

Pewter thimble makers of the world with their marks

When I created the topic Marks on British silver thimbles, in 2002 I never dreamt it would be the most visited section in my Learn More About ... Thimbles topics. I am hoping to fill a gap that has long existed in creating a similar database for pewter marks – this time from around the world. Maybe it too can become the source for thimble marks on pewter?

Pewter thimbles began to appear for the thimble collectables market – ie thimbles not made to sew with – in the late 1970s. That and the following decade were the heyday for the makers and collectors of this medium. Many were handpainted, had figures atop (also known as toppers). Now we can look back on 100,000s of pewter thimbles!

According to Edwin Holmes, pewter is an alloy of tin (93.6%) lead, copper and antimony is it known as poor man's silver. Modern pewter thimbles are lead-free. Pewter is a soft malleable medium ideal for sculpting in fine detail, with the sculptor or designer limited only by his imagination and much it is cheaper than silver. Pewter thimbles are mostly too heavy to be used for sewing.

Being a darker medium than silver, pewter thimble marks are more difficult to photograph. The great majority of pewter thimbles are unmarked. If we are lucky, the thimble has remained with its presentation box, where the maker's marks may be gleaned.

I have included all names that have come to my attention thru selling thimbles of every variety over the last 35 years and those mentioned in thimble catalogues from 1970. I am interested to hear from you please if your country's pewter makers don't appear here.

Looking back thru the thimble catalogues of the 1970s and 80s, confusion may arise as the sellers were loath to reveal the thimble makers' names for fear of competition. Sometimes they used just the sculptor's name (ie John Ball) and not the firm for whom he worked (McMillan & Wife). By creating this database, we may be able to link one or more makers and sculptors or designers from one stable together?

I have concentrated on listing makers of thimbles wholly made of pewter. Sterling Classic, who have created many pewter pieces for placement on top of their Fine bone china thimbles, are not included here.

Nor will you find makers of wooden thimbles with pewter items affixed, nor resin, nor glass.

Swarovski crystals may be included as part of the design as long as pewter is primary.

If you know who created the fire-hydrant thimbles with enamel discs affixed – please share.

As in the previous topic I created, Pewter character head thimbles, I noticed a far greater use of the copyright symbol © on the pewter thimbles listed. This mark never occurs on sterling silver thimbles; it is infrequently found on china thimbles. I have recorded it when I found a copyright mark on pewter thimbles.

I have noticed many identical pewter thimbles – from differing manufacturers. This database hopes to link these sculptors thru their various paths. Warwick Model's Stephen Frost carried the moulds with him from McMillan & Wife (such a name from the early 80s wouldn't be used today?) when they closed. Many thimbles are articulated, some hinged, or having moving parts.








I was intrigued to find an extra British mark on pewter thimbles that I'd never noticed before: **ABPC** for the Association of British Pewter Craftsmen.

It is not a maker's mark. The mark may accompany a maker's mark.

I have included this mark in the alphabetical listing and when it has been used.

One example of each thimble is included, with a purely descriptive title. As I launch this topic, there are **120** makers represented. Let's make it grow!

Marks
arranged by first letter of name

thimble	maker	marks	dates found	Notes with probable dates
 The Shrewsbury quest	<u>A E Williams (AEW)</u> 6 Well Lane Digbeth Birmingham UK www.aewilliamspewter.com			on verso oldest family-run pewtersmiths 1779-
 knight	<u>Academy Pewter</u> 112 Blakedown Road Halesowen West Midlands UK			unmarked Academy took over making thimbles from Felix Motel of Bath when he retired in 2002
 iris - whale	<u>Admiral Z</u> Hawaii USA	A S  		walrus tooth scrimshaw set into apex ©
	<u>Association of British Pewter Craftsmen (ABPC)</u> UK	 (BPC inside A)	founded in 1970	on verso often an additional group mark <u>Pewter Made in England</u> seahorse trademark



















