

# Glass and crystal thimble makers

In May 2020, I received a most interesting email from Norbert Ullmann, the current CEO of Ullmannnglass of Bavaria, in Germany. I know that surname will ring a bell with thimble collectors, as it did with me.

The reason for him in contacting me was that he is planning to write a book on Ullmannnglass glass and crystal thimbles. We corresponded over the next few months, which ended with my undertaking a thimble topic on these thimbles. Ullmann offered to provide me with photos of the over 1000 different thimbles that Ullmannnglass have created since 1973. That felt too much like a promotional topic for me, as Ullmannnglass are still in the business of creating thimbles.

I decided that when the time for a new thimble topic arose, I would cover all makers of glass and crystal thimbles, which he quite accepted.

This isn't going to be a technical treatise. We don't need to understand the difference between glass and crystal, as it doesn't affect who made the thimbles. I do want to highlight tho, the huge role that Ullmannnglass has played in keeping the interest in glass thimble afloat, since they began to produce glass thimble in 1973.

The family crest that features on the cover of their thimble catalogue, has a date of 1635. Generations of Ullmann have been involved in the glass and crystal business and the next generation is currently involved. Producing glass thimbles under their own brand (thimbles marked with a sticker 'Made in West Germany'), Ullmannnglass were commissioned by other glass manufacturers to create thimbles for them, to their specifications. These thimbles would then be marketed with their own brand names. Some of these glass companies had attempted to make their own thimbles, but it would have been costly.

I can't think of any thimble manufacturer of any medium of thimble that has been producing collectables thimbles for over 45 years. Ullmannnglass certainly dominated their field.

This is nothing new in the thimble collectors' world – sterling silver thimbles in Victorian England were largely created by makers like Charles Horner and Henry Griffiths & Sons – they were just marked with other maker's assay marks, by Horner and Griffiths.

The same occurred in the 1980s when Sutherland China branded many of their thimbles with other china brand names.

It's just a matter of business and economics.

Mr Ullmann provided me with this non-technical information:

**"Glass** is a mixture of chemicals without any heavy oxides in it e.g. windows and bottles are made out of glass; but thousands of other products too.

**Crystal glass** is "glass with the addition of at least 10 % heavy oxides" to make it softer and clearer.

**Lead Crystal** is "glass with 24 % of lead oxide" added into the batch, which makes the glass heavier, sparklier, softer and allows for chemical polishing; (vs. hand polishing); mostly used in continental Europe.

**High Lead Crystal** is "glass with 33 % of lead oxide" added into the batch to make the glass even heavier, sparklier, softer than "Lead Crystal"; (mostly used in the UK and Ireland)."

The following mail order thimble businesses ordered and sold Ullmannnglass thimbles from the 1970s-2020s: Lilian Vernon Inc (New York) – Heirloom Editions (Barbara Ringer California) – Gimbels & Sons (Maine USA) – The Thimble Society of London – The Thimble Collectors Guild/The Thimble Guild (Scotland) - Vingerhoednieuws (Friedy Kamp Netherlands) – Pan Arts (Australia) – Thimbles Only (Jean Shoup California) – Die Fingerhut Post (Feldman) - P J Walter Thimbles (Germany).

All glass thimbles were made for the collectables thimble market, which flourished in the 1980s and 1990s. This includes Ullmann glass thimbles which were "made to be used" by their thimble shape. I defy anyone to use these beautifully created thimbles to sew with. Their rigid sides and weight, never mind being created in one size only, wouldn't work as a sewing tool! Nor would thimbles created in the glass art market be used with items placed on top of thimbles.

Few glass thimbles have been marked with the name of the glass maker, so as collectors, we are dependent on applied paper 'makers' stickers and the paper thimble mail order catalogues from 1970s-2000s for this information. Unless this information is passed on when the thimble is sold, the maker's name is lost. The database hopes to remedy this.

For those of you who have ever tried to photograph glass thimbles, never mind a maker's mark, you will know that this is even trickier if the glass is clear!

There is another category that I will include after the alphabetical listing, where only the country of the maker is known. The thimbles are grouped by country (**15** countries to date). There are many famous glassworks/makers in Italy and Czechoslovakia/Czech Republic. If one of these is your country, please get in touch so that this database can be updated with makers' names.

