

the **thimble** society

Volume 9, Issue 9

Winter 2005





Front Cover

- 1 One of the rarest 'souvenir' silver thimbles, c.1850. In marvellous clear detail, a central picture of Lichfield Cathedral, with a frieze of trees continuing around the border. A slim and elegant shape, with very fine dimpling. The dark red leather case is marked inside with a crown and 'Lambert Jewellers, 12 Coventry street.' In the early days of railways, up and down Britain, trains were taking eager people to visit famous historical sites. The increase in tourism sparked off a souvenir trade and to commemorate a visit, you could buy a souvenir thimble. This type of item was often made in two sections. Various designs were made as decorated 'skirts' which wrapped around the thimble, then the top was soldered on. See page 79 of 'The Story of the Thimble' for another illustration of Lichfield. This thimble will be put to a members only auction. Bidding ends on November 14th with bids accepted over £300

Inside Front Cover

Top photo, left to right. Wedgwood, 20th century

- 2 A. Spinner, white on grey. B. Dancing girl, blue on white. C. Ditto, white on green. D. Ditto, white on pink. Each £38

Second photo. Spode. 20th century Christmas thimbles

- 3 A. Plum pudding. B. Dancers. C. Carol singers Each £10
4 Wedgwood dancing girl, dark blue on light blue £38

Third photo. Thimble Craft Pigs by Shirley. 20th century and others

- 5 'Festival of Food & Farming 1989' coloured print of pigs £15
6 'The Asda Festival of Food & Farming 1992' coloured print of a pig's litter £15
7 Puce print of cottage 'Home Sweet Home.' £10
8 Polar bears, reverse team of Husky dogs. Mkd Sunrise inside £10

Fourth photo, Christmas Worcesters and Spode.

- 9 A. 'Christmas 1982' print of skaters. B. 'Christmas 1983' Sledge. C. 'Christmas 1984' youngsters making snowman Each £10
10 Spode, white with a border of little gilded angels £10

Subscriptions - Subscriptions - Subscriptions for all members. Due January 1st for 2006.

Dear Members, this is a reminder that all your annual subscriptions are now due. People who have paid for two years, please ignore the enclosed memo. It helps us so much if we don't have to send out letters of reminder because the postage has risen everywhere. Please help us to keep the subs from rising by mailing your dues now.

V.G. Cond = Very Good Condition	Hllmk = Hall Mark	B'ham = Birmingham
Slight A.F. = Slightly Imperfect	T.M. = Trade Mark	Ches = Chester
Mint = no wear	Ct = Carat	Cont. = Continental
Circa (c.) = around	Kt = Carat	Lon = London

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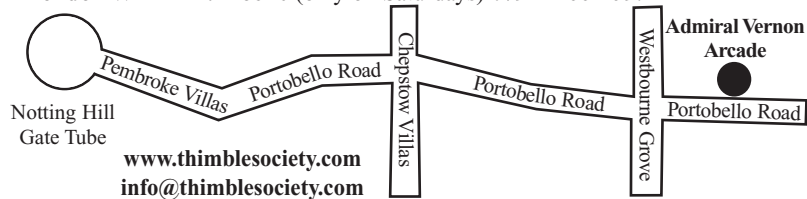
Tel and Fax (anytime): +44 (0)20 7419 9562. Thimble Society, 1 Cathcart Street, London NW5 3BL

RETAIL SHOP ADDRESS ▼

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Open Fridays
10-1pm
by
appointment
Saturdays
7am
to 3pm



Regular procedures: Members will be sent reminders with the winter issue when subscriptions are due. Please pay within 6 weeks else your name is cancelled on the computer. All subscriptions are due January 1st each year, **£19** (UK), **£21** (Europe) and **£23** (rest of the world). Spring Magazine March 1st, Summer Magazine July 1st, and Winter Magazine November 1st.

Posting: UK: We recommend 'Special Delivery' for goods valued at over £50. Rates for UK 'Special Delivery' items are £3.85 plus £2 for p&p, in total £5.85. This rate insures goods valued up to £500. Europe and Rest of the World: We recommend 'International signed for' and insurance for goods valued over £500. We cannot be held responsible for loss of goods which are uninsured. All items in the magazine are described in good faith and we cannot be held responsible for errors. Minimum order £12.

We would be grateful if members paying in euros would calculate at the current rate when actually paying and also add the equivalent of £3 to cover bank charges. Credit cards are easier. Please do not pay in Sterling on a USA dollar bank account as we pay double charges.

We cannot reply to our members in the UK wanting advice, etc., unless a stamped addressed envelope is included as our postage costs are getting so high. It also saves so much time. We cannot hold a thimble or post one off unless the full price is paid within one week, if members wish to return a thimble please do so within two weeks, money refunded if thimble not satisfactory.

Dear Members

Next year there will be some changes to the magazine. There are two main reasons for these, to avoid any rise in subscriptions, and the growing scarcity of good thimbles. Many collector's societies are facing similar problems, good antique items are hard to find, when found are more expensive, and printing and posting costs go up. So we shall be cutting down the number of pages per issue but probably increasing the amount of colour. The Thimble Society has always been known for quality. No collector's society wants to be forced into filling up pages with mass-produced items still in production and we have avoided doing this so far. While stocks last, there will still be budget thimbles in the shop, if any member wants to phone us with a request, we will try to help out.

Next year, the magazine will still contain thimbles, articles, member's letters and contributions as before but maybe with a drop in the number of thimbles, depending on what we have of interest to offer members. There will be help guides instructing members on 'How to buy and sell at auction', notice on coming fairs and thimble news from overseas.

The Silver Jubilee Celebration meeting at Worcester is shaping up nicely, so start saving your pennies for the sales tables.

The auction in the Summer issue of No 1 'The Rosherville Gardens' went very well. The thimble eventually sold for £1,500. The Thimble Society receives 30% of the revenue and the remainder goes to the vendor. There are no hidden costs, no buyer's premium. The bidding was hot, bidders world-wide, but the thimble will remain in Britain. For sales of rare thimbles, an auction seems the fairest and best way for vendor and buyer. If the auction of rare thimbles through our pages becomes a regular occurrence, we may have to only take bids by email as phone costs began climbing up. Even if you are not 'on line' most of you will have a friend to bid for you.

