

Royal Worcester thimble painters

I have always had a love for handpainted Royal Worcester thimbles.

My best thimble find is an unmarked 19th century handpainted bird, with the lovely translucent porcelain of early Worcester in the taller, narrow shape of their early thimbles. This was found here in Brisbane. It was sold to me as milk or opaline glass, a term I had never heard before.

It is a term used for translucent porcelain of 19th century Royal Worcester.

Another term associated with early Royal Worcester porcelain, is blush, peach bloom or a biscuit finish, describing the warm creamy ground of the porcelain. According to Henry Sandon, Royal Worcester thimbles made between 1860 and 1939 are of a glazed parian body which has a creamier, smoother body than bone china, which is very white and translucent.



Then there is the handpainted Kookaburra (1926) that Edwin Holmes first described in May 1994. This is the only type of Royal Worcester thimble that I have encountered with a self-patterning of indentations on both sides. Holmes could not explain this. I have now seen other examples of RW thimbles with this type of marking.



this strange side hatching is only found with kookaburras, no other subject has been painted on this different surface



three kookaburra thimbles with their unique indented sides

kookaburras and kingfishers are my favourite birds painted by RW painters



example of a handpainted Locke thimble that preceded the Royal Worcester brand

Dating your Royal Worcester Thimbles

The early blush, biscuit or translucent thimbles of the late 19th century have no signatures or marks.

Up to the 1880s, later painters from then into the twentieth century could not surpass the earlier finest painting.

Royal Worcester thimbles with a **puce** or purple backstamp date from late nineteenth century into early 20th century and thimbles are usually signed by the painters.

Dating of these thimbles can be calculated from 1891 by a series of dots and/or symbols. The table can be found in The Thimble Society of London, winter 1997 catalogue, p5 (some images reproduced below)

Royal Worcester produced hand-painted thimbles until 1986.

Those Royal Worcester thimbles in production after 1986 are decal thimbles.

See also: [Learn More About ... Royal Worcester Decal thimbles](#)



A gorgeous bunch of 1975 handpainted flowers – I wish the picture from Elizabeth Aldridge was in colour

Royal Worcester Porcelain Backstamps (1862 - 1963)

Reproduced from Thimble Society of London, winter 1997, p5.



L>R: 1862 – 1876 – 1892 – 1916 – 1928 – 1956

Between 1862 and 1867 specific indications of the year of manufacture are rare but may sometime be found in the form of the last two figures of the date, e.g. 64 for 1864, printed below the standard mark.

From 1867 a letter system was used to indicate the year of manufacture. From 1876 the crown sits down onto the circle.

A = 1867	K = 1875	U = 1883
B = 1868	L = 1876	V = 1884
C = 1869	M = 1877	W = 1885
D = 1870	N = 1878	X = 1886
E = 1871	P = 1879	Y = 1887
G = 1872	R = 1880	Z = 1888
H = 1873	S = 1881	O = 1889
I = 1874	T = 1882	a = 1890

From 1891 pieces were coded with a system of dots and/or symbols below the standard mark.

1891 'Royal Worcester England' added

1892 One dot

1893 Two dots

1894 Three dots

continued until 1915 when 24 dots are arranged around the standard mark.

1916 * below the backstamp

1917 * and one dot

1918 * and two dots

continued until 1927 when 11 dots are arranged around the standard mark.

1928 □ and the words
"made in England"

1929 ◇

1930 ÷

continued until 1941 when there were 9 dots and the triple circle mark.

1931 ∞

1932 ∞∞

1933 ∞∞.

1934 ∞∞∞.

1942-48 no dating system
used

1949 V

1950 W

continued until 1963 when 13 dots are arranged around the standard mark. After 1956 the letter W was nearly always substituted with a letter R in a circle, i.e. 1960 = R or W under the circle with 10 dots.

1951 W.

1952 .W.

1953 .W..

The Royal Worcester Porcelain Co., Ltd. was formed as a Joint Stock Company in 1862 and since that time pieces have been marked with some type of date code.

The standard backstamp from 1862 onwards, illustrated here, includes the number 51 in the centre which refers to the year 1751 when the Worcester Porcelain Company was founded by Dr. John Wall. In ignorance, this number is often mistaken for the date of manufacture of a particular thimble.



L>R: puce 1928 – black, 1959 – black, bone china (1951) - black post-1964 fine bone china (no England) -- fine bone china (England)

It is difficult to find information on thimbles produced by Royal Worcester. There is a list of Royal Worcester painters in Von Hoelle's *Encyclopedia of thimbles*, but it is incomplete. Hopefully, this listing will go somewhat to remedy this.

The Sandon listing of RW painters was only compiled until 1971.

It really inspires me when former Royal Worcester thimble painters or their descendants, have taken the time to make contact and send me their own Royal Worcester painting history. They probably found their names on these thimble pages, when doing an internet search. Not many of them have kept examples of their own work on thimbles.

One painter remembers: "Also, a lovely lady guildler who was in her own section of the room, putting the gold lines around our finished work... Mrs Appleton (known as Mrs A)".

Thimbles are small, so when painter's name is too long the **signatures** were often shortened or only initials used. I have noticed that the earlier painted thimbles mostly have the signature close to the subject being painted – to the bottom right. The 1970- thimbles have the signature on the verso alongside a leaf or flower sprig.

I have included the first names even when not part of the signature. Most signatures only contain the initial and surname.

Royal Worcester thimbles were never signed by the artist inside the thimble.

Some signatures are always going to be difficult to decipher, but with practice one can become familiar with styles of painting and so be able to attempt to guess – e.g. Kitty Blake's signature is often illegible or 'messy'.

You may notice how many identical paintings there are, done by different artists, especially amongst the later painters. Once you have handled or looked at the painting depicted, you will soon be able to identify the later style of painting (post 1970), even tho the thimbles are not dated.

This interesting item of information has come to my attention: "In the late 1970s the demand for Royal Worcester hand-painted thimbles grew enormously. One can speculate as to the reason(s). Maybe the thought of an original thimble was alluring. Royal Worcester did not want to employ more artists for economic reasons as thimbles are time-consuming to paint freehand (at least three firings).

