Thimbles of Israel

I didn’t own any thimbles made in Israel until 2008 when I received a gift of a Hagop sterling silver thimble. In 2009 I received a gift of a Yemini sterling silver thimble
This topic is divided into what the thimbles are made of. China (unless handpainted), resin and cloisonne thimbles fall outside of this this topic

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Brass thimbles



Jerusalem with jewels

Handpainted china thimbles

David Azoulay

no photo

Copper thimbles

Yael Zidon Mashiach


silver daisy


agate



Pewter thimbles



Jerusalem in gilt

Sterling silver thimbles

The thimbles of the two main Israeli silversmiths (Hagop and Yemini) are quite similar in the following aspects – they worked mainly in the 1970s in Jerusalem. It would be fascinating to know if they knew of each other. I have seen their thimbles mistakenly ascribed to the other silversmith. I trust this topic will go some way to erasing the errors

Hagop (James Demirjian)

Hagop is a third-generation silversmith
The distinguishing feature of this silversmith's thimbles it is the extra design on the apex. JERUSALEM and STERLING are lettered on the inside rim with HAGOP, the date and the Ltd Ed
Later they were lettered in the apex
Hagop often named his thimbles with lettering of the scenes around the rim
Hagop moved to live and work in California in 1985. He was still creating thimbles in 2008.





three marks on inside rim in his scenic thimbles



this is the mark up in apex in Helen thimble – Sterling Jerusalem. No other marks



H.D. mark appears in his thimbles made in the USA





A stitch in time
H.D. maker's mark



Bethlehem
Star of Bethlehem on apex
lower row: an earlier version
1977-1979



menorah
Chai
Joshua and Caleb carrying grapes – menorah
1977



CLARA B
Oct. 19 1985



dove of peace and Holy Spirit
Cross of Jerusalem on apex
1977



Egypt – cradle of civilization
featuring Pharos Lighthouse in Alexandria, pyramids and sphinx
bird with A (Ancient Egyptian alphabet) on apex
limited to **5000**
1979



Israel – the promised land
featuring Ten Commandments tablets, the Citadel (Tower of David) and a menorah
Star of David on apex
1977



Jerusalem – sacred sites
Dome of the Rock, the Wailing Wall and All Nations Church
1977-1979



Jerusalem – the Old City
featuring Dome of the Rock and three mile wall
dove of peace on apex with Hebrew E
1985



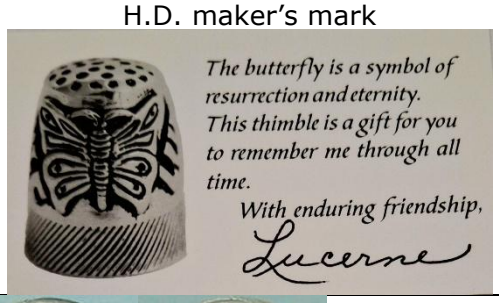
Last Supper
chalice apex
limited to **5000**
1979



Lebanon – Queen of the East
cedar tree on apex
featuring Baalbec, three female dancers in national costume and ruins of a Roman city
limited to **5000**
1979



Lucerne Wulf 1923
on the occasion of her 85th birthday 2008
H.D. maker's mark





Mohammedan
camel - palm on verso
crescent and star on apex
apex from inside
1977



Montreal Olympic Games 1976
maple leaf on apex



NAS Needle Arts by the Sea
group is a chapter of American Needlepoint Guild Inc (ANG)
H.D. maker's mark



Nativity
bell of Bethlehem on apex
1985



Petra Jerash Jordan
featuring The Treasury of Petra, The Roman Pillars of Jerash, Jordanian Monarchy is symbolised by crown atop (King Hussein)
limited to **5000**
1979



Statue of Liberty 1886-1986
'Liberty enlightening the world'
created for *Thimbles Only*



Statue of Liberty
ruby in her flame
limited to **1000**
1986



TCSD 1981
Thimble Club of San Diego
H.D. maker's mark



Vermont 1981 Stitch in Timers
H.D. maker's mark

Yael Zidon Mashiach

This silversmith's studio is in Beit Hanan, established in 1997. She also works in brass, copper and 14ct gold combined with sterling silver – see also her wooden thimbles





maker's Hebrew mark – on its side at L







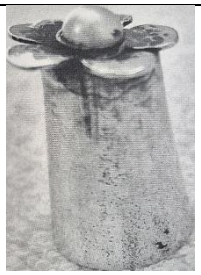
applied autumn flowers
2005
accompanying certificate is like all Hebrew texts - to be read from right to left