*Very best wishes for the Christmas holiday
Bridget.*



Annie and Bridget

**'The Thimble Society' is offering a reduced membership subscription to members under 20 years old. We do have a few! just let me know who you are when next year's subscriptions are due.
From this coming year under 20s will pay £15 UK. £17 Europe and £19 RoW.**

A Paradise Lost. By Dr Robert Warrington

Following the remarkable photographs on the front of The Thimble Society magazine for Summer 2005, more details have emerged concerning Rosherville Gardens, the Victorian paradise just west of Gravesend in Kent.

In 1815, steamboats began to ply the Thames between London and Gravesend and it was this facility that encouraged the development of 'entertainments for visitors'. One of these entertainments was Rosherville Gardens. The gardens were named after Joseph Roshier and Rosherville New Town, a development of houses which began at Northfleet in 1830. The gardens were laid out in 1837 by George Jones and are reputed to have cost £20,000. The gardens occupied the site of old disused chalk pits and were quite large, covering an area of 17 acres. The full title was 'The Kent Zoological and Botanical Gardens Institution'. Rosherville was heavily advertised and posters proclaimed 'The place to spend a happy day'.

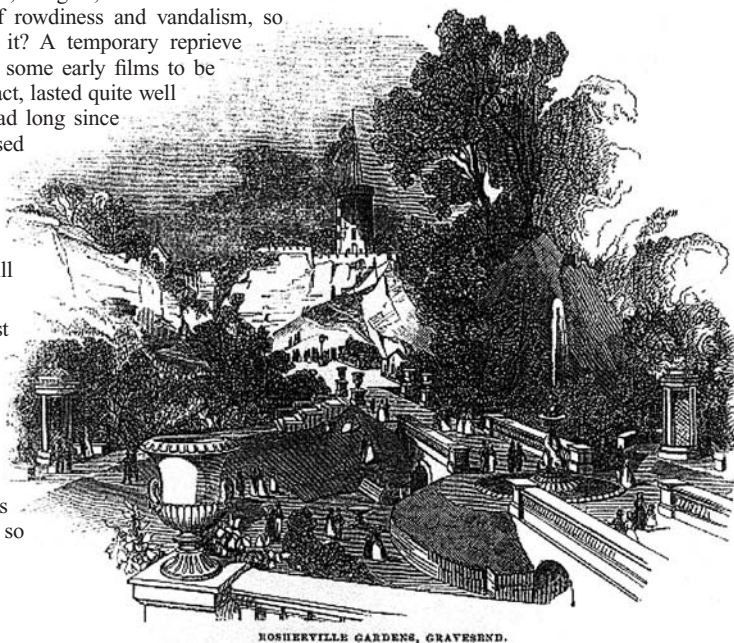
The attractions on offer were many and various, including greek temples, statuary, a maze, zoo, terraces, an archery lawn, a lake and a concert hall, dancing floors and a Bear pit. The whole area was adorned with many trees and shrubs, fountains and waterfalls. At night the gardens were illuminated with thousands of coloured lights and frequent firework displays. The live entertainments were also very varied. As well as dancing, there were concerts, including 'The Sousa Band' from America and performers such as 'Blondin', the French acrobat, who staggered the world by crossing Niagara Falls on a high wire pushing a wheelbarrow – what feats he performed at Rosherville are not detailed. 'Little Titch', the famous music hall artist, made his first stage appearance at Rosherville in 1880 aged 12. There are also many literary references to Rosherville, including P.G. Wodehouse in 'Jeeves Takes Charge', Henry James in 'An International Episode' and Gilbert & Sullivan in 'The Sorcerer'. So quite a place and one can well understand how it became so popular – at its peak it was attracting 20,000 paying customers a week.

The gardens continued to be popular well into the 1880s. In 1878, there was an accident on the Thames very similar to the Marchioness disaster of recent times. 'The Princess Alice' was a passenger boat leaving the pier at Rosherville when it collided with a collier 'The Bywell Castle' at the Devils Elbow on the Thames. The casualty list was horrific, 640 dead of which 240 were children.

As the century came towards its end so did the popularity of Rosherville. At one time there had been up to 60 pleasure gardens in and around London but with the increased availability of the railway, day trippers were attracted to the seaside of Southend, Margate, etc. Rosherville closed its doors in 1901 following complaints of rowdiness and vandalism, so nothing has really changed has it? A temporary reprieve between 1903 and 1911 allowed some early films to be made there. Rosherville had, in fact, lasted quite well – most other pleasure gardens had long since closed. Vauxhall, for instance, closed in 1859. The site of the gardens became an industrial area and a search of a modern A-Z reveals this Thameside area, one road and a primary school are all that still continue the Rosherville name.

So a London paradise was lost forever; but now a formerly unknown commemorative thimble has been found. Rosherville was not the most famous of the Victorian pleasure gardens, so it would seem likely that other commemorative thimbles were made – perhaps Vauxhall – so good hunting.

Dr Robert Warrington

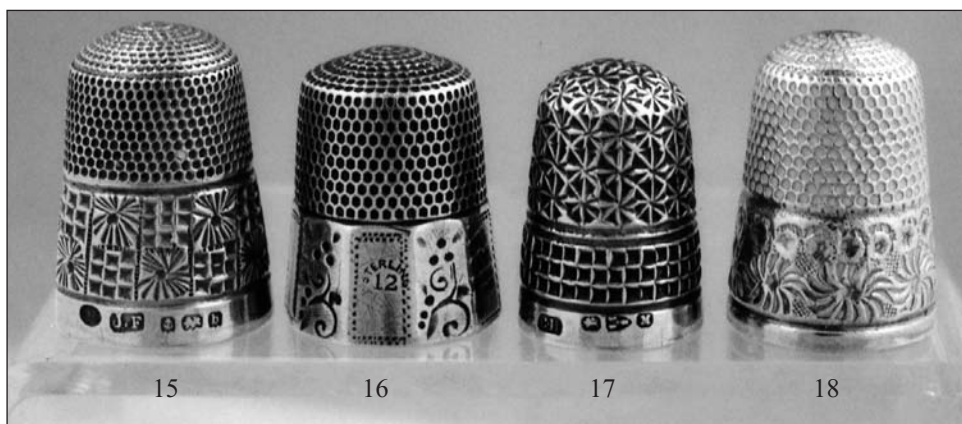




Dreema and others

- | | |
|---|-----|
| 11 Dorcas, with double pattern of waffles and flowers | £28 |
| 12 Dreema, pretty daisy border, rounded top with dimpling | £38 |
| 13 Crisp waffles, mkd HG&S B'ham 1899 | £32 |
| 14 Charming diamonds and daisies, mkd LG&S Ltd. Ches.1907 | £30 |

Just a reminder, a thimble with a tiny hole is not difficult or expensive to repair, and it will not show on the outside. However, wear on the pattern or the dimpling affects the value more and there is less you can do to restore it.



