Sterling silver advertising thimbles

including jewellers' and ships' thimbles

Whilst I was researching the topics of British sterling silver placename thimbles and Thimbles with slogans, I noticed a smaller grouping of silver thimbles with adverts and so my quest for information about sterling silver advertising or promotional thimbles began.

Previously I thought that general products being advertised on thimbles were in the majority, with a few silver thimbles advertising jewellers. Exactly the opposite is true. The jewellers' advertising thimbles are the most prolific, with 98% being for British jewellers. At the beginning of the 20th century, James Walker, a London jeweller, began to give away a silver thimble to couples who purchased their wedding ring: these were marked with James Walker Wishes you Luck. The most commonly seen jewellers' advertising thimble is for James Walker the London Jeweller. Recently a precursor has been found to the James Walker advertising thimbles. Made by Griffith in 1921, it only has the lettering Walker.

Henry Griffith & Sons (HG&S) of Birmingham are the primary makers of the silver advertising or promotional thimbles. These thimbles were largely produced between 1924 and 1930. Where I have specified no makers' marks, the maker is HG&S. Some of the other makers' thimbles would have been made by HG&S, but the wholesaler's registered maker's mark was used instead.
A dead giveaway is that the words The Spa appear on the band (thimbles only ever made by Griffith after 1920 when the firm moved to Leamington Spa) or when the size mark is between 13 and 18. Griffith was the only English thimble maker to have his thimble sizes corresponding to the millimetre diameter. So even tho the thimbles have the maker's mark as **JWLtd**, **N.G.** or **N.G. Co**. these would have been made by Henry Griffith & Sons, using the Chester assay office, where the JWLtd mark was registered.
According to Holmes, there was a close association between the firms of Griffith and James Walker. The N.G. mark was registered in Birmingham in 1916, and this is for Northern Goldsmiths Company.

I have only found a few examples of US jewellers.

Between 1899 and 1904 **James Fenton**, another Birmingham thimble maker, made no thimbles for English jewellers but there are two examples of his thimbles made for Australian jewellers.
Charles Horner of Halifax made no thimbles for English jewellers but there are two examples of his made for Canadian jewellers between 1908 and 1911.
James Swann and Son of Birmingham, the only large English silver thimble maker still in business by 1969, made the examples for another Canadian jeweller.

The advertisements on thimbles for general products generally pre-date the jewellers' ones. I have included information from Zalkin or Holmes about how one qualified for some of these free thimbles. My primary source for silver advertising thimbles made in the United States is Gay Ann Rogers.
They certainly pre-date most of their English counterparts.
It is most gratifying to notice that a few of the jewellers or the general products being advertised are still in business. If they were offering a free silver thimble back in the 1900-1920s, then they still deserve to be in business in the 21st century!!
Silver advertising thimbles were at the top end of the range with the bulk of giveaways being made of aluminium, plastic or brass.

There is a small niche collection within the advertising thimbles theme - those with **ship or ocean liner names** on silver thimbles. The Orient and subsequently the Peninsular & Oriental (P&O) Shipping Lines had five liners on the route between England and Australia in the first half of the twentieth century and there were silver thimbles, made by Henry Griffith & Sons, lettered in relief with the name of the ship. It was the era of mass migration from Europe to Australia. These were produced much later than his placename and jewellers' advertising thimbles, being made post-World War II, until he closed his business in 1956.
Gabler thimbles with enamelled bands produced .800 silver thimbles much earlier (pre-World War II) with named cruise ships. There are a few rare examples of the US from Ketcham & McDougall producing similar enamelled sterling ship thimbles, like those from Gabler.

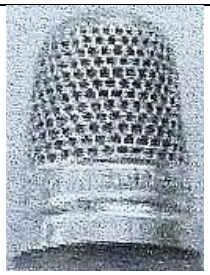
The lettering on Henry Griffith advertising jewellers' thimbles is usually in small script, as there are such long names and/or addresses to fit around the thimble band. The shorter the name, the larger the print. The lettering is in relief and in uppercase, often over a striated ground on the English thimbles.

I have tried to follow punctuation and font style where possible, but many will still need editing - please help if you have some of these thimbles where I haven't used the correct details.

These thimbles are arranged alphabetically by the first word of the advertisement, which may be the jeweller's initial. If preceded by other lettering like Best … With … Good … they still file alphabetically by the first letter.

Jewellers' Advertising Thimbles

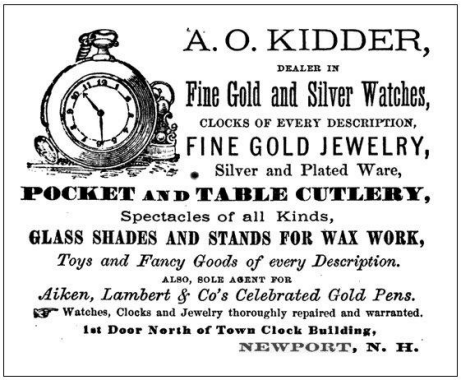
A J WRIGHT BURTON ON TRENT



1930

A.O.KIDDER

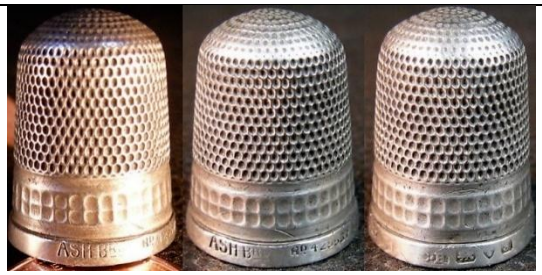
Newport, New Hampshire



The Newport Business Directory and Advertiser 1870

ASH B^{ROS}

Edmonton, Canada
the thimbles are made by Charles Horner for this Canadian jeweller
the jeweller's name is stamped onto the band



Charles Horner
1908

BARRETT HASTINGS

see also: Good wishes from E Barrett

Barrett
this is forerunner of jeweller’s advertising thimbles
1898/1900

BENNETT 2165 CHEAPSIDE

BEST WISHES FROM L.COURLANDER.

see also: Courlander the Croydon Jeweller

1924

BEST WISHES FROM SALSBURY & SONS.

