

Glass and crystal thimble makers

In May 2020, I received a most interesting email from Norbert Ullmann, the current CEO of Ullmannnglass of Bavaria, in Germany. I know that surname will ring a bell with thimble collectors, as it did with me.

The reason for him in contacting me was that he is planning to write a book on Ullmannnglass glass and crystal thimbles. We corresponded over the next few months, which ended with my undertaking a thimble topic on glass thimbles. Ullmann offered to provide me with photos of the over 1000 different thimbles that Ullmannnglass have created since 1973. That felt too much like a promotional topic for me, as Ullmannnglass are still in business, creating thimbles.

I decided that when the time for a new thimble topic arose, I would cover all makers of glass and crystal thimbles, which he quite accepted.

This isn't going to be a technical treatise. We don't need to understand the difference between glass and crystal, as it doesn't affect who made the thimbles. I do want to highlight tho, the huge role that Ullmannnglass has played in keeping the interest in glass thimble afloat, since they began to produce glass thimble in 1973.

The family crest that features on the cover of their thimble catalogue, has a date of 1635. Generations of Ullmann have been involved in the glass and crystal business, and the next generation is currently involved. Producing glass thimbles under their own brand (thimbles marked with a sticker 'Made in West Germany'), Ullmannnglass were commissioned by other glass manufacturers to create thimbles for them, to their specifications. These thimbles would then be marketed with their own brand names. Some of these glass companies had attempted to make their own thimbles, but it would have been costly.

I can't think of any thimble manufacturer of any medium of thimble that has been producing collectables thimbles for over 45 years. Ullmannnglass certainly dominated their field.

This is nothing new in the thimble collectors' world – sterling silver thimbles in Victorian England were largely created by makers like Charles Horner and Henry Griffiths & Sons – they were just marked with other maker's assay marks, by Horner and Griffiths.

The same occurred in the 1980s when Sutherland China branded many of their thimbles with other china brand names.

It's just a matter of business and economics.

Mr Ullmann provided me with this non-technical information:

"Glass is a mixture of chemicals without any heavy oxides in it e.g. windows and bottles are made out of glass; but thousands of other products too.

Crystal glass is "glass with the addition of at least 10 % heavy oxides" to make it softer and clearer.

Lead Crystal is "glass with 24 % of lead oxide" added into the batch, which makes the glass heavier, sparklier, softer and allows for chemical polishing; (vs. hand polishing); mostly used in continental Europe.

High Lead Crystal is "glass with 33 % of lead oxide" added into the batch to make the glass even heavier, sparklier, softer than "Lead Crystal"; (mostly used in the UK and Ireland)."

The following mail order thimble businesses ordered and sold Ullmannnglass thimbles from the 1970s-2020s: Lilian Vernon Inc (New York) – Heirloom Editions (Barbara Ringer California) – Gimbels & Sons (Maine USA) – The Thimble Society of London – The Thimble Collectors Guild/The Thimble Guild (Scotland) - Vingerhoednieuws (Friedy Kamp Netherlands) – Pan Arts (Australia) – Thimbles Only (Jean Shoup California) – Die Fingerhut Post (Feldman) - P J Walter Thimbles (Germany).

All glass thimbles were made for the collectables thimble market, which flourished in the 1980s and 1990s. This includes Ullmannnglass thimbles which were "made to be used" by their thimble shape. I defy anyone to use these beautifully created thimbles to sew with. Their rigid sides and weight, never mind being created in one size only, wouldn't work as a sewing tool! Nor would thimbles that were created in the glass art market be used with items placed on top of thimbles.

Few glass thimbles have been marked with the name of the glass maker, so as collectors, we are dependent on applied paper 'makers' stickers and the paper thimble mail order catalogues from 1970s-2000s for this information. Unless this information is passed on when the thimble is sold, the maker's name is lost. The database hopes to remedy this.

For those of you who have ever tried to photograph glass thimbles, never mind a maker's mark, you will know that this is even trickier if the glass is clear!

There is another category that I will include after the alphabetical listing, where only the country of the maker is known. The thimbles are grouped by country (**15** countries to date). There are many famous glassworks/makers in Italy and Czechoslovakia/Czechia or Czech Republic (previously known as Bohemian glass). If one of these is your country, please get in touch so that this database can be updated with makers' names. Additionally, I have photos for 70 glass thimbles where no country nor maker is currently known. I plan on working to get this to zero!