19th century Silver Panels and others

- | | |
|---|-----|
| 15 Crisp pretty border of daisies and waffles, mkd JF B'ham 1901 | £32 |
| 16 Charming alternate panels on this Simon's USA | £35 |
| 17 Very clear double pattern of daisies and waffles, mkd CH Ches.1895 | £35 |
| 18 Unusual CM [Charles May] B'ham 1910 | £28 |

A quote from The Sunday Times August 1st 2004, from an article by David Mamet, the famous American playwright and Pulitzer Prize winner in 1992. 'My idea of heaven is Portobello Road at 6 o'clock on a Saturday morning.' Not only talent, but taste. He knows where the best antiques are.

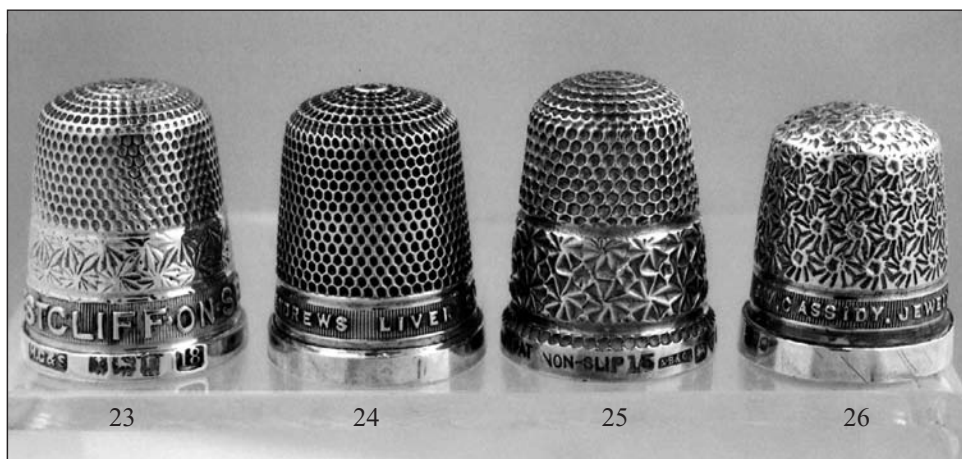
New Membership Drive. If you introduce a new member to The Thimble Society, you will get £5 off your next purchase. We need to introduce more people to share our interest to keep those thimbles and information coming in.



Silver large letter place names, Cardiff and others

- | | |
|--|-----|
| 19 'Cardiff' mkd HG&S B'ham 1930 | £80 |
| 20 'London' very rare. Mkd.HG&S. B'ham 1930 | £90 |
| 21 Clear small letters, 'Stratford-on-Avon' mkd HG&S. B'ham 1929 | £45 |
| 22 'Crouch Newport' mkd HG&S sterling silver | £78 |

You can just imagine the sparks flying from the railway lines up and down the UK in the 1930s. Travel abroad was only for the rich, holidays were taken in Britain and everyone seemed to want a silver thimble as a souvenir, judging by their popularity.



Westcliff-on-Sea and others

- | | |
|--|-----|
| 23 'Westcliff-on-sea' mkd HGS B'ham 1930 | £78 |
| 24 Small letters advertising 'Andrews Liver Salts' by NG&co B'ham 1926 | £45 |
| 25 'Prov-Pat Non-Slip' by AB&co Ches 1908 | £35 |
| 26 'J.W.Cassidy. Jeweller. Worcester.' Mkd HG&S, B'ham 1927 | £42 |

Sometimes members ask me if there is a set weight for a silver thimble. The answer is no, and older thimbles tend to be lighter. It makes no difference to the value, and sometimes a light thin silver better reflects the elegance of the design. Modern ones tend to be too heavy to use comfortably.



'Mona' and others

- | | |
|---|------|
| 27 'Croydon' mkd HG&S. B'ham 1929 | £78 |
| 28 'Stratford-on-Avon' Mkd Hg&S B'ham 1930 | £75 |
| 29 'Mona' on reverse three-legged symbol for the Isle of Man. Mkd CH. Ches 1907 | £140 |
| 30 'Blackpool' mkd HG&S B'ham 1931 | £78 |

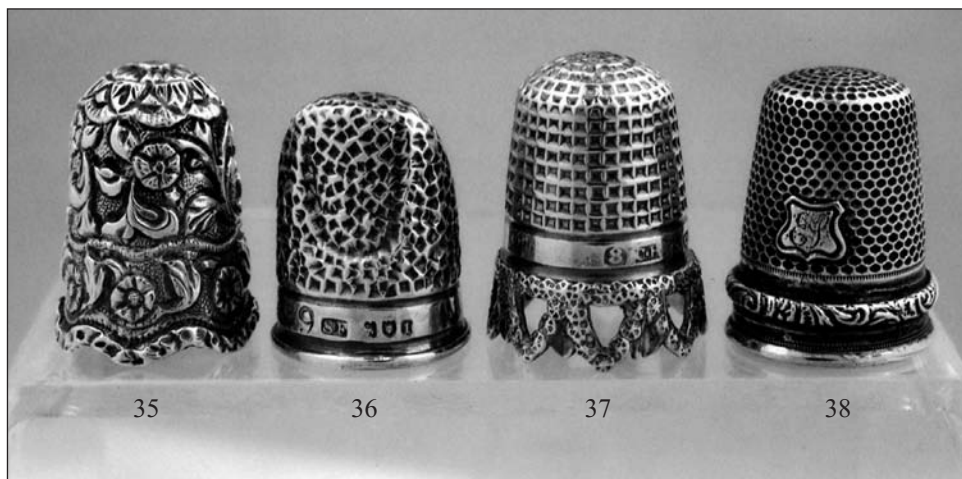
A sunny day in mid-August saw the golden beaches of Tynemouth deserted. All the B&Bs had 'Vacancies' in their windows. When you look at so many sea-side towns in Britain deserted by holiday makers you realise how holiday patterns have changed. No souvenir thimbles are being made in quantity now.



