

# the **thimble** society

Volume 10, Issue 5

Summer 2009





### Front cover

#### Not for sale, private collection.

1. 22ct gold, Islamic thimble. 4cms high. Hand dimpled. Decorated around the border with old Arabic script. Probable date late 14<sup>th</sup> or early 15<sup>th</sup> century. Possibly made as a gift to show splendour and status rather than to be worn. Two similar items are recorded in UK private collections. Each one bears slightly different script, although both with the same bulbous shape resembling a Minaret. The Thimble Society is trying to research these early Islamic sewing items, and would welcome any information.

#### Inside front cover, antique sewing tools

- |  |      |
|--|------|
| 2. Large tortoiseshell knotting shuttle, English c.1830.                               | £120 |
| 3. Bakelite clock tape, hands move when tape pulled, c.1920s.                          | £85  |
| 4. Silver set in leather box. French c.1870. Scissors, thimble, stiletto, needle case. | £250 |
| 5. Novelty leather 'Boot' sewing set, thimble and pin cushion, little scissors inside. | £85  |
| 6. Mauchlin bottle thimble holder showing Walhampton House Lymington.                  | £68  |
| 7. Wood carved Bathing Hut with wheels, thimble holder with thimble, c.1880.           | £150 |
| 8. Corozo nut thimble holder with matching thimble, c.1850.                            | £120 |
| 9. Bakelite aubergine tape c.1920.   | £70  |
| 10. Bakelite fruit bowl tape c.1920.   | £85  |
| 11. Silver mistletoe French thimble in card box printed 'F. Lecartel Etretat'.         | £80  |

**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 £50. 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.

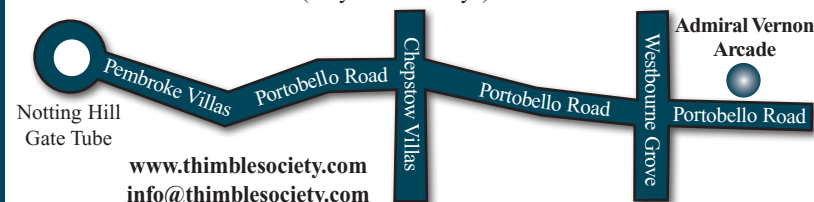
#### TELEPHONE ORDERS AND POSTAL MAILING ADDRESS ▼

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

#### RETAIL SHOP ADDRESS ▼

THE THIMBLE SOCIETY, 72 The Admiral Vernon Arcade, 141-147 Portobello Road  
London W11 2DY. Mobile (only on Saturdays) 07941 455 259.

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





*Dear Members,*

So far, we have seven members who want to attend a Thimble Society lunch and chat about thimbles in the autumn. The most favoured date is Sunday September 20<sup>th</sup> at the Jarvis Hotel in Bayswater Rd. It over looks Hyde Park, and they offer a choice of a sit down three-course or two-course lunch. There will not be a cancellation as the numbers attending do not have to be high. Before lunch, members might like to attend a Sunday Antiques Fair held in a nearby London hotel. In the afternoon you may indulge in the temptations of the Oxford Street shops, but a bus stop away and all open on Sundays.

If this lunch proves successful, we can repeat it yearly, it will be a little 'loose and off the shoulder' but should be fun. Bring along any thimbles you might like to talk about, I will be there to try to identify puzzling ones. Please let us know if you are thinking of coming, as it will be safer to let the restaurant know if we want one big table, or two smaller ones. It will be casual, but it's a chance to keep in touch with old friends made through our common collecting passion and all its connected gossip.

Talking about gossip, the latest rumour which has proved sadly true is that Robert Bleasedale will no longer be presenting sewing tool sales at Bonham's in Knowle. If you contact Bonhams, they may be able to tell you where Robert will be holding future sales as it is believed he will be hiring premises for his loyal clientele. Most of the Objects of Vertu sales have been discontinued in the big auction houses. There are two main reasons: lack of goods and lack of a large enough financial return per item. Vertu will be lumped together with general goods. Have a great summer, hope to see some of you in September,

*Bridget*



*Bridget and Annie*

**BINDERS ARE NOW AVAILABLE  
AT A REDUCED PRICE OF £12 EACH PLUS P&P WHILE STOCKS LAST**

**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.

V.G. Cond = Very Good Condition	Hll. mkd. = 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

**Don't forget you can log onto our website at [www.thimblesociety.com](http://www.thimblesociety.com)**

## Iraqi Silver



Iraqi silver production has been famous for centuries, but the 19<sup>th</sup> century saw its greatest flowering. It was then that the renowned and distinctive silverware made by the Marsh Arabs came to prominence.

