Dunheved China handpainted thimbles (Cornwall)

Dunheved China are usually taller and wider than traditional British china thimbles; measuring 30-35cm in height. This gives the painters a larger area to paint – good for their detailed scenic Cornish scenes
There are two thimble painters – partners Sheila Whitcombe and Derek Wilson. Generally, Whitcombe's thimbles are bolder – Wilson's pastel: compare their Jamaica Inn thimbles

Being handpainted no two thimbles are identical







green Dunheved mark is from late 1970s when smaller sized thimbles were used - not signed

---

Sheila Whitcombe (1988-2005)

Whitcombe (nee Watson) began painting portraits at 16
she became a modeller for Royal Worcester, tho never painted thimbles for them
Sheila needed specialised knowledge of ceramic oxides to paint her historical figures their jewel colours.
which are stronger for clearer pictures







Almshouses Barnstaple


Armada 400th anniversary 1588-1988


Beethoven
1770-1827

Learn more about Dunheved thimbles

last update: 10 November 2026



Badger



cat



Charles I
1994



cheetah



Chevaliers Gardens Officer 1796



Chopin 1810-49



Cornflowers
2001



Cornish piskey
limited to **84**



Cotswald cottage



Cottage on Dartmoor



Devon



Devon cottage



Devon pixie

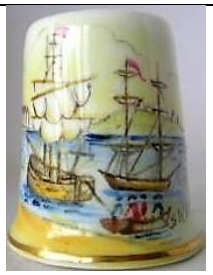




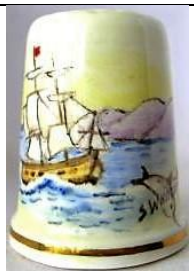
2005
dog



First Fleet
departure 1787



First Fleet
departure 1787



First Fleet
Tenerife 1787



First Fleet
Rio de Janeiro 1787



First Fleet
Cape of Good Hope 1787



First Fleet
arrival 1788



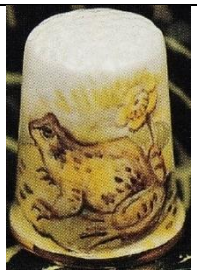
First Fleet
arrival 1788



First Fleet
arrival 1788



First Fleet
arrival 1788



Frog
1993



Fruit – berries
2005



George IV



Goose



Harebells



Henry III
1216-1272



Henry VII



Henry VIII
1509-47 (R: have dates)
1992



horse



House mouse
1983



Jamaica Inn



John
1199-1216



Ladybird
dog rose



lion



Lorna Doone farm



Marsh frog



Mevagissey



mouse



Otter



Padstow



Pansy flower fairy



Pendennis Castle



Persian cat



Pig



Polperro



Poppy flower fairy



Queen Elizabeth I
limited to **90**
1996



Queen Elizabeth II 1993
1993



Queen Mother




Queen Mother


Queen of the Meadow flower fairy



Queen Victoria
limited to **350**
1992


Rabbit


Rabbit


Richard I
1189-1199



Richard III
1992


Roe deer


Roses


Roses & forget-me-nots
2002


Sir Francis Drake


Strawberry flower fairy


Snowdrop flower fairy


Tabby



terrier



The Cobb Lyme Regis



Thrift flower fairy



Truro Cathedral



Unicorn



Weston-Super-Mare



Wood mouse



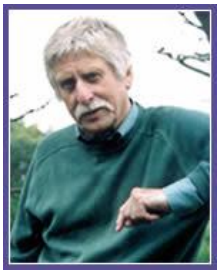
Yarn Market Dunster

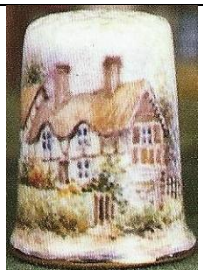
Derek Wilson (1983-2011)

Wilson is a Royal Worcester trained artist, 1930-1954
thimbles are signed D Wilson, often cleverly camouflaged
being a birdwatcher and a wildlife artist, Derek's thimbles are painted in great detail with British birds, adding wildflowers, animals, and Cornish villages also feature
the bird name is lettered on inside rim – places on the outside
Derek works on two sizes of Dunheved thimbles – the smaller size thimblette is named in the TTG catalogues. These were used more frequently towards the end of his career
Wilson died in 2014