Additionally I have photos for 70 glass thimbles where no country nor maker is currently known. I plan on working to get this to zero!

How are glass thimbles decorated?

de Smet lists the following headings (each with a brief description of the techniques):

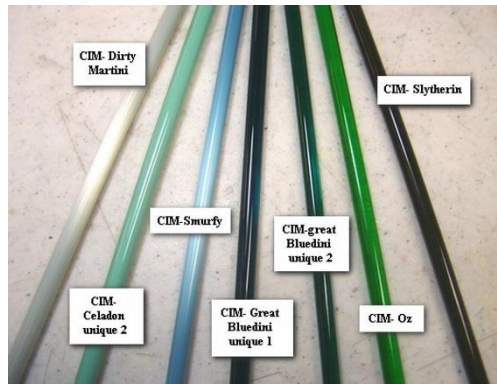
Painting  
Enamel painting  
Gold powder  
Decorating glass with glass  
Engraving  
Stipple engraving (in dots)  
Grinding and relief engraving  
Etching  
Millefiori technique

All these forms of decoration will be seen in the examples in the table below.

In the table, I have listed the known glass and crystal thimble makers alphabetically. This includes glass craftsmen – handpainters etc. I trust you will be able to find the thimble you are looking for here, to identify the maker. There are **81** 'makers' or decorators listed here. Please share your favourite glass thimble maker if not featured.

Many of these makers have created mouthblown glass thimbles, and I understand that they are known as art glass. I have also encountered the term lampwork (Ullmann describes them "uses borosilicate glass tubes, made for the laboratory industry and heats them up "over the lamp" and shapes it into the form of a thimble"). These are the handcrafted thimbles, part of the craft industry from all over the world. In the 2010s lampwork thimbles have become the most sought after form of glass thimble.

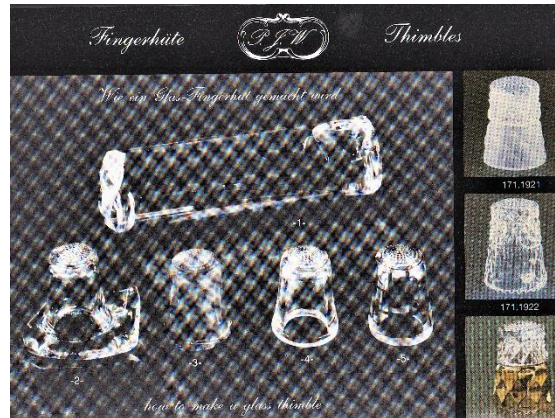
A term not heard much anymore is 'cut glass thimbles' or 'frosted glass thimbles' (used in Von Hoelle's *Thimbles collector's encyclopedia*. 1986).



lampwork glass rods

If any of these thimbles listed below were made by [Ullmann glass](#) and “rebranded” – you will find this information under “Notes”. Often, we only know who the artist is if the thimbles are handpainted. In this case you will find the thimbles listed below by the first name of the artist. Otherwise the studio name is used.




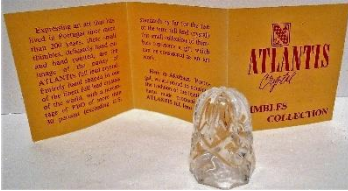



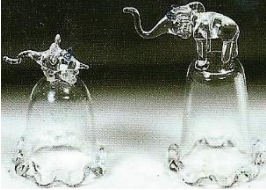
If you own one of these maker’s or artist’s thimbles – please let me have a photo of the maker’s mark or a new photo to include or replace these from the catalogues. Maybe you have had a thimble handblown for you? Share if you know who made it for you – and where.







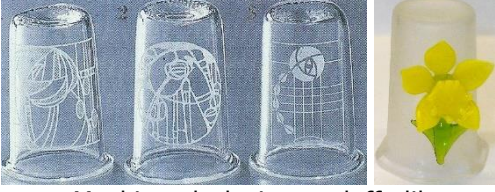



P J Walter catalogue 1985/86 showing the process of how Ullmann glass thimbles are made









Thank you, Norbert Ullmann – this topic would not have been possible without your invaluable input.