see also: Salsbury the Guildford Jewellers

1924

BIRKS

the Canadian jeweller
these jewellers are still in business in Canada, having been founded by Henry Birks in 1879
it is the largest jeweller in Canada, with 36 stores across the country
all examples have 'Birks' stamped onto the band, with a size mark + STERLING
tho most are not hallmarked, they may have been made in England, for sale in Birks stores across Canada.
There is an example made by CH (Charles Horner) but I can't find an image with the additional mark for BIRKS

STERLING

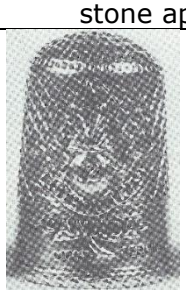
STERLING
stone apex

James Swann & Son
1963
stone apex

James Swann & Son
1963
stone apex

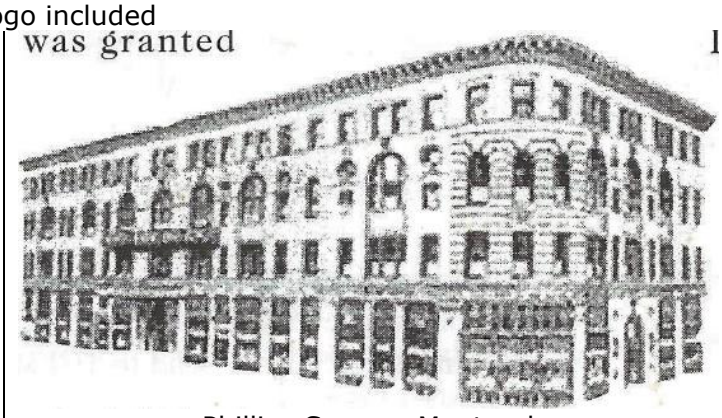
James Swann & Son
1963
enamelled band

James Swann & Son
1963 '9.375' for 9ct



'Canada'
with military insignia affixed
for World War 1

thimble box for Henry Birks & Sons
building logo included

the Vancouver store 2010	Henry Birks	 Phillips Square, Montreal

"BRUFORDS' EXETER"

these jewellers are still in business in Exeter, Devon - at 17 The Guildhall, Queen Street

1926

CHAS. A. KEENE 180 BROADWAY N.Y.

wholesale watches, diamonds, jewellery
possibly made by Stern Bros, USA

CONROY COUCH.TORQUAY.

these jewellers are still in business in Torquay, Devon

1926/1929

James Walker Ltd
1924

COURLANDER. THE CROYDON JEWELLER.

see also: Best wishes from L Courlander

James Walker Ltd
1923

CROUCH NEWPORT

45 High Street, Newport, Monmouthshire, Wales
their principal Welsh store was in Cardiff
see also: W.H. Crouch Swansea

MADE IN ENGLAND STERLING SILVER THE SPA

thimble box

CROWN BAZAAR

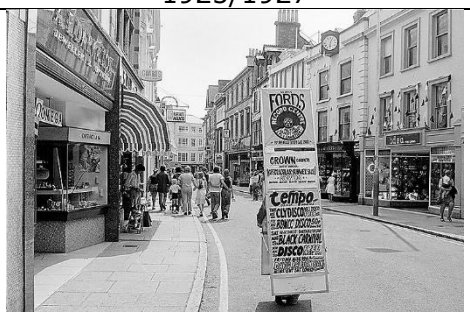
with the triskelion symbol for the **Isle of Man**
the triskelion needs the wider band

1924

DARK. JEWELLER. BARNSTAPLE.

this firm was still in business in Barnstaple, North Devon, into the early 1980s

1925/1927



at left: A E Dark & Son Jewellers and Opticians 14 High Street Barnstaple

DE LA RUE & CO LIMD
378 GEORGE STREET

the jeweller's name and address is stamped onto the band for this Sydney, Australia firm

James Fenton
Henry Williams Ltd
1903/1904

DICKINSON NEWCASTLE

1930

DOUGLAS, JEWELLER. STOURBRIDGE.

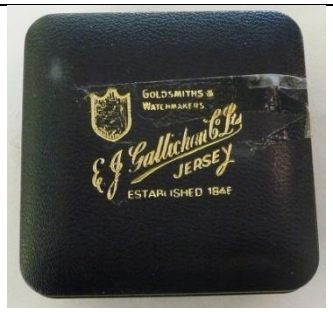
1923

E.J. GALLICHAN & Co Ltd

these jewellers have been in existence on Royal Square, St Helier, Jersey since 1845
According to Jan Le Sueur of Jersey - quoted in the winter 1991 issue of The Thimble Society of London "E.J. Gallichan & Co-Ltd, put out 300 silver thimbles in 1930. They were given to Jersey schools as needle work prizes. I think it was possibly the first and last time they ever did this!"

1930

store in Jersey in June 2005



Gallichan thimble box

FAIRFAX & ROBERTS
--SYDNEY--

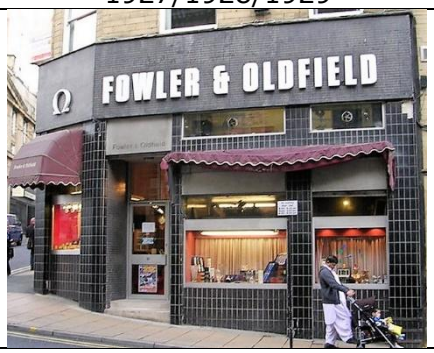
the jeweller's name is stamped onto the band for this Sydney firm
this firm of jewellers is still in existence in Sydney, Australia

 James Fenton 1899/1900/1902/1903	 thimble box

FOWLER & OLDFIELD BRADFORD

the firm is still in existence at Kirkgate in Bradford, West Yorkshire

1927/1928/1929



FULLERS. DUNDEE

1930

GIBBS

US thimble – is Gibbs the jeweller?
This name does not appear in Gay Ann Rogers *American silver thimbles*