The Marsh Arab tribe live in the south and east of Iraq. They are known for their skill with Niello decoration on silver. The typical designs that made them famous depict scenes from their life on the marshes. They live often on small islands in the water, or on the bank of the marsh, building small houses, sometimes on stilts. There are Niello decorated scenes of boats, mosques, camels, palm trees, boats, and the Ctesiphon Arch. (War Memorial).



Niello work is a type of decoration consisting of silver or gold ground into a powder then mixed with metallic sulphide which turns the silver or gold black. The ground silver/gold is mixed with sulphide and lead. This mixture is heated, the poured into the incised grooves of the silver body. Creating the picture with the tiny grooves is the artistic part. It is a similar skill to engraving. After the concoction and the metal has cooled, the design is ground and polished.

As well as the famous thimbles, Marsh Arabs made many domestic items including mustard pots, mugs, bracelets, and tea sets. In the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century, much of their work was influenced by the British control over Iraq. Many British officers loved Iraq and the Iraqi silver work and wanted to take it home as souvenirs. That is why so many pieces of Iraqi silver have the name or symbol of a British officer or soldier.

The best silver smith in Iraq was Zahroon-Mulla-Khider his work was amazingly intricate and production covered a variety of objects. As time has passed, his work has become very famous and expensive, especially in the last few years. Zahroon-Mulla-Khider owned his own work shop, after his death, production was taken over by his children who had been trained to the same high standard by their father. The family also made objects for the king of Iraq, for example daggers, tea sets, trays and a famous sword that was signed Zahroon in Arabic script, as are many of his pieces. Iraqi silver has no hall marking system. Exceptions are some articles made during the Ottoman empire in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. There would be the maker, followed by the area ruler and sometimes the British officer who ordered the item. We have been collecting Iraqi silver for many years and are more than happy to buy any Iraqi silver, including sewing items. Unfortunately we do not have any Marsh Arab thimbles, they have grown very rare owing to their popularity.

**Sajid & Ali Al-Obudi**  
141/149 Admiral Vernon, Antiques Arcade, Portobello Road, London W11 2DY  
Tel: 0044 (0)7846 175096

**Nearly all the thimbles in this magazine are from private collections.  
We will sell members thimbles at a price agreed between both parties,  
for a commission of 30%.**



**A private collection of antique brass thimbles**

- |  |     |
|--|-----|
| 12. 'Fil de lin Pelotes d'Or' [cotton thread]. | £25 |
| 13. 'Love'.                                    | £30 |
| 14. 'Skinner & Rook'.                          | £20 |
| 15. 'Mazawattee Tea'.                          | £25 |

It is good to see small collections like this one. Interesting advertising thimbles made of brass from the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> and beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. All in very good condition. The lettering clear and large in most cases.



**Antique brass continued**

- |  |     |
|--|-----|
| 16. 'Use Vicars' 'Lustrine'.                   | £25 |
| 17. 'Brasso pour Metaux' [Brasso for metals].  | £25 |
| 18. 'Reward for me'.                           | £35 |
| 19. 'Fil a la Tete de Cheval' [cotton thread]. | £25 |

You will notice that on the older brass thimbles, the lettering is smaller than on the turn of the century and 20<sup>th</sup> century items. It may have to do with the original production costs. For example 'Love' and 'Reward for me' have smaller letters.



**Antique brass thimbles continued**

- |   |     |
|---|-----|
| 20. 'Lutona Cocoa' with a copper finish.          | £25 |
| 21. 'Regard' neat tiny suspension hole above rim. | £28 |
| 22. 'Forget me not'.                              | £30 |
| 23. 'Equity Shoes'.                               | £28 |

What were 'Equity shoes' like? The only Equity I know is the actors union, or the insurance company. Maybe a member will know a bit more?