Silver 'From A Friend' and others

- | | |
|---|------|
| 31 Elegant steel top, restrained engraved border, English c.1820 | £110 |
| 32 Rare 'From a Friend' in clear letters, a loving gift c.1830 | £130 |
| 33 'Forget me not' c.1830 on the front, slight damage [shown] on the side | £90 |
| 34 Sparklingly-clear raised Gothic letters 'Forget. Me. Not' faceted rim | £150 |

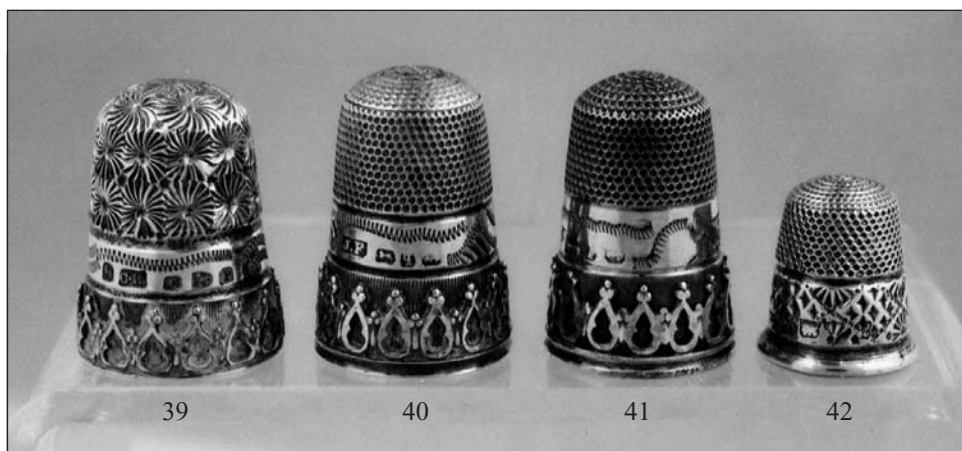
How delightful these charming tokens of sentiment seem, compared with 'I only got the... tee shirt' you see today. Crudeness that has become an accepted part of our souvenir culture emblazoned across the innocent chests of kids.



Silver 'Nail shape thimble' and others

- | | |
|---|------|
| 35 Beautiful decorative scalloped edge 19th cen Indian made for the Raj | £220 |
| 36 Famous rare nail shape by SF Lon. 1906. Pat 1915 | £190 |
| 37 Lovely pierced border like a Van Dyke lace shirt. Mkd CH Ches 1907 | £150 |
| 38 19th cen. Attractive, unusual Gabler [8 petal top] central initials | £48 |

If you want to see a photo of the nail shaped thimble, there is a good illustration in Edwin Holmes 'Thimbles.' Edwin speaks about it being in a private collection, there are certainly not many about.



Silver applied borders, and child's

- | | |
|--|-----|
| 39 Crisp excellent example of a decorative border hll mkd CH Ches 1898 | £78 |
| 40 Another delightful applied border, hll mkd jF B'ham 1890 | £65 |
| 41 A third one, each slightly different, mkd JS B'ham 1898 | £65 |
| 42 Child's decorative with tiny hall marks, difficult to read | £50 |

Videos – the first video is on the history of thimbles, and how to photograph small objects. The second video is on sewing tools, chatelaines and wares such as tartan, mauchlin, madras and sewing boxes. each video is £12 plus p&p. [UK, £2, Europe £2.50, ROW £3.] We can supply the USA video line system [NTSC] for any members who require it.

COLOUR PAGE OPPOSITE.**Top photo, left to right. Beatrice Potter prints on Wedgwood thimbles. 20th cen**

43 A Flopsy Bunny, B Jemima Puddle Duck, C Tiggy Winkle, D Peter Rabbit Each £25

Second photo. 20th century Wedgwood Jasper ware, Three Graces and others

44 The Three Graces, white on grey £45
 45 'Royal Wedding' of Charles and Diana, white on lilac £45
 46 Dancing girl, white on lilac £38
 47 Josiah Wedgwood, white on blue £30

The Beatrice Potter series are made in Wedgwood's bone china. All the rest shown are in the Jasper Ware range, marked 'Wedgwood England' on reverse.

Third photo. Yellow Wedgwood and other

48 Lilies of the valley, white on yellow. Mkd, 'Wedgwood made in England.' £35
 49 Canterbury bells, white on yellow, same trade mark £35
 50 White daffodils on yellow. Probably made for overseas market £35
 51 White rose on blue ground £35

Fourth photo. Wedgwood Basalt and others

52 Gilded spinner on black basalt ground, mkd 'Wedgwood England' £50
 53 Gilded bust of Shakespeare on basalt ground, mkd 'Wedgwood England' £50
 54 20th cen silver, well made relief of daffodils. Mkd 'silver' £25
 55 Possibly made in Israel, a charming bird in relief £25

Members will notice how the price of Wedgwood Basalt thimbles have risen, that is because there were few made which means they are scarce now.