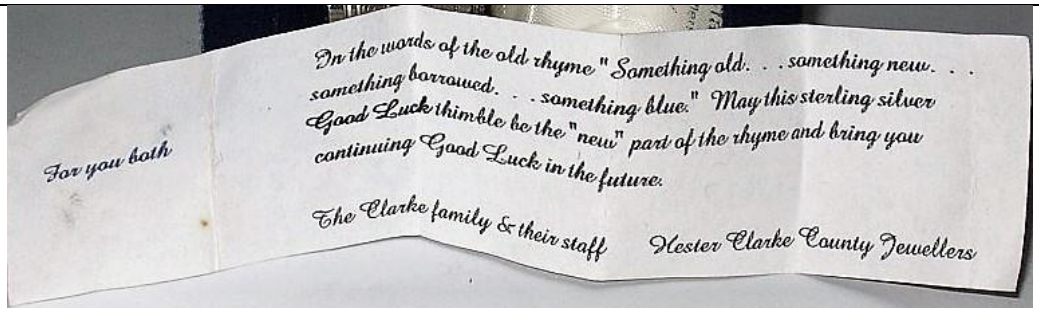
GOOD LUCK FROM Hester Clarke

interesting to see this modern jeweller commissioning advertising thimbles
these jewellers are still operating in Aylesbury, Bucks at 10-14 Cambridge Street and Princes Risborough
their thimble boxes are lettered "Hester Clarke County Jewellers Aylesbury"

James Swann & Sons
1991

not dated
who made these thimbles?

James Swann & Sons
2000



accompanying leaflet

GOOD WISHES FROM E. BARRETT.

see also: Barrett Hastings

1926

HARRAL.THE RING SHOPS, BARNSLEY & MEXBORO

This is the longest jeweller's slogan made by Henry Griffith, with 35 letters etc. Mexboro had to be shortened from Mexborough

1925

Benj Harral Ltd The Jewellers
in Barnsley in 1980s before they closed

H.B. PEACOCK. SWANSEA.

1926

HENDERSONS. JEWELLERS. DUNDEE

1927

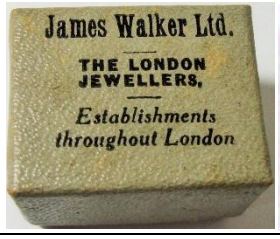
JAMES WALKER. THE LONDON JEWELLER.

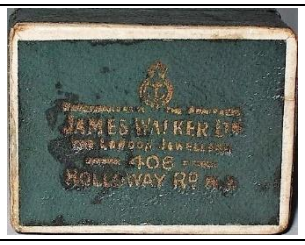
acquired by H. Samuel the Jeweller in 1984
according to Holmes, the thimble was offered to customers who spent more than 5/- (five shillings)
the cost of the thimble was 4d (fourpence)

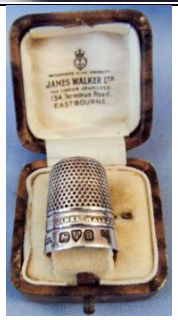
James Walker Ltd
Chester 1928

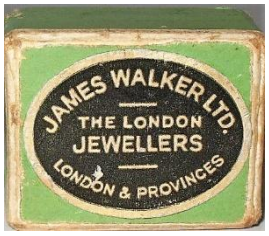
Northern Goldsmiths

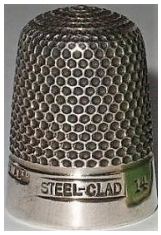
1930
Royal Spa











important finds are these James Walker Ltd cardboard thimble boxes
there is an unconditional guarantee on the base of some of the boxes similar
to those of Charles Horner's Dorcas boxes

the later thimble box (top C) has no guarantee on the bottom of the box:
"Watchmakers to the Admiralty" – blue box "51 & 53, Clarence Street, Kingston-on-Thames"
top R: "Watchmakers to the Admiralty" – green box "46 Holloway Rd N7"

lower L: the open box is for the Eastbourne branch

lower R: this box is for their "London & Provinces", which contains their 'Steel-Clad' thimble

all boxes are named as … "The London Jeweller**s**" where the thimbles have Jeweller in the singular form

1921
this may have been a precursor advertising thimble for James Walker. Hallmarked for by HG&S and hallmarked 1921, it has the lettering of **Walker**.

JAMES WALKER WISHES YOU LUCK

this was the gift thimble that one received when buying a wedding ring (Holmes)

1924/1925	**James Walker Ltd** 1922/1923

J C. BLOOM
JEWELRY CO.

a USA jewellery firm
these jewellers are still operating in Bangor, Philadelphia

Goldsmith-Stern
patterned rim
some have smooth rims

"JUDGE, LEICESTER"

1930

thimble box

JUDGES RINGS LEICESTER

1926

J.W.CASSIDY. JEWELLER. BIRMINGHAM

founded by John Walter Cassidy in the 1920s

1927

J W CASSIDY. JEWELLER WORCESTER

founded by John Walter Cassidy in the 1920s
"The Worcester business continued through the family until the 1970s/80s but is no longer going having been bought out by one of the larger jewellery chains". (B Norman)

Northern Goldsmiths
1927

J.Y. JONES MT. STERLING KY.

thimble is marked COIN
Coin silver is 99% pure

KUESEL & PULS

Goldsmith Stern

LEWIS . LIVERPOOL

LIDGETT, LINCOLN

T. L. Lidgett & Sons were jewellers based at 201 High Street, Lincoln

1930

L.J. WADE. BOGNER.

1926

M. MICHELSON . JEWELER

these jewellers are still operating in 2025 in Paducah KY

STERLING

MEADER. BOSCOMBE

according to Holmes, these jewellers were still operating in 1989, in the main shopping street

1926

MORRISONS. ESCOMBE.

Escombe is in Durham, England

1929

PARKER'S

these jewellers are still in existence in the UK

1928/1930

PAYNE, JEWELLER. THE MOOR, SHEFFIELD.

1925

PICKETT & CO PORTSMOUTH

there are jewellers of this name - Pickets & Pursers - at 9 Rams Walk in Petersfield, Hants and Pickets & Pursers Ltd in Southampton at 80 Above Bar

PLEASANCE & HARPER L^{TD}. JEWELLERS.

these jewellers have been in operation since 1874 - in Bristol and in Hereford

1924

ROBINSON THE JEWELLER

According to The Thimble Society of London - autumn 1988 issue - Bridget McConnel remembers "...his shop was in Hampstead, and he specialised in good paste jewellery. He supplied the theatre and film companies and provided all the 'diamonds' for Mae West to wear in 'Diamond Lil'".