Anne Hathaway's cottage
limited to **250**
1992



Avocet
2005



Badger & robin
limited to **195**
1998





Badgers
1998



Badgers
2009



Barn owl
2004



Barn owl



Barred owl
2004



Bearded tit
2005



Beer Devon



Bill Sikes



Black grouse
2005



Black grouse
2007



Black tailed godwit



Blackbird



Blackbird



Blackbirds



Blackbirds
2007



Blackcap
2006



Blue tit
2010



Blue tit



Blue-tit



Bluethroats
2006



Brambling
2003



Bramblings
2006



Broad-Lock Stourport



Budgerigars
2004



Budgies



Bullfinch
limited to **150**
1994



Bullfinch
limited to **200**
1998



Bullfinch
2004



bunny



Buzzard



Chaffinch
limited to **125**
1999



Chaffinch
2005



Chaffinch



Chaffinch

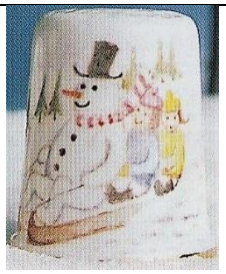


Chaffinches
2007





Cheddar Gorge

 Chiffchaff 2011	 Choughs 2005	 Christian Radish
 Christmas 1987 robin	 Christmas 1989 pheasants	 Christmas 1989 robin
 Christmas 1990 snowman	 Christmas 1990	 Christmas 1991 penguin
 Christmas 1991	 Christmas 1991	 Christmas 1992 pheasants limited to **195**
 Christmas 1992 polar bears	 Christmas 1993	 Christmas 1994 Snowman
 Christmas 1994 turkey	 Christmas 1995 robin	 Christmas 1996 hare





Christmas 1997
robin



Christmas 1998
snowman



Christmas 1999



Christmas 1999
sheep



Christmas 2000
robin



Christmas 2000



Christmas 2000



Christmas 2000
shepherds



Christmas 2001
pheasant



Christmas 2001
red squirrel




Christmas 2002
blackbird



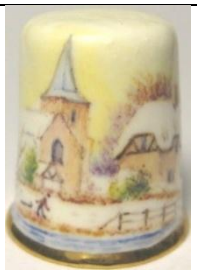
Christmas 2005
robin



Christmas 2005
robin



Christmas 2005
robins



Church in winter



Cirl bunting



Cock & hen
2004



Cockington Green



Collered (sic) doves
2007



Comma butterfly
2011



Corky
limited to **200**
1993



Cornish cottage



Cornish harbour



Cornish Tin Mine – Levant
1983



Crested tit
2005



Curlew
2007



Dabchicks
2007



Dartford warbler
limited to **200**
2000



Devon cottage



Devon cottage - Upton



Devon estuary – Polperro
limited to **150**
1993



Dipper
2006



Dormouse
2004



Ducks



Dunster Castle



Eagle owl
2002



English cottage
1991



Exeter Cathedral



Fagin



Field fare



Firecrest
2003



Fowey



Fox & robin
limited to **150**
1999



Frenchman's Creek



fruit - apple
2004



fruit - apple




fruit - peach




Geese
limited to **150**
1997



Glastonbury Abbey



Gloucestershire Old Spot



Goldcrests



Golden eagle
2008



Golden eagle



Golden Hind



Golden oriole
2004



Golden plover
March 2006



Goldfinch
2005



Goldfinch
2009



Goldfinch



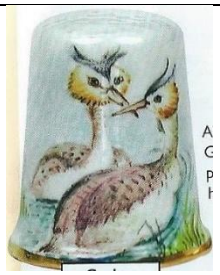
Goldfinch



Goosanders
2008



Goose



Great crested grebe
2005



Great spotted woodpecker
limited to **100**
1995



Great tit
2001



Green woodpecker



Greenfinch
2004
limited to **84**



Greenland falcon
2007



Grey seals
1998



Grey thrush
2002



Grey wagtail
2006



Grey wagtail



Guildhall Totness



Guy Fawkes
1995



Hare
2011



Harvest mouse



Hedgehog
limited to **150**
1993



Hedgehog
1996



Hedgehog & robin



Heron
2005



Highland cattle
limited to **150**
1996



Honey buzzard
1985



Hoopoe
2005



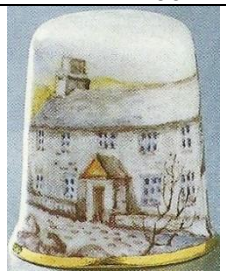
House martins
2007



House-sparrows
2008



Jack Russell
1994



Jamaica Inn
2002



Jay
2005



Jay



Kestrels
2007



Kingfisher
limited to **200**
1993



Kingfisher
1993



Kingfisher



Kingfisher



Kittiwakes nesting
2005



Knot
2008



Lapwing



Lee Bay



Lesser spotted woodpecker



Linnets



Little owl
1983



Long eared owl



Long-tailed tit
2009



Looe



Lovebirds
2006



Mallard
R: Marlard (sic)