How are glass thimbles decorated?

de Smet lists the following headings (each with a brief description of the techniques):

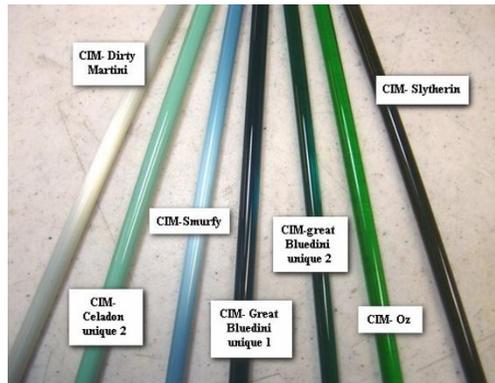
Painting
Enamel painting
Gold powder
Decorating glass with glass
Engraving
Stipple engraving (in dots)
Grinding and relief engraving
Etching
Millefiori technique

All these forms of decoration will be seen in the examples in the table below.

In the table, I have listed the known glass and crystal thimble makers alphabetically. This includes glass craftsmen – handpainters etc. I trust you will be able to find the thimble you are looking for here, to identify the maker. There are **93** 'makers' or decorators listed here. Please share your favourite glass thimble maker if not featured.

Many of these makers have created mouthblown glass thimbles, and I understand that they are known as art glass. I have also encountered the term lampwork (Ullmann describes them "uses borosilicate glass tubes, made for the laboratory industry and heats them up "over the lamp" and shapes it into the form of a thimble"). These are the handcrafted thimbles, part of the craft industry from all over the world. In the 2010s lampwork thimbles have become the most sought-after form of glass thimble.

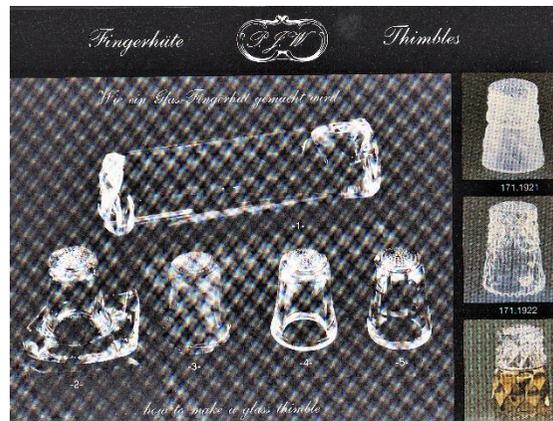
A term not heard much anymore is 'cut glass thimbles' or 'frosted glass thimbles' (used in Von Hoelle's *Thimbles collector's encyclopedia*. 1986).



lampwork glass rods

If any of these thimbles listed below were made by [Ullmannglass](#) and “rebranded” – you will find this information under “Notes”. Often, we only know who the artist is if the thimbles are handpainted. In this case you will find the thimbles listed below by the **first** name of the artist. Otherwise, the studio name is used.

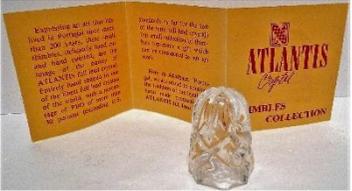
If you own one of these maker’s or artist’s thimbles – please let me have a photo of the maker’s mark or a new photo to include or replace these from the catalogues. Maybe you have had a thimble handblown for you? Share if you know who made it for you – and where.

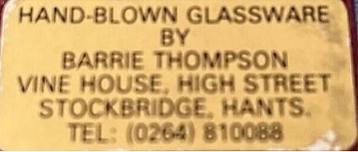
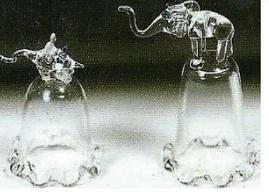


P J Walter catalogue 1985/86
showing the process of how Ullmannglass thimbles are made

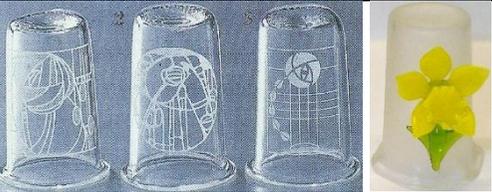
Thank you, Norbert Ullmann – this topic would not have been possible without your invaluable input.