## Glass thimble makers






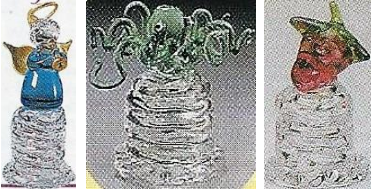



thimble	maker	marks/catalogue dates	notes
	<p><b>Artglass Australia</b> East Bundaberg Queensland Australia</p> <p>(Wolfgang Engel)</p>		
	<p><b>Atlantis</b> Alcobaça Portugal</p>		<p>clear glass – handcut and handpainted – full lead crystal – domed - or concave apex</p> 
 <p>bee in flower atop</p>	<p><b>Avon</b></p>		
 <p>thistle</p>	<p><b>Blackford</b> Aberdeenshire Scotland UK</p>		
 <p>mouse - elephant</p>	<p><b>Bob Scott</b> UK</p>	<p>1988</p>	<p>individually blown – clear – scalloped rims</p>

 <p>anchor – heart – thistle</p>   <p>petalled flowers with millefiori centres</p>  <p>clear base is fluted</p>	<p><b>Caithness</b> Perth Scotland UK</p> <p><a href="http://www.caithnessglass.co.uk">www.caithnessglass.co.uk</a></p>	 <p>anchor maker's mark</p>  <p>... handmade in Scotland</p> 	<p>Ullmannnglass blanks – glass colours: blue – amber – clear – green – pink – mauve – ruby – mauve - turquoise – Caithness specialty is making paperweights – thimbles' apex are mini millefiori domed paperweights – these are made and applied by Caithness – I visited the Caithness works in 1996 and purchased several blanks in various colours – was informed at the time they were made in 'Holland'</p> 
 <p>Mackintosh designs - daffodil</p>	<p><b>Caledonian Crystal</b> Scotland UK</p>	<p>2001-2002</p>	<p>some clear with etchings – others: series of twelve flowers of the month – either as colourful toppers or affixed in colour – clear or frosted</p>
	<p><b>Carol Toevs</b> USA</p>	<p>1979</p>	<p><u>signed</u> and handpainted</p>





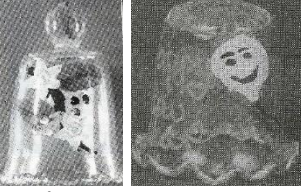




 <p>crab - compendium</p>	<p><b>Colleen Schroll Lampwork (CMS)</b> Chesapeake Bay Maryland USA</p>	<p>2012</p> 	<p>lampwork with raised colourful designs – signed CMS limited editions</p>
	<p><b>Connemara Celtic Crystal Co</b> Moycullen County Galway Ireland</p>	<p><b>Connemara Celtic Crystal Ltd.</b> Moycullen Co. Galway, Ireland. Tel: Intl. 353 91 555172 Fax: Intl. 353 91 555157</p>	
	<p><b>Corning Glass Works Inc</b> Corning New York USA</p> <p>see also: Pyrex</p>	<p>1940-1945</p>	<p>non-lead glass made during World War II - because of scarcity of metals – never progressed past the prototype stage – not sold commercially – some have appeared in thimble collections – in clear or light blue – some marked 'Corning Glass' or 'Pyrex Brand' (information Holmes in his chapter on Glass thimbles)</p>
	<p><b>D Costeo</b></p>		<p>name lettered in white</p>
	<p><b>Dan Jacobson</b> USA</p>	<p>2012</p>	<p>began as a glassblower in 1972 – he adds his own colour to clear glass – freehand work – fluted rims – various heights</p>
 <p>Charles and Diana's wedding thimble</p>	<p><b>David Gulland</b> Kirkcudbright Scotland UK</p>	<p>1981</p> 	<p>born in Edinburgh – studied glass design and engraving under Helen Munro-Turner at Edinburgh College of Art – own studio – his maker's symbol incorporates medieval glassmakers' sign and the initials of the artist surmounted by castle of Edinburgh</p>










