

Merryfield Pottery thimbles Torquay Devon

2004-

I haven't contemplated a shaped-thimble topic for over twenty years since the Francisca head thimbles topic. These figural pottery thimbles, made for the collectables market, are not functional thimbles but for animal lovers, especially cats, they are of great interest. They are novelty thimbles.

If you collect sets of thimbles, Merryfield too is for you.

Reading from the website, the pottery is set up in their grandfather's former 1960s workshop.



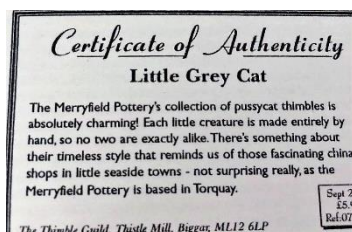
Their thimbles are all made by hand and then handpainted, making each unique. They have a gloss not a matt finish.

No thimble moulds are used yet they still recreate and retain their recognisable shapes.

There is no maker's mark, nor have I found a thimble box: one just recognises the brand by their shape?



unmarked inner views – cats – dog – Morris dancer



TTG certificate

Thimbles range in height from 25-50mm.

TTG started to sell these thimbles from 2004 until 2016.

Merryfield thimbles are still in production today and can be sourced thru their website

<https://merryfieldpottery.co.uk>

Their range other than thimbles includes paperweights and candle snuffers. The latter are made in the same range as the cats. I don't know how one tells whether they are a thimble or a candle snuffer, as there is no handle on the snuffer. Both are impractical in the purpose for which they are used.

The Merryfield Pottery also uses the name Chateau Cats for their cats range.



Merryfield Pottery range of thimbles, paperweights and candlesnuffers



Chateau Cats candle snuffer and box



For other pottery thimble topics see
Boscastle Pottery thimbles 1980-2020
Carol Edwards of Coll Pottery and Horizon China thimbles
Nenthorn Pottery (Scotland) thimbles 1985-1986
Peter Blanshard (York) pottery thimbles 1970-1980
Poole Pottery thimbles
SylvaC thimbles 1979-1982

Cats

Cats feature strongly in the Merryfield thimbles range – some are upright, others seated, some are lying down, and some stretching upwards. Their ears are higher on one side as they lean towards the left or right. Their eyes are mainly painted green.

They can be painted as a cat or kitten - or just identified by their breed.

Then there are the dressed or clothed cats, all with individual names.

I have seen the cats advertised on the second-hand market as Classic or Chateau cats but I don't understand the difference in the terms, in this instance. The Merryfield website uses the term Trendy cats. The outfits are painted in character, with charming details: naïve but easily identifiable with sprigs painted on the outfit to denote their role. The term used liberally in the catalogues is 'dainty' with the quirky details.

Breeds and named cats

Most are seated cats tho some are lying down, occasionally standing

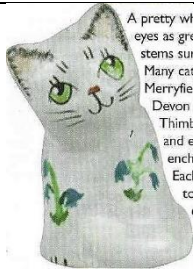


Black cat



Black and white cats

bottom R: Fireside



Bluebell
TTG December 2006

A pretty w
eyes as gr
stems su
Mary cat
Merryfie
Devon
Thimble
and e
ench
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tc



Buttercup
TTG September 2009

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Christmas Frosty



Christmas Star



Coriander

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E



Coriander
TTG January 2005



Emily
TTG May 2006



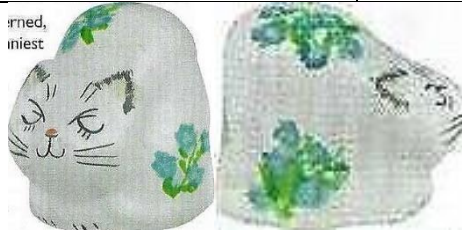
Felix
TTG April 2007

by
d
l



Flora
Wemyss style
TTG September 2007

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Forget-me-not
TTG September 2006

armed,
iniest



Foxglove
Wemyss style
TTG August 2004

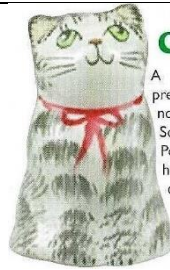
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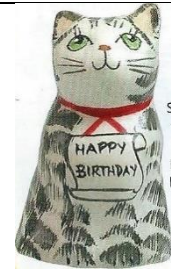
Ginger cats