The foreman of the painters' division, Edward Townsend, came up with a solution. He designed a number of outline prints - six flowers, six fruit and eight birds - which were printed onto the blank thimbles. The artists did not have to create an individual painting but merely coloured in the blank design. This speeded up the process noticeably.



Some of the painters (Sue Waldron) were dismissive of this process and much preferred doing original work on larger items."

Compare the same topic (ie blue tit) amongst the most modern thimbles and you will notice that this is true: they all look alike. From observation the common themes are = fruit with apple, peach, pear and plum in that order with smaller fruits used alongside.

The birds depicted are tit, kingfisher, wren, robin, bullfinch, and a generic red bird and one with yellow colouring.

Rose and daisy of various colours dominate the flower paintings with iris, violets and forget-me-nots following.

Other English garden birds were handpainted by the earlier bird painting experts and feature swallow, chaffinch, redstart, thrush, goldfinch and even a woodpecker.

Primrose, heather, pansy, morning glory, daffodil, anemone, crocus, wattle, tulip, carnation, poppy, peach blossom and bluebell are some of the rarer flower paintings on RW thimbles, including an example of strawberry flower and the fruit.

Fruit is a more modern topic for painting.

The modern painters who painted from the 1970s onwards include:

Fiona Bakewell, Christine Cameron, Janet Collins, Claire Cox, Pat Dunkley, Sheila Dutfield, Gioran Garcia, Mary Igoe, Angela Lawson, Helene Ligthert, Mandy Munslow, Christine Parker, Sue Roberts, Dorothy Sparks, Julia Vass, Christine Wilson.

It is interesting to note that the later painters were all women - in the early days of Royal Worcester, most of the painters were men.

With the modern painters, note that there are two sizes of the RW backstamp. I have used this information to date the probable time period the painters worked in the thimble painting dept.



modern RW backstamps in two sizes L: 1964-1970 – R: 1970-

The Royal Worcester factory and shop at Severn Street in Worcester closed on 14th June 2009. The buildings were then demolished, for other development.

The Royal Worcester name was purchased by Portmeirion Pottery of Stoke-on-Trent.

The list of RW thimble painters includes dates that each painter is known to have painted for Royal Worcester.

I have included their life dates, where they are available, in square brackets alongside their names.

I have included as many thimble examples as possible for each artist.

The list may not be complete. To date there are **236 artists** listed who are believed to have painted thimbles for Royal Worcester (this includes paintresses' (a delightful RW early term used in the factory) maiden and married names, where they painted under both names).

So far - with help from collectors around the world - **220** have examples of their handpainted Royal Worcester thimbles. There are now only **17** thimbles to find by these RW painters, listed below (* definitely known to have painted RW thimbles).

F Bizl* | Tony Blakemore | E Burkin | T Dear* | C Gull* | Kevin Hunt | JOH* | Keever* | Peter Love | Mona McHarg | Terence (Terry) Nutt
Maurice J Pledger | Michael Powell | Christopher Smith | Judy Vickers | Fay Stephens | Beverly Waldo



some of the Royal Worcester fruit painters

I have found and included examples of **19** modern thimble painters who were painters for RW. They went on to paint thimbles under their own names or brand. There is a quite a trail for modern thimble collectors to discover! Check their entries below to see where else they appear.

Fiona Bakewell | Wendy Bowen (nee Clarke) | David R Bowkett | Christopher Burns | Nigel Creed | Gerald Delaney | Milwyn Holloway
Christopher Hughes | John Smith | Allan Norwood | Terence Nutt | Judy Oram | Peter Platt | Maurice J Pledger | Steve Smith
James Skerrett | Rosemary Waldron | Sheila Whitcombe | Derek Wilson

You may encounter Royal Worcester thimbles that are missing either a top or bottom gold painted band – these are generally considered seconds.

[For other handpainted thimble topics see](#)

Australian handpainted thimbles and sewing tools 1973-2014
Cornish Enamels thimbles 1995-1997
Francesca character head thimbles
Gerald Delaney handpainted thimbles
Graham Payne handpainted thimbles 1981-1996
Hazrah handpainted bronze thimbles (Mauritius) 2006-2009
Iles' handpainted and decaled plastic thimbles
Jacqui and David Parker of Olivia (Birmingham) thimbles 1983-1996
Jasper's of Yorkshire handpainted thimbles
Merryfield Pottery (Devon) thimbles
Modern British hand-decorated wooden thimbles
Modern British handpainted thimbles
Roger Gibbons pewter thimbles 1984-1990
Roger Harrison of Kelso thimbles 1983-1988
Scottish wooden thimbles

Abdul
Peter Platt's nickname



James Allen (Allen)
(b.1923)
1937-1958 and 1971
a protégé of William Powell
signed in front





H Annaby
1955



J Archer
1970s-



Annette Arnold (O)
(b.1953)
1966- (larger backstamp)



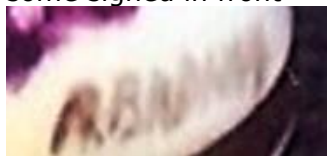
Arnott.
signed in front



L Atkinson (L Atkins)
1970s-



Arthur Badham (A Bad.)
(b.1935)
1951-
some signed in front

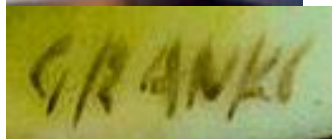


Fiona Bakewell (F BWell)
(b.1956)
maiden name **Fiona Round**
1973-
in July 2009 I read on eBay that Fiona is
still painting – I have an enamelled
pillbox handpainted by Fiona