1931

ROBINSONS FOR VALUE

RONSON. 169 B'WAY.N.Y.

STERLING

SALSBURY.THE GUILDFORD JEWELLERS.

these jewellers are still in operation in Guildford, Surrey
see also: Best wishes from Salsbury & Sons

James Walker Ltd
1924

SHEFFIELD GOLDSMITHS CO. LTD.

"STEEL & CO. WHITLEY BAY"

1926

Northern Goldsmiths
1926

VINCENT, YEOVIL

1924

WATSON, HASTINGS

1930

W.E.WATTS, 9 MARKET PLACE, DERBY.

these jewellers are still in operation in Derby, England

1926

W.H. CROUCH. SWANSEA

see also: Crouch of Newport

W H Crouch
1926

WHEATLEY BROS

the jeweller's name is stamped onto the band
Regina, Canada

Charles Horner
1911
$R^{D}429537$

one of their jeweller's boxes

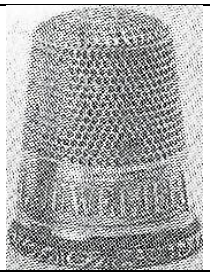
WITH H. SAMUEL'S COMPLIMENTS

founded in 1821 in Liverpool by silversmiths Moses & Lewis Samuel
Harriet Samuel took over the business in 1862 and moved to Manchester
the business moved to Birmingham 1912 and they are still in business
H. Samuel acquired the James Walker group in 1984

1930

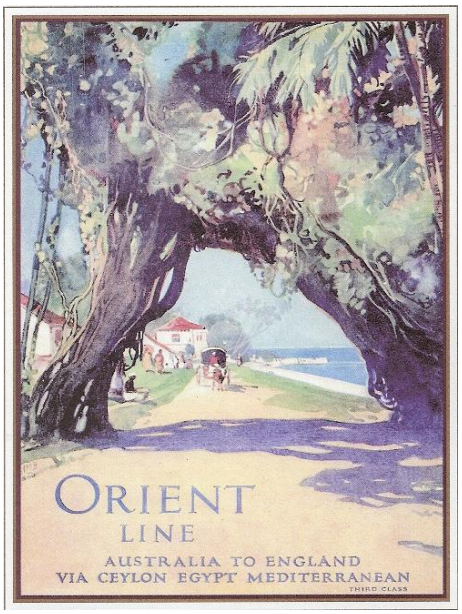
... JUWELIER

I am including this in the hope someone will be able to complete the Dutch jeweller's name



Ship Advertising/Souvenir Thimbles

The Orient Steam Navigation Company (Orient Line) produced thimbles for their ships during the 1950s. The ships plied between England and Australia, visiting Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane, some bringing migrants out after WWII.



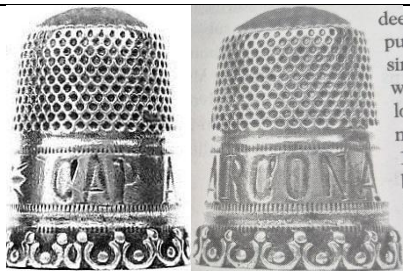
R: P&O Building Fremantle

The Orient Line's sister company, Peninsular & Oriental Steam Navigation Company (P&O) took over the ships in the mid-60s, but by then Henry Griffith & Sons had ceased making thimbles.
There were other Orient liners but there don't seem to be thimbles made for them.
Ormonde Otranto Orama Orford

I have now added thimbles of ships from all eras and makers.

CAP ARCONA

A German liner launched in 1927 and torpedoed in 1945 (Wood)
She carried passengers and cargo between Germany and the east coast of South America, and in her time was the largest and quickest ship on the route.

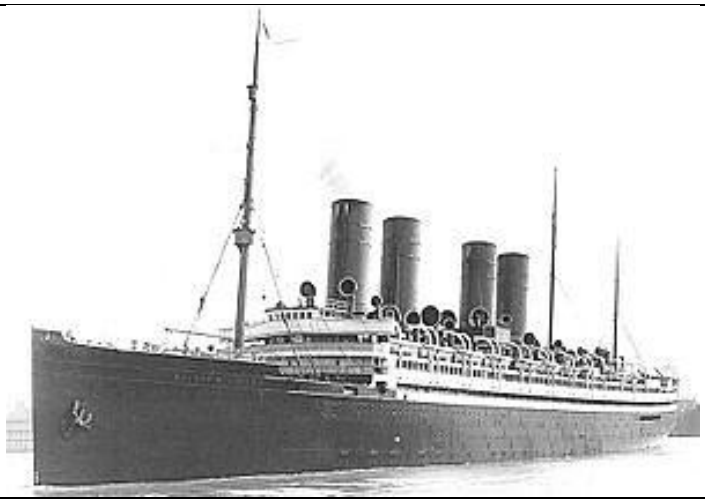


800 German made
stone apex

D. Kaiser Wilhelm II

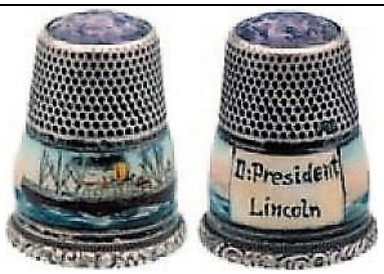
1902-1917

Gabler
enamelled band on 800 silver
beaded rim

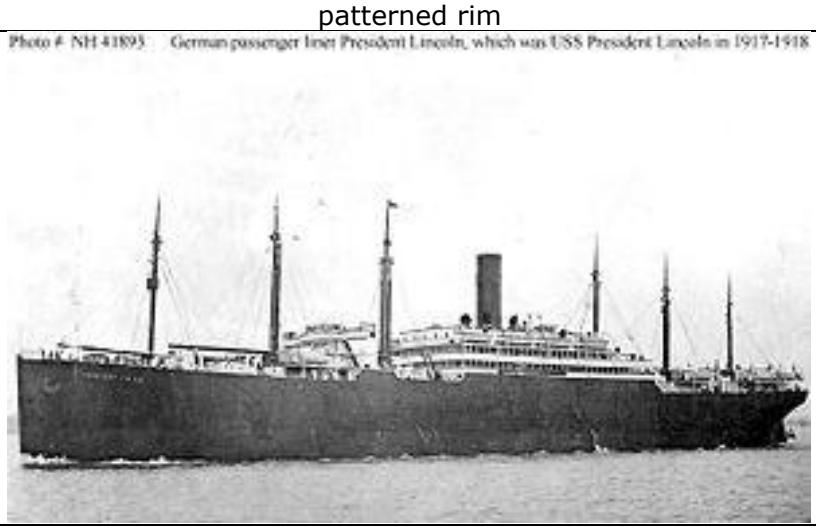


D:PRESIDENT LINCOLN

German steamer of Hamburg America Line 1907-1918
seized in New York Harbour in 1917 where it was renamed USS …