CENTRE COLOUR PAGES, LEFT SIDE.**Top photo, left to right. Antique H G & S Jewelled thimbles and others**

56 Beautiful Jade drop, surrounded by aquamarine, ruby, topaz, amethyst. Silver, softly gilded, Hll mkd HG&S Ches.1923. Probably made as a special order £90
 57 Silver, hll mkd HG&S 1929. This lovely example set with diamond, ruby, peridot, ruby, topaz, sapphire, topaz, amethyst, peridot £90
 58 Chester 1901, silver set around the rim with charming turquoise £90
 59 Six petal top, probably Dutch or German, silver with pretty floral enamel £65

Second photo. Antique silver with stone tops, Felixstowe and others

60 Green stone top, pretty silver border on this Continental silver mkd 800 £38
 61 Famous Irish 'Harp and shamrocks', JS B'ham 1907. Connemara marble top £140
 62 Rare early silver 'Mizpah' with agate top. Hardly ever seen now £120
 63 Handsome 'Felixstowe' large applied letters, agate top, mkd CH Ches 1908 £120

Third photo. Antique porcelain and ivory

64 Adorable plump blue tit on foliage, prob. Worcester cir 1890 £150
 65 Elegant bee hive top ivory, prob. English c.1850. Good for a box £75
 66 Silky plain ivory, hand carved dimples, cir 1840. Also good for a box £70
 67 Cheerful red Robin on branch, prob. Worcester c.1890 £150

Fourth photo. Brass and glass

68 Unusual brass, set with ND, for Notre Dame, French c.1900 £38
 69 Caithness glass, Scotland cir 1980 £12
 70 Blue and red badge 'Rye' on metal souvenir, cir.1940 £12
 71 Brass, band of fleur-de-lys, with threader and cutter device, cir.1890 £19









**CENTRE COLOUR PAGE
RIGHT HAND SIDE.**

Top photo.

Red White and Blue and others

72 'A Stitch for the Red White & Blue' by GWH Ches 1914 for World War 1	£350
73 Green stone top, beautiful border of leaves & thistles, mkd JS&S Ches.1896	£100
74 Much sought after, rare silver commemorative of the wedding of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert in 1840. Two excellent profiles, reverse has royal flowers	£690
75 Elegant Russian niello work on silver, cir 1880	£200

Second photo.

Antique gold, Pforzheim and others

76 Sparkly grapes on vines, gold USA cir 1880. Central cartouche with initials	£200
77 Gold, to celebrate the museum in Pforzheim in 1978, very limited edition	£250
78 Silver gilt, made by the Thimble Society to commemorate the secession of Hong Kong to the Chinese in July 1997. Limited edition of 60 made	£45
79 Gold, delightful scalloped border, central initials, delicate engraving c.1870	£195

Third photo.

Brighton Pavilion and others

80 Rare reverse picture [so when on the finger, the picture is correct way up] of the famous Brighton Pavilion cir 1830. Built by the Prince Regent	£650
81 Made by the Thimble Society limited edition of approx 60, 'Mrs Thatcher returned general election.' On top '1983' Enamel Conservative blue rosette	£80
82 Made by the Thimble Society limited edition of approx 60, 'Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother 85th birthday 4th August 1985.'	£75
83 Legendary 'Persian' pattern, pierced silver with dark green agate top. Mkd CH Ches 1902. Such a lovely design, very few were made originally, hence rarity	£200

Fourth photo.

Antique gold open top tailors and others

84 Delightful border of delicate trailing raised leaves, prob. English c.1870	£180
85 Silver, with moonstone top, mkd JF B'ham 1902	£48
86 Gold mkd USA 14Kt, design of a house facing rising sun, another house other side. In central cartouche 'JL from AO', tailors style with open top	£95
87 'Alice' in the centre, prettily engraved all around, gold, small maiden size	£95

COLOUR PAGE OPPOSITE.

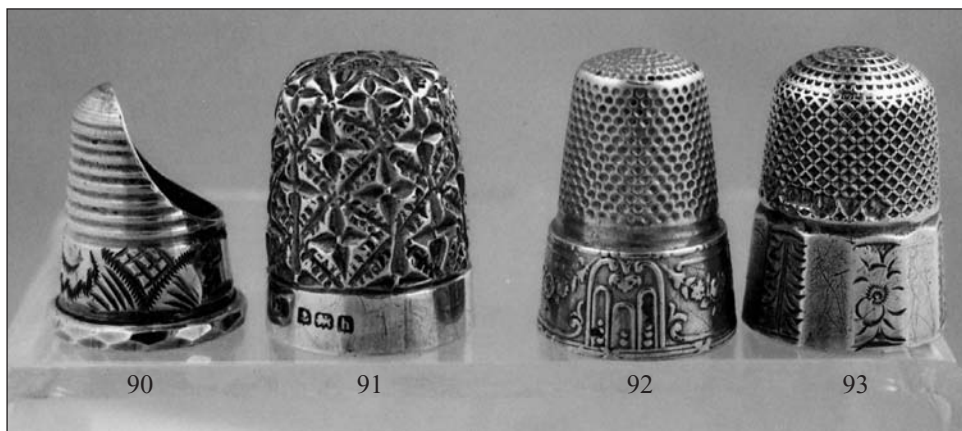
Top, second and third photos

88 A set of 12 'Aynsley' china dogs, cir 1970	Set. £75
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Last photo. 20th cen. Printed china, Wren and others.

89 A 'Spode' Wren's nest, B Cottage, C Flowers, D Peony	Each £6
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BOOKS FOR COLLECTORS	Price (£)	(postage & packing)		
		UK	Europe	RoW
"The Story of Antique Needlework Tools" by Bridget McConnel	45	6	14	17
"The Story of the Thimble" by Bridget McConnel	39	5	8	12
Binders: These hold eight magazines, are dark blue with gold lettering and logo, flexible rods placed in the centre of each magazine, reinforced brass corners	22	2	2.50	3



Silver finger guard and others

- | | |
|--|-----|
| 90 Decorative engraved guard, c.1870, with faceted rim | £79 |
| 91 Lovely cushion pattern, by HF B'ham 1907 | £36 |
| 92 Elegant French classic garland pattern, c.1890 | £55 |
| 93 Engraved panels on this CH Ches 1907 | £34 |

The cushion pattern is always nice to see, because it is such a good non slip pattern to hold a needle.