**Antique brass continued**

- |  |     |
|--|-----|
| 24. 'The Bee Hive Ltd'.                                      | £30 |
| 25. 'Lesive Phenix' a washing up liquid.                     | £25 |
| 26. 'Lave tout Persil' [wash everything with Persil.]        | £25 |
| 27. 'Use Morrall's needles' with a chrome finish over brass. | £38 |

We have not had a 'Morrall's needles' advertising thimble before. The Beehive is rare; it must have been to advertise a manufacturer of honey. 'Use Morrall's needles' is rare and this one is in excellent clear condition.





#### Antique Brass thimbles continued

- |   |     |
|---|-----|
| 28. 'Hudson's soap'.                                    | £25 |
| 29. 'Silver cased' engraved in small but clear letters. | £25 |
| 30. Applied female head in profile, prob French.        | £38 |
| 31. Raised letters in Arabic script.                    | £38 |

Two rare thimbles, the French example showing a woman's head in profile. The translation from the Arabic on no 31 is 'original silk thread'.



#### Antique brass continued

- |   |     |
|---|-----|
| 32. Daisy decoration around the border.                   | £22 |
| 33. 'Abel Morral' engraved clearly on the border.         | £35 |
| 34. 'The Prudential' 'Life Insurance' in smaller letters. | £25 |
| 35. A border of bleeding hearts or lilies of the valley.  | £28 |

The flower border probably comes from Austria or Germany. The Pru insurance company must have been going for nearly 100 years.



#### Antique brass continued

- |   |     |
|---|-----|
| 36. A border of Greek key pattern.  | £22 |
| 37. 'Forget me not'.  | £35 |
| 38. Vines, grapes and leaf border.  | £35 |
| 39. A later 20 <sup>th</sup> century copper with applied brass 'praying hands'. | £35 |

The last thimble is modern. Possibly influenced by the famous drawing by Durer of praying hands. 'Forget me not' as a desire may have worn a bit thin over the years as you laboured over the sock darning.



#### Silver and Moss Agate stone top, and others

- |  |     |
|--|-----|
| 40. Registration mark and Pat on this early Dorcas.          | £35 |
| 41. Crisp French silver with elegant applied leaves, c.1890. | £58 |
| 42. Moss agate top, silver by C&C B'ham 1964.                | £38 |
| 43. Lovely decorative USA silver, c.1890 by Simons.          | £38 |

You rarely see Moss Agate stone tops used in modern thimbles now. It is quite hard to work, and can shatter when putting in the dimples. The many breakages make it uneconomic.

## SECOND HAND BOOKS FOR SALE

Send the order, questions, and payment to John Branfield.  
Address: 87 Bramcote Drive West. Beeston. Nottingham. NG9 1DU.

### Books at £3 each. Buyer to pay postage and packing.

Thimble Magic by Jean Hugard.  
Thimbles Three –Ken de Courcy  
Fantastic Thimbles-Lewis Garrison  
Thimbles Americana-M.Lindquist.  
Thousand Thimbles- M.Lindquist.

### Books for sale at £6 each.

Needlework Tools –Kay Sullivan.  
Antique Needlework Tools –Nerylla Taunton.  
Charles Horner of Halifax-Tom Lawson.  
History of Needlework Tools and Accessories- Sylvia Groves.  
Antique and Collectable Thimbles-Avril Mathis.  
Old Time Tools and Toys of needlework-Gertrude Whiting.  
Sewing Accessories: An Illustrated History-Victor Houart.  
The Story of Antique Needlework Tools-Bridget McConnel  
The Story of the Thimble-Bridget McConnel.  
Thimble Collectors Encyclopedia-Von Hoelle.  
Handbook of Thimbles and Sewing Implements-Estelle Zalkin.  
Collectors Figural Tape Measures-Arbitter and Morphy.

**Book for sale at £12.** Thimbles-Edwin Holmes. The 2nd impression of 1st edition.

The following thimbles are from another small collection, featuring French items.



### Antique silver filigree, gold and porcelain

- |   |      |
|---|------|
| 44. English silver filigree, c.1790, excellent cond. Oval central shield.       | £300 |
| 45. Fine porcelain, clear gilt decoration. Tiny hair crack only visible inside. | £90  |
| 46. Handsome gold, English c.1820. Initials H.R. Tiny mended hole in the top.   | £150 |
| 47. Prob. Blush Worcester, c.1890 with sweet blue tit on foliage.               | £180 |

Our policy is to try to point out tiny repairs. Both mentioned here are barely visible. The hair crack can only be seen from the inside. In both cases the slight faults are reflected in the price.



