

# British royalty on thimbles 1902-1937

I was asked recently whether I would consider completing the British royal family theme for the twentieth century by adding a new topic for the commemorative thimbles for the period between Queen Victoria's reign and the ascension of Queen Elizabeth II.

What a great idea! There aren't many commemorative thimbles made during this era. Charles Iles or later Iles & Gomms of Birmingham would have turned out 100,000s of the cheap souvenir thimbles of plastic, nickel or brass.

I will only feature thimbles made during this period. Many were made in the 1980s for the collectables market. They are outside the scope of this topic.



1) GE VI - Iles Nickel Silver. 2) GE VI - Iles Plastic. GE = George & Elizabeth  
3) GR for Georgius Rex - Henry Griffith & Sons

## King Edward VII 1902 Coronation

9 November 1841-6 May 1910



Coronation 1902  
King Edward VII. Alexandra.  
bust portraits  
*Charles Iles*  
brass



Coronation 1902  
King Edward VII. Alexandra.  
bust portraits  
*Charles Iles*  
nickel



Edward VII 1902



June 1902  
bust of Edward between ER  
*Charles Iles*  
brass  
the coronation was scheduled for 26 June 1902  
but owing to the King's illness it was postponed to  
9 August 1902

## King George V 1911 Coronation

3 June 1865-20 January 1936



GM 1911

*Goldsmiths and Silversmiths Co Ltd [G&S Co Ltd]*

band with Coronation procession from Buckingham Palace to Westminster Abbey - with thistle  
shamrocks - Coronation crown applied above the band. Herald angel overhead  
9ct gold



GM 1911

*Goldsmiths and Silversmiths Co Ltd [G&S Co Ltd]*

band with Coronation Coach procession from Buckingham Palace to Westminster Abbey - with thistle  
shamrocks - 9ct gold Coronation applied crown above the band. Herald angel overhead  
size .6

## King George V 1932



H.M The King and the Queen

paper portraits in raised roundel

*Settmacher*

L: zinc

R: oxidised brass with lacquer bands and coloured 'glass' apices

## King George V Silver Jubilee 1935



Silver Jubilee 1910-1935  
King George V. Queen Mary.  
a crown  
*Iles & Gomms*  
no rolled rim



Silver Jubilee 1910-1935  
King George V. Queen Mary.  
a crown  
nickel  
*Iles & Gomms*  
flat rim



Silver Jubilee 1910-1935  
King George V. Queen Mary.  
a crown  
*Iles & Gomms*  
nickel  
rolled rim



Silver Jubilee 1910-1935 King George V. Queen Mary.

a crown  
*Iles & Gomms*  
 brass  
 rolled rim



Silver Jubilee 1910-1935 King George V. Queen Mary.

bust portraits  
*Iles & Gomms*  
 silver  
 flat rim

'Silver' is lettered on the rim below the busts  
 this is one of the scarcest thimbles by *Iles & Gomms* as they **rarely** created silver thimbles  
 the lettering on the thimbles is the same as the 'Silver' sticky label with the celluloid box  
 the celluloid box was also made by *Iles & Gomms*



Silver Jubilee 1910-1935 King George V Queen Mary

bust portraits  
*Iles & Gomms*  
 brass  
 rolled rim



Silver Jubilee 1910-1935  
King George V. Queen Mary.  
 bust portraits  
*Iles & Gomms*  
 nickel  
 rolled rim  
 box lettered: Silver Jubilee  
1910 GM 1935  
Thimble  
 Made in England Size 2



1910-1935  
*Iles & Gomms*  
 ivorine  
 handpainted lettering in blue and red  
 blue, white and red bands at rim



box lettered: 1910-1935 GM Silver Jubilee  
 red and gold crown  
*Iles & Gomms*  
 celluloid square thimble box



box lettered: 1910-1935 GM Silver Jubilee  
red and gold crown  
*Iles & Gomme*  
celluloid heart-shaped thimble box  
Made in England lettered on base



busts of Queen Mary and George V  
laptop desk brass needlecase made by **William R Avery**  
judging by the portraits this could have been manufactured any time during their reign

# King Edward VIII 1936 Ascension

23 June 1894-28 May 1972

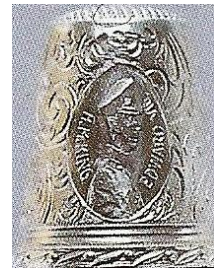


thimbles with no lettering were produced to commemorate coronation of Edward VIII (which never took place)

*Charles Horner*  
Chester - 1936  
sizes 5, 8, 9



H.M. King Edward VIII.  
portrait in a cameo  
*Settmacher*  
engraving all over  
tombac  
reeded rim



H.M. King Edward VIII.  
portrait in a cameo  
*Settmacher*  
engraving all over  
silver-plated  
reeded rim



H.M. King Edward VIII.  
paper portrait in a raised roundel  
*Settmacher*  
tombac bullet-shaped sewing kit



H.M. King Edward VIII.  
paper portrait in a raised roundel  
*Settmacher*  
L: zinc - R: brass



H.M. King Edward VIII.  
paper portrait in a raised roundel  
*Settmacher*  
nickel bullet-shaped sewing kit

# King George VI 1937 Coronation

14 December 1895-6 February 1952



George VI royal cypher



GR

(for Georgius Rex)

a crown between the G and R over striated band

*Henry Griffith & Sons*

lettered The Spa. Made in England. Sterling + size number around rim  
with daisies on top half



Coronation May 1937

King George VI Queen Elizabeth

King's royal cypher and a crown

*Iles & Gomms*

nickel silver

apex has a star

rolled rim



box lettered: Coronation

King George G VI E (royal cypher) Queen Elizabeth

1937

Made in England Size ...

*Charles Iles*



box is in red, blue and white



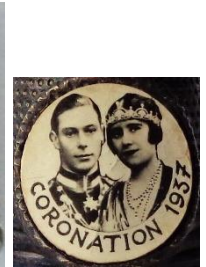
box lettered: HM 1937 gold crown  
*Iles & Gomms*  
celluloid rectangular thimble box



Coronation 1937  
paper with portraits in a  
raised roundel  
*Settmacher*



Coronation 1937  
paper portrait in a raised  
roundel  
George VI only  
*Settmacher*  
oxidised brass  
yellow lacquered groove



Coronation 1937  
paper portraits in a raised roundel  
*Settmacher*  
oxidised brass  
yellow or green lacquered grooves



GVI E  
decaled scene with Coronation coach with George VI's royal cypher  
*Iles & Gomms*  
ivorine  
blue wavy line



G VI E

decaled scene with Coronation coach with George VI's royal cypher  
*Iles & Gomms*  
plastic with rolled rim (later ie post World War II)  
blue line



Coronation 1937

paper portraits in a raised roundel  
*Settmacher*  
nickel bullet-shaped sewing kit



Coronation 1937

thimble holder with portraits in a framed attachment



Coronation 1937

'Just a Thimble Full R<sup>D</sup>707060'  
*Charles Iles*  
showing the crowned monarchs



sampler stitched for coronation

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## References

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## Contributors

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This listing of British royalty on 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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