Silver ivy border and others

- | | |
|---|-----|
| 94 Crisp diamond pattern, by JS B'ham 1896 | £36 |
| 95 Border of ivy leaves, symbol of constancy, by HG&S Ches 1896 | £45 |
| 96 Unusual engraved scrolls, by HW Ltd Ches 1898 | £42 |
| 97 'Story Journal' silver advertising, by HG&S Ches 1909 | £39 |

Has any member ever seen a copy of 'The Story Journal' printed around 1909? It would be good to print an excerpt, to see what the thimble advertised.

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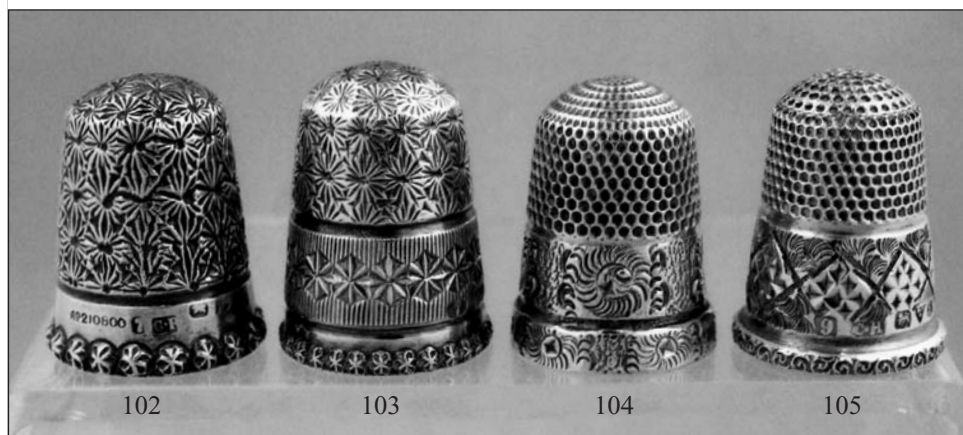
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Silver 'Wembley' and others

- | | |
|--|------|
| 98 'G R' for King George VI's coronation, there was no time even for hall marking. | £140 |
| 99 To commemorate 'Wembley 1924' a great exhibition between the wars, to encourage trade.
Mkd HG&S B'ham 1924 | £200 |
| 100 By Mappin and Web. To commemorate Prince Charles's investiture as the Prince of Wales. Silver | £45 |
| 101 Commemorating the wedding of Prince Charles and Lady Diana. Silver | £35 |

The small, simple, commemorative was made for the unexpected coronation of King George VI, after the abdication of his brother Edward. There is something touching about the simplicity of the design, illustrating Britain recovering from a devastating war.



Daisy rims and others

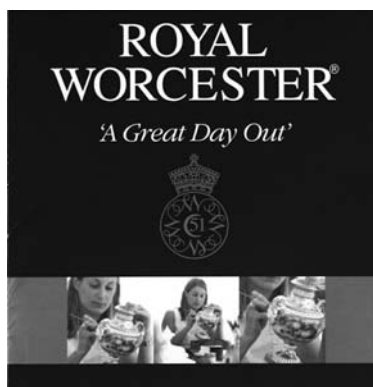
- | | |
|---|-----|
| 102 Delightful daisy rim, by CH Ches 1899 | £38 |
| 103 Daisy rim, pretty flower pattern above, by CH Ches 1911 | £40 |
| 104 Charming engraved border, with the matching engraved rim, mkd Ches 1903 | £38 |
| 105 Very sparkly diamond border over crisp decorative rim. CH Ches 1905 | £45 |

Because the photos have to be lit through a white tent [called an igloo] to remove the glare, the full sparkle of the silver is often lost unfortunately.

Welcome to the 2006 Thimble Society Silver Jubilee Weekend.

The hotel is booked, and we already have a list of members attending. No need to send any money yet, we just want an idea of numbers. There will be a three day, two night weekend, from Friday 8th to Sunday 10th of September, 2006. Margaret Norton put together reports on several hotels in Stratford and Worcester. We settled on the ancient historical city of Worcester. Travel arrangements were easier and value for money was superior. There is a nearby airport and an excellent direct rail service. The old City of Worcester has much to offer of interest, museums, guided walks and the magnificent Cathedral.

Margaret has made sure there is wheelchair access as she uses one herself. Please let us know if you have special requirements as we do not want members put off coming because they are concerned about a lack of assistance. We are there to help.



***The venue is The Fownes Hotel, City Walls Road, Worcester, WR1 2AP.
Tel: 01905 613151. Fax: 01905 23742. Website: www.fowneshotel.co.uk/fownes***

The hotel is 5 minutes from junction 7 of the M5, in a quiet street close to the city centre, with parking. There is a frequent direct train service to Worcester or you can fly to Birmingham and take a train [approx. 30 miles journey]. The famous Worcester Cathedral is 10 minutes away as are the shops, antiques market and cafes. The brilliant Royal Worcester factory seconds shop, Museum, and Clearance Shop are a few minutes walk. There are beautiful walks along the banks of the canal at the back of the hotel.

Prices are approximately £55 B&B single room and £75 B&B double. This is a delegate rate for us and may depend on numbers attending. There will be a small extra charge to cover the hire of the conference room, sales tables and equipment for talks.

As there is much to see and do, some members may like to book an extra night which the hotel will give you at the same rates. For meals and alcoholic drinks please pay as consumed.

The Fownes hotel used to be a glove-making factory, built by John Fownes in 1882. Each room has an inscription describing its original use. The factory moved and changed its name to Dents and is still in business today. Worcester is in Elgar country in the Malvern Hills, which may be of interest to music lovers.

The program of talks is under way. However if you are willing to speak, please send us your name and subject matter and we will be delighted to fit you in. We want members to share with us and we have plenty of time to organise new ideas. Members and dealers can book tables, those wishing to sell will be charged £5 each.

