

# Michael I Dormon-Brailsford (DB) (1932-2008) sterling silver thimbles

You may be familiar with the dome-shaped thimbles that appeared from this English silversmith, from Oxford? If so, you may not know that there are four designs with the same shape? They were all hallmarked by the London Assay Office, between 1981 and 1984.

Michael Ivor Dormon-Brailsford is an inventor who created a series entitled Architectural Heritage thimbles, tho only three are architecturally shaped!

The designs are formed in relief all-round the thimbles, from the original hand-engraved casts. When the St Paul's thimbles were created in 1981, a percentage of the sales price went to the St. Paul's Cathedral Fund for its preservation. These thimbles sold for £21, which would preserve the Cathedral - for one minute. The sales were conducted by Bowray Products of Hemel Hempstead, on behalf of the Cathedral and the accompanying certificate attested this information.

There is a 9ct version of the 1981 and gold-plated for the 1984 thimbles.



Dormon-Brailsford maker's mark



perspex & velvet display holder (St peter's) – silk thimble bag (St Paul's)



**St Paul's Cathedral Dome London**  
sterling silver London 1981  
Charles – July 1981 – Diana  
there is a cross at the apex point



**St Paul's Cathedral Dome London**  
9ct gold  
Charles – July 1981 – Diana



**St Paul's Cathedral Dome London**  
the 1981 thimble advertisement



**St Peter's Cathedral Dome Rome**  
Britannia silver [958/1000] London 1982  
St Peter's Rome Pope John Paul II British visit  
1982  
there is a cross at the apex point



**St Peter's Cathedral Dome Rome**  
Britannia silver [958/1000] London 1982  
Britannos visitavit AD MCMLXXII Iohannes Pavlvs  
Pontifex  
note the text is in Latin!!  
there is a cross at the apex point



**Capitol Dome Washington**

Britannia silver [958/1000] London 1983

Sweet Land of the Free

**these thimbles - tho identical in shape and design  
are made by Stuart Johnson-Flint**



**Nativity in Bethlehem**

Britannia silver [958/1000] London 1984

Unto us a child is born

small "diamond" in apex

to represent the Star of Bethlehem

with Joseph Mary and donkey, the stable entrance

three kings and shepherds with a cross



**Nativity in Bethlehem**

gold-plated

Unto us a child is born

**References**

Mabel Rogers *Dome-shaped thimbles*. TCI Bulletin spring 2014

**Contributors**

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This listing of these Dormon-Brailsford 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](mailto:thimbleselect@bigpond.com) TO SHARE YOUR KNOWLEDGE

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