### Antique filigree ormolu and others

- |   |      |
|---|------|
| 48. Rare ormolu filigree, English c.1780. Central initials 'A.T' lovely cond. | £300 |
| 49. USA by Stern, c.1890. Silver with intricate applied gold border.          | £65  |
| 50. Beautiful French Fable of the Doves, c.1900. Clear cond.                  | £220 |
| 51. Handsome silver, scalloped border, c.1880 Indian made for the Raj.        | £200 |

There were very few ormolu filigree thimbles made. There must have been the notion that they would be stronger and last longer. The problem of tarnishing would also be avoided.



### A Stitch for the Red White and Blue. The Monkey and others

- |  |      |
|--|------|
| 52. 'A Stitch for the Red White and Blue' in enamel on silver. Hill Mk Ches. | £220 |
| 53. Wonderful, rare, monkey by the fire with the cat, French 'Fable' c.1890. | £250 |
| 54. Charming engraved and ribbed silver finger guard, English c.1850.        | £98  |
| 55. Rare 'Chatham' large place name, B'ham 1936.                             | £68  |

It is very difficult to find a monkey by the fire with the cat, in such clear condition. It is such an intricate design, bursting with delightful detail of a kitchen. There is one other 'Monkey' subject, Monkey with Magic Lantern, another special favourite.





**Rare silver French 'Fables' and others and one porcelain**

- |   |      |
|---|------|
| 56. Men and women gardening, or possibly harvesting, French, silver, c.1880.        | £190 |
| 57. French World War 1 signed Laserre, a soldier, factory worker, sewing woman.     | £280 |
| 58. Charming early porcelain, prob. Worcester c.1870. Chaffinch.                    | £120 |
| 59. French fable The Shepherdess [possibly Joan of Arc] very clear picture, c.1890. | £220 |

It is unusual to see men and women engaged together in some form of agriculture as on this French thimble. It may be gardening or field work. The Shepherdess is sometimes called 'Joan of Arc' she is carrying a distaff, tending her sheep.



**Coronation 1911 with gold crown**

- |   |      |
|---|------|
| 60. Coronation of King George and Queen Mary 1911 by CS&co Ltd. | £280 |
| 61. French Fable 'Stork and Fox' c.1890.                        | £220 |
| 62. Ribbed silver finger guard c.1880.                          | £68  |
| 63. Vegetable ivory with delightful carving. c.1860.            | £90  |

The George and Mary coronation thimble is very attractive. The coach and horses canter around the border, with a gold applied crown placed centrally. It is the only commemorative with a gold appliqué.



**Indian and Sewing Girls and others**

- |   |      |
|---|------|
| 64. Scalloped edge beautiful Indian c.1890, made for the British Raj. | £220 |
| 65. The well known French 'Sewing Girls' c.1900.                      | £320 |
| 66. 'Exposition 1889' commemorating a famous French exhibition.       | £130 |
| 67. Elegant French c.1880, 18ct. Central initials.                    | £150 |

It is useful to remember that the French do not consider an article is gold, under 18ct. We stamp gold as low as 9ct. The USA gold standard is normally 14/15ct. Most continental collectors buying gold items prefer French with the higher gold content.



**Jewelled Worcester and others**

- |  |      |
|--|------|
| 68. Prob. Worcester, Blush with turquoise 'jewels' and rich gilding, c.1890.               | £280 |
| 69. Prob. Worcester, Blush with yellow bird intricate detail, c.1890.                      | £180 |
| 70. Lovely translucent porcelain intricate painted bird on foliage, rich gilding.          | £260 |
| 71. Possibly 19 <sup>th</sup> cen. French porcelain, a border of roses and forget-me-nots. | £90  |

Antique porcelain thimbles are still amongst the most prized because of their fragility. Few have survived in good condition. The translucent porcelain examples are sometimes referred to as 'milk glass.'