Program of events so far

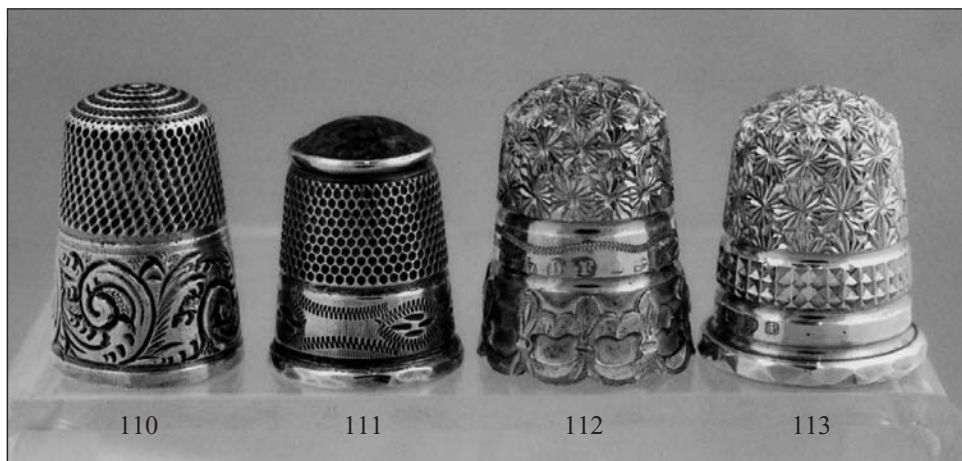
- Arrival at the hotel, followed by lunch in the buffet or restaurant
- A visit by coach to the historical Redditch needle museum, with a guided tour. Tea and biscuits served at the museum. There will be a small extra charge for this visit
- Back to the hotel, drinks and a chat from a member on her collection
- Dinner, followed by groups of members who want to 'show and tell' their thimbles
- Saturday morning, a five minute walk to the Dyson-Perrin Worcester Museum
- A guided tour finishing with a talk in the museum theatre, by the curator Wendy Cook. Bring your Worcester thimbles, Wendy will tell you more about them
- Back in the hotel's conference room, a talk from a representative of Dents on early glove-making
- Lunch, followed by a panel of experts and a question and answer session, then a program with slides
- After lunch, a programme with slides on important early thimbles, through to 19th century commemoratives
- Guided walks through Worcester for the energetic.
- A programme with slides on a collection of hussifs and 'Fifi' thimbles and hussifs
- Other talks to be arranged.
- Dinner, followed by informal chat sessions
- Sunday will be the International Sales Mall



Blackberry and others

- | | |
|---|-----|
| 106 A sweet daisy rim with plain dimpling, CH Ches 1893 | £34 |
| 107 Sought-after scarce Blackberry pattern, by OA&S Ches 1904 | £49 |
| 108 Handsome raised key pattern, pre-hll mk, prob. English c.1880 | £45 |
| 109 Sparkly crisp all over daisies, tiny Tudor rose border, HW Ltd. Ches 1898 | £65 |

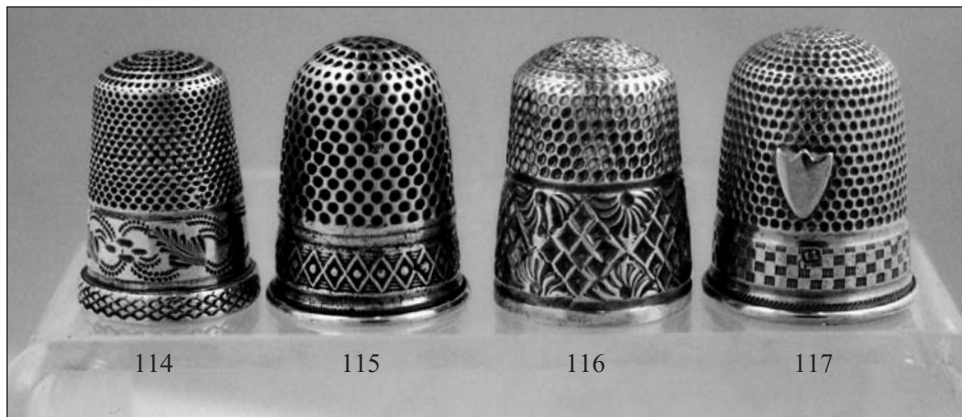
The reason why some thimbles retain their sparkle and crispness is because they have not been cleaned very often. If you can't read a hall mark, use a tooth brush and washing-up liquid to get grease out of the mark. You will only need to clean it out once.



Silver stone top and others

- | | |
|--|-----|
| 110 Beautiful rich scroll border, by GG B'ham 1897 | £59 |
| 111 Agate stone top, engraved border, faceted rim by AJC Ches 1896 | £69 |
| 112 Very crisp, sparkly from the mint Charles Horner auction, by DF Ches Ches 1898 | £75 |
| 113 Very crisp, sparkly from the mint Charles Horner auction, by S.Bros Ches 1898 | £55 |

To save confusion, at the famous auction of Charles Horner thimbles from work premises, there were thimbles from other manufacturers such as the ones pictured above. Nearly all the thimbles at the sale were mint condition.



Silver domed and others

- | | |
|--|-----|
| 114 Attractive, unusual design, empty central cartouche, prob English c.1880 | £44 |
| 115 Elegant, bee hive shape Dutch cir 1830. Now hard to find | £48 |
| 116 By JS B'ham 1902. Pretty diamond pattern | £30 |
| 117 Smart basket weave border, central shield, prob. Dutch c. 1830 | £44 |

When you travel around antiques fairs in Europe, you find the most expensive thimbles will generally be those made in the country you are currently in.



Silver 19th century USA and others

- | | |
|--|-----|
| 118 Charming bright cut trefoil leaves, made by Simons bros | £32 |
| 119 Popular engraved scenic border of a house on the prairie, by Simons bros | £34 |
| 120 Interesting panels, by JF B'ham 1910 | £35 |
| 121 Bright cut rim, pretty engraved border, by JS B'ham 1929 | £28 |

You can nearly always tell an American thimble by its shape. They tend not to vary much and are usually squatter than others. Comfortable to wear, in general made for use rather than as decorative objects.

We exhibit regularly at the Alexandra Palace Antiques Fair



The Bee-Line



Dear Bees,

Nice to speak to you this morning.

My rosewood display cabinet that I brought back with me from Hong Kong is now full to overflowing, so my next major purchase will have to be another one – hopefully, to make a matching pair.

What fun I shall have filling it. Many thanks.

Carole, Denbighshire

Dear Bees

It was lovely to speak to you the other day when I requested two places at Worcester next year.