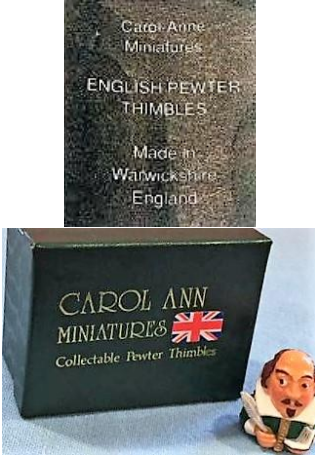


Philadelphia Thimble Society












Amish Kraft Company
USA


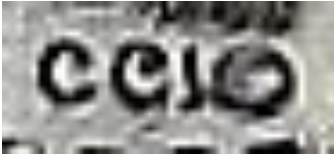









2010








named on box only

see Heirloom Editions	<u>Antiquities of the Holy Land</u> Jerusalem Israel			
	<u>Avebury Pewter</u> UK			
 women's faces	<u>Battersea Ltd</u> Colorado USA		1970 1978	named on underside of rim 1970s ©
	<u>Bernard G Butler (BGP)</u> North Wales UK			
 Celtic dog 2008	<u>Boulder Bay Thimbles</u> USA (Wanda Ralston)			
 Cleopatra	<u>Brieth Designs</u> Stratford on Avon UK (Anne Wareham)	-		unmarked handpainted articulated figures see also Minnie Maria Ltd

	<p><u>British Barbican Crafts</u> UK</p>			<p>handpainted articulated</p>
 <p><u>Just a Thimble Full</u></p>	<p><u>British Nobleman Pewterware</u> Sheffield UK</p>			<p><u>Made by Craftsman ...</u></p>
 <p>Mr Pickwick</p>	<p><u>BS5140</u> UK (B S Sills)</p>			<p>BS5140 is the British Standard for pewter ©</p>
 <p>hippo</p>	<p><u>Carol Ann Miniatures</u> Isle of Portland UK</p>			<p>named on box handpainted figures many are identical to those of Warwick Models some of their boxes are lettered <u>Made in Warwickshire</u> so probably made by Warwick Models</p>
 <p>American bison</p>	<p><u>Carl Wagner</u> Colorado USA</p>		<p>1978</p>	<p>bronzed pewter</p>

 <p>Just a Thimble Full</p>	<p><u>Cartier</u> UK</p>			<p>Just a Thimble Full</p>
 <p>owl</p>	<p><u>CAT Designs Fine Pewter</u> Grove City Ohio USA</p>	 <p>with an imprint of a cat in profile</p>	<p>1986</p>	<p>©</p>
 <p>Cross of St John</p>	<p><u>Celtic Art</u> Scotland (<u>Andy Hynd</u>)</p>		<p>1983</p>	<p>plated in rhodium Andy is a silversmith, who also works in pewter</p>
 <p>tea table</p>	<p><u>Cheryl Harness (CCH)</u> Missouri USA</p>			<p>1990s heavy in weight</p> 
 <p>King Arthur's castle</p>	<p><u>Chris Kenny</u> UK</p>			<p>gilt pewter 1980s</p>
 <p>Peter Pan</p>	<p><u>Colin Tyler (CT)</u> Worcestershire UK (<u>Tyler Castings</u>) www.thimblegarden.co.uk (painter <u>Emily Rice</u>)</p>			<p>includes stacking and nesting thimbles set of four Kelly Gang thimbles thru Scissorman, Australia 1980s</p> 

	<p><u>Comstock</u></p>	<p>CCI</p> 	<p>part-painted Swarovski crystals</p>	
	<p><u>Comstock Creations</u> <u>Comstock Pewter</u> Durango Colorado USA</p>		<p>1998</p>	<p>see also Gallo ©</p>
	<p><u>Curtis</u> USA</p>		<p>1984</p>	<p>lettered around rim of apex Norman Rockwell series</p>
	<p><u>Cuter Pewter</u></p>		<p>© 1985</p>	
	<p>Spain</p>	<p>D&L</p> 		<p>lettered on apex large size</p>
	<p><u>Danbury Mint</u> USA</p>			<p>some are articulated</p>

	<u>Deborah Hulls</u> UK			
 Winnie the Pooh	<u>Disney</u> USA			made by Fort
 train	<u>Donohue Enterprises (DE)</u> Denver Colorado USA (designer: Paula Fried)(PF) her signature appears within the design		1987 1990	lettered on underside of rim some part-painted © many of their thimbles have a single ring of deep indents on the outer apex
 Lady Liberty	<u>Downs</u> USA		1984	
 prancing horse	<u>Earthern (sic) Ware</u> Cornwall UK			aided in set-up by Prince of Wales Trust see also PG Enterprises early 1990s


















