

Nenthorn Studios thimbles (Scotland) 1985-1986

Nenthorn Studios were situated in the hamlet of Nenthorn, near Kelso, in the Scottish Borders. Their thimble production only lasted for a year. They were promoted by The Thimble Guild (TTG).
First issued in April 1985, finishing in April 1986.

The only additional information available is that the hand-thrown, glazed earthenware pottery thimbles were made by a pair of potters: the Kerrs – sometimes identified as a husband and wife team but only Nick Kerr is named. He probably was the pewterer, as I have seen his name associated with another Scottish thimble maker, John Urwin, who turned wooden thimbles. The toppers come in a variety of finishes – clever and playful creations.

It is rare to find pottery turned in miniature like some of the toppers.

The thimbles are of a sturdy pottery and unless indicated, they were made of a cobalt blue pottery with gilt lettering. There are no maker's marks on the thimbles. Nowhere in the catalogues are the toppers identified as made of pewter – rather just silver, copper or gold plated. They are mainly made of pewter. Some are of handpainted pewter. The bases or plinths that the object is placed on vary. Sometimes matching the theme.

On occasion the lettering is on both English and Gaelic – or just in Gaelic: any lettering is in gold. Nick created several Scottish topics – probably only available from the specific site.

I have never featured thimbles with toppers before – it's my passion for Scottish-made thimbles that has led me to include this small output of thimbles.

For other Scottish thimble topics see:

Carol Edwards of Coll Pottery and Horizon China thimbles
Highland China thimbles 1977-1985
Innes Mitchell's pyrographed wooden thimbles (Scotland)
Scottish wooden thimbles



bagpiper
'Edinburgh'



Bagpiper
cobble plinth
'Scottish Borders'



Bagpiper
'Isle of Skye' 'Eilean a Cheo'



Book
book is edged in gold
'1535 The Coverdale Bible 1985'
celebrating 450 years since its creation
mahogany wooden plinth for book by Nick Kerr
TTG October 1985



Cat
handpainted
Hallowe'en witch on gold inset disc
limited to **500**
TTG October 1985
b&w photo



Celtic Cross
raised mound plinth
'Isle of Iona'



Coin
genuine copper coin
'Farthing withdrawn Dec. 1960'
limited to **450**
TTG December 1985



Coin
genuine silver 3d coin
'George V 1865-1936 Acc. 1910'
commemorating 50 years since his death
TTG January 1986



Croft
'Isle of Harris'



Dolphin
splash plinth
'Eilean na Hearadh'
(name of a guesthouse)



Eagle
no lettering



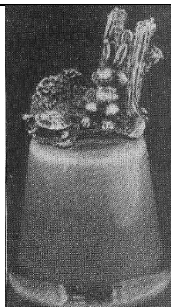
Fish
speckled plinth of salmon
'Falls of Shin'



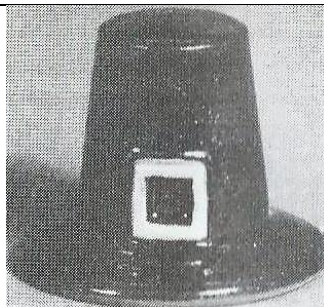
Gondola
mountain plinth
'Aonach Mor 4006'



Halley's Comet
gold-plated comet
'Halley's Comet 1985-86'
lettered in elliptical shape of comet's
path
TTG November 1985



Hare and tortoise
Nick Kerr
base is **green**
no lettering
TTG February 1986
b&w photo



Hat
Puritan **Black** hat
no lettering
limited to **300**
TTG April 1985
b&w photo



Highland cow
'Scotland'



Highland dancer
'Edinburgh'



Kettle
enamelled copper
base is **black** representing a stove
no lettering
TTG May 1985
b&w photo



Lifeboat
gold-plated medallion
'Lifeboat Bi-centenary 1986'
TTG April 1986



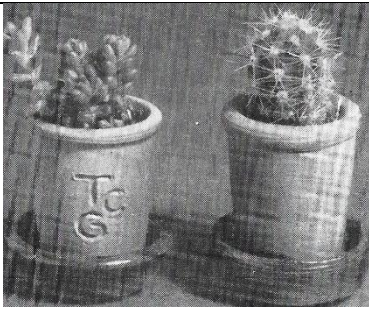
Merlin
brass finish
no lettering
also available in silver **5**
gold **1**
TTG December 1985



Milk jug
cream jug
handpainted jug
no lettering
TTG July 1985 (shown in background)
b&w photo



Pillar box
red painted
1635-1985
350 years of Post Office
limited to **500**
TTG July 1985
b&w photo



Pots
red plant pots
 'TCG'
 pots even have drairage holes
 TTG April 1985
 b&w photo



Rocket
 rubble depicting Earth plinth
 'Y. Gagarin 4.12.61 Vostok 1'



Ship
 waves plinth
 Viking longboat
 no lettering



Stag
 'Elmsdale'



Thistle
 'Edinburgh'



Vase
 handpainted pottery vase is 2cm
 base is **ochre**
 TTG July 1985



Young Arthur
 with Escalibur
 no lettering
 TTG March 1986



no lettering
 TTG July 1985 (shown in background)
 b&w photo

Contributors

Linda Heggs | Sue Roberts | Jean Taylor

This listing of Nenthorn Studios thimbles does not purport to be complete or accurate in all aspects. Rather it invites comment and contribution to add to our knowledge. My thanks to the contributors.

EMAIL thimbleselect@bigpond.com TO SHARE YOUR KNOWLEDGE

© Sue Gowan
 May 2024