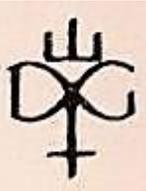
Glass thimble makers

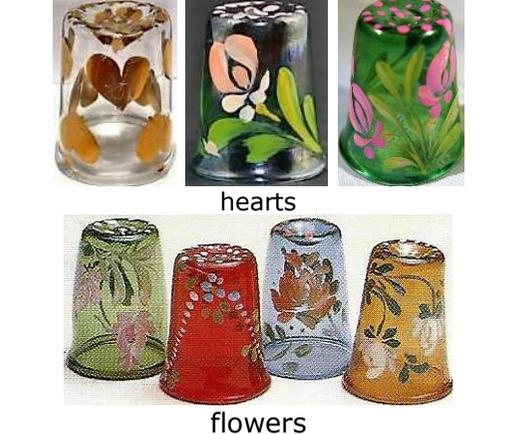
| thimble | maker | marks/catalogue dates | notes |
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|  | <p>Artglass Australia East Bundaberg Queensland Australia</p> <p>(Wolfgang Engel)</p> | | |
|  | <p>Atlantis Alcobaça Portugal</p> |  | <p>clear glass – handcut and handpainted – full lead crystal – domed - or concave apex</p>  |
|  | <p>Aura Borealis Czechia</p> | | <p>lamp glass or wound glass technique</p> |
|  <p>bee - hummingbird in flowers</p> | <p>Avon</p> | | |

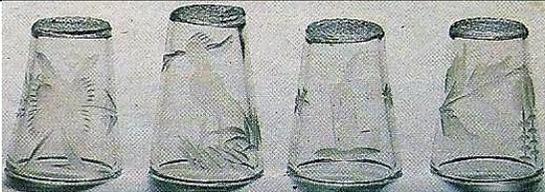
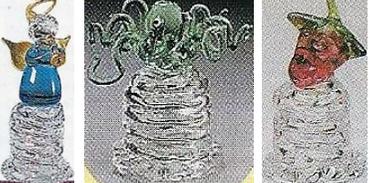
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|  | <p>Avondale Glass Pembrokeshire Wales UK</p> |   <p>gold glass blower on label</p> | |
|  <p>millefiori inserts</p> | <p>B&B Murano Italy</p> | | |
|  | <p>Baccarat Le Clairupt Bertrichamps France</p> <p>(Cristallerie d'Art R. Gross)</p> |  | |
|  <p>thistle</p> | <p>Barrie Reginald Thompson Stockbridge Hants UK</p> |  | |
|  <p>thistle</p> | <p>Blackford Aberdeenshire Scotland UK</p> |  | |
|  <p>mouse - elephant</p> | <p>Bob Scott UK</p> | <p>1988</p> | <p>individually blown – clear – scalloped rims</p> |

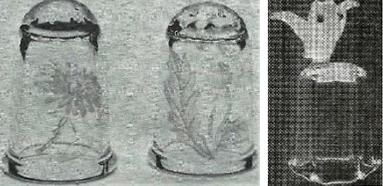
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|  | <p>Bristol Blue Glass (Henbury) Ltd UK</p> |  <p>1988</p> | |
|  <p>HP gondolier</p> | <p>Bruno Sutto Enedi Murano Italy</p> |  | |
|  <p>anchor – heart – thistle</p>   <p>petalled flowers with millefiori centres</p>  <p>clear base is fluted</p> | <p>Caithness Perth Scotland UK</p> <p>www.caithnessglass.co.uk</p> |  <p>anchor maker's mark</p>  <p>... handmade in Scotland</p> | <p>Ullmann glass blanks – glass colours: blue – amber – clear – green – pink – mauve – ruby – mauve - turquoise – Caithness specialty is making paperweights – thimbles' apex are mini millefiori domed paperweights – these are made and applied by Caithness – I visited the Caithness works in 1996 and purchased several blanks in various colours – was informed at the time they were made in 'Holland'</p>  |

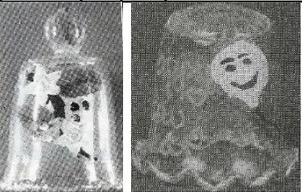
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|  | Caledonian Crystal Scotland UK | 2001-2002 | some clear with etchings – others: series of twelve flowers of the month – either as colourful toppers or affixed in colour – clear or frosted |
|  | Campanella Murano Italy |  | |
|  | Carol Toevs USA | 1979 | signed and handpainted |
|  | Colleen Schroll Lampwork (CMS) Chesapeake Bay Maryland USA | 2012  | lampwork with raised colourful designs – signed CMS limited editions |
|  | Connemara Celtic Crystal Co Moycullen County Galway Ireland | Connemara Celtic Crystal Ltd. Moycullen Co. Galway, Ireland. Tel: Intl. 353 91 555172 Fax: Intl. 353 91 555157 | |
|  | Corning Glass Works Inc Corning New York USA see also: Pyrex | 1940-1945 | non-lead glass made during World War II – because of scarcity of metals – never progressed past the prototype stage – not sold commercially – some have appeared in thimble collections – in clear or light blue – some marked 'Corning Glass' or 'Pyrex Brand' (information Holmes in his chapter on Glass thimbles) |