Gerald Banks

1950-
signed in front



Ernest Barker

(b.1890)
1920s-1956
also painted under the name of
B A Kerr
signed in front



Maude Bell

1904-1931





known to have painted a flower thimble date-coded 1941-49

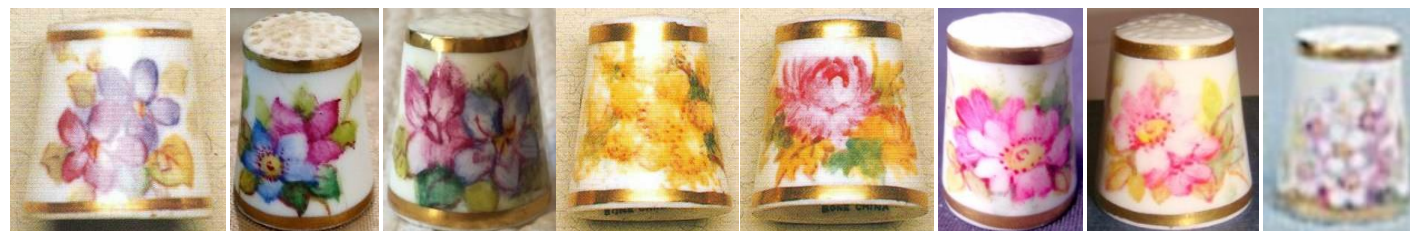
Kitty Blake

1905-1953

she specialised in flowers and small

fruits

a difficult signature to decipher



Tony Blakemore

1970-

J Blight

1970s-



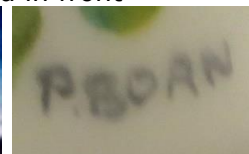
J Bow.
1950s-



C Bootle
1970s-



P Born
1950s-
some signed in front



David R Bowkett

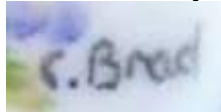
1948-1963

moved to Devon where he opened his own studio. He handpainted thimbles in 2002. Bowkett died in 2009



signed 'Bowkett'. An example of his fruit thimbles, from his time in Devon:



Edith Bradley (C Brad)

R Bridle

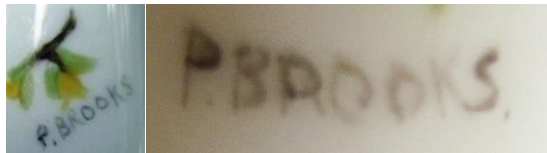
1960s-



S T Bright

P Brooks

1960s-



E Brown

1970s-



J Brown

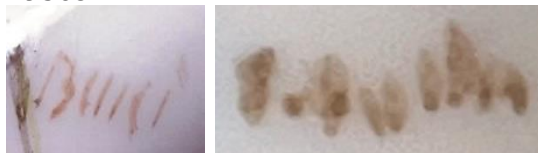
1950s-

signed in front



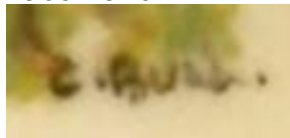
J Bulla

1950s-



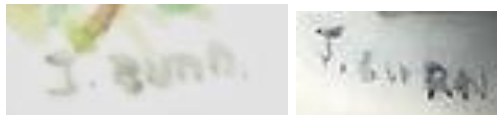
Carolyn Bullock (C Bull)married name **Carolyn Hammond**

1968-1970



E Burkin

J Burn
1959-



Christopher Burns



painted thimbles on his [Harcourt China](#) in 1987. Signed 'C Burns' near the painting. Two examples:



R Bury
1970s-



E Cam.
1970s-



Christine Cameron

(b.1951)

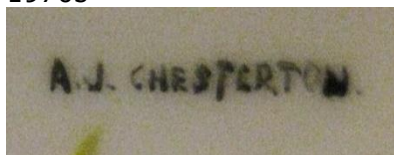
February 1975-November 1978

Christine worked in the gilding department from 1967 to 1971, where one of her jobs was gilding thimbles

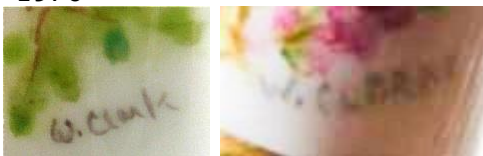


A J Chesterton

1970s-



Wendy Clark/Clarke
-1976



1978

founder of [Hurley Porcelain](#) in New York painting under her married name Wendy Bowen 1976-1981. Signed 'W. Bowen'.
Three examples of her thimbles:



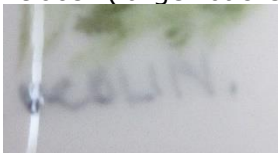
Cole



P Colin
1950s-1960s



V Colin
1960s- (larger backstamp)



Janet Collins

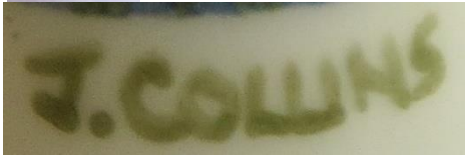
(b.1957)

1975-1977

Janet was a thimble painter during the 1970s in The Enamellers Dept, then she went on to paint in the Ladies Figurine Dept

She kept up her painting, and now (2017) paints watercolour commissions (pets, wedding venues etc)

now Janet E Humphries



K Compt.

M Cotton

K Coty



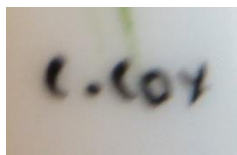
Bryan Cox

1950s-
some signed in front



Claire Cox

(b.1958)
1975-1977



Nigel Creed
1963-

Creed, a Master Painter, painted thimbles for Thimble Society of London in 1990s. Ken Russell a Master Gilder completed the design. Russell was Royal Worcester's last Master Gilder

signed 'NC' near painting – 'Russell' or 'Ken Russell' (1934-2020) lettered inside. Three examples:



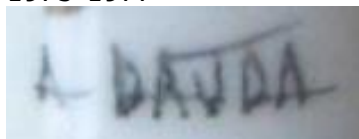
Charlie Creese
1925-1938



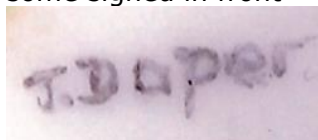
D Cy
signed in front



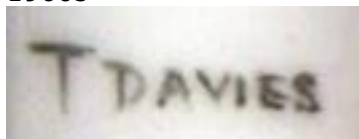
Alina (known as Lee) Dajda
(b.1953)
1975-1977



