

Modern British hand-decorated wooden thimbles

I have covered quite a few other topics on British wooden thimbles and none of them are covered here again.

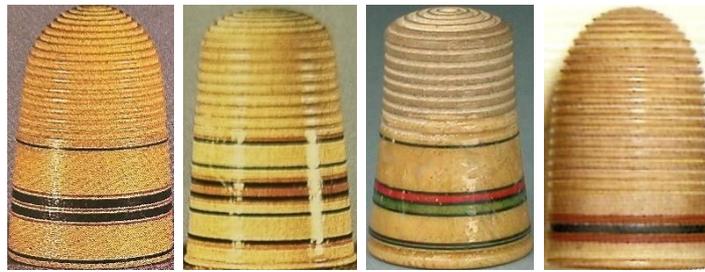
This will be a very small topic showcasing single hand-decorators on wooden thimbles – maybe they were pyrographed – had embellishments affixed – or handpainted – just **22**.

There are no **decaled** wooden thimbles (like those by John and Meg Urwin) included. Here is an example of one of their earliest thimbles (1984) which seems hand-painted. In fact, these thimbles have decals made from a handpainted image. The only parts that are handpainted are the apex and rim of silver.



decaled John Urwin thimble 1984
L: paint has worn off – R: silver apex

The forerunner of British wooden thimbles are the 1820s handpainted Tunbridge ware thimbles.



handpainted 1820s Tunbridge ware thimbles

They came before their more well known stickware thimbles.
Modern stickware thimbles are not included here unless they are embellished.

Many are of the thimbles below are unsigned.
I have included the type of **wood** used, when known.

Two of the artists below also painted china thimbles – Julie Menzies and Anne Young. Did they begin with wooden thimbles until china blanks became available?

Handpainted Russian wooden thimbles followed by the USA dominate the British output, so it is important to record this group of thimble artists.

I am hoping some of the unknown artists featured at the end will produce maker's names from collectors of these thimbles.

[See other British wooden thimble topics](#)

- Ian Parry (Coventry) thimbles 1984-1989
- Innes Mitchell pyrographed wooden thimbles (Scotland)
- Moriotti of Norwich wooden thimbles 1985-1990
- Roger Harrison of Kelso thimbles 1983-1988
- Scottish wooden thimbles

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 handpainted thimbles
- Roger Gibbons pewter thimbles 1984-1990
- Royal Worcester thimble painters

Wendi Abdi 1989



CB





poinsettia

poppy



rose

wildflowers

Stewart Buyers Ayrshire Scotland 1983
his thimbles are not signed



brass inset in apex
African blackwood
b&w photo

Celtic Cross set in apex
- silver
African blackwood
b&w photo

compressed heather by
Heathergems set in
apex
African blackwood

lion rampant - silver
African blackwood



thistle - sterling silver
African blackwood

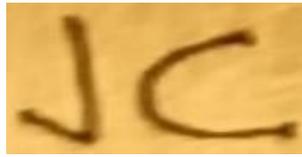
Philip Campbell Mull Silver, Tobermory Mull Scotland



Celtic knot
sterling silver on **ebony**
limited to **250**
1984

Mountains of Mull
sterling silver on **ebony**
November 1983
b&w photo

Jacqui Carey (JC) 1987-1989



'Christmas 1989'
handpainted



lace
handpainted
matching lace bobbin



'Made from a **maple** which fell in the Great Storm
16th October 1987'
maple flowers



'Made from a **maple** which fell in the Great Storm
16th October 1987'
maple leaves

John and Doreen Castle York



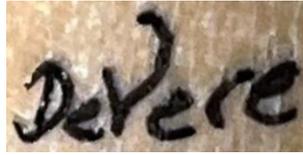
beech with enamelled millefiori apex

D Clarke



thatched cottage
handpainted

De Vere



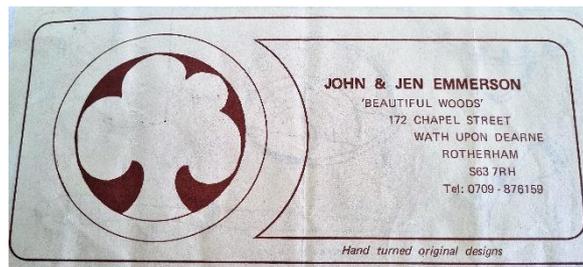
folk painting
1983

T3



Clover - good fortune

John and Jen Emmersen 'Beautiful Woods' Rotherham



snowdrops
handpainted

Adeline Ford (AF) Hoveton Norfolk



Stella and Charles Gratrix Powys Wales

This couple are still in business and take commissions.

