

Porsgrund

Norway

It was only in the last month or so that I received an enquiry about these Norwegian porcelain thimbles. I knew the porcelain house only by name as I do have one of their thimbles in my collection. The enquirer asked how many dated thimbles were issued - their collection were for annual thimbles from 1978 to 1985. That amounts to eight thimbles.

At that stage I hadn't even realised my own example was dated - yes, it's the 1984 thimble. That is the hunt I enjoy - are there more than these nine annual thimbles issued by this Norwegian house?

I have now found another Porsgrund thimble, that doesn't carry a date like the earlier series of nine - it is done in much bolder colours, tho still with Porsgrund's distinctive stylised design. Do you know anything else about this thimble? eBay yielded very few results and there is precious little other information anywhere.

In 1885 Johan Jeremiassen founded this porcelain house on the Porsgrund River in Norway. The designer of the Porsgrund thimbles is Anne Marie Ødegaard - the thimbles are handpainted and have trims of 18ct gold. They are fired three times to achieve the highest glaze possible.

Like many of their Danish counterparts, Porsgrund issued annual porcelain Christmas plates. Their first dates back to 1909 but the next only featured from 1968 and continues today.

When the late 1970s collectables thimbles market took off, Porsgrund joined the fray and produced high quality annual thimbles - with the main colours being gold and blue. Again, like many other porcelain houses, their run was short. I can find no other Porsgrund thimbles - they weren't featured in either of the Porcelain Houses set of 25 nor the Hallmarked set of 50 Porcelain Houses of the World. There are no Thimble Collectors Club (TCC) issues either. So, another Scandinavian niche quality set to source! And my initial enquirer will be so chuffed to have the answer to her enquiry, I know!

Any other relevant information would be warmly received.



Porsgrund maker's mark together with their limited edition mark



Porsgrund Porselensfabrik thimble box
this view of the thimble apex shows the distinctive pattern of widely-spaced sparse indentations



set of eight annual Porsgrund thimbles 1978-1985



1978
with touches of green



1979
limited to 5000 pieces



1980
butterfly



1981
flower



1982
tree at sea
limited to 5000 pieces



1983
stars
limited to 5000 pieces



1984
swans
limited to 5000 pieces



1985
yacht at sea



Farmers Rose



small Porsgrund porcelain painting
design by Anne Marie Ødegaard

Contributors

Micky Garvey | Linda Samaripa | Kay Sullivan-De Vingerhoed

This listing of Porsgrund 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.

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