1960s-
some signed in front



1960s-



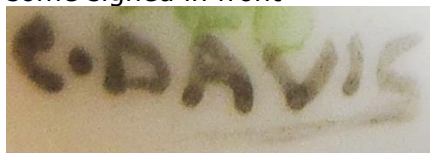
(1901-1990)

1950s-



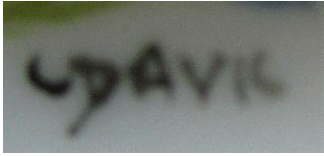
1950s-

some signed in front



L Davis

1959



V Day

1970s-



T Dear

1970s-

- known to have painted a bird thimble

Gerald E Delaney

(b.1933)

1948-1959 and 1971-1973

painted fruit under Ted Townsend

moved to Coalport

never on full production

signed in front



went freelance painting under his own name/backstamp

see my topic on Gerald Delaney thimbles
for further information



Dorothy Doughty
(1892-1962)
signed in front



1960



D Duggan
1960s-



Pamela (Pat) Dunkley
(b.1945)
1973-1981
one of the last four painters





Sheila Dutfield (S D/field)
(b.1958)
1975-
maiden name **Sheila Shinnie**



J Egusquiza
1960s-



Christine Erdman (E)
(b.1950)
1965- (larger backstamp)



Yvonne Evans

1960s-



J Ewan

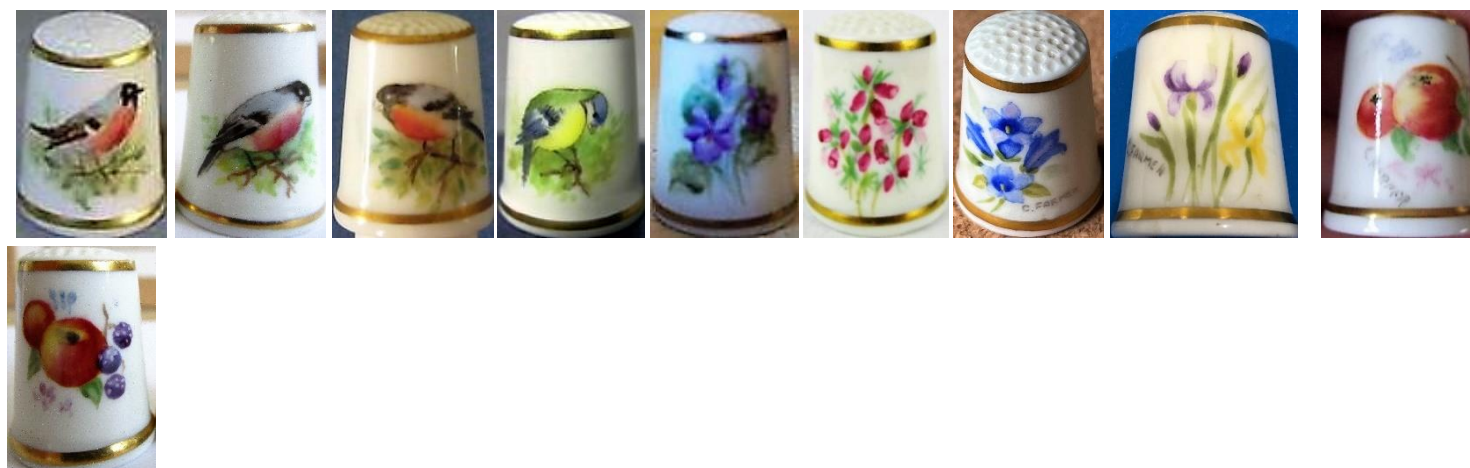
1950s-



A Faid

1964- (larger backstamp)



C Farmer1950s-
some signed in front

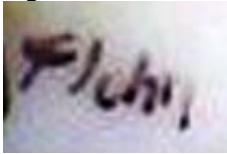
J Flet

is this shortened from Fletcher?



Flohn

1937-
signed in front



A Footman

1960s-



D Fratt

1960s-



John Fuller

(b.1940)
1955-
signed in front



3

A Gall' (AG)
1970s-



Giorann Garcia
married name **Giorann Henshaw**
1974-1980
joined the enamelling dept
Dot Sparks was her supervisor and she
was friends with Angela Lawson in the
same dept. Giorann returned to Gibraltar
(info from the painter in 2004)



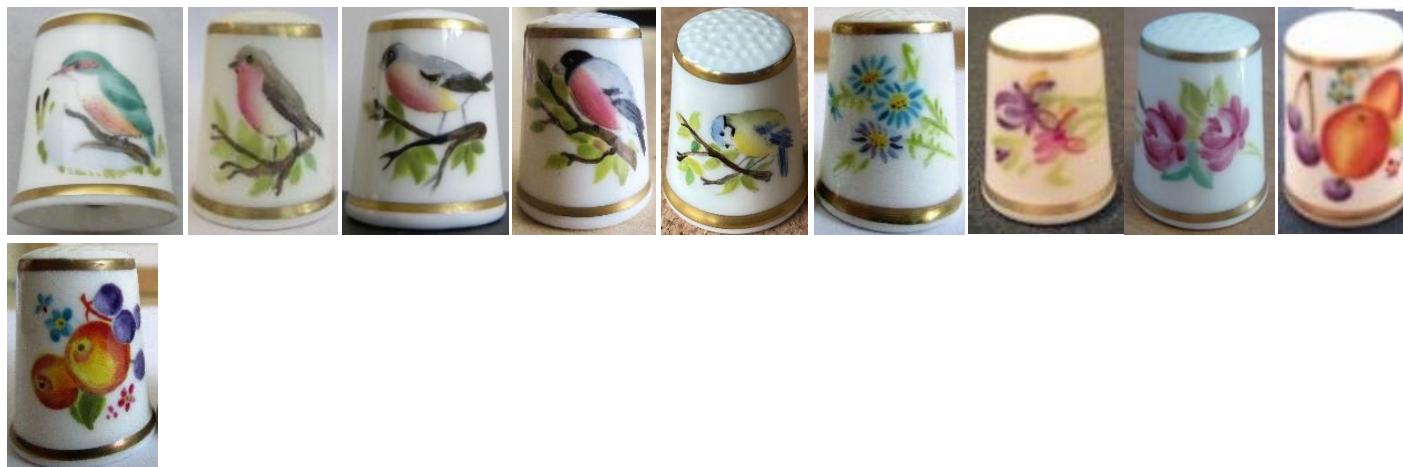
D Garn
1970s-



J Gart.
1970s-



S Gegg

M Gibson
1970s-

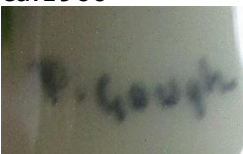
Ron Godfrey

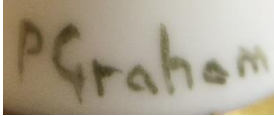
1932-1939
went on to signwriting after WWII