 <p>iris – anemones – privet - pansies</p>	<p><b>David Smith</b> UK</p> <p>(Valda Peacock) handpainter</p>		<p>Smith is the glass blower - set of twelve thimbles with Scottish handpainted flowers – gold painted rims – domed glass thimbles – with defined indentations in apex - limited to 500 <b>signed</b> and numbered</p>
	<p><b>Derwent</b> UK</p>	 <p>30th</p>	<p>English crystal hand made lead crystal</p>
	<p><b>Dieter Schrade</b> Berlin then: Wertheim Germany</p>	<p>1992 2005</p>	<p>mouthblown – coloured metal oxides fused into the glass</p>
	<p><b>Eliza M Wright</b> Pompano Beach Florida USA</p>		<p>lampwork – with defined indentations in apex</p>
 <p>hearts</p>  <p>flowers</p>	<p><b>Emilio Santini</b> Murano Venice Italy</p>	<p>1987-1988</p>	<p>mouth blown with handpainted details – glass colours come from chemicals (like copper) added to molten glass – the apexes are concave - see also: <b>Lucie Santini</b></p>

 <p>cherries</p>	<p><b>Enesco Designer Giftware</b> Taiwan</p>	<p>1985</p> 	
 <p>gondolier</p>	<p><b>Eola</b> Venice Italy</p>		<p>handpainted - <a href="#">signed</a></p>
 <p>b&amp;w photo</p>	<p><b>Ernest F Damron</b> USA</p>	<p>1979</p>	<p>handblown clear crystal glass – hand engraved - <a href="#">signed</a></p>
 <p>Angel – octopus - strawberry</p>	<p><b>Eugenie</b> Arrowsic Maine USA</p>	<p>1986 1997</p>	<p>handcrafted glass – clear – glass base of spun coloured glass - characters atop</p>
 <p>coffee pot – cross – Texas yellow rose</p>	<p><b>Ferenc</b> USA</p>	<p>1988 1997</p>	<p>handmade – etched on clear glass – some are spun glass – applied 22ct gold - scalloped rims</p>
 <p>cardinal – graduation – carousel horse - telephone</p>	<p><b>Frank Horvath</b> Lakeland Glass Shop Florida USA</p>	<p>1996-1998</p> 	<p>scalloped rims – handmade – blown by moth - edged with gold – in 1963 Horvath completed apprenticeship in Hungary – master glass blower</p>












 <p>Dolphin – swan – teddy bear</p>	<p><b>GBS</b> Cheshire UK</p>		<p>lustreware with characters atop</p>
	<p><b>George Davidson &amp; Co</b> UK</p>	<p>1890s</p>	<p>thimblefuls</p>
 <p>probable date of 78</p>	<p><b>Gigi Branch</b> Devon UK</p>		<p>Gigi trained at Limoges in France her handpainted thimbles are signed <u>Gigi</u></p> <p>see also: British modern handpainted thimbles for her work on china thimbles</p>
 <p>reverse painting: bird in cage – handpainted bird</p>	<p><b>Graham Payne</b> Grimley Worcester UK</p>		<p>his thimble range is mainly handpainted china and enamel</p>
 <p>pewter blue tit on glass milk bottle</p>	<p><b>Holly Tree Miniatures</b> UK</p>	<p>1994</p>	<p>combination of pewter on glass</p>
 <p>dandelion flower – bud - owl b&amp;w photos</p>	<p><b>Hourglass</b> UK</p>	<p>1983-1984</p>	<p>illustrated on clear glass – domed apex – or on apex</p>





 <p>apple trees – guac &amp; sour cream – pumpkin spice – purple pink dichroic</p>	<p><b>Humming Line Creative Works</b> Colorado Springs USA</p> <p>(Maxine Grossman (1957-2021))</p>	<p>2011</p> 	<p>lampwork glass</p>
 <p>apple – Happy New Year b&amp;w photos</p>	<p><b>Jacqui and David Parker</b> Birmingham UK</p>	<p>1986-1987</p>	<p>handpainted by <u>Olivia</u></p>
	<p><b>Jenny Blair Designs</b> York UK</p>	<p>1984-1992</p>	<p>handpainted designs - gilt or silver applied designs see separate topic on Jenny Blair Designs</p>
 <p>heart – watering can – The Thimble Guild with hand-embroidered cloth inserted</p>	<p><b>John C Spray</b> Leicester UK</p>	<p>1993 1996 2003</p>	<p>scalloped rims – mainly clear glass</p>
 <p>Madonna and child – pig in pig – circus elephant - owls</p>	<p><b>John Squeo</b> Windy City Glass USA</p>	<p>1997</p>	<p>items atop (toppers)</p>
 <p>bird in cage</p>	<p><b>Johnny Boschoff</b> Pretoria South Africa</p> <p>(Gili Davis)</p>		<p>Gili is known for her handpainted porcelain - died 2015</p>