935 silver
coral on apex



935 silver
Star of David



935 silver
pearl
b&w photo

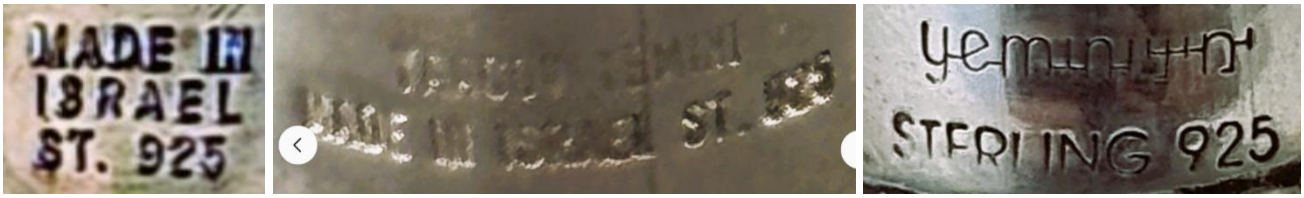


Yaacov Yemini

This Yemenite silversmith works in Jerusalem



four generations of the Yemini family – Yaacov 2nd R



these marks are lettered on the plain verso – R: modern mark on Susan thimble 2009



long version – 1978 edition – limited edition of 5000 - Yaacov Yemini - State of Israel – St. 925 (sand thimble)

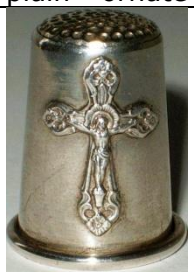
Having compared the thimbles by Hagop with Yemini, you too will notice that this silversmith's thimbles have a plain indented apex. Many of the symbols are applied on smooth sides, unlike those of Hagop where the scenes tend to be 'etched'. There is no identifying lettering of the scene depicted, with occasional Hebrew lettering (see his biblical scenes in oval cameos)
Yemini uses galleried wirework around some of the rims, making them more decorative



anchor



bat

 bee	 Belief filigree Flower of Gethsemane 1977
 camel	 cat
 Chai in Hebrew symbol plain - ornate	 Chai in Hebrew (means Life)
 cross	 cupid
 dog	 donkey
 dove	 eagle



eilat stone
national stone of Israel
1978
limited to **1000**



elephant



Faith (fish on apex)
'Sterling Jerusalem' lettered in apex
L: design lower
1977



filigree
1985



frog



garnet



Golda Meir
limited to **5000**
1979



Good luck (mazal in Hebrew)
different borders



gorilla



horse



horseshoe



'I love you' on tablet




Jacob and Rachel
Hebrew below image



Jesus



kangaroo
2006



Last Supper



Lurene
with Hebrew



Mary




menorah





Miriam dancing
Hebrew below image



Norma
with Hebrew
2008



parachute




praying hands
plain - ornate borders



Prosperity
grapes
1977



rabbit



rooster



rose

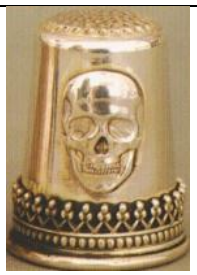




Ruth with wheat
Hebrew under image



shamrock



skull









Star of David
plain – ornate borders



Susan
with Hebrew
2009







Turquoise
different borders







Vision of peace between Egypt and Israel
(sometimes described as Tutankamen or Nefertiti or Pharoah Rameses II)
1978





water carrier
Hebrew below image



whale



white stork





woman at the well
Hebrew below image

Unknown silversmiths

Do you recognise the makers? Many are filigree. Some of the designs could be by Hagop. All have been identified as thimbles made in Israel



925



925



925
1985



2004



1985



1985



1985







Star of David
Jerusalem
seems older?



Wooden thimbles

The most recognised wood associated with Israel is **olive wood**. Most of the thimbles are made of this wood

Yael Zidon Mashiach

 sterling silver daisies 2001	 935 silver birds	 935 silver rose

Handpainted wooden thimbles

I have tried to group the thimbles together by the same painter.



R.P.

issued in 1977 (set of 12 - handpainted in naïve style) reflecting Judaism, Christianity, Islam and local mementoes, with extra symbol handpainted on apex





camel



Flowers from the Holy Land


Joshua and Caleb (carrying grapes)


Nativity of Christ


Shalom in Hebrew


The Church of All Nations


The Dome of the Rock

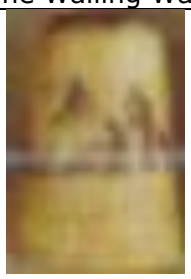

The Dove of peace



The Wailing Wall



Bethlehem



nativity



olive wood



Jerusalem
different views with trees



Jerusalem
different flowers



Jerusalem
1996



Jerusalem
pyrographed cross



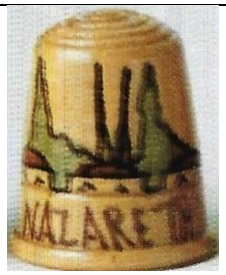
Jerusalem
pyrographed menorah



Jerusalem
pyrographed Star of David



Jerusalem
showing the Church of the Holy Sepulchre



Nazareth



Other wooden thimbles


olive wood











olive wood
thimbles made from annual pruning of olive trees

References

Charlotte Goldberg *A three-generation family of silversmiths in Israel*. TCI Bulletin winter 2002
Thimble maker: Yael Mashiach TCI Bulletin fall 2010

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This listing of Thimbles of Israel 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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