P Gough

ca.1960



P Graham

Lybbe Griffiths (L Griff.)
-1976

C Gull

known to have painted a bird thimble

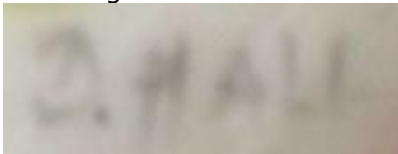
Gwilliam

apprentice in 1950s

known to have painted roses with groups of flowers on thimbles

D Hall

1960s-
some signed in front



Carolyn Hammond

maiden name **Carolyn Bullock**

P Hardy
1960s-



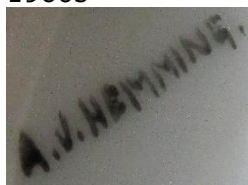
M Hatch.



D Hatchett
1970s-



A J Hemming.
1960s-



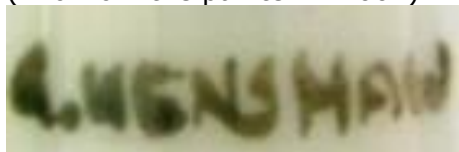
Giorann Henshaw

maiden name **Giorann Garcia**

1974-1980

joined the enamelling dept

Dot Sparks was her supervisor and she was friends with Angela Lawson in the same dept Giorann returned to Gibraltar (info from the painter in 2004)



F Herd

B Hill

1954-

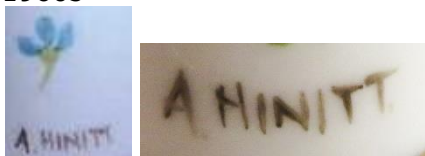


K H Hill

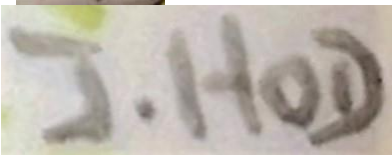
1950s-



A Hinit
1960s-



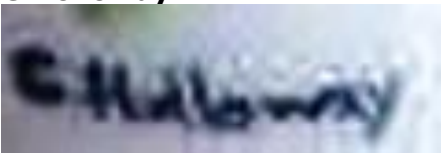
J Hodgett (J Hodg) (J Hodge) (J Hod)
1970s-



Anne Holian
1960s-



G Holloway



Milwyn Holloway

(b.1940)
1954-1971



Milwyn Holloway's bird thimbles post-RW are use the name of Claymore Ceramics. All are signed 'MH' near the bird.
Two examples:



R Homer

1970s-





Christopher Hughes (C Hugh)
(C Hug.)
(b.1948)
1960-1980 (some have larger
backstamps)



Painted thimbles on his [The Christopher Hughes Collection](#) label from 1987. Signed 'Christopher Hughes' near the painting.
Two examples:



Kevin Hunt
(b.1955)
1971-

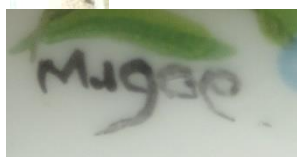
Mildred (Millie) Hunt
1926-
married name **Mildred (Millie) Johns**
Painted between the two World Wars



John Hussell
1950s

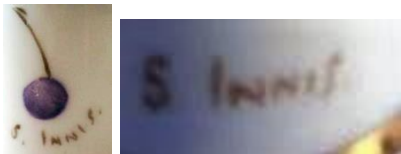


Mary Igoe (M I)
(b.1956)
1971-



Susan Innis

1977-



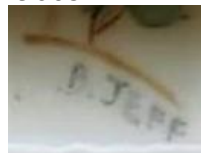
S James

1970s-



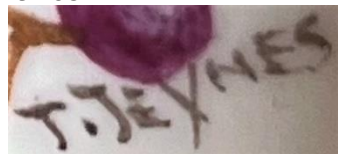
B Jeff.

1960s-



J Jeynes

1970s-



Mildred (Millie) Johns

1926-

maiden name **Mildred (Millie) Hunt**
painted between the two world wars



JOH

1940s

known to have painted flowers on a thimble date-coded 1940

K Jones

1970s-



Yvonne Jones

1960s-



Karen. ---

1970s-

could her surname be Jones?



Keever

1970s-

known to have painted a bird thimble

Doreen Knott

- 1962

later Mrs Martin

some signed in front



R Land

1970s-



Jean Lawrence (JL)

(b.1951)

1970-



Angela Lawson

(b.1950)

1975-

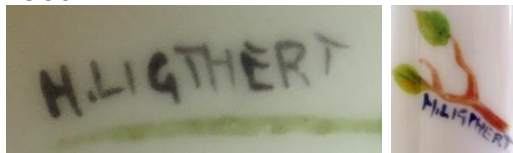


Helene Ligthert

(b.1957)

September 1974-1978

after 1974 she moved to the gilding department where she worked until 1980



Christine Lloydmarried name **Christine Steadman**

1964

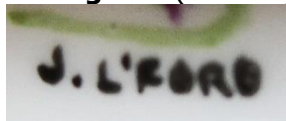
some signed in front



Thomas Greville Lockyer (Tom)

(1913-1935) d.1935



J Longford (J.L'ford)

Peter Love

ca.1950-1956

known to have painted fruit

D Lowe
1950s-
signed in front



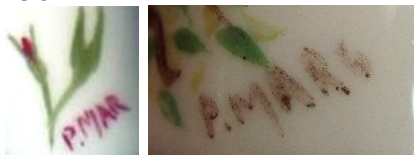
S L'Wood
1970s-



H Manton (H Man)
1950s-1960s
some signed in front



Pauline Margetts (P Mar) (P Marg)
(b.1951)
maiden name **Pauline Shephard**
1967-



J L Marks



Michael Mason (Mas)
1960s- (larger backstamp)



Carola Maslyn (long signature shows **C Maslen**) (C Lyn.)
1960s- (larger backstamp)



Douglas Massey (D Masy)
1951



Mona McHarg

1960s-

Sandra Meredith

1960s-

**Michelin (Micky) Miller**

1944-1955

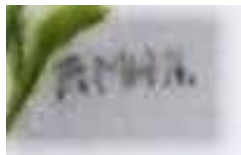
apprentice to Kitty Blake

**Marie Milward**

-1971



F MHN.