<http://www.llanidloesartsandcrafts.org.com>



'Llanidloes'
pyrographed

Yvonne Hayward (YH) 1986-1989





handpainted
oak



blackberries
maplewood
October 1986

Ann Hickey and David Ball Malvern Worcestershire



canal boat painting

Barbara Hope Scotland
African Impressions – 1996



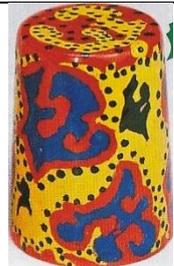
handpainted



handpainted



handpainted



handpainted



hedgehog
pyrographed



rabbit
pyrographed



rabbit
pyrographed
1998



squirrel
pyrographed
1998

R J 1984



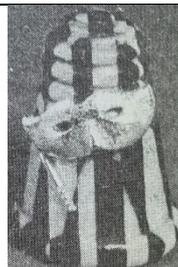
kingfisher
enamelled apex



'S'
Cocobolo Nicaragua

L'Etacq Woodcraft Jersey 1985

They produced fine stickware thimbles – they are out of the scope of this topic.
They produced fine wooden thimble racks.



mask
gold-plated on **Brazilian rosewood** and **satinwood**
b&w photo

E Marsh



teddy bear
handpainted

P M



handpainted

Julie Menzies Biggar Scotland 1993-1999

Julie used **sycamore** blanks made by John Urwin. Her zodiac thimbles may seem pyrographed but they are handpainted



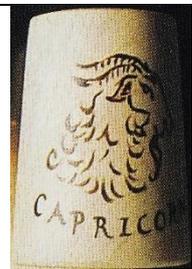
Aquarius



Aries



Cancer



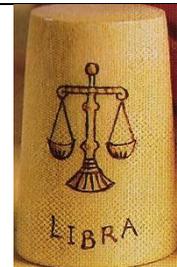
Capricorn



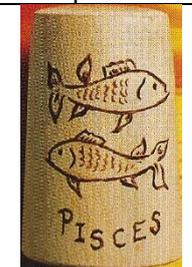
Gemini



Leo



Libra



Pisces



Sagittarius



Scorpio



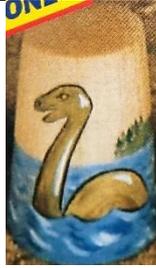
Taurus



Virgo



dog
handpainted
sycamore



Nessie
handpainted
limited to 250



Russian warrior
handpainted
limited to 100



church
for Christmas 1994
sycamore



Madonna
for Christmas 2000
maple



beads
for Christmas 2011



thistle
'Scotland'
1999

Susan Moore 1991
each flower accompanied by handpainted insects



blue irises



blue rambling roses



lilypond



pink and red rambling roses



Red orchids



roses

H A Power 1987



'Mothering Sunday 1987'
handpainted violets

John H Shepherd York



acacia

Somer Combe Studios 1988



dried flowers under Perspex in apex
box wood

Sterling Classic Malvern, Worcestershire 1994



'Crafted in England'



set of six with applied pewter fruits and leaves of the trees of the forest
horse chestnut – **yew** – **oak** – **cherry** – **sycamore** – **London plane**
 each is made from the wood of the named fruit



oak

Christine Swift 1993

endangered species of the Marshes and Wales – pyrographed
 each animal name is lettered on the verso



bottle-nosed dolphin



killer whale



otter



marten



red squirrel



Scottish wild cat

Terry



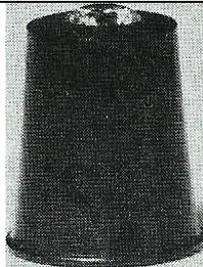
lupins
'Mystic'
handpainted

Ted Tolson



mini **yew**
1988

John Urwin



cubic zirconia
African blackwood
1983

R W



Corris Wales
sycamore
pyrographed

Anne Young



'The Thimble Society of London'
handpainted in canal boat style
thimbles by John Urwin

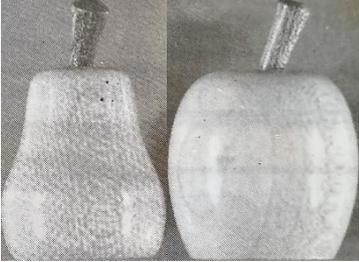


1990
handpainted in canal boat style
thimbles by John Urwin

Unknown artists

Maybe you received a certificate with the maker's details - or yours still has a sticker with the maker's details. Please share

I don't even know if they eventuated in Britain

 bee Brazilian rosewood	 puffin handpainted	 cat
 bagpipe chanter African blackwood and ivory August 1985	 clematis handpainted February 1989	 brass apex
 1940s handpainted	 mallard and duckling handpainted	
 'Mary Rose' handpainted looks more like a Russian lacquered thimble?	 pear- and apple-shaped	
 signs of zodiac sterling silver Aries - Sagittarius - Virgo	 coin set into apex sixpence	



'The Alnwick Garden'
pyrographed



holly
handpainted



Fishing boat – lighthouse – teddy bear
shape links these to the same artist
May & July 1993



paper quilling roses



'Lynnnon'
pyrographed (Anglesey Wales)
piece chipped off surface



cask with bung
March 1987
b&w photo



halfpenny affixed



thistle
handpainted and pyrographed
'Scotland'
thimble made by John Urwin



'Cropredy'



African blackwood
sterling silver thistle



pyrographed
'Sue'



cathedral etched
'Sue'



'A woman's work is never done'
Mrs Santa handling all the Christmas toys
1992



child's in barrel-shaped holder
rosewood



witch



needlecase
jarrah thimble - **apricot** case



coffee pot
ruby knob and brass handle



finely ridged thimble

Contributors

Eva B | Rita Bayley | Yolanta Bogdziewicz | Pawel Brzyski | Micky Garvey | Andrea Griffiths | Linda Heggs
Norma Shattock | Jean Taylor

This listing of Modern British hand-decorated wooden thimbles does not purport to be complete or accurate in all aspects.

Rather it invites comments and contributions to add to our knowledge. My thanks to the contributors.

EMAIL thimbleselect@bigpond.com TO SHARE YOUR KNOWLEDGE

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July 2025