Gabler
enamelled band on silver - amethyst stone apex
patterned rim



D. Vaterland

SS *Leviathan*, originally built as the ***Vaterland***, was an ocean liner which regularly crossed the North Atlantic from 1911 to 1934. Built for Germany's Hamburg America Line for their transatlantic passenger service, she sailed as the *Vaterland* for less than a year before, at the start of World War I.

Gabler
silver with enamelled bands - red stone apex
L: patterned rim
R: smooth rim

D:Victoria Luise

German passenger ship of the Hamburg America Line 1900-1906 - lost after being accidentally grounded off Jamaica

Gabler
enamelled band on silver
L: moonstone stone top - R: green stone top
patterned rims

Dampfer Cleveland

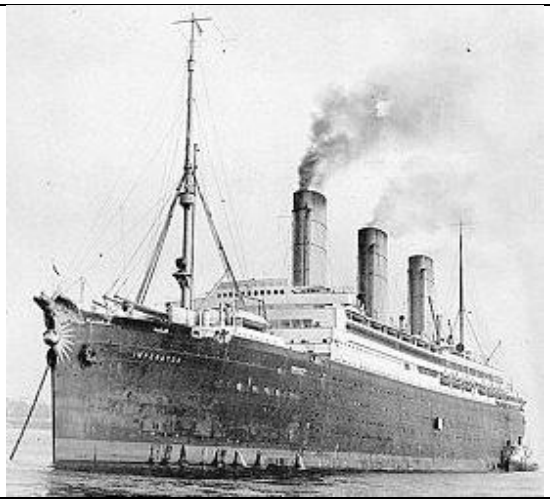
German passenger liner built in 1909 for the Hamburg America Line. She was the first ship to have two round-the-world cruises

Gabler
enamelled band on 800 silver - green stone top
patterned rim

DER NEUSTE DAMPFER IMPERATOR

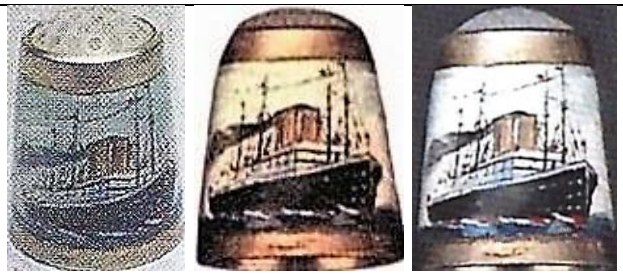
German passenger liner 1913-1914 and at the time the largest in the world
see also: Imperator

Gabler
enamelled band on 800 silver



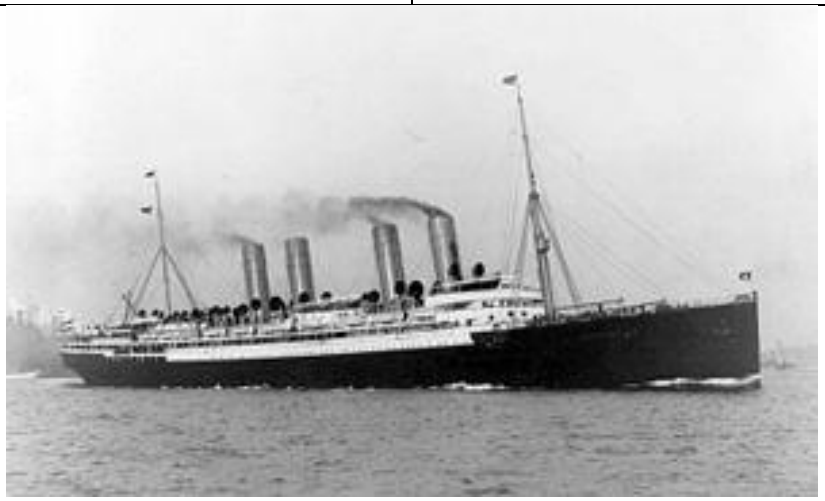
DEUTSLAND / SS DEUTSCHLAND

German ocean-going liner by the Hamburg America Line 1900-1925



enamelled silver with moonstone top
circa 1900

Ketcham & McDougall USA
showing four funnels
sterling silver with enamelled band
KMD uses the name English SS for "Steamship"
instead of the German D for "Dampfer"
beaded rim