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|  | <p>D Costeo</p> | | <p>name lettered in white</p> |
|  | <p>Crystalex Nový Bor Czechia</p> | <p>Factory still exists in 2025 but no longer produce thimbles</p> | <p>enamelled handpainted flowers</p> |
|  | <p>Dan Jacobson USA</p> | <p>2012</p> | <p>began as a glassblower in 1972 – he adds his own colour to clear glass – freehand work – fluted rims – various heights</p> |
|  <p>Charles and Diana's wedding thimble</p> | <p>David Gulland Kirkcudbright Scotland UK</p> | <p>1981</p>   | <p>born in Edinburgh – studied glass design and engraving under Helen Munro-Turner at Edinburgh College of Art – own studio – his maker's symbol incorporates medieval glassmakers' sign and the initials of the artist surmounted by castle of Edinburgh</p> |
|  <p>iris – anemones – privet - pansies</p> | <p>David Smith UK (Valda Peacock) handpainter</p> |  | <p>Smith is the glass blower - set of twelve thimbles with Scottish handpainted flowers – gold painted rims – domed glass thimbles – with defined indentations in apex - limited to 500 signed and numbered</p> |
|  | <p>Derwent UK</p> |  <p>30th</p> | <p>English crystal hand made lead crystal</p> |

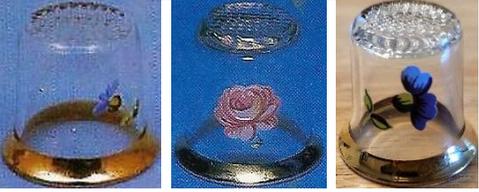
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|  | <p>Dieter Schrade Berlin then: Wertheim Germany</p> | <p>1992-2005</p> | <p>mouthblown – coloured metal oxides fused into the glass</p> |
|  | <p>Eliza M Wright Pompano Beach Florida USA</p> | | <p>lampwork – with defined indentations in apex</p> |
|  <p>hearts</p> <p>flowers</p> | <p>Emilio Santini Murano Venice Italy</p> | <p>1987-1988</p> | <p>mouth blown with handpainted details – glass colours come from chemicals (like copper) added to molten glass – the apexes are concave - see also: Lucie Santini</p> |
|  <p>cherries</p> | <p>Enesco Designer Giftware Taiwan</p> | <p>1985</p>  | |
|  <p>gondolier</p> | <p>Eola Venice Italy</p> |  | <p>handpainted - signed</p> |

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|  <p>b&w photo</p> | <p>Ernest F Damron USA</p> | <p>1979</p> | <p>handblown clear crystal glass – hand engraved - signed</p> |
|  <p>Angel – octopus - strawberry</p> | <p>Eugenie Arrowsic Maine USA</p> | <p>1986 1997</p> | <p>handcrafted glass – clear – glass base of spun coloured glass - characters atop</p> |
|  <p>coffee pot – cross – Texas yellow rose</p> | <p>Ferenc USA</p> | <p>1988 1997</p> | <p>handmade – etched on clear glass – some are spun glass – applied 22ct gold - scalloped rims</p> |
|  <p>cardinal – graduation – carousel horse - telephone</p> | <p>Frank Horvath Lakeland Glass Shop Florida USA</p> | <p>1996-1998</p>  | <p>scalloped rims – handmade – blown by moth - edged with gold – in 1963 Horvath completed apprenticeship in Hungary – master glass blower</p> |
|  <p>Dolphin – swan – teddy bear</p> | <p>GBS Cheshire UK</p> | | <p>lustreware with characters atop</p> |
|  | <p>George Davidson & Co UK</p> | <p>1890s</p> | <p>thimblefuls</p> |

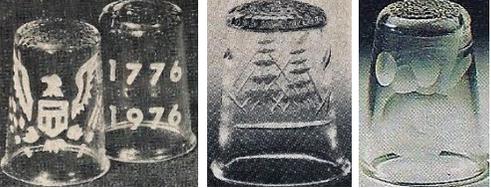
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|  <p>probable date of 78</p> | <p>Gigi Branch Devon UK</p> |  | <p>Gigi trained at Limoges in France her handpainted thimbles are signed <u>Gigi</u></p> <p>see also: British modern handpainted thimbles for her work on china thimbles</p> |
|  <p>reverse painting: bird in cage – handpainted bird</p> | <p>Graham Payne Grimley Worcester UK</p> | | <p>his thimble range is mainly handpainted china and enamel</p> |
|  | <p>Giuliano Donaggio Murano Italy</p> | | |
|  | <p>Haegar Schultz South Africa</p> | | |
|  <p>pewter blue tit on glass milk bottle</p> | <p>Holly Tree Miniatures UK</p> | <p>1994</p> | <p>combination of pewter on glass</p> |
|  <p>dandelion flower – bud - owl b&w photos</p> | <p>Hourglass UK</p> | <p>1983-1984</p> | <p>illustrated on clear glass – domed apex – or on apex</p> |