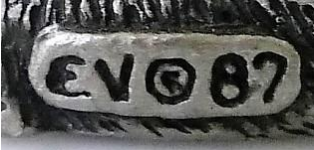



**Enesco
USA**









1981

some handpainted

Mother so dear

 <p>Green finch</p>	<p><u>Exquisite Creations</u> Shirley Solihull UK</p>			<p>lettered in apex © see also W.A.P.W</p>
 <p>mermaid</p>	<p><u>Fellowship Foundry</u> Oaklands California USA</p>		<p>1991 1992</p>	<p>lettered above rim on verso some handpainted some Swarovski crystals</p>
 <p>Alaska</p>	<p><u>Fort Inc</u> East Providence Rhode Island USA (D Jacobs)</p>			<p>the most prolific US pewter thimble manufacturer 1983 "Little Farmers" series ©</p>
 <p>embroidered rose <u>I am thimble minded</u></p>	<p><u>Framework Miniatures Ltd</u> Birmingham UK (Elizabeth R Anderson) Bromley, Kent</p>			<p>unmarked kit with space affixed to fit embroideries in locket some examples have dried flowers in frame others created in pewter mid 1990s</p>

 <p>The peasant's wise daughter</p>	<p><u>Franklin Mint</u> near Philadelphia USA (designer Gianni Benvenuti)</p>			<p>includes Grimm's fairy tales set of 24 1982</p>
 <p>kiss me</p>	<p><u>G Martin</u> USA</p>		<p>1983</p>	<p>before the amalgamation as G&J Martin</p>
 <p>tortoise</p>	<p><u>G&J Martin</u> USA</p>		<p>1985 1986 1988</p>	<p>inside rim some articulated</p>
 <p>fish</p>	<p><u>Gallo</u> USA (modellers: EV for E Vincent D Sams SDK for Sheryl Keith)</p>		<p>1983 1984 1986 1987 1989</p>	<p>see also Comstock ©  SDK </p>
 <p>puppy</p>	<p><u>Ganz</u> Taiwan</p>			<p>some handpainted</p>

 <p>teardrops flower</p>	<p><u>Gill Bates</u> Dudley West Midlands UK</p>			<p>see also Woodsetton</p>
 <p>teepee</p>	<p><u>Grad Neeleo (?)</u> USA</p>	 <p>6646</p>		
 <p>The White Rabbit</p>	<p><u>Hallmark Cards</u> Kansas USA</p>		<p>1995 1996 1997 1998</p>	<p>handpainted figures includes Alice in Wonderland set ©</p>
 <p>horn of plenty embroidery stitches</p>	<p><u>Hantel</u> UK (Frances Moore)</p>			<p><u>Love Token Thimbles</u> embroidery stitch designs and ABPC mark © were Frances Moore and Frances Wilson the same person – one being a married name?</p>
 <p>teddy bear Toys</p>	<p><u>Hantel Toys</u> Inverness UK (Frances Wilson)</p>			<p>specialises in toys atop thimbles; articulated figures atop are enamelled and are separate entities 1980s</p>



replica from Roman period









Heirloom Editions Ltd (HE)
USA
(founded by **Barbara Ringer**
1978)









HE













lettered inside rim
includes a series of reproduction
antiquities thimbles



 <p>William Shakespeare</p>	<p>UK</p>	<p>HM</p> 		
 <p>the Eskimo</p>	<p><u>Ian Parry</u> Worcestershire <i>then:</i> Coventry UK</p>			<p>early 1980s includes 'The Thimbleys' shaped characters later his thimbles were of wood with pewter affixed to sides</p>
		<p>JJo</p> 		<p>lettered above rim on verso some handpainted</p>
 <p>Celtic design</p>	<p><u>J.M. Crafts</u> Wales UK</p>			<p>1990s</p>
 <p>Virgo zodiac sign</p>	<p><u>Keith Rowlinson</u> UK</p>			<p>includes a set of zodiac thimbles 1990s</p>

 <p>field mice</p>		LAP		
 <p>rabbits</p>	UK	LM 		may be marked <u>Pewter Made in England</u> on verso © and ABLP group mark
 <p>Zodiac-Gemini</p>	<u>Laughing Monarch Products Ltd</u> (LMP) St Just Penzance Cornwall UK			may be marked <u>Pewter Made in England</u> on verso and ABLP group mark there is a crown above the maker's name 1970s ©  <u>Pewter Treasures Laughing Monarch</u> <u>Products Ltd British Made</u>
		LWD		
 <p>US constitution</p>	<u>Malcolm Jones</u> USA			
 <p>koala</p>	<u>Marylyn Verstraeten</u> Melbourne Australia			unmarked