I read with interest the letter regarding the Soho Foundry thimble. I too own one of these, which was given to me as a gift so, unfortunately, I cannot throw any more light on the subject. However, I thought Sue James may be interested to know I have one too. If I find out any more I shall let you know

Susan, South Croydon

We have reserved you two places at Worcester next year. Thanks for the info regarding the Soho factory, as you see there is a lot of correspondence on it.

Dear Bees

I shall have to increase the cost of my Royal Worcester notes to £5, as I have misjudged the cost of photocopying and postage. With extra time, I can find some more photographs or post cards.

There's also a Soho area in Handsworth, Birmingham, where Matthew Boulton lived in Soho House from 1766 to 1809. He set up an assay office in Birmingham in 1773; he was a wealthy silversmith and industrialist. He also, I believe, instigated the Birmingham Mint, but was banned by the Government from making coins of the realm for over 30 years, so he made coins and medals for other countries (sovereigns?). Visits to the Jewellery Centre and Soho House are worthwhile – check these dates and times, as they may have changed. See his statue outside the Register Office and opposite the Hall of Memory in Birmingham.

Jill, Droitwich

Please apply to us for Julie's notes on Worcester porcelain

Dear Bees

Just thought I'd let you know that I plan to come to your Silver Jubilee Weekend in September 2006. A friend has said she would like to come too, so presumably she can come as a guest?

Regarding Sue James' letter on the small copper thimble with Soho Foundry, Sovereign Hill, I too have this thimble. A kind neighbour brought it back for me from a visit to Australia. Sue Gowan has a write-up on this thimble in her book 'Thimbles of Australia' on page 75. She says: "Soho Foundry at Sovereign Hill in Ballarat in Victoria is a recreated foundry where the metal spinners use old lathes. These are turned by a mass of pulleys and leather belts to make brass and copper pans, candle holders, domestic ware and thimbles. The brass thimbles come in various sizes, the current ones being quite short. The wording 'Soho Foundry Sovereign Hill' around a mine headgear, is punched into the apex. These thimbles, made since the early 1980s, are still available for visitors to purchase at this recreated old mining village of the Victorian gold rush era of the 1850s."

You may have already received this information, but just in case I thought I'd pass it on to you.

Anne, Holland

Very glad to welcome yourself and your friend to the Thimble Society Weekend next year. Don't send any money until we request it. Thanks for the interesting info on the 'Soho Foundry'.

Dear Bees

Many thanks for another interesting newsletter. I shouldn't really be spending all this on a thimble but for various reasons, I deserve a treat! It will go with my other three of this style. Hope I am in time for it.

Sue James' letter sent me looking at my records and hurray! My cataloguing and storage system worked and I found the thimble quickly.

A friend brought me a thimble back from Australia in January 1986. I had filed it under 'unsure metals' but having read Sue's letter, I think it will be brass. It is only 1.5cm tall, no rim, round. The sides are two rings towards the apex and two towards the base. On top of the apex, in an oval shape, is stamped SOHO FOUNDRY SOVEREIGN HILL, within the middle is a kind of maker's mark. Being so small, it is difficult to make out but is something like. The notes on my second card are 'Soho Foundry' is a replica of a gold mine near Ballanatt Melbourne. This must be what my friend told me. It was the 'gold mine' bit that threw me and made me unsure of the metal. Now Sue's comments really confirm its appearance and that it is brass. I shouldn't renumber it!



Angela, North Yorkshire

Thank you very much, Angela. Sue will read this with pleasure.

COLOUR PAGE OPPOSITE

Wedgwood boxed pairs of Christmas thimbles

Top photo, left to right

- | | |
|--|---------------|
| 122 A. Pair of 1981 blue and green. B. Pair of 1982 lilac and blue | Each pair £48 |
| 123 C. Pair of 1983 blue and yellow. D. Pair of 1984 terra cotta & blue. | Each pair £48 |
| 124 D. Pair of 1985 blue and pink. E. Pair of 1986 blue and blue | Each pair £48 |
| 125 F. Pair of 1987 blue and blue. G. Pair of 1990. Blue and blue | Each pair £48 |

We also have 1988, not shown. In all we have the complete set of 10 pairs of boxed Christmas thimbles. From 1981 to 1991. If a member wishes to buy the complete set [£480], their order will take priority over a single pair purchase.

BACK COVER COLOUR

- 126 The dreamlike famous Palais Royale thimble. Made in France, cir 1790-1830, in the Palais Royale district surrounding the Palais du Louvre. This example is particularly small and delicate, measuring 2cms or three quarters of an inch high. It fits my little finger, so probably a child's. It is in very good condition, with only the usual tiny hair line cracks in between the gilt rings. It was purchased as lot 119 from the Edwin Holmes sale of his collection held by Christie's of South Kensington in May 1995. The original invoice will come with the thimble £650

Thimble E-mailing List – the Bee Chat Line.

If you would like to receive occasional e-mails of interest to members from Bridget, please send your name and email address to mailing-list@thimblesociety.com

Other Collectors Societies

There are three other societies that might interest collectors because they share a common heritage of designers such as Charles Horner, Sem from France, David Anderson from Norway and many others.

The British Button Society founded in 1976

Membership secretary: Rex Butler. 12 Middlefield, Gnosall, Staffs. ST20 0LS.
Email. Rexbbs@tailend.fsnet.co.uk

The Hat Pin Society of Great Britain.

PO Box 625, Hull, East Yorkshire HU5 3WJ
Membership Secretary Susan Donnelly Tel.01482-443-838. Email.donnelly53@hotmail.com

The Buttonhook Society

2 Romney Place Maidstone, Kent ME15 6LE
For U.K. & European membership inquiries: buttonhooksociety@tiscali.co.uk
For North American membership inquiries: pris@stoffel.us

BINDERS ARE NOW AVAILABLE

Any members wanting to order binders to keep their catalogues clean and in order, let us know. We have been a long time waiting, because the manufacturers had mislaid our design. Now however, we have a large box of splendidly bound blue binders. Now designed to hold 9 magazines in each binder, as we issue three magazines a year. One binder will hold three years' worth of magazines.





£4.50