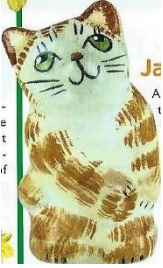
Good Luck



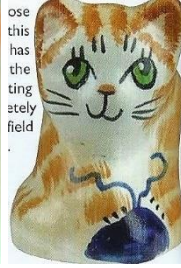
Green Eyes
TTG March 2007



Happy Birthday
TTG JSeptember 2005



Jasper



Knitting
TTG June 2007



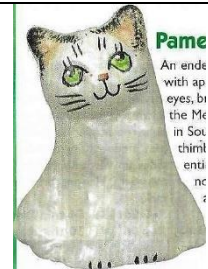
Lavender



Little grey
TTG September 2008



Monday's cat



Pamela
TTG June 2006



Playful
TTG September 2009



Poppy
Wemyss style
TTG December 2007



Saffron the Siamese
TTG April 2010/February 2006



Tuxedo



Saffron



Samuel grey tabby



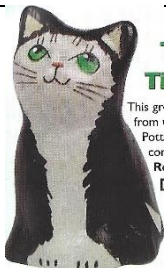
See no evil - hear no evil - speak no evil



Siamese cats



Tabby cats
lower: Fireside



Tabitha
TTG March 2005



Thyme



Tilly
TTG February 2007

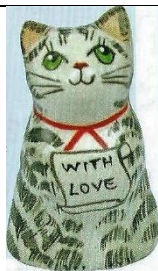


Tortoiseshell cats

R: Fireside



White cats



'With Love'



with wool
TTG April 2006

'Dressed' character cats

look for the trendy symbols painted onto the clothes - anthropomorphising the cats or kittens which are smaller