 <p>President Ronald Reagan</p>	<p><u>Mark Models Ltd</u> Birmingham UK (Trevor Power) (TP)</p>		<p>1984 1989</p>	
 <p>Dandelion elf</p>	<p><u>Maureen & Edward Story Jones</u> Berriew Welshpool Powys Wales (Silver Scenes Ltd)</p>		<p>1994</p>	<p>includes flower fairies set silver-plated pewter</p> 
 <p>poppy</p>	<p><u>McMillan & Wife</u> UK (Robin & Jill McMillan) (Thimbles Unlimited) sculptors/modellers: John Ball; Stephen Frost; Maxine Sissons (of Worcestershire); hp MH</p>		<p>1979-1981</p>	<p>lettered inside rim from 1981 some are handpainted Maxine's includes 'Fingerhoots' a series of owls first British pewter thimbles to have moving parts</p> 
 <p>cat</p>	<p><u>Michel Laude Créations</u> Minerve France</p>			<p>cursive lettering above rim</p>  <p>this mark on the card appears on the thimbles but too difficult to capture</p>







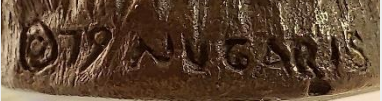












Minnie Maria Co
Stratford on Avon
UK

handpainted figures
see also Brieth Designs
1980s-1990s


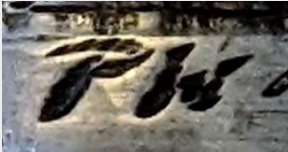







The cow jumped over the moon





 <p>rocking horse</p>	<p><u>Moorland Miniatures</u> Devon UK (Andrew Copp)</p>			<p>unmarked mostly with articulated limbs 1990s – 2000s much larger than average mainly depicting nursery rhymes</p>
 <p>cart horse</p>	<p><u>Moorland Pewter</u> UK</p>			<p>unmarked 1990s</p>
 <p>ships bound for Australia</p>	<p>(Trevor Power) Birmingham UK</p>		<p>1987</p>	<p>base mark there is additional TP mark ©</p>
 <p>bear</p>	<p><u>Nathan Vandermee</u> Colorado USA</p>			<p>late 1990s</p>












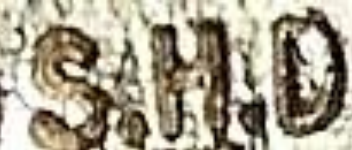


 <p>Just a Thimbleful</p>	<p><u>Newburyport Pewter Towle</u></p>			<p>base mark</p>
 <p>Desert Shield-Desert Storm</p>	<p><u>Nicholas C Gish</u> New Jersey USA</p>		<p>1981 died 2006</p>	<p>signature in cursive; some are articulated; some have star indents or textures on the apex © merry-go-round thimbles around an inner thimble</p> 
 <p>collie</p>	<p><u>Nugaris Arts Works</u> Denver Colorado USA</p>		<p>1979</p>	<p>name above outer rim bronzed ©</p>
 <p>clubs</p>	<p><u>Olivia</u> (Jacqui & David Parker) Birmingham UK</p>			<p>they mainly work in brass handpainted 1990s</p>
 <p>camel</p>	<p><u>Oporto</u> USA</p>			<p>shapes are like Fort</p>










 <p>sulphur-crested cockatoo</p>	<p><u>Oz Pewter</u> Logan Queensland Australia (Swagman Pottery)</p>		<p>1998-</p>	<p>no maker's marks large in size ©</p>
 <p>surfing koala</p>	<p><u>Pan-Arts</u> Sydney Australia (Ray)</p>			<p>lettered inside rim ©</p>
 <p>duck in a tub</p>	<p><u>Peregrine Pewter</u> West Glamorgan UK</p>			
 <p><u>Thimble Full</u></p>	<p><u>Perfection Pewter</u></p>			
 <p><u>Just a thimbleful</u></p>	<p><u>Pewter by Poole</u> UK</p>			<p>base mark</p>