#### Antique porcelain and silver 'Regard'

- |  |      |
|--|------|
| 72. Delightful band of open roses around this prob. Early Worcester c.1880.    | £140 |
| 73. Elegant pink swags between blue forget-me-nots. Prob. Worcester c 1880.    | £160 |
| 74. English silver, central gothic style initials, 'Regard' on border. C.1850. | £65  |
| 75. Dutch with windmill, enamel on silver, c.1920.                             | £65  |

Most members know, but for new ones, the unmarked and unsigned Worcester thimbles are the antique ones. The next oldest are those with a purple trade mark, Powell usually comes into this group. The black trade mark is found on modern Worcester.



#### 75th birthday of Princess Juliana of the Netherlands, and others

- |  |      |
|--|------|
| 76. Silver ribbed finger guard-topless thimble, c.1870.                                | £68  |
| 77. '30 <sup>th</sup> April 1984 Princess Juliana' on this handsome silver and enamel. | £80  |
| 78. Exquisite prob. Worcester, translucent porcelain, richly gilded. Red cap bird.     | £260 |
| 79. U.S.A Silver Cherub, the original by Simons with patent Nov 21 '05.                | £130 |

The modern commemorative thimble from Holland is very well made, a heavy gauge of silver and attractive enameling. The '05 after the lovely Cherub, stands for 1905 when the patent was applied for in America. The Cherub has been much copied since.



#### Chinese silver tailor's ring and others.

- |  |     |
|--|-----|
| 80. Decorative daisy band 'Dreema' by HG&S.                        | £35 |
| 81. Handsome 'Simons' USA silver with rich scrolled border c.1890. | £38 |
| 82. Old Chinese silver tailor's style ring. Expanding for comfort. | £48 |
| 83. Steel tailor's ring. Engraved A crown M 1939 [War Ministry ?]  | £38 |

The old price has been left on the Chinese ring. The Abel Morrell steel tailor's ring is interesting. 1939 was the first year of W.W.II, so this ring could have been a Forces issue thimble.



#### Turkish and Greek, and others

- |  |     |
|--|-----|
| 84. Early Dorcas with 'Pat' engraved. Decorative needle trapping border. | £28 |
| 85. Gabler, silver with blue enamel scene of windmills. Cir.1920.        | £65 |
| 86. Greek 20 <sup>th</sup> cen. Silver with blue and green enamel.       | £22 |
| 87. Turkish, silver with blue stones, 20 <sup>th</sup> cen.              | £24 |

Some modern thimbles from the east and south east of Europe are exceptionally well made and colourful. Worth bringing back from your holidays. Possibly there is still a tradition of hand sewing.

Please read the details of proposed Members lunch in the Member's letter. let us know if you prefer first or second Sunday in September.





#### English silver Commemoratives and others.

- |  |      |
|--|------|
| 88. Very rare 'Brighton Chain Pier' commemorative, cir.1840. Clear picture, some dirt. | £370 |
| 89. 'Victoria Albert' commemorating their wedding in Feb.1840. Reverse royal flowers.  | £390 |
| 90. 'Nail' shaped thimble, 'pat 19157' hll mk SF. Lon 1894.                            | £90  |
| 91. 'Crown Bazaar' Isle-of-Man three legged symbol. HG&S 1924.                         | £80  |

There is some black tarnish/dirt on the two commemoratives. This can be cleaned off, but each time you clean silver, you wear out the pattern. I prefer to leave a little dirt, which can be called 'patina' and preserve the design.

### French Kings, useful for dating French antiques

#### Bourbon Dynasty

1589-1610 Henry IV  
1610-1643 Louis XIII  
1643-1715 Louis XIV  
1715-1774 Louis XV  
1774-1792 Louis XVI

#### First Republic

1792-1795 National Convention  
1795-1799 Directoire

#### First Empire [emperors]

1804-1814 Napoleon I  
1814-1815 Louis XVIII [King]  
1815 Napoleon I [second time]

#### Bourbons restored

1814-1824 Louis XVIII  
1824-1830 Charles X

#### Orleans

1830-1848 Louis Phillipe

#### Second Republique

1848 Louis Eugene Cavaignac.  
1848-1852 Louis Napoleon [later Napoleon III]

#### Second Empire

1852-1870 [Louis] Napoleon III

#### Troisieme Republique [Presidents]

1870-1906

It is very complicated, but this list may be of some help !