1900

IMPERATOR

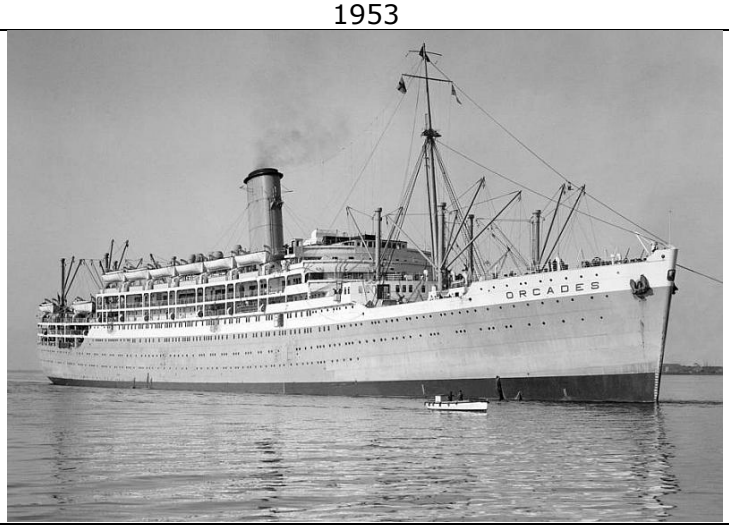
see also: Der Neuste Dampfer Imperator

German
enamelled plaque on silver
patterned rim

ORCADES

Orient liner 1944-1973

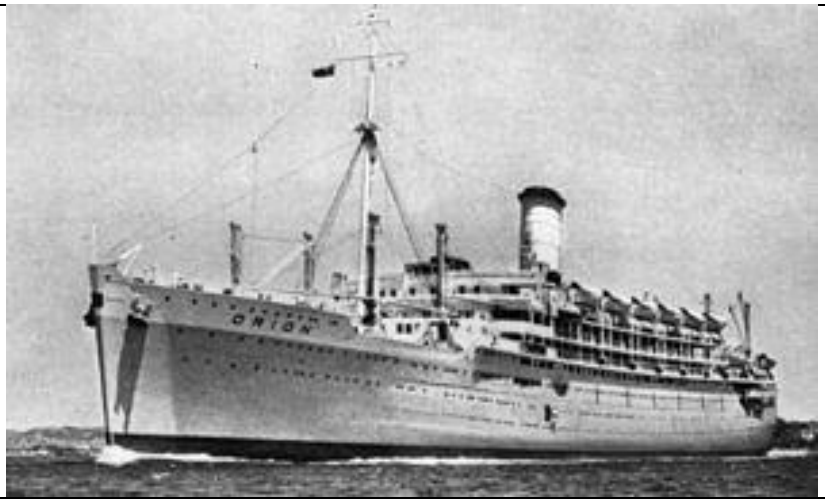
Henry Griffith & Son
1953



ORION

Orient liner 1935-1963

Henry Griffith & Son
1953



ORONSAY

Orient/P&O liner 1951-1975

Henry Griffith & Son
1952/1953

ORONTES

Orient liner 1878-1962

no photo

Henry Griffith & Sons

ORSOVA

Orient/P&O liner 1954-1974

This is the second liner named Orsova – the first ship was built in 1909 and scrapped in 1936.

Henry Griffith & Son
1953/1954

1954

RMS 'QUEEN MARY'

Settmacher
1932
zinc with paper inset in roundel

R.P.D Main.

Gabler
enamelled band on silver

SS. FÜRST BISMARCK

Ketcham & McDougall USA
enamelled band sterling silver
beaded rim

SS Kaiser Wilhelm der Grosse

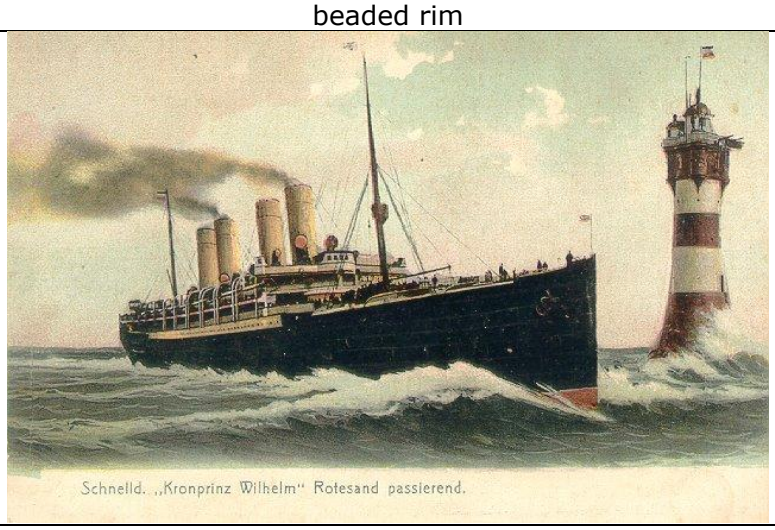
German transatlantic ocean liner 1897-1914

Ketcham & McDougall USA
enamelled band sterling silver
beaded rim

SS KRONPRINZ WILHELM

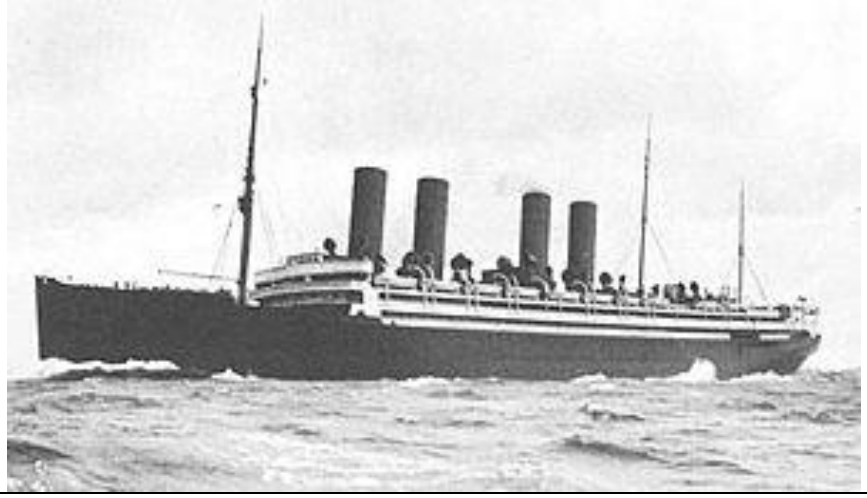
German passenger liner built for North German Lloyd – 1901-1923
KMD uses the name form SS instead of the German D …

Ketcham & McDougall USA
enamelled band sterling silver (damaged)
beaded rim



SS KRONPRINZESSIN CECILIE

German ocean liner built for North German Lloyd – 1906-1940

no photo **Ketcham & McDougall** USA sterling silver


STEAMER ALBANY.

Hudson River Day Line Albany New York

Does this river steamer qualify as a tourist thimble or could it be an advertising thimble, fitting loosely within this thematic group of thimbles? What do US thimble collectors feel?