Pauline Molloy

(b.1951)
1970s-



Gillian Moody (M)

(b.1944)
1964-



S Morgan

1960s-



M Morris
(b.1957)
1975-



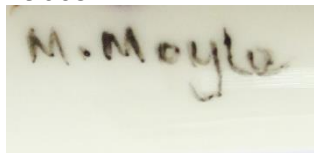
S Morris
1970s-



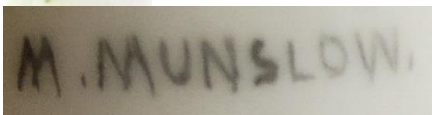
George Mosley (Moseley)
1919-1939
one of the 'Terrible Seven'
(seven 'rather boisterous' apprentices)



M Moyle
1960s-



Mandy Munslow
1970s-



J Nady



J Nell
1960s- (larger backstamp)



William Nicholls

(1933-2008)

1950-1972

after he left Royal Worcester he founded
Albany Fine China Company

S Norris- see **S Morris**

P Norton

Allan Norwood

ca.1948-1956

went to Heathealey Fine Bone China who started up in Worcester for a short while



Terence (Terry) Nutt

1980s –



This is a handpainted thimble by Terence Nutt of Worcester. Signed 'T. Nutt' alongside fruit. The label was in the thimble box



Judy Oram

1971-

her signature JO also found on Graham Payne Studio handpainted thimbles



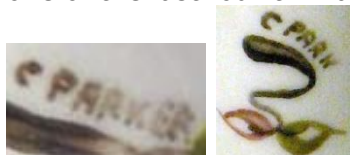
P Osbourne

Judy Owen

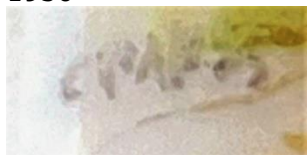
(b.1946)
1962-1978



Christine Parker (C Park)
(b.1953)
1971-1983
one of the last four thimble painters



C Parks
1950-



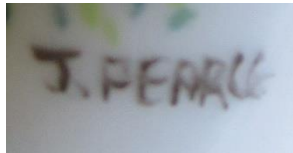
T Parr
1970s-



P Payne

J Pearce

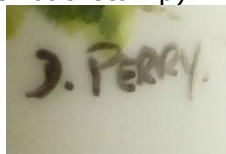
1960s-



Diane Perry

(b.1947)

1962- (larger backstamp)



M Phips

1955-

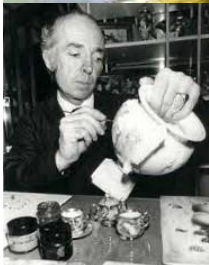


Peter Platt

(b.1935)

1951-

nickname **Sam** was sometimes signed on his thimbles as a joke by apprentices



in 1990s the Thimble Society of London commissioned thimbles painted by this artist. Three examples:



Maurice J Pledger

known to have painted birds

I have seen this painter on thimbles issued by TCC (Renaissance and Oakley)

S Pole.

1950s-



R Poole

1950s-



L Port.

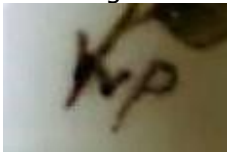
1960s-



H Pound (HP)

1960s-

some signed in front



J Powell (J Pow)

1960s-



Michael Powell

(b.1945)

1966-

P Powell (P Pow.)

1950s-



William Seaborn Powell (Willy Powell)
 (1878-1950)
 1891-1950
 hunchback and dwarf





William Seaborn Powell (cont.)





Linda Preece

(b.1947)

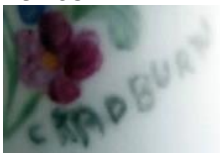
married name **Linda Wilson**

1960s- (larger backstamp)



C Radburn

1970s-



D Rankin

1970s-



J Ranler

J Rayner (J Ray)
1970s-



Daisy Rea (DR)
(b.1894-1975)
1909-1975
forewoman of lady paintresses

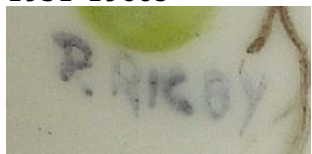


1920s

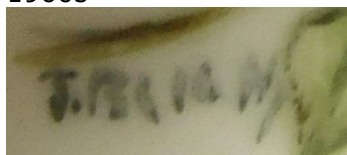




Pat Rigby (9)
1951-1960s



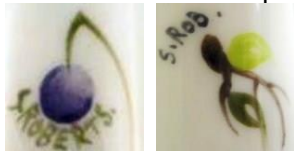
J Right
1960s-



A or N Roberts
1960s-



Susanne Roberts (S Rob.) (Sue Roberts)
(b.1955)
maiden name **Susanne Waldron**
1967-1980s
one of the last two painters



Joan Ross
1965-



Fiona Round (F R)
 (b.1956)
 married name **Fiona Bakewell**
 1973-



M Rouse
 1950s-



C Row.



