symbolism of flowers was still a living language.



Sunrise at Stonehenge NOUVEAU POTTERY, England

STONEHENGE, said Henry James, 'stands as lonely in history as it does on the great plain.' Constructed four thousand years ago, this extraordinary circle of stones on Salisbury Plain remains a mystery, its history wreathed in legend and speculation. These great blocks of stone are precisely aligned for the observation of the midsummer sunrise and midwinter sunset, and the circle could have served as a giant prehistoric calendar, or as a temple for the celebration of the changing seasons – just as the Druids use it for their annual midsummer solstice celebrations. Whatever its purpose, it is indeed a marvellous construction, and should surely rank as the Eighth Wonder of the Ancient World.

Nouveau Pottery's very attractive backstamp, shown inside this thimble, is designed in the Art Nouveau style after which the company was named. Dating from the early years of the twentieth century, the pottery concentrated on the production of earthenware pieces, designed and painted by hand in this fashionable style. Renowned for its influential designers, skilled craftsmen and highly original and artistic pieces, Nouveau turned its attention to the production of fine bone china around the middle of the century.