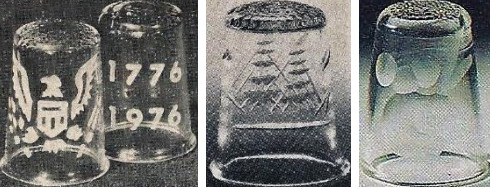

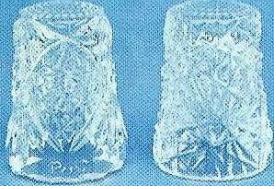



 <p>flowers</p>	<p><b>Karen</b> USA</p>		<p>lampwork</p>
	<p><b>KB</b> Italy</p>		<p>opaque glass – with sticky label</p>
 <p>six-sided rim with heart design at apex</p>	<p><b>Kilkenny Irish Crystal</b> Tinnamona Callan Co Kilkenny Ireland <a href="http://www.kilkennycrystal.com">www.kilkennycrystal.com</a></p>		<p>green sticky label</p>
	<p><b>La Serenissima</b> Murano Venice Italy</p>	 <p>thimble sticky label</p>	
	<p><b>The Laffing Glass (LGL)</b> 125 Mason Street Saugatuck Missouri USA  (Lynn Nurge) <a href="https://laffingglass.com">https://laffingglass.com</a></p>	<p>2012</p>  <p>L Nurge signature</p> <p>Handmade for you by Bead Artist Lynn Nurge at LaffingGull (LGL) Designer Sets, Spacers, Speciality and Pandora Lg Hole Style Beads <a href="http://www.LaffingGull.com">www.LaffingGull.com</a> + eBay, Etsy</p> <p>accompanying thimble label</p>	<p>lampwork</p> 










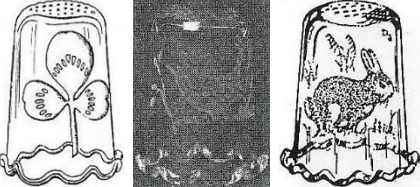



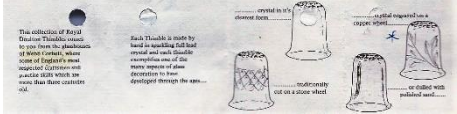


	<p><b>Leo Pilley</b> (handpainted by Kelly)</p>		
	<p><b>Libertine</b></p>	<p>2018</p> 	<p>used as glass nails – that’s what’s out there</p>
	<p><b>Lucie Santini</b> Murano Venice Italy</p>	<p>1988</p>	<p>‘tre fuochi’ process (three times fired) – handpainted – concave apex - see also: <b>Emilio Santini</b></p>
 <p>blue flower – rose – blue flower</p>	<p><b>Lynn</b> Rogue River Oregon USA</p>	<p>1983 1987</p> 	<p>handblown – handpainted – thick 24ct gold rims</p>
 <p>pineapple</p>	<p><b>Mae Robinson</b> USA</p>	<p>1990</p>	<p>hand engraved on handmade crystal – master engraver</p>
 <p>farm scene – Aboriginal dreamtime - possum</p>	<p><b>Malcolm Walter</b> South Australia</p>		<p>clear or frosted <a href="#">Ullmann</a> glass blanks - thimbles imported by Pan Arts – Walter has added six of his sterling silver Australian motifs as crowns around crystal – silver is marked MW</p>