P Roze
 1950s-



Salter
1970s-



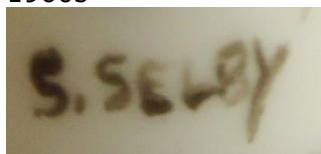
S Sands
1960s- (larger backstamp)



Eveline Sedgley
(b.1909)
pseudonym **Willis** used when ladies not
allowed to sign their own name
1924-1971



S Selby
1960s-

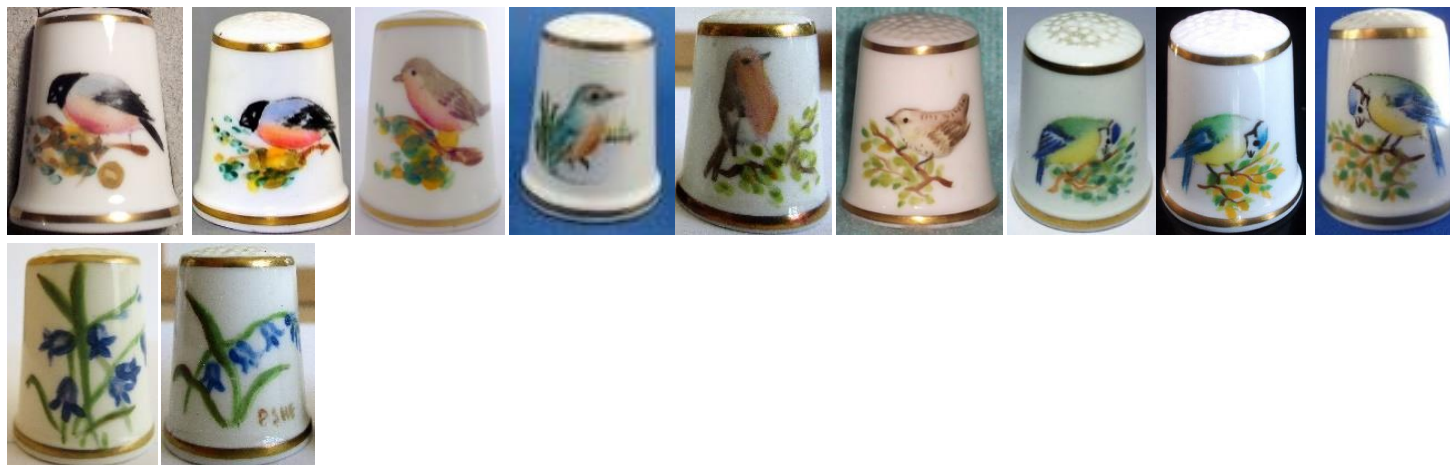


Filippa Serra
(b.1951)
1970s-
married name is **Filippa Whitford**
(**Christopher Whitford** also a RW
painter)

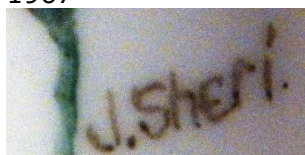




Pauline Shephard (P Sheph) (P She)
(b.1951)
married name **Pauline Margetts**
1967-



J Sheri.
1967 -



Sheila Shinnie
1960s
married name **Sheila Dutfield**



Albert Shuard

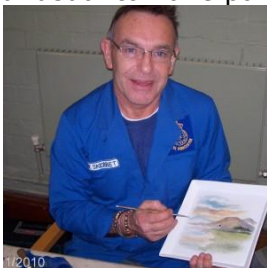
-1961

some signed in front



James Skerrett

unusual to have painted dots on apex



His thimbles are signed 'J Skerrett' and a decaled mark inside. Examples of two thimbles:



Christopher Smith

F Smith

1950s-

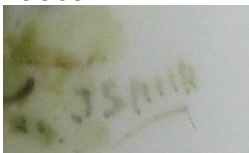
signed in front



John F Smith

(b.1934-)

1950s-



JS signature also found on Graham Payne Studio handpainted thimbles



Lorraine Smith (LS)
(b.1942)
1950s-



John Smyth
1950-1971



Dorothy Sparks (Sparkes)

(b.1935)

1951-1980s

one of the last two painters and she was
also the supervisor

Christine Steadman

1965-1966

- maiden name **Christine Lloyd**

Fay Stephens/Stevens (FS)

1949-

Stinton

1941

could be any one of eight members of
this family who painted for Royal
Worcester

Harry at Worcester 1896-1963 Highland cattle

James (Jas) at Worcester 1902-1951 birds

John Jnr at Worcester 1902-1938 birds



K Stott

1970s-



M Sutton
1940s-

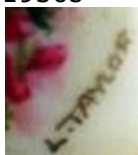


Gertie Taunt
1910-

Angela Taylor
1960s-



L Taylor
1950s-



R Thorn
1970s-



Edward (Ted) Townsend

(b.1904)

1918-1942 and 1947-1971

foreman of men painters

one of the 'Terrible Seven'