Angel



Artist



Baking



Blue Coat with Muff



Bride

TTG April 2008



Butler



Cappucino
TTG April 2008



Carol Singing
TTG November 2005



Celebration



Chef



Choirboy
TTG August 2008



Christine Cracker
TTG November 2012



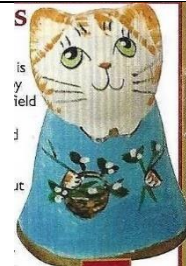
Christmas Blue Scarf



Christmas Cake



Christmas Carols
TTG November 2014



Christmas Mistletoe
TTG November 2014



Christmas Red Scarf



Christmas Rudolph
TTG November 2016



Christmas Santa
TTG November 2016



Christmas Snowman
TTG November 2016



Christmas Tree
TTG November 2016



Christmas
TTG December 2015



Chef



Coronation Jubilee Cat

50mm

TTG April 2012



Cricketer

TTG July 2009



Daisy



Daisy Chain



Digging Potatoes

TTG July 2012



Doctor



Fairisle



Fairy



Fireman

TTG September 2011



Fish 'n Chips



Fisherman

TTG February 2010



Footballer



Gardener

L: with carrots - R: with daisy
TTG May 2009



Gloria the Gardener

TTG May 2011



Golfer

TTG June 2009



Groom

TTG April 2008



Hairdresser

TTG July 2010



Hostess



Housewife



Icecream



Jockey



Knitting

TTG May 2010



Lacemaking



Lady Gardener



Lavender



Maid



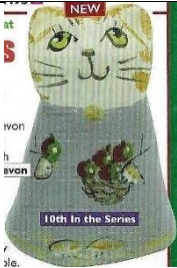
Male Gardener



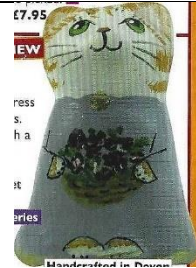
Mending



Flowers of the month
see individual cats next



Apples
November
TTG November 2015



Blackberries
October
TTG October 2015



Catkins
December
TTG January 2016



Cherry Blossom
May
TTG May 2015



Conkers
September
TTG September 2015



Daffodils
March
TTG March 2015



Harebells
August
TTG August 2015



Holly
December
TTG December 2015



Honeysuckle
May
TTG June 2015



Primroses
April
TTG April 2015



Snowdrop
February
TTG February 2015



Strawberry
July
TTG July 2015



Morris Dancer



Mr Gardening
TTG March 2010



Mrs Paws
TTG November 2010



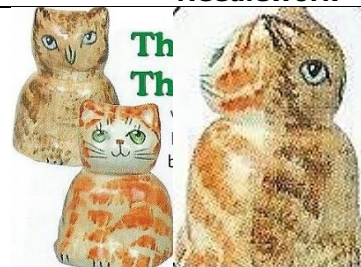
Musical



Needlework



Nurse
TTG October 2008



Owl and the Pussycat
two characters in one thimble
TTG October 2005



Partying



Patchwork



Penelope
TTG March 2012



Postman
TTG March 2005



Red with Muff



Regal
TTG May 2016



Rugby



Sailor



Sandcastle
TTG August 2011



Santa



Santa and Mrs Claws
TTG November 2004



Santa Paws
TTG November 2010



Scottish Female



Scottish Female Dancer
TTG March 2010



Scottish Male



Seaside



Snow Queen
TTG December 2004



Springtime



Strawberry Picker



Tailor



Teacher



Tennis



Toby

TTG February 2012



Toys



Valentine Female



Valentine male



Vicar



Victoriab Female



Waiter



Waitress

TTG October 2011



Wine Waiter



Winter Black Scarf



Winter Blue Scarf



Winter Red Scarf



Winter Stripy Scarf



Winter Stripy Scarf



WWI Sailor
TTG July 2014



WWI Soldier
TTG July 2014



Zodiac
back view – set of 12
zodiac sign lettered at rim



Zodiac Aquarius
TTG January 2016



Zodiac Aries
TTG April 2016



Zodiac Cancer
TTG July 2016



Zodiac Capricorn
TTG February 2016



Zodiac Gemini
TTG June 2016



Zodiac Leo
TTG August 2016



Zodiac Libra
TTG October 2016



Zodiac Pisces
TTG March 2016



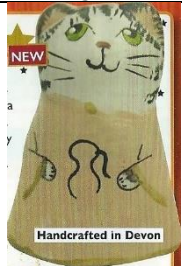
Zodiac Sagittarius
TTG December 2016



Zodiac Scorpio
TTG November 2016



Zodiac Taurus
TTG May 2016



Zodiac Virgo
TTG September 2016



Zodiac Scorpio
from second set

Birds

The birds are featured on a plinth, showing their habitat.



Barn owl



Black and white woodpecker



Blackbird



Blue tit



Green woodpecker



kingfisher



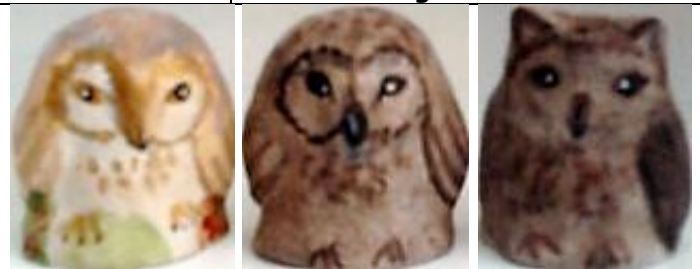
Little owl



Long-eared owl



Mallard



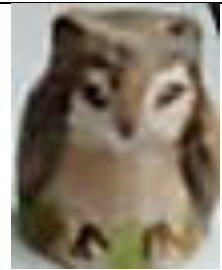
Owl



Owl



Penguin



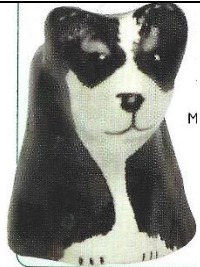
Robin

Tawny owl



White goose

Dogs



Border collie
TTG January 2005

Bulldog



Dalmatian
TTG August 2005



German shepherd
TTG November 2011



Golden retriever
TTG June 2005



Old English sheepdog



Otto the spaniel
modelled on Princess Kate's dog
TTG March 2011



Wildlife

The wildlife characters are featured on a plinth, showing their habitat.