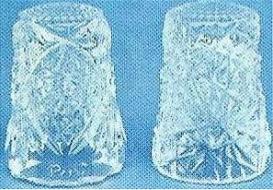
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|  <p>apple trees – guac & sour cream – pumpkin spice – purple pink dichroic</p> | <p>Humming Line Creative Works Colorado Springs USA</p> <p>(Maxine Grossman (1957-2021))</p> | <p>2011</p>  | <p>lampwork glass</p> |
|  <p>apple – Happy New Year b&w photos</p> | <p>Jacqui and David Parker Birmingham UK</p> | <p>1986-1987</p> | <p>handpainted by <u>Olivia</u></p> |
|  | <p>Jenny Blair Designs York UK</p> | <p>1984-1992</p> | <p>handpainted designs - gilt or silver applied designs see separate topic on Jenny Blair Designs</p> |
|  <p>heart – watering can – The Thimble Guild with hand-embroidered cloth inserted</p> | <p>John C Spray Leicester UK</p> | <p>1993 1996 2003</p> | <p>scalloped rims – mainly clear glass</p> |
|  <p>Madonna and child – pig in pig – circus elephant – owls</p> | <p>John Squeo Windy City Glass USA</p> | <p>1997</p> | <p>items atop (toppers)</p> |

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|  <p>bird in cage</p> | <p>Johnny Boschoff Pretoria South Africa</p> <p>(Gili Davis)</p> | | <p>Gili is known for her handpainted porcelain - died 2015</p> |
|  <p>flowers</p> | <p>Karen USA</p> | | <p>lampwork</p> |
|  | <p>KB Italy</p> | | <p>opaque glass – with sticky label see also Westmoreland</p> |
|  <p>six-sided rim with heart design at apex</p> | <p>Kilkenny Irish Crystal Tinnamona Callan Co Kilkenny Ireland</p> <p>www.kilkennycrystal.com</p> |  | <p>green sticky label</p> |
|  | <p>La Serenissima Murano Venice Italy</p> |  | <p>thimble sticky label</p> |

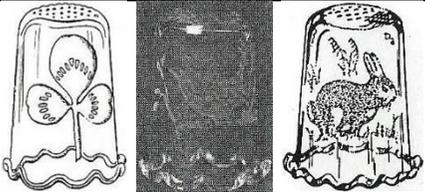
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|  | <p>The Laffing Glass (LGL) 125 Mason Street Saugatuck Missouri USA</p> <p>(Lynn Nurge)</p> <p>https://laffingglass.com</p> | <p>2012</p>  <p>L Nurge signature</p> <p>Handmade for you by Bead Artist Lynn Nurge at LaffingGull (LGL) Designer Sets, Spacers, Speciality and Pandora Lg Hole Style Beads www.LaffingGull.com + eBay, Etsy</p> <p>accompanying thimble label</p> | <p>lampwork</p>  |
|  | <p>Leo Pilley</p> <p>(handpainted by Kelly)</p> |  | |
|  | <p>Libertine</p> | <p>2018</p>  | <p>used as glass nails – that's what's out there</p> |
|  | <p>Lucie Santini Murano Venice Italy</p> | <p>1988</p> | <p>'tre fuochi' process (three times fired) – handpainted – concave apex - see also: Emilio Santini</p> |
|  <p>blue flower – rose – blue flower</p> | <p>Lynn Rogue River Oregon USA</p> | <p>1983 1987</p>  | <p>handblown – handpainted – thick 24ct gold rims</p> |