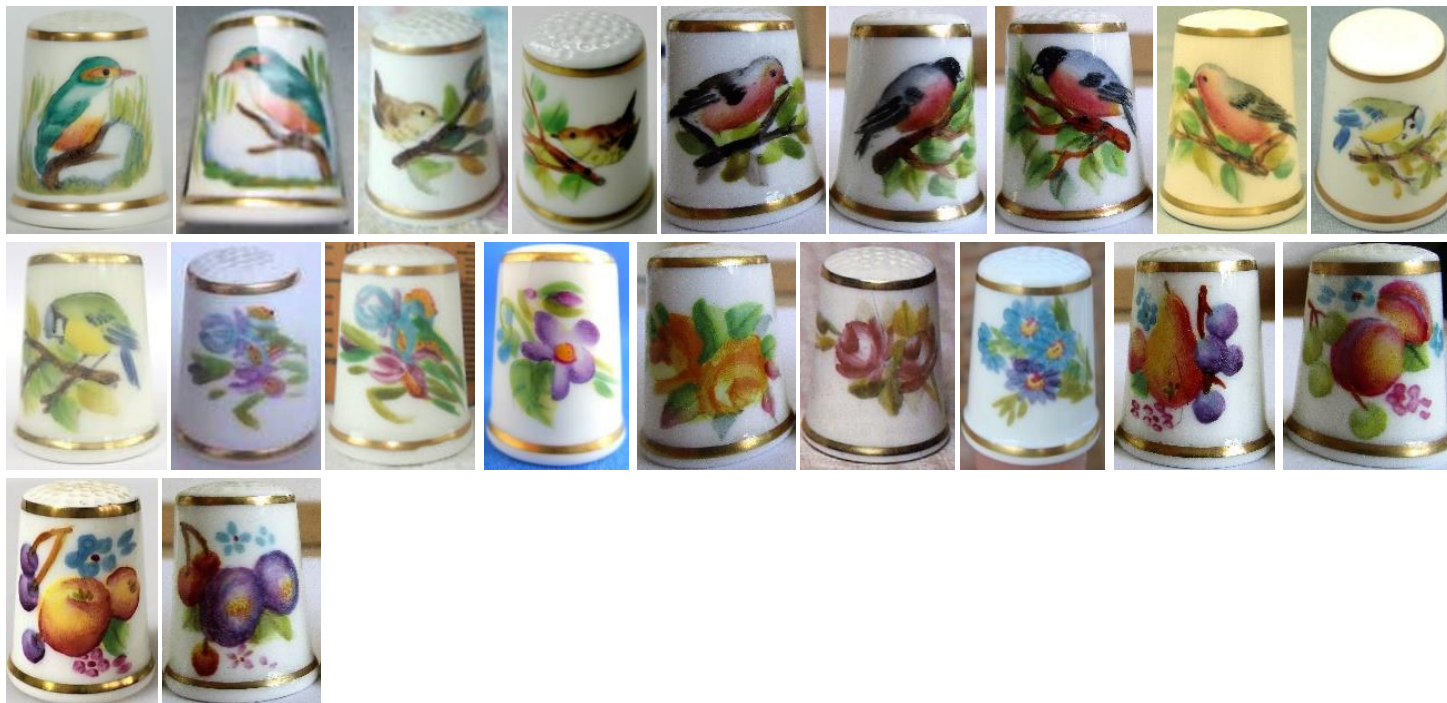
(seven 'rather boisterous' apprentices)



Julia Vass (J Vaas)(J V)

(b.1954)

1971-



Judy Vickers (V)

(b.1946)

1965-

Beverley Waldo

1977-

Rosemary Waldron (R)

(b.1951)
1967-
younger sister is Susanne



her RW initials are also found on [Graham Payne Studio](#) handpainted thimbles



Susanne Waldron (S W)

(b.1955)
married name **Susanne Roberts**
1971-
older sister is Rosemary



B Walter
1970s-



J Ward
1960s- (larger backstamp)



V Ward
1950s-



F B Well
see **Fiona Bakewell**

Sheila Whitcombe (nee Watson)

A Royal Worcester modeller so there were no thimbles



paints now under the name of Dunheved China in Cornwall (partner of Derek Wilson). Signed S Whitcombe. Two examples:



S White

W A White

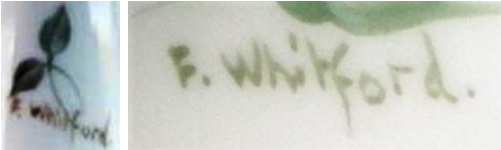
Filippa Whitford

(b.1952)

maiden name **Filippa Serra**

(these two thimbles were privately commissioned, so do no thimbles actually exist under her married name?)

1971-



D Wild
1950s-
some signed in front



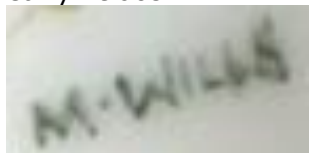
S Wiley
1960s-



Helen Williams
(b.1949)
1975-



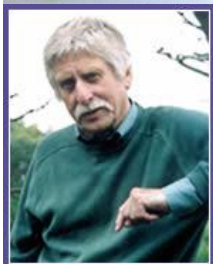
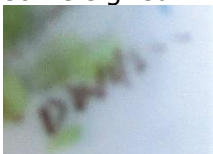
M Wills
early 1960s



Derek Wilson

1930-1954

some have a single gilded band only
some signed in front



paints now under the name of Dunheved China in Cornwall (partner of Sheila Whitcombe). Signed D Wilson. Two of his thimbles:



Linda Wilson

(b.1947)

maiden name **Linda Preece**

1970s-



M Wilson
1950s-



E Wimperis



A Wood
1950s



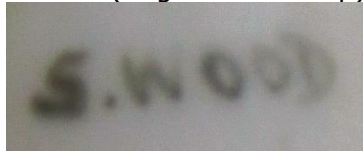
C Wood
1960s-



Sally Wood

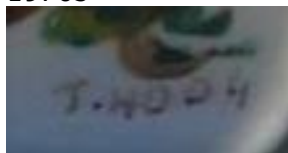
(b. 1971)

1960s- (larger backstamp)



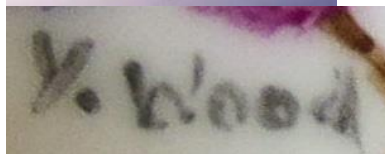
T Wood

1970s-



Y Wood

1960s- (larger backstamp)



M Woodings

1960s-



M Wyer

1970s



Nineteenth century and unsigned Royal Worcester thimbles

It is rare to find in the early Royal Worcester thimbles that the apex has been gilded - usually a sign that if it is gilded, the thimble is not an early Royal Worcester

It seems a logical order to show you some of these lovely works - to group them into broad topics.

A range of handpainted birds













A range of handpainted flowers

the holly one (at the end) has a robin on the verso – there is a band of roses too – a first?







There is a small range of handpainted insects



A range of jewelled thimbles

The geometric painting is often described as "jewelled", with droplets or enamelled paint.

The green ones at the end are rarer than the other coloured "jewels": as is the bi-coloured one!

In the photos below a few thimbles appear to have a gold painted apex. There is only a gilded line at the apex. Those that appear to have a gold painted apex, it is just a poor photo or a trick of the light. No gold painted apex.







Fruit



By observation from compiling the above gallery of early handpainted Royal Worcester thimbles, it is apparent that fruit as a subject belongs to the 20th century - and that the jewelled thimbles belong to the 19th C?

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Museum of Royal Worcester www.museumofroyalworchester.org

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This listing of Royal Worcester thimble painters 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.

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October 2002