Hedgehog
TTG March 2005



Mole
TTG December 2005



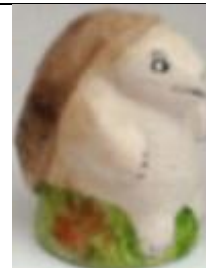
Otter



Rabbit



Squirrel
25mm



Tortoise

Cottages or villages

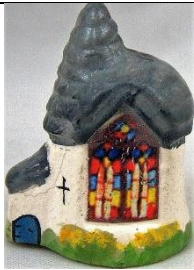
These cottages are probably from real buildings around the south coast of England. Some are named as if from the village. Some include chimneys, front doorsteps, with mullioned windows. Most are thatched, some showing grey thatch.

Sometimes the cottages are in the shape of a teapot – they are listed separately at the end of the cottages.



L: County Parish set of 7 – R: Winter Parish set of 7
on plinths

 <p>'Antiques'</p>	 <p>'Antiques' 'Combe Martin'</p>	
 <p>'Ashburton Station'</p>	 <p>'Bakery'</p>	
 <p>'Beach Shop' TTG August 2004</p>	 <p>castle</p>	 <p>castle</p>
 <p>chimney</p>	 <p>Chimney Cottage</p>	



church



church



Combe Martin



'Corner Shop'



'Dartmouth Dairy'



double storey



double storey



Fisherman's Cottage



'Fish n Chips'



'Florist'



'Garage'



handrail



'Hotel'



'Lifeboat'





lighthouse
TTG October 2010



'Lynmouth'



Maypole Cottage



Mushroom Cottage



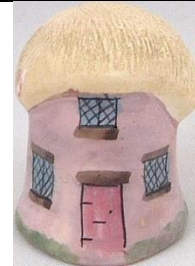
Oaktree Cottage



Oasthouse



'Pastry Shop'



Pink Cottage



'Post Office'
TTG September 2004



Roses Cottage
TTG September 2009



'Tea Room'



'Teas'



'Thimble Inn'
TTG September 2007



'Thimble School'



'Thimbles'



tiled roof



'Village Store'



Tudor Cottage



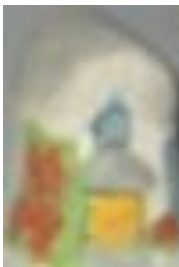
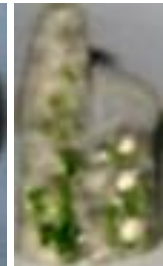
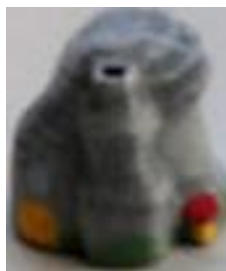
Waterwheel



Well Cottage
Village thimbles



Windmill





Teapot thimbles

Many of the thimbles above are also available in the shape of a teapot thimble



Others



Colisseum



Cornish tin mine



**cow
gardener**



**cow
walking stick**



cup cake
TTG May 2012



donkey
Splash
TTG April 2010



gargoyle



**monk
candle**



**monk
cooking**



**monk
gardening**



**monk
hymnbook**



**monk
sampling wine**



mouse
daisy chain
TTG August 2013



Mr Gingerbread



Mrs Gingerbread



panda
TTG June 2005



sheep



sheep
Bridget
TTG August 2010



sheep
flowers



sheep
reading



Teddy bear
TTG September 2004



Teddy bear
brown



Teddy bear
white

Others - Pincushions



pincushion



pincushion

References

Yolanta Bogdziewicz | Pawel Brzyski | Marlous Craane | Linda Heggs | Wanda Ralston-Boulder Bay
Jean Rose-Miss Mouse | Jean Taylor

This listing of Merryfield Pottery 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

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