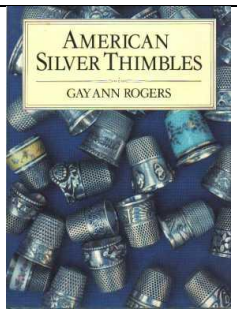
Paye & Baker Manufacturing Co
Attleboro, Massachusetts, USA
sterling silver with wide pictorial band

1900-1910

Other Advertising Thimbles

A present from Gay Ann Rogers
"AMERICAN SILVER THIMBLES"

Simons
1986

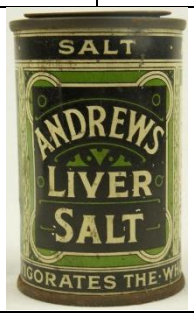


ANDREWS LIVER SALT

this product has stood the test of time and is still available today
thimbles were offered free in exchange for ten paper discs which were inside the 4oz or five 8oz tins
offer closed on 31/12/1927

1926/1927

Northern Goldsmiths Co
1926



Carlsberg

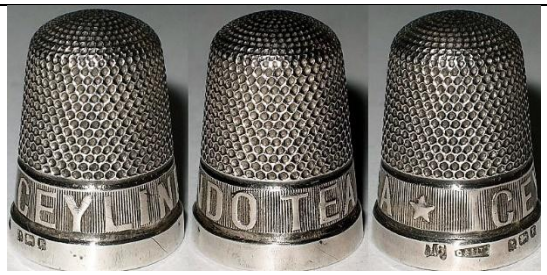
limited to 300 specially struck ... to coincide with the showing of the
Special Brew TV commercial "Gently does it"
this lettering is in the lid of the thimble boxes
lettering on the thimble is upside down to by read by the sewer whilst sewing
Thimble Society of London commissioned this thimble in spring 1982

K L Downes
1981

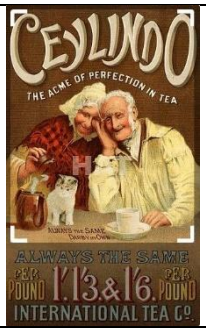
K L Downes
1981 box

CEYLINDO TEA

SEE ALSO: Brass Advertising thimbles for other metals Ceylindo Tea thimbles

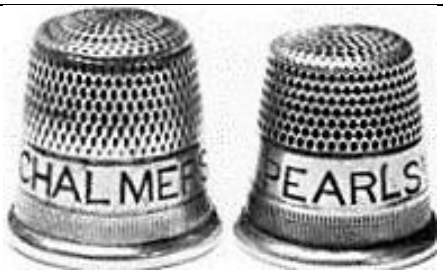


1906



CHALMERS PEARLS

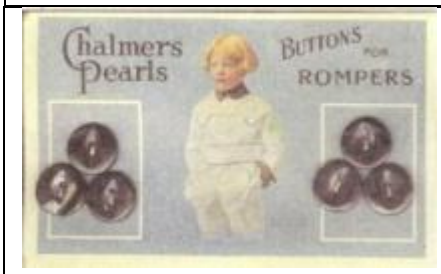
New York pearl buttons
customers received this thimble for five empty button cards and a nickel
according to John von Hoelle, the offer was on the backs of their carded buttons



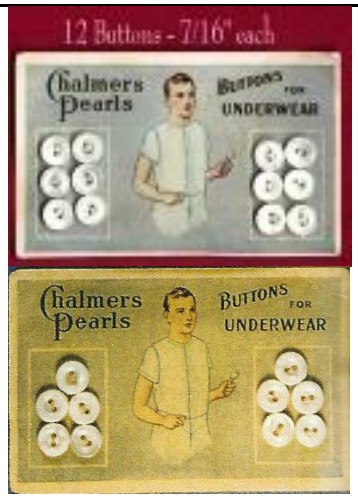
Webster
1916

advertisement in *Needlecraft*
1916

card of Chalmers Pearls



card of Chalmers Pearls



card of Chalmers Pearls

the free offer on the back
of the card of buttons

COMPLIMENTS OF
F.O.HADLEY 918½ MAIN ST.

may be from Hadley Furniture Co. founded in 1914 in Main Street, Worcester Massachusetts

H Muhr?

THE CRESCENT SILVER JUBILEE

a department store in **Spokane, WA**
made to commemorate their 25th anniversary in 1914
each of the 300 employees received a silver Crescent thimble
originally this was the Spokane Dry Goods Company. The Crescent closed in 1985
there is a crescent moon and a star flanking the lettering

1914

DOLPHINTON HOUSE HOTEL

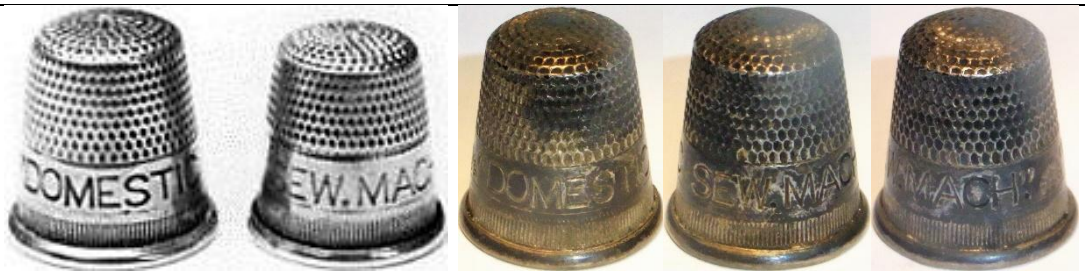
Scotland

James Swann & Son
1988
dolphin in apex

Swann Thimbles
1990
applied Dolphin
lettering very faint in the textured body

"DOMESTIC SEW. MACH."

gift of this silver thimble was offered when purchasing this brand of sewing machine
sewing machine went into production in 1864 in Norwalk, Ohio until 1924, when it was absorbed by White Sewing Machine Co, who still sell sewing machines



1900s

DR E DÜRRWÄCHTER

founder of the 1922 Doduco refinery in Pforzheim, Germany, for gold silver and platinum they supplied to jewellery industry

Germany

Enrilo

there are two possibilities for this product
either chocolates by Enrilo in Chile (script matches more closely). Chilean Chocolates was only formed in 1950 but based on "the same recipe from Romania which was developed by the founders of the firm in 1926".
ENRILO coffee substitutes/additives which was made in Germany in 1930s

Gabler?
Germany
nickel silver
name is repeated on two sides in joined script

Ferrari

Swann Thimbles
1990
applied Ferrari Prancing Horse

FINGERHUTMUSEUM

Creglingen, Germany
The Thimble Museum was opened by Thorvald and Brigitte Greif in August 1982, in an old grain mill