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|  <p>pineapple</p> | <p>Mae Robinson USA</p> | <p>1990</p> | <p>hand engraved on handmade crystal – master engraver</p> |
|  <p>farm scene – Aboriginal dreamtime - possum</p> | <p>Malcolm Walter South Australia</p> |  | <p>clear or frosted Ullmann glass blanks - thimbles imported by Pan Arts – Walter has added six of his sterling silver Australian motifs as crowns around crystal – silver is marked MW</p> |
|  | <p>Mariekuniek Amsterdam Netherlands</p> <p>http://mariekuniek.nl</p> |  <p>Marieke</p> | <p>glass bead maker – using soft glass - with defined indentations in apex</p> |
|  <p>3 abstract - fish</p> | <p>Mario Ramos <u>Vitreus Ignis</u> Madrid Spain</p> <p>with <u>Mariana Grande</u> (2002-)</p> | | <p>workshop began in Buenos Aires Argentina (1988-) mouthblown</p> |
|  <p>gondola – sewing machine – girl - Fragonard</p> | <p>Mary Gregory USA</p> | <p>1978-1980</p> | <p>American handpainter on glass [1856-1908] – her style has been copied on thimbles – on a palette of white enamel – thimbles made in Italy – see also Westmoreland</p> |
|  | <p>Mavis Smith Studio Solebury Pennsylvania USA</p> | | <p>lampwork – glass bead maker – smooth apex</p> |

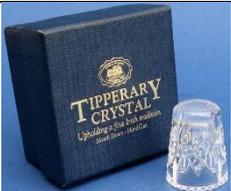
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|  <p>Disney's Aladdin – rose fairy</p> | <p>Mayfair UK</p> <p>bases are made by Tudor Crystal Stourbridge UK</p> | | <p>pewter characters</p> |
|  <p>styled in tribute to Tiffany Glass</p> | <p>Mayfair Edition UK</p> |  |  <p>not to be confused with these opaque cloisonné thimbles from China plique a jour method</p> |
|  | <p>Morgan Indiana USA</p> | | <p>coloured berry glass thimblefuls</p> |
|  | <p>Moser Ohio USA</p> |  | <p>coloured berry glass thimblefuls</p> |
|  <p>1776-1976 – windjammer - koala b&w photos</p> | <p>Nico (Nick) Ferro USA</p> <p>(Michos) handcutter</p> | <p>1976 1979</p> | <p>handblown – free hand cut leaded crystal – carved into clear glass – born in Greece</p> |
|  | <p>Nikki Shaw Glass Attic Somerset UK</p> | <p>2004</p> | <p>decorated with gold and diamante</p> |

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|  | <p>Nj Czechia</p> |  | <p>mouth blown identical maker's mark from their ceramic design</p> |
|  <p>bees</p> | <p>Paul Ticknor Osceola MI USA</p> | | |
|  | <p>Pepi Herrmann USA</p> | <p>1983</p>  | <p>born in Austria – master craftsman – handcut and signed lead crystal</p> |
|  | <p>Pinpoint Design UK</p> | <p>1993</p> | <p>dried flowers applied over most of clear surface first thermochromism (temperature sensitive) thimbles which change colour</p> |
|  <p>moon – sun (night and day)</p> | <p>Poppie Gifts UK</p> | | <p>crystal – fused platinum or gold into glass</p> |
|  <p>blue - green</p> | <p>Pyrex Brand USA see also: Corning Glass Works Inc</p> | <p>1942</p> | |

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|  <p>gold tortoise – forget-me-nots – winter tree b&w photos</p> | <p>Quorn Glass UK (Eddie Hughes) glassblower</p> | <p>1983-1986</p> | <p>example of glass blower's art – mainly scalloped rims – gold rims fused into glass by a unique technique</p> |
|  <p>berries - tulip</p> | <p>R & T Decorative Glass UK (Tamar Altman) designer and handpainter</p> | <p>1994-1995</p> | <p>drawing inspiration from Tiffany – large size handpainted thimbles</p> |
|  <p>etched church</p> | <p>Rj</p> | <p>1978</p> | |
|  | <p>R Corbett Cape Town South Africa</p> | <p>1985 1988</p> | <p>glass blowing firm – handblown – handpainted in black afterwards to give swirls</p> |
|  <p>fishes -poppy - fish</p> | <p>Rachel Pugh UK</p> | <p>2001-2002</p> | <p>handpainter</p> |
|  <p>Tutankhamun - Christmas</p> | <p>Raimundas Lapsys USA</p> | <p>1978</p> | <p><u>signed</u> and dated – handcut by master cutter – Tutankhamun designs limited to 7500 – apex 22ct gold painted</p> |