Please make sure we have the last three digits on the reverse of your credit card. When you are ordering or paying your sub we need the card number, the current expiry date and the last three digits on the reverse of your card. We cannot process your orders without this as we have been issued with new high security PDQs. [Pretty Damn Quick machines!]



#### Enamel and others

- |   |     |
|---|-----|
| 92. Silver JF 1910, pretty pattern and central shield.              | £32 |
| 93. JF, B'ham 1921. Pretty swirl pattern.                           | £34 |
| 94. Charming little 'James Walker the London Jeweler' JW Ltd. 1924. | £38 |
| 95. Pink stone top, enamel border of roses, poss. German c.1920.    | £58 |

Enamel thimbles are fast becoming a thing of the past, as you can see. They always damaged easily, which meant many were thrown away as they can't be repaired.



#### Forget-me-not and others

- |   |     |
|---|-----|
| 96. Eight petal top, Gabler. Pretty rose engraved deep cut rim. C.1900. | £35 |
| 97. Clear raised letters. 'Forget-me-not' English silver, c.1840.       | £68 |
| 98. Very sparkly bright cut pretty border, Lon. 1919.                   | £38 |
| 99. Rich scalloped border on this silver Continental, c.1890.           | £38 |

The silver motto thimbles are very sought after. It is the personal message that attracts people, especially women who like to imagine the love story behind the thimble. The fashion seemed to die out at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.





**Two thimbles in original boxes**

100. 'Stratnoid Engraved thimble' in silver letters on a blue card box containing a metal thimble engraved 'Stratnoid England' possibly 1930s/40s.

£28

101. Red plush box containing plastic nail guard and metal thimble with trade mark of Isles and Gomme. C.1940s.

£35

Palais Royal box with musical movement inside.



102.



102.





# Page 19

## A Palais Royal sewing box. Outside view

102. French, cir.1790/1820. Mulberry wood, with gilded ormolu mounts. Original silk pad with velvet trim, original mirror in the lid. Approx.8ins/16cms across. Standing on original little ormolu feet. All in near perfect condition. Approx 5ins/9cms high.

# Page 20 (left)

## Palais Royal sewing box as above. Inside view

Containing original matching mother-of-pearl tools. All in near perfect condition. Needle case, stiletto, thimble, scissors, bodkin [not shown] snow flake winders with gold thread.

£2,500

*Dear Bees,*

Sorry I have not responded to your kind invitation to put some of my late wife's collection in your summer magazine. Hope I am not too late.

I am sending you two photos, perhaps your printer can pick one or two from them. I must thank you once again for all the pleasure you gave her. The number of mags I have here, she must have kept them all.

All my best wishes, keep up the good work.

*E. Faulkner, Hassocks, West Sussex*  
email [ernest.faulkner@btinternet.com](mailto:ernest.faulkner@btinternet.com)

*If any members are interested in Ernest's collection, please contact him direct.*



## BOOK LIST

'The Story of the Thimble' by Bridget McConnell. price £39.

'The Story of Antique Needlework Tools' by Bridget McConnell. price £45  
postage and packing UK £6, Europe £7, Rest of world £9 per book.

Please may we have any members email addresses whom we don't have.  
This is so we can contact you via email in the future.

Don't forget our website [www.thimblesociety.com](http://www.thimblesociety.com). New items go on about every two weeks. There are so many sewing tools, sets, fitted boxes and other small items that do not get into the magazine because of lack of space and the fact that this is a thimble periodical.



# The Bee-Line



Dear Bees,

It looks likely that Shirley Wright, Rita Brook and I will be interested in the lunch meeting with yourself and Annie. If it is in September I am more likely to be able to come but the magazine mentions June?

Looking forwards to seeing the next edition of the mag and we will get in touch regarding arrangements for the lunch.

Hope you and Annie are well and look forward to seeing you again later in the year.

Regards  
Helen Kehoe

Look forward to seeing you hopefully on the second Sunday in September.

Dear Bees,

I was interested to see from the latest Thimble Society journal that you are holding a lunch in London in early June. I plan to be in London on 7 June, so if it should happen to be on that day, I would hope to come.

You asked for suggestions – perhaps we could bring any ‘problem pieces’, ie. thimbles etc. we cannot identify, for discussion.

I will contact you in May to find out the date, assuming you haven’t issued another journal by then.