Julius Wengert
with Dutch "ZI" import mark

73 FURST BROS 98

celebrating 25 years in 1898
Baltimore, Maryland
makers of mirrors, frames, pictures, mouldings

GIEVES & HAWKES

Saville Row, London tailors

The ancient tailoring firm of Gieves was founded at 73 High Street, Portsmouth, in 1785 by Melchizedek Meredith, grandfather of George Meredith. The business was sold in 1841 to another local tailor, Joseph Galt, who went into partnership with James Gieves in 1852. James Gieves became sole owner in 1887 and was succeeded in the business by his sons.

www.gievesandhawkes.com

LB&B Co 1998 tailor's thimble	

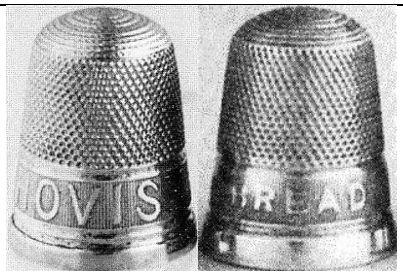
Harrods KNIGHTSBRIDGE

These thimbles have already been covered in a topic entitled Harrods thimbles

HOVIS BREAD

Hovis Bread is still available in the UK today
the following information comes from *Thimbletter*
"I found in London's Highgate Cemetery the gravestone of the inventor of the bread.
The stone was in the shape of a boulder
It reads - "Richard Smith, 16 February 1836, 20 August 1900, of Stone
in Staffordshire, Macclesfield in Cheshire and London. After years of patient investigation,
he patented on the 6 October 1887 his improved treatment of the wheatgerm and broken wheat
which made the manufacture of Hovis Bread possible."
According to Aldridge, these thimbles are first mentioned in the Hovis Company report for 1927,
despite their earlier hallmarks

SEE ALSO: Brass Advertising thimbles for other metals Hovis Bread thimbles

 1913/1914/1926/1932	**Northern Goldsmiths** 1911/1914	1955 advertisement

J B SIDE-SPRING CORSETS

1910/1923

MCAS Ltd
1923

1924
the word CORSETS is missing

JB
Side Spring
Corsets
The Corsets of Distinction.

Pre-War Quality.

THE principle of allowing nothing inferior in material or workmanship to have part in the making of a single J.B. Corset has necessarily increased pre-war prices.

The decision to increase price was arrived at after considerable thought. Rather than lower the previous standard of quality it was decided to increase the prices.

J.B. Corsets still maintain pre-war quality at post-war prices.

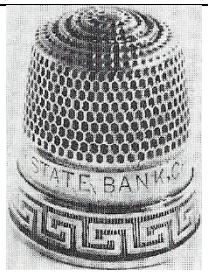
Model 511 13/11

Cheaper Quality. 9/11

The initials, J.B., are the Manufacturer's guarantee of excellence.

Leading Drapers.

KASPAR STATE BANK, CHICAGO



1900s

postcard

KENOSHA 1852 FIRST NATIONAL BANK

no photo

KIRBY BEARD & Cº PARIS

British pin makers

800 silver gilt
1900s

KOFFIE WAPEN MEPPEL

The Netherlands

brass

LARKIN

distributed by Larkin company – a soap manufacturer - Buffalo, New York
According to Edwin Holmes "This was a mail order house, first for soap, then expanded. A club plan was introduced. In June of 1916, this thimble was presented to the Club Secretaries. They may have also been presented at other times".

c.1916

MAISON BLANCHE

a department store established in New Orleans in 1897

Simons
1890s

1898

MERCED GENERAL HOSPITAL MERCED CALIFORNIA

no photo

NEEDLECRAFT

women's magazine, from Maine, US - published from 1901-1941
thimbles were offered in exchange for selling 4-5 subscriptions in April 1923
According to Gay Ann Rogers the "t" was missing off the word Needlecraft in 1890s. Presumably this was rectified

Stern Bros
1890s

1930s issue

OLD BUSHMILLS

Irish whiskey distillery, Antrim in Northern Ireland

TLTD
1987

see also: Brass advertising thimbles for their brass version

PEOPLES FRIEND

this was a "story paper for women"
"... continues to be published to this day"

1896/1897
was this a very early forerunner of the 1920s Griffith advertising thimbles
the apostrophe is missing

People's Friend building - London - June 2012

RAFFLES
Singapore

thimble box is marked 'Raffles' with a hotel symbol 'Singapore'

RICE'SEWING
ILK
to receive this sterling thimble one had to send 30c for 3 spools of their thread

Goldsmith Stern
unknown mark D alongside size
1890s

1899 advertisement

STORY JOURNAL

this weekly magazine was launched in 1909
thimbles were available to subscribers who had to collect tokens
publication ceased in 1914
The Story Journal thimbles with a hallmark for HG&S, Chester, 1909 were found in a drapery store in the 1980s, all in mint condition
interestingly there are examples of *The Story Journal* thimbles with later hallmark dates in existence that have been well used, so subscribers would have taken up the offer
it is a puzzle why the earlier hallmarked ones have survived in mint condition,
but the thimbles with later hallmarks went into circulation

1909/1910/1918/1919

Clarke & Sewell
1909/1919

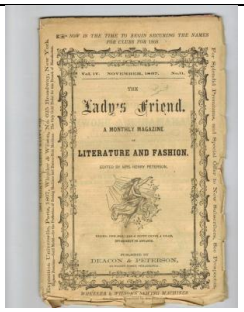
SWEET HOME BREAD

+

"THE LADYS FRIEND"

It has been suggested that this thimble may just be that – ie a thimble to be used for sewing

1930



1887 issue
(Lady's has the apostrophe)

V Melle's Koek

Netherlands

confectionary (candies – lollies – sweets)

1920s

WENIGER & CO. 915 ARCH STREET

Philadelphia store

1920s

WISE

According to Gay Ann Rogers Wise was probably referring to William Wise of Brooklyn New York c.1880-1890s. He was apparently a retailer

Other similar US thimbles feature in GAR for silversmiths etc – eg Spence – Stone – W.R.Tice/Tice H.Wood

Ketcham & McDougall

'WISE' is lettered to L of size mark, within the band of wild roses

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This listing of sterling silver advertising 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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