Mandarin ducks



Mary Rose 1545



Market House Chagford
1983



Mary Rose
sank 1545 raised 1982



Meadow pipit
2010



Meerkats
2010





Mevagissey



Mistle thrush



Mole
2010



Montagu's harrier 1983



Mousehole
limited to **250**
1992



Mousehole
limited to **250**
1996



Mousehole



Mr Bumble the beadle



Mr Dick



Mr Micawber



Newlyn
limited to **150**
1995



Nightingale
2006



Nuthatch
2002



Nuthatch
2004



Nuthatch



Old Spot pig
1995



Orchard blackbird
2010



Otter
2009



Otter



Otter



Over the bar, Bideford
1993



Oystercatcher
2001



Panda



Partridge & rabbit



Partridge in a pear tree



Partridges
2006



Partridges



Peacock



Peacock



Peregrine falcon
2004



Pheasant & partridges



Pheasants
2001



Pheasants



Pheasants
2007





Pheasants



Pied flycatchers
2006



Pilson Church



Pink cockatoo
2003



Ptarmigan
2005











Polperro



Puffin
1994



Puffin
2003



Quail
2006



R.M.S Titanic sank 2.20am
April 15 1912



Red fox
1994



Red grouse
limited to **175**
1993



Red grouse
2006



Red squirrel
2009



Red squirrel



Redstarts



Redwing
1994



Redwings
1994



Redwings
2008



Reed buntings
2008



Ringed plovers
2008



Robin
1986



Robin
2003



Robin
2006



Robin
2007



Robin
2007



Robin



Robin



Robin



Robin & screw



Robin



Robin



Robin



Robin



Robin



Robin



Robin



Robin & Anne Hathaway's cottage



Robins



Robins
2005



Robins



Rock-pipit
2006



Rose-coloured starlings
2007



Ross-on-Wye



Ruby throated hummingbird
2003



Ruff
2007



Sanderling
2008



Sand-martins
2008



Schubert 1797-1828



Scops owl
2003



Sheep
limited to **145**
1996



Shore-lark
2007



Sidmouth



Silent night



Skylark
2007



Snipe
2008



Snow bunting
2001



Snow goose
2003



Snowman



Snowman toboganning
1994



Snowy owl
2003



Snowy owl



Somerset cottage



Song thrush
1994



Song thrush
2006



Sparrowhawk



Spotted crake
2007





Spring
see also: Suffolk sheep



Squirrel
2001



St. Euchastist Cathedral Tavistock



St. Mawes Castle



St. Michael's Mount
1993



Stonechat



Stonechats



Stourport on Severn



Suffolk sheep
limited to **150**
1995
see also: Spring



Swallows
2004



Swallows



Tawny owl
2002



Teal
limited to **150**
1997



Teignmouth



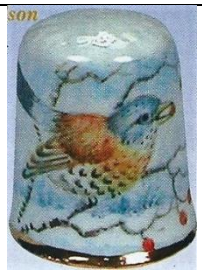
The Cobb Lyme Regis



The Nunnery Dunster



Thomas Hardy's birthplace
1992



Thrush
2004



Thrush



Tintagel Castle
limited to **250**
1996



Tomago House N.S.W.
1998



Tommy Traddles



Treecreeper
2004



Treecreeper
2007



Turnstone
2007



Turtle dove
2006



Twite
2009



Valley of Rocks Lynton
1983



Venice



Wanda the Witch
limited to **150**
1995



Washbeerhayes



Water-rail
2007



Water shrew



Waxwing
2003




Wells Cathedral



Westminster Cathdral
H.R.H. Prince Andrew Miss Sarah Ferguson to commorate their marriage 23.7.86



Weston-Super-Mare



Wheatear
2006



Whinchat
2007



White stork
2006



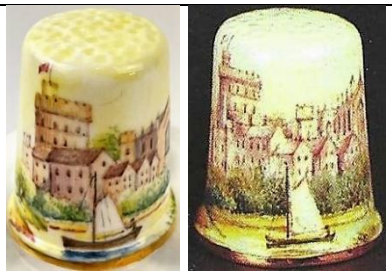
Whitethroat
2005



Willow tits
2007



Willow warbler
2009



Windsor Castle
limited to **350**
1992



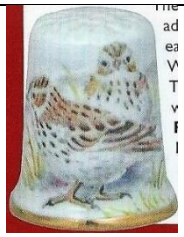
Winter
1996



Winter partridges
2002



Woodcock
2005



Wood-lark
2005



Woodlark
2007



Wren
1987



Wren
1997



Wren
2003



Wren
2005 2008



Wren



Wren



Wrens
2007



Yarn Market Place Dunster



Yellow wagtail
2008



Yellow hammer
2003



Yellowhammer
2005









Contributors

Pawel Brzyski | Andrea Griffiths | Linda Heggs | Barbara Kelly | Maggie Morris | Holly Phillips | Sue Roberts
Jean Rose-Miss Mouse | Linda Samaripa | Krystyna Zagajewska

This listing of Dunheved 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 2026