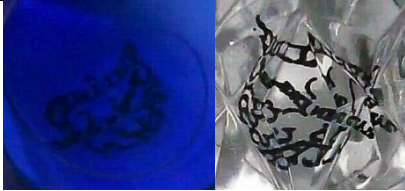
	<p><b>Mariekuniek</b> Amsterdam Netherlands</p> <p><a href="http://mariekuniek.nl">http://mariekuniek.nl</a></p>	 <p>Marieke</p>	<p>glass bead maker – using soft glass - with defined indentations in apex</p>
 <p>3 abstract - fish</p>	<p><b>Mario Ramos</b> <u>Vitreus Ignis</u> Madrid Spain</p> <p>with <u>Mariana Grande</u> (2002-)</p>		<p>workshop began in Buenos Aires Argentina (1988-) mouthblown</p>
 <p>gondola – sewing machine – girl - Fragonard</p>	<p><b>Mary Gregory</b> USA</p>	<p>1978-1980</p>	<p>American handpainter on glass [1856-1908] – her style has been copied on thimbles – on a palette of white enamel – thimbles made in Italy – see also <b>Westmoreland</b></p>
	<p><b>Mavis Smith Studio</b> Solebury Pennsylvania USA</p>		<p>lampwork – glass bead maker – smooth apex</p>
 <p>Disney's Aladdin – rose fairy</p>	<p><b>Mayfair</b> UK</p> <p>bases are made by <b>Tudor Crystal</b> Stourbridge UK</p>		<p>pewter characters</p>
	<p><b>Morgan</b> Indiana USA</p>		<p>coloured berry glass thimblefuls</p>







	<p><b>Moser</b> Ohio USA</p>	 	<p>coloured berry glass thimblefuls</p>
 <p>1776-1976 – windjammer - koala b&amp;w photos</p>	<p><b>Nico (Nick) Ferro</b> USA  (Michos) handcutter</p>	<p>1976 1979</p>	<p>handblown – free hand cut leaded crystal – carved into clear glass – born in Greece</p>
	<p><b>Nikki Shaw</b> Glass Attic Somerset UK</p>	<p>2004</p>	<p>decorated with gold and diamante</p>
	<p><b>Pepi Herrmann</b> USA</p>	<p>1983</p> 	<p>born in Austria – master craftsman – handcut and <b>signed</b> lead crystal</p>
	<p><b>Pinpoint Design</b> UK</p>	<p>1993</p>	<p>dried flowers applied over most of clear surface first thermochromism (temperature sensitive) thimbles which change colour</p>
 <p>moon – sun (night and day)</p>	<p><b>Poppie Gifts</b> UK</p>		<p>crystal – fused platinum or gold into glass</p>



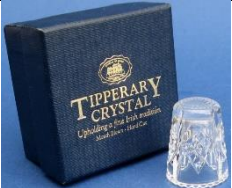


 <p>blue - green</p>	<p><b>Pyrex Brand</b> USA</p> <p>see also: Corning Glass Works Inc</p>	<p>1942</p>	
 <p>gold tortoise - forget-me-nots - winter tree b&amp;w photos</p>	<p><b>Quorn Glass</b> UK</p> <p>(Eddie Hughes) glassblower</p>	<p>1983-1986</p>	<p>example of glass blower's art - mainly scalloped rims - gold rims fused into glass by a unique technique</p>
 <p>berries - tulip</p>	<p><b>R &amp; T Decorative Glass</b> UK</p> <p>(Tamar Altman) designer and handpainter</p>	<p>1994-1995</p>	<p>drawing inspiration from Tiffany - large size handpainted thimbles</p>
 <p>etched church</p>	<p><b>Rj</b></p>	<p>1978</p>	
	<p><b>R Corbett</b> Cape Town South Africa</p>	<p>1985 1988</p>	<p>glass blowing firm - handblown - handpainted in black afterwards to give swirls</p>
 <p>fishes - poppy - fish</p>	<p><b>Rachel Pugh</b> UK</p>	<p>2001-2002</p>	<p>handpainter</p>

 <p>Tutankhamun - Christmas</p>	<p><b>Raimundas Lapsys</b> USA</p>	<p>1978</p>	<p>signed and dated – handcut by master cutter – Tutankhamun designs limited to 7500 – apex 22ct gold painted</p>
 <p>shamrock – wren - rabbit b&amp;w photos</p>	<p><b>Riverside Works</b> UK</p> <p>(Jeff Jeffries) engraver</p>	<p>1983-1984</p>	<p>engraved designs on clear glass – scalloped rim</p>
 <p>'Merry Xmas'</p>	<p><b>Robert Hands</b> Edinburgh</p>	<p>1989</p>	<p>handmade &amp; engraved</p>
 <p>wedding of Charles and Diana</p>	<p><b>Royal Brierley</b> UK</p>	<p>1981</p>	<p>Ullmann glass blanks – etching by Royal Brierley – boxed as such</p>
 <p>Thumbelina – embroidery stitches</p>	<p><b>Royal Doulton</b> Stoke-on-Trent UK</p>	<p>1980s</p>  <p>Webb Corbett named as maker - by hand - on Thumbelina set of five's certificate</p> 	<p>Royal Doulton are china manufacturers – producing two sets of crystal thimbles – five Thumbelina set - <b>Webb Corbett</b> did engraving – four Embroidery stitches set made by <b>Thomas Webb &amp; Sons</b> Stourbridge</p> 