 <p>Celtic</p>	<p><u>Pewtermill Crafts</u> Paddockholme North Kilbirnie Scotland UK www.pewtermill.co.uk</p>			
 <p>kangaroo</p>	<p><u>PG Enterprises</u> Yorkshire UK (Thimbles and Things)</p>			<p>marked in apex see also Earthen Ware</p>
 <p>flowers of Mull – poppy</p>	<p><u>Philip D.A. & Brenda Campbell</u> Tobermory Isle of Mull Scotland UK</p>			<p>handpainted gold-plated pewter 1980s</p>
 <p>church – forge – post office</p>	<p><u>Pinder Bros</u> Sheffield</p>		<p>2010-2013</p>	<p>miniature village buildings atop pewter thimbles – trees in relief around thimble – some painted some are left plain made thimblefuls and ABPC mark</p>
 <p>frog</p>	<p><u>Platypus Pewter</u> Sylvan Melbourne Australia (Glenice Hope)</p>			<p>unmarked</p>
 <p>The old woman who lived in a shoe</p>	<p><u>Pugwash</u> Nova Scotia Canada</p>			<p>1990s</p>






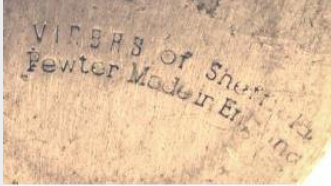



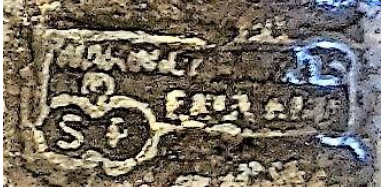
 <p>Sputnik – space series</p>	<p>USA</p>	<p>PW</p> 	<p>1981</p>	<p>lettered on lip of rim</p>
 <p>“thimble” in runes</p>	<p><u>Quayside Enterprises</u> Cumbria UK</p>			
 <p>Smokey Bear prevents forest fires</p>	<p><u>Quinn’s Collectibles</u> USA</p>		<p>1982</p>	<p>lettered inside rim</p>
 <p>sand dollar</p>	<p><u>Rawcliffe</u> USA</p>			<p>lettered inside rim set of 12 ascribed to Rawcliffe: in italics ©</p>  <p>‘International Design Collector’s Thimbles 3 Piece Pewter Finish Thimble Set Collect Your Complete Set Of 12 Today’ sold in 4 boxed sets of 3</p>
 <p>echidna</p>	<p><u>Riccardo’s Pewter</u> Sydney Australia (Riccardo Pizzimento)</p>			<p>Unmarked his pincushions are marked <i>Riccardo P. & Son</i></p>




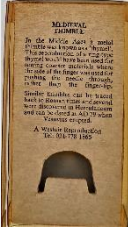




 <p>blue tit</p>	<p><u>Roger Gibbons</u> UK</p>			<p>unmarked part-handpainted 1980s</p>
 <p>The owl and the pussycat</p>	<p><u>Roger Harrison</u> UK</p>			<p>also modelled in applied pewter and silver subjects some designs handpainted 1980s</p>
 <p>xmas tree</p>	<p><u>Roman (RR)</u> Taiwan</p>			
 <p>King Arthur Pendragon</p>	<p><u>Ronald Davies</u> UK</p>			<p>handpainted new thimble maker in 1993</p>
 <p>City of Portsmouth</p>	<p><u>Rowena Designs/Souvenirs</u> UK</p>			<p>Sometimes wrongly identified as Rowenta</p>
	<p><u>Schmid</u> USA</p>		<p>197-</p>	<p>base mark</p>


 <p>turkey</p>		<p>SCJ MKTG</p> 	<p>1984</p>	<p>©</p>
 <p>butterfly</p>	<p><u>Seagull</u> Canada</p>		<p>1992</p>	<p>lettered inside rim</p>
 <p>squirrel</p>	<p><u>Shaw Leibowitz</u></p>		<p>1979</p>	<p>lettered on lip of rim ©</p>
 <p>Cinderella</p>	<p>painter: (DS)</p>	<p>SHD</p> 	<p>1985</p>	<p>©</p>
 <p>TCI 1980</p>	<p><u>Simons</u> Philadelphia USA (Mary and Nelson Keyser)</p>		<p>1980</p>	<p>lettered in apex; not cast in 1976, 1978 1980 and 1982 Simons produced pewter thimbles for attendees at US thimble conferences</p>
 <p>The old woman who lived in a shoe</p>		<p>S.H.D</p> 	<p>1980 1985</p>	
 <p>koala</p>	<p><u>Spoontiques</u> (Spo) Massachusetts USA</p>		<p>1980 1981 1982 1983 1984 1988</p>	<p>©</p>

