

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.


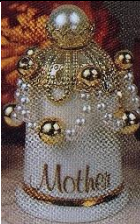
This is another series on a thematic thimble collection, and as such I have included thimbles, which feature Grandmothers and the pairs that represent Mothers and Daughters. I have noticed that the unbranded china thimbles often placed the word 'Mother' on the verso of their usual run of thimbles.

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).

Have you seen them?


Albertine

England, gold-plated pewter on fine bone china

	Mother [1995] mother bird feeding her chicks		Mother [1996] pearlised beads
--	---	---	--

Ashleydale

England, china


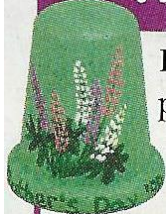
	Mother undated		
---	--------------------------	--	--

Debbie Beam

Edgecomb, Maine, USA, handpainted wood




1996

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

Jenny Blair Designs

York, England, handpainted frosted glass

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

	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
	Mother 1981 mother and baby without a date		Mother 1989
	Mother [1982] mother and baby undated		Mother 1990 mother and pram
	To Mother 1983 signed John Ball		To Mother 1991 mother sewing
	To Mother 1984 breakfast in bed		To Mother 1992 Old Mother Hubbard who lived in a shoe ...

	<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

shape is distinctive Coalport with its rounded apex

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

	<p>Mother 1978</p>		<p>Mother 1980</p>
	<p>Mother 1979</p>		<p>Mother 1981</p>


Countess

Countess produced one known 'Mother' thimble - with hatted women and the word 'Mother' on the verso - thimbles were produced in the 1970s

<p style="text-align: center;">no photo</p>	<p>Mother <i>undated</i></p>		
---	---	--	--

Gail Cucksey

Tulalip USA, handpainted china


	<p>Mother undated swans</p>		
---	--	--	--

Gili Davis

South Africa, porcelain

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



	<p>Grandmother and grandchild [1996]</p>		
--	---	--	--

Val de Vries


Clare, South Australia, handpainted porcelain



	<p>Mother's Day 2002 roses</p>		<p>Mother [2004] pansy</p>
---	---	--	---


Delft USA

Holland, Michigan, USA – handpainted porcelain

	<p>Mother undated</p>		
--	----------------------------------	--	--

Leonore Duskow

Montrose, NY, USA – sterling silver
died 2008

	<p>MOM With hearts in centre of Ms <i>undated</i></p>		
---	--	--	--



Enesco

porcelain

	<p>Mother 1981 "Happiness is a Mother like you"</p>		<p>Mother <i>undated</i></p>
	<p>Mother <i>undated</i></p>		<p>Dear God Thank you for mothers <i>undated</i></p>


Fenton

England, fine bone china

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

Finsbury

England, fine bone china

 <p style="text-align: center;">b&w photo</p>	<p>Mother <i>undated</i> posy</p>		
--	--	--	--


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		Basset hound with puppies 1980


Stephen Frost – Warwick Models

England, pewter
 pair are attractively boxed

	<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

	<p>Mother undated</p>		
--	----------------------------------	--	--

Heirloom Editions

California, USA, porcelain

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

Hurley


USA, porcelain

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

<p>no photo</p>	<p>Mother's Day 1978 Mother's Rose</p>		<p>Mother's Day 1980 horse & foal painted by Lynn</p>
	<p>Mother's Day 1979 peonies</p>		<p>Mother's Day 1981 girl picking flowers</p>


AJL

England, china

	<p>Mother <i>undated</i></p>		
---	---	--	--

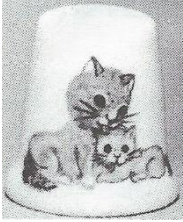
Lindner

Germany, porcelain

	<p>Mother & daughter <i>[2007]</i></p>		
---	--	--	--


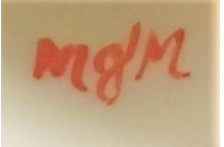
M'Helen Ltd (MariHelen Engellen)

USA, porcelain

 <p>b&w photo</p>	<p>Mother's Day 1981</p>		
--	---------------------------------	--	--


Millie Miller (MGM)