| | | | |
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|  <p>shamrock – wren - rabbit b&w photos</p> | <p>Riverside Works UK</p> <p>(Jeff Jeffries) engraver</p> | <p>1983-1984</p> | <p>engraved designs on clear glass – scalloped rim</p> |
|  <p>'Merry Xmas'</p> | <p>Robert Hands Edinburgh</p> | <p>1989</p> | <p>handmade & engraved</p> |
|  <p>wedding of Charles and Diana</p> | <p>Royal Brierley UK</p> | <p>1981</p> | <p>Ullmann glass blanks – etching by Royal Brierley – boxed as such</p> |
|  <p>Thumbelina – embroidery stitches</p> | <p>Royal Doulton Stoke-on-Trent UK</p> | <p>1980s</p>  <p>Webb Corbett named as maker -by hand - on Thumbelina set of five's certificate</p> | <p>Royal Doulton are china manufacturers – producing two sets of crystal thimbles – five Thumbelina set - Webb Corbett did engraving – four Embroidery stitches set made by Thomas Webb & Sons Stourbridge</p>  |
|  <p>starfish</p> | <p>Sandra Breedt Schenk Bella Murano Glass Creations Cape Town South Africa</p> |  | <p>lampwork – using glass from Murano</p> |

| | | | |
|---|---|--|---|
|  | <p>Saunders & Shepherd UK</p> | <p>1894</p> | <p>thimblefuls - RD 230818</p> |
|  <p>cat - heart - horse</p> | <p>Sklozam Czechia</p> | | <p>blown glass - clear glass used</p> |
|  <p>Father Time - Hongluo - Confucius Disciples - Butterfly Rose</p> | <p>Mr Song Jim-Ming Hebei Province China</p> | | <p>reverse glass painting ('in painting')</p> |
|  | <p>Sowerby UK</p> |  | <p>frosted thimblefuls</p> |
|  <p>dolphins - kitten - cat - opal necklace fairy - kitten</p> | <p>Sterling Classic UK bases are made by Tudor Crystal Stourbridge</p> |  | <p>Connoisseur Collection - incorporating pewter - some using Ullmann glass blanks (dolphins)</p> |
|  | <p>Studio Glass UK</p> | | |

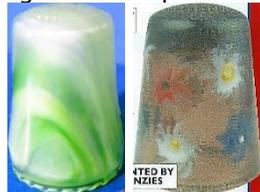
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|--|--|------------------|--|
|  <p>snowman – daisy - dolphin</p> | <p>Suffolk Glass Works/Studios UK</p> <p>www.suffolkglass.co.uk</p> | <p>1994 2003</p> | <p>clear glass – some with coloured figurals atop</p> |
|  | <p>Susan Stokes Canada</p> | | <p>lampwork</p> |
|  <p>crocus – snowflakes - daffodils</p> | <p>Svetlana Chernova Russia</p> | | <p>handpainted on Ullmann blank thimbles</p> |
|  <p>sulphur-crested cockatoo – different bases – set of five</p> | <p>Swarovski Crystal Vienna Austria</p> <p>www.swarovski.com</p> | | <p>set of five crystal frosted birds atop crystal thimbles – two different bases (fish scale / fireball)</p> |
|  | <p>Techniglass West Bay Bridport Devon UK</p> | | |
|  | <p>Tipperary Crystal Ireland</p> | | <p>mouth blown – handcut – Ullmann blank thimbles – boxed in Irish-marked thimble boxes</p> |



black – blue – green – red



black with gold – handpainted – fluted =



opaque - handpainted by Julie Menzies (2009)

Ullmannglass GmbH
 Siegstatt 2-4
 Osterhofen
 Bavaria
 Germany

www.ullmannglass.de

1973-



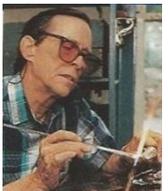
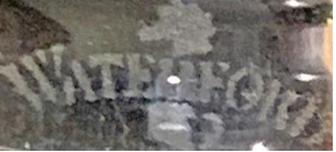
crystal colours: topaz – clear – blue – aqua – red – amethyst – ruby – many of these have a lustre finish - they use ten different thimble moulds for blank thimbles for their customers with customised orders – their most current catalogue lists over 160 different popular designs/colourway thimbles in stock which includes a 'novelties' section – some designs are etched – many handpainted - apex pleasantly slightly domed on all their range – not “well” hollowed out inside