 <p>starfish</p>	<p><b>Sandra Breedts Schenk</b> Bella Murano Glass Creations Cape Town South Africa</p>		<p>lampwork – using glass from Murano</p>
	<p><b>Saunders &amp; Shepherd</b> UK</p>	<p>1894</p>	<p>thimblefuls - RD 230818</p>
	<p><b>Hoegar Schultz</b> South Africa</p>		
 <p>Father Time - Hongluo – Confucius Disciples - Butterfly Rose</p>	<p><b>Mr Song Jim-Ming</b> Hebei Province China</p>		<p>reverse glass painting ('in painting')</p>
	<p><b>Sowerby</b> UK</p>		<p>frosted thimblefuls</p>
 <p>dolphins – kitten – cat – opal necklace fairy - kitten</p>	<p><b>Sterling Classic</b> UK  bases are made by <b>Tudor Crystal</b> Stourbridge</p>		<p>Connoisseur Collection –incorporating pewter – some using <a href="#">Ullmannnglass</a> blanks (dolphins)</p>

	<p><b>Studio Glass</b> UK</p>		
 <p>snowman - daisy - dolphin</p>	<p><b>Suffolk Glass Works/Studios</b> UK</p> <p><a href="http://www.suffolkglass.co.uk">www.suffolkglass.co.uk</a></p>	<p>1994 2003</p>	<p>clear glass – some with coloured figurals atop</p>
	<p><b>Susan Stokes</b> Canada</p>		<p>lampwork</p>
 <p>crocus – snowflakes - daffodils</p>	<p><b>Svetlana Chernova</b> Russia</p>		<p>handpainted on <a href="#">Ullmann glass</a> blank thimbles</p>
 <p>sulphur-crested cockatoo – different bases – set of five</p>	<p><b>Swarovski Crystal</b> Vienna Austria</p> <p><a href="http://www.swarovski.com">www.swarovski.com</a></p>		<p>set of five crystal frosted birds atop crystal thimbles – two different bases (fish scale / fireball)</p>
	<p><b>Techniglass</b> West Bay Bridport Devon UK</p>		

 <p>thistle</p>	<p><b>Barrie Reginald Thompson</b> Stockbridge Hants UK</p>		
	<p><b>Tipperary Crystal</b> Ireland</p>		<p>mouth blown – handcut – <a href="#">Ullmannnglass</a> blank thimbles – boxed in Irish-marked thimble boxes</p>
 <p>black – blue – green – red</p>  <p>handpainted by Julie Menzies (2009)</p>	<p><b>Ullmannnglass GmbH</b> Siegstatt 2-4 Osterhofen Bavaria Germany</p> <p><a href="http://www.ullmannnglass.de">www.ullmannnglass.de</a></p>	<p>1973-</p>	<p>crystal colours: topaz – clear – blue – aqua – red – amethyst – ruby – many of these have a lustre finish - they use ten different thimble moulds for blank thimbles for their customers with customised orders – their most current catalogue lists over 160 different popular designs/colourway thimbles in stock which includes a 'novelties' section – some designs are etched – many <u>handpainted</u> - apex pleasantly slightly domed on all their range – not "well" hollowed out inside</p>



	<p><b>Unique Design</b> Egypt (Randa Ahmed)</p>	<p>designs made 2010</p>
 <p>R: moonlit clouds</p>	<p><b>Village Glass</b> Bridge of Allan Stirlingshire Scotland UK (Tom Young)</p>	<p>1993-1994 1998 scalloped rims – fused with 22ct gold – from clear to heathery shades – handblown thimbles – some lustre</p>
 <p>mushroom - snowman</p>	<p><b>Walter Hasenfus</b> Boothbay Harbor Maine USA</p>	<p>1997-1998</p>  <p>spun glass with toppers</p>