 <p>'One can too much of a good thing'</p>		<p>SS</p> 	<p>1995</p>	<p>©</p>
 <p>And did those feet in ancient times ...</p>	<p><u>St Justin Cornwall (SJC)</u> Cuxhaven Way Long Rock Penzance Cornwall UK www.stjustin.co.uk</p>			<p><u>Pewter Made in England</u> on verso ©</p>
 <p>Kingfisher</p>	<p><u>Sterling Classic Sculptures</u> UK (Jeannie Harris)</p>			
 <p>Muffin man</p>	<p><u>Stevelyn</u> UK</p>			<p>set of 14 'Cries of London' atop with Swarovski crystals 1980s</p>
 <p>U.S. Capitol Washington D.C.</p>	<p><u>Sunbeam</u> USA</p>			

 <p>Just a Thimble Full</p>	<p>UK</p>			<p>Just a Thimble Full</p>
 <p>Happy 18th</p>	<p><u>The Animated Thimble Company</u> UK</p>			<p>Banbury Bears</p>
 <p>teapot</p>	<p><u>The Thimble Gallery</u> USA</p>			
 <p>field mice</p>	<p><u>The Manx Cat</u> Pilgrims Rest South Africa</p>			<p>unmarked</p>
 <p>kangaroo at Uluru</p>	<p><u>The Witley Collection Limited</u> Sterling Classic Studios Somers Park Avenue Malvern Worcestershire UK</p>			<p>set of 60 thimbles with icons for each country</p>
 <p>Tower of London</p>	<p><u>Theodore Paul</u> UK</p>			

 <p>working digital clock</p>	<p><u>Thimble Craft</u> UK (Shirley Hewett)</p>			<p>articulated marked under cap THIMBLE CRAFT</p>
 <p>Troll</p>	<p><u>Tinn-Per</u> Hanefors Norway</p>			<p>lettered on rim on verso</p>
 <p>leaf dropped rim</p>	<p><u>Trevor Power</u> Birmingham UK</p>			<p>includes a set of replicas of old Spanish thimbles see also Mark Models Ltd and M.S.I</p>
 <p>Just a Thimble Full</p>	<p><u>Viners of Sheffield</u> Sheffield UK</p>			<p>base mark</p>
 <p>Vermont beef</p>	<p><u>W.A.P. Watson Ltd [W.A.P.W]</u> Shirley Solihull UK (Birmingham founder: Walter Archibald Parker Watson)</p>			<p>in apex ... <u>Made in UK</u> ©</p>
	<p><u>Warwick Models</u> Rigby Close Heathcote Warwick UK (Stephen Frost)</p>		<p>1981-</p>	<p>some handpainted figures previously a modeller with McMillan & Wife he was able to use the same moulds from McMillan when they closed some hinged to open this maker has the largest collection of pewter thimbles in its portfolio</p>

<p>shearer with corks on hat</p>				
 <p>teapot</p>	<p><u>Wentworth the Pewterers (WP)</u> Sheffield UK</p>			<p>late 1990s-2000s</p>
 <p>Egyptian hieroglyphs</p>	<p><u>Westair Reproductions</u> UK</p>			<p>some bronzed</p>
 <p>Just a Thimble Full</p>	<p><u>Williams Adams</u> Sheffield UK</p>			<p>base mark <u>Made by Craftsman ...</u> and ABPC mark</p>
 <p>Victorian fashion peep</p>	<p><u>Woodsetton Pewterers</u> Dudley West Midlands UK (Gill & David Bates)</p>	<p>WP</p> 		<p>above outer rim or on apex see also Gill Bates</p>

	<p><u>Zoltan Egri</u> Hungary</p>			<p>thumbles (large sized thumbles) first thumble 1993</p>
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thumb

References

- Susan Jean Gowan *Thumbles of Australia*. 1998
Simons pewter thumbles. Thumble Guild (US) spring 2003
John von Hoelle *Thumble Collector's encyclopedia*. 3rd ed. 1986
Susan C Weaver *Exquisite jewellery of Solihull - the history*. 2009 http://EzineArticles.com/?expert=Susan_C_Weaver

Contributors

The original query about an unknown maker's mark came from Mabel Rogers – thank you for the inspiration

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This listing of pewter marks 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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