Unique Design
 Egypt

(Randa Ahmed)

designs made 2010

| | | | |
|---|--|---|--|
|  <p>R: moonlit clouds</p> | <p>Village Glass Bridge of Allan Stirlingshire Scotland UK</p> <p>(Tom Young)</p> | <p>1993-1994 1998</p> | <p>scalloped rims – fused with 22ct gold – from clear to heathery shades – handblown thimbles – some lustre</p> |
|  <p>mushroom - snowman</p> | <p>Walter Hasenfus Boothbay Harbor Maine USA</p> | <p>1997-1998</p>  | <p>spun glass with toppers</p> |
|  <p>three different shapes</p> | <p>Waterford Crystal Waterford Ireland</p> <p>waterford.com</p> |  <p>green seahorse logo sticker inside</p> | <p><u>signed</u> on outer rim with seahorse logo lead crystal</p>  |
|  <p>lead crystal</p> | <p>Welsh Royal Crystal Wales</p> | | |
|  <p>girl painting – Coca Cola – ballerina – Shirley Temple</p> | <p>Westmoreland USA</p> |  <p>boxes: Bubble Glass thimble/ M.S.R. Imports Inc, Taiwan</p> | <p>Ullmann glass blanks but branded as Westmoreland – some using Mary Gregory style designs using white enamel paint see also KB</p> |
|  <p>flowers – Jemima Puddleduck</p> | <p>William B Shane USA</p> | | <p>scalloped rim – on 10th February 1981 Shane took out a US patent no. 258,174 for a patented rim with eight scallops – the patent was valid for 14 years</p> |

Country Glass thimble makers

This is where I am out of my depth – I believe I have the country of origin correct – please HELP if these are your country's thimbles. They are arranged in NO order

Argentina thimbles



Australia thimbles



Lismore NSW

Czechia thimbles (Bohemian glass)

| | | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|--|---|
|  <p>black paper inserted for photographic purposes</p> |  |  <p>metal wire filigree cage over various colour glass pink - topaz - green - blue</p> |  <p>'častolovice' - tourist</p> |  <p>'Pardubice' - tourist</p> | |
|  <p>from Jablonec nad Nisou in northern Bohemia – a traditional area of glassmaking – crystals are embedded in centres of flowers</p> | | | |  <p>from Jablonec nad Nisou in northern Bohemia 'Valtice' - tourist</p> |  <p>blank thimbles awaiting decoration</p> |
|  <p>'Praha' - tourist</p> | | | | | |

Egypt thimbles

| | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|---|
|  <p>gold leaves</p> |  <p>crown</p> |  |  |  <p>stripes – topaz bird atop</p> |
|---|---|--|--|---|

Germany thimbles



engraved top half rest clear
- flat apex squat shape



purple ridged with gold
rim - flat apex



mouth-blown



handpainted milk glass
1990



thistle-like shape



Great Britain thimbles



hand etched



19th century
cut glass with glass cross-
hatchings



Georgian
held in British Museum



Tudor rose



Stourbridge in 1993



G G for Girl Guides

Greece thimbles



Zakynthos

Hungary thimbles



lettered 'Hungary' in gold



'Héviz' coat-of-arms

Italy thimbles
mainly from Murano Venice



handpainted
black paper inserted for
photographic purposes



Murano
cobalt - black cat



Murano
stripes



Murano
knobbed ("hobnailed")



Murano
metal apex



Murano
handpainted - cobalt



Murano
green dots - red dots



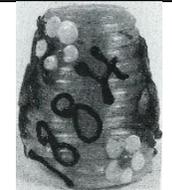
Murano
handpainted



Murano
handpainted



Murano
handpainted



'Venezio 1884'
spun glass
(Holmes in his chapter
on Glass thimbles)



Murano
opaque



Murano
opaque - red - black - yellow - handblown -
1982



Murano
handpainted - turquoise



Murano



Murano
handpainted



Murano
handpainted - royal blue
showing distinctive white painted dots on apex



'1885'
spun glass with glass
flowers



from Roman times



Murano
handpainted



Murano



Murano
handpainted with gold
flecks



Murano
metal apex



Murano
handpainted
Venice scene



Murano
handpainted
'Venezia'



Murano
handpainted
metal apex



Murano
metal apex



Murano
metal apex



Murano
handpainted gondolier



Murano
handpainted
metal apex



Murano
handpainted



Murano
metal apex



Murano
handpainted pierrot



Murano
with matching needle

Japan thimbles



handpainted - concave apex – gold rims

Scotland thimbles



handcrafted decorative stained glass

South Africa thimbles



etched 'Sue 14 June 1986' with flowers – scalloped rim
red paper inserted for photographic purposes

Spain thimbles



'Poblet' with handpainted city scene



bullfighting
white lettering behind the scenes



Flamenco dancer
white lettering behind the scene

Thailand thimbles



spun - 1992



1993

USA thimbles



four leaf clover like windmill shape -
1986



penguin inside clear plain thimble

no photo

thimble housed in Colonial Williamsburg
Foundation (information **Holmes** in his
chapter on Glass thimbles)



antique

Wales thimbles



handblown - scalloped rim - heart - dogwood



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This listing of Glass thimble makers 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.

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