Best wishes  
Mary McLean, Norfolk

Sorry we had to change the date. I do hope you will be able to come in September.

Dear Bees,

I am very pleased to advise you that the Rutland Arms Antiques Centre has recently been awarded two awards for services to the antiques industry. The first one was awarded by the West Midlands newspaper group for the best antiques centre in the

Midlands, with advertising and editorial features we had substantial exposure in journals that were published in conjunction with the April Antiques for Everyone fair at the NEC in Birmingham.

We have also been awarded “Best Antiques Centre” by the Greater London Gazette, again we will have advertising and editorial features in various journals to be published in conjunction with the forthcoming Kensington Antiques Fair.

Certainly the staff and myself are aware that this exposure is attracting new visitors to the antiques centre from all over the country; during these difficult times I believe we have to be proactive in marketing the antiques centre not only locally but nationally. We have recently advertised in journals such as the Antiques Trade Gazette, BBC Homes and Antiques, Period Living and many local newspapers within a fifty mile radius of Bakewell.

We now have a new website which is to be launched on May 22nd. The new site will be more comprehensive and will feature the latest in graphic technology and our new designers will ensure we will have the best ratings on the search engines.

One of the pages on the website will be titled Items of the Month and feature items of particular interest; I will be contacting you all in due course to pick out items for your stock which are of special interest. Each dealer will be listed on the website with a sentence or two describing your stock, in conjunction with our website designers we are putting together a cost effective package for dealers who wish to have their own page produced and attached to our website. I will send this information out to all dealers once the proposed package and costs have been finalised.

Any useful comments and ideas for the website will be most welcomed.

Mark Heapy, General Manager, The Rutland Arms Antiques Centre

**BUYING ADVICE.** Sometimes it is worth while viewing any jewellery sales coming up at your local auction. To my surprise, I have often seen thimbles included in the items. More often gold ones, and if you are very lucky, gold set with stones of some sort. Because thimbles are small, but costly, they are included in jewellery rather than general where they might get lost.

If you are a Northern member, remember we have a showcase in the Rutland Antiques Centre at the back of the Rutland Hotel in the centre of Bakewell, Derbyshire DE45 1BT. Opening Monday to Saturday 10-5pm and Sunday 11-4pm. Tel 01692-810-468.

There is a coffee shop, or have a Bakewell pudding at the café opposite. It is a beautiful market town in the heart of the Peak district.



Inside back cover, antique sewing tools.

Lower left, then clockwise.

- |   |      |
|---|------|
| 103. Mother-of-pearl Cornucopia needle case. Central gilt opening. Excellent condition, French Palais Royal, c.1790/1820. | £450 |
| 104. Silver swan head threader, hll mkd B' 1898. Red stone eyes.  | £88  |
| 105. Bakelite pansy concealed spring loaded tape measure, c.1920.   | £90  |
| 106. Mother-of-pearl rectangle box 4cms. Silver stringing. Original M.O.P bun feet. For needle packets, English c.1800.   | £170 |
| 107. Painted ivory tape, painting a little worn in some places. Original silk tape, English c.1800.                       | £75  |
| 108. Silver 'lady' French needle case, 7cms. Central pull opening. Excellent condition. C. 1850.                          | £170 |
| 109. Bakelite pig concealed tape, spring loaded, with diamante decoration.  | £140 |
| 110. Bakelite spring loaded tape, unusual daisy flower, c.1920.   | £100 |
| 111. Carved ivory pin wheel, possibly Dieppe ware, French c.1830.   | £88  |
| 112. Mother-of-pearl needle packet container, English c.1840.   | £98  |
| 113. Mother-of-pearl small box shaped thimble holder c.1860.  | £65  |
| 114. Silver open work decorative thimble bucket, English c.1870.  | £120 |

Back cover. Magnificent fitted sewing box in gilded bronze with agate lid.

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|---|--------|
| 115. All fittings in silver gilt, hall marked London 1871 by HW Dee. 'Schafer of Piccadilly' engraved on the front. Grey velvet interior, gilt ormolu mounts. The sewing tools all engraved with matching paterae and foliage. Pen knife, two bodkins, stiletto, thread holder, thimble, scissors, needle case, and tape measure [original silk tape] with agate box lid. Four bun feet, box measures 19.3 cms. | £2,200 |
|---|--------|





£4.50