two very different shapes

**Waterford Crystal**

Waterford  
Ireland

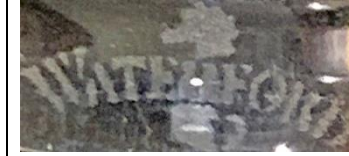
[waterford.com](http://waterford.com)



green seahorse logo sticker



signed on outer rim with seahorse logo  
lead crystal



girl painting – Coca Cola – ballerina – Shirley Temple

**Westmoreland**

USA



boxes: Bubble Glass thimble/  
M.S.R. Imports Inc, Taiwan

Ullmannglass blanks but branded as  
Westmoreland – some using **Mary  
Gregory** style designs using white  
enamel paint



flowers – Jemima Puddleduck

**William B Shane**

USA

scalloped rim – on 10<sup>th</sup> February 1981  
Shane took out a  
**US patent no. 258,174** for a patented  
rim with eight scallops – the patent  
was valid for 14 years

## Country Glass thimble makers

This is where I am out of my depth – I believe I have the country of origin correct – please HELP if these are your country's thimbles. They are arranged in NO order.

### Argentina thimbles



### Australia thimbles



Lismore NSW

### Czech thimbles



handpainted



handpainted



black paper inserted for photographic purposes



metal filigree cage over various colour glass – pink - topaz – green – blue



### Egypt thimbles



gold leaves



crown



stripes – topaz bird atop

**Germany thimbles**



engraved top half rest clear  
- flat apex squat shape



purple ridged with gold  
rim - flat apex



mouth-blown



handpainted milk glass  
1990

**Great Britain thimbles**



hand etched



19<sup>th</sup> century  
cut glass with glass cross-  
hatchings



Georgian  
held in British Museum



Tudor rose



Stourbridge in 1993



G G for Girl Guides

**Greece thimbles**



Zakynthos



## Hungary thimbles



lettered 'Hungary' in gold



'Héviz' coat-of-arms

## Italy thimbles mainly from Venice



handpainted  
black paper inserted for  
photographic purposes



Murano  
cobalt - black cat



Murano  
stripes



Murano  
knobbed ("hobnailed")



Murano  
metal apex



Murano  
handpainted - cobalt



Murano  
green dots - red dots



Murano  
handpainted



Murano  
millefiori



Murano  
millefiori



Murano  
opaque



Murano  
opaque - red - black - yellow - handblown -  
1982



Murano  
handpainted - turquoise



Murano  
handpainted



Murano  
handpainted



<p>Murano handpainted – royal blue showing distinctive white painted dots on apex</p>	<p>Murano</p>	<p>Murano millefiori</p>	<p>Murano handpainted</p>	<p>'Venezio 1884' spun glass (Holmes in his chapter on Glass thimbles)</p>	
<p>'1885' spun glass with glass flowers</p>	<p>from Roman times</p>	<p>Murano handpainted</p>	<p>Murano</p>	<p>Murano handpainted metal apex</p>	<p>Murano metal apex</p>
<p>Murano metal apex</p>	<p>Murano handpainted gondolier</p>	<p>Murano handpainted metal apex</p>	<p>Murano handpainted</p>	<p>Murano metal apex</p>	
<p>Murano handpainted pierrot</p>	<p>Murano metal apex</p>	<p>Murano handpainted Venice scene</p>	<p>Murano handpainted 'Venezia'</p>	<p>Murano Handpainted with gold flecks</p>	

### Japan thimbles



handpainted - concave apex - gold rims

### Scotland thimbles



handcrafted decorative stained glass

### South Africa thimbles



etched 'Sue 14 June 1986' with flowers - scalloped rim  
red paper inserted for photographic purposes

### Spain thimbles



'Poblet' with handpainted city scene



bullfighting  
white lettering behind the scenes



Flamenco dancer  
white lettering behind the scene

**Thailand thimbles**



spun - 1992



1993

**USA thimbles**



four leaf clover like windmill shape -  
1986



penguin inside clear plain thimble

no photo

thimble housed in Colonial Williamsburg  
Foundation (information **Holmes** in his  
chapter on Glass thimbles)



antique

**Wales thimbles**



handblown - scalloped rim - heart - dogwood



## References

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This listing of Glass thimble makers 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.

EMAIL [thimbleselect@bigpond.com](mailto:thimbleselect@bigpond.com) TO SHARE YOUR KNOWLEDGE

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