USA, handpainted porcelain

		<p>"To Mother with Love!" <i>[1979]</i></p>		
--	---	--	--	--


MOT (Martha Shaw)

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

	<p>Mother's Day 2001 tulips</p>		
---	--	--	--


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

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

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


Pollyanna

England, china

	<p>Mother <i>undated</i></p>		<p>Mother <i>undated</i></p>
	<p>Mother <i>undated</i></p>		

H A Power

England, handpainted wood

	<p>Mothering Sunday 1987</p>		
---	--	--	--

Queen's


England, china

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

<p style="text-align: center;">no photo</p>	<p>Grandmother <i>undated</i></p>		
---	--	--	--


Rayma Robertson

USA, handpainted porcelain
apex always gold-painted

	<p>Mother's Day 1981 roses</p>		
--	---	--	--

Schmid

Germany, porcelain

	<p>Mother <i>undated</i></p>		
---	---	--	--


Settmacher

Austria, lacquered brass
in matching designs but differing sizes
they were sold by The Thimble Guild in Scotland as being made by T Kadletz
some are handpainted
no lettering on the pairs

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


Spoontiques

Massachusetts, USA, pewter

	<p>Mother undated © 1982</p>		
---	---	--	--

St George

England, fine bone china

	<p>Mother undated</p>		
---	----------------------------------	--	--

Sutherland


England, china

used the wording 'Mother's Day'

note the unique Sutherland shape - with a pointed apex


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

	<p>Mother's Day 1984 this thimble was produced for Scotland Direct</p>
	<p>Mother's Day 1984</p>
	<p>Mother's Day 1985 signed <u>Anthony Jackson</u></p>
	<p>Mother's Day 1985 signed <u>JB</u></p>

			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 A Mother's rose		Mother's Day 1977 (ii) mother and baby
		Mother's Day 1976 Whistler's Mother		Mother's Day 1978 Sister and baby brother
		Mother's Day 1977 (i) mother and baby	no photo	Mother's Day 1979 mother and toddler


The Thimble Guild

Scotland, china
designed Rachel Pugh

	<p>Mothering Sunday [2001] tulips</p>		<p>Mother's Day <i>undated</i> tulips anemones</p>
	<p>Mother's Day [2006] sweetpeas</p>		<p>Mother's Day <i>undated</i> posy</p>
	<p>Happy Mother's Day [2007] heart</p>		


TLtd

UK, sterling silver

	<p>Mum [1987]</p>		
---	------------------------------	--	--

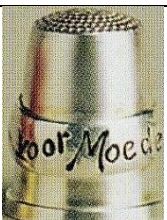
Jacqui Walker

UK, crochet

	<p>Mother's day [2006] mother's chair</p>		
---	--	--	--

Julius Wengert

Pforzheim Germany, sterling silver

	<p>Voor Moeder</p>		
---	--------------------	--	--






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 13th 1994		Mother rose
	Mother basket of flowers		Mother violets
	Mother primroses		Mother blue and yellow flowers
	Mother Fragonard scene		A Mums hug lasts long after she lets go pewter rose with Swarovski crystal

	<p>Mother's Day undated 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 USA 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 with MOM use)</p>		<p>Mom handpainted porcelain (from USA with MOM use)</p>
	<p>Mother</p>		

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

This page would not have been possible without Sue Pickles

Thank you, Sue for your generous help and sharing - Sue in turn had help from other collectors:

The Thimble Guild and all the members who wrote to Sue Pickles with so much valuable information

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

Yolanta Bogdziewicz | Pawel Brzyski | Ann Cooke | Mary Craft | Joy Carlsen Earles | Charlotte Goldberg
Lorraine Hatton | Kit Froebel | Micky Garvey | Friedy Kamp | Doreen Lilley-Pricklepin | Terry Neilson
Joyce Nixon-Smith | Moyra Peckston | Diane Poesk | Mabel Rogers | Wolf-Dieter Scholz | Linda Shaneyfelt
Irene Schwall | Audrey Turner | Melissa Yauk | Jenny Yuhas

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.

EMAIL thimbleselect@bigpond.com TO SHARE YOUR KNOWLEDGE

© **Sue Gowan**
May 2003