

# Mother thimbles

Mother's Day is celebrated around the world on the second Sunday in May. The exception to this is the United Kingdom, who celebrates Mothering Sunday on the third Sunday in March. Is it because of the importance of Mothering Sunday in the UK that the branded china thimbles are all British-made?

Some thimbles are lettered "To Mother" with the date; others just have "Mother" plus the date. Some don't even contain the date.

There are not many thimbles made with 'Mother' on them. Caverswall, with their dated series, has the biggest selection that runs parallel to their Easter and Christmas series.

This is another series on a thematic thimble collection, and as such I have included thimbles, which feature Grandmothers and the pairs that represent Mothers and Daughters. I have noticed that the unbranded china thimbles often placed the word 'Mother' on the verso of their usual run of thimbles.

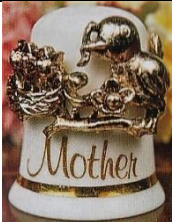

It is not surprising that there are no 'Father' thimbles - after all, it is the mother who is usually the sewer!! I now discover that Hurley painted a Fathers' Day thimble in 1978!! It features a tailor sewing - and one design in 1981 of a train (both by Hurley Porcelain, USA).

Have you seen them?

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## Albertine


England, gold-plated pewter on fine bone china

	<b>Mother</b> [1995] mother bird feeding her chicks		<b>Mother</b> [1996] pearlised beads
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## Ashleydale

England, china


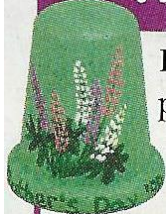
	<b>Mother</b> undated		
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## Debbie Beam

Edgecomb, Maine, USA, handpainted wood




1996

	<b>Happy Mother's Day 1996</b>		<b>Mother's Day 1998</b>
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## Jenny Blair Designs

York, England, handpainted frosted glass

see: [Learn More About Thimbles/Miscellany](#) for more on this thimble maker

	<b>Mother</b> [1991]		
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## Gail Boekel

Florida, USA, handpainted porcelain  
her earlier thimbles marked with her initials **GTB**



1997

	<b>Mother's Day 1995</b>		<b>Mother's Day 1998</b>
	<b>Mother's Day 1997</b>		<b>Mother's Day 1999</b>

# Caverswall

Caverswall is one of the largest groups of branded thimbles and had the longest period of modern china thimble manufacture: 1977-1993

shape is dominant, with little variety in shape over 15 years

there are signed designs, where the artist would have added a small amount of handpainting over decal of this design

most well-known of the Caverswall painters are Mary Grant, William R Tipton and John Ball.

no photo	<b>Mother's Day 1978</b>		<b>Mother 1986</b> playing with a child
	<b>Mother's Day 1979</b>		<b>Mother 1987</b> baby on mother's lap
	<b>To Mother 1980</b>		<b>Mother 1988</b> roses bouquet
 	<b>Mother 1981</b> mother and baby		<b>Mother 1989</b>
	<b>Mother [1982]</b> mother and baby undated		<b>Mother 1990</b> mother and pram
	<b>To Mother 1983</b> signed John Ball		<b>To Mother 1991</b> mother sewing
	<b>To Mother 1984</b> breakfast in bed		<b>To Mother 1992</b> Old Mother Hubbard who lived in a shoe ...

	<b>Mother</b> [1985] with children of the world		<b>To Mother</b> <b>1993</b>
	<b>Grandmother and Granddaughter</b> [sic] undated this is an appropriate naming of these thimbles as it is usually the grandmother who teaches her granddaughter to sew		

## Coalport

England, china

shape is distinctive Coalport with its rounded apex

see: [Learn More About Thimbles](#) for more on this thimble maker

		<b>Mother 1978</b>			<b>Mother 1980</b>
		<b>Mother 1979</b>			<b>Mother 1981</b>


## Countess

Countess produced one known 'Mother' thimble - with hatted women and the word 'Mother' on the verso - thimbles were produced in the 1970s

no photo	<b>Mother</b> <i>undated</i>		
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## Gail Cucksey

Tulalip USA, handpainted china


	<p><b>Mother</b> undated swans</p>		
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## Gili Davis

South Africa, porcelain

Handpainted porcelain (from 1986 on her own thimbles) died 2015  
only signed 'Gili'



	<p><b>Grandmother and grandchild</b> [1996]</p>		
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## Val de Vries


Clare, South Australia, handpainted porcelain



	<p><b>Mother's Day 2002</b> roses</p>		<p><b>Mother</b> [2004] pansy</p>
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## Delft USA

Holland, Michigan, USA – handpainted porcelain

	<p><b>Mother</b> undated</p>		
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## Leonore Duskow

Montrose, NY, USA – sterling silver  
died 2008

	<p><b>MOM</b> With hearts in centre of Ms <i>undated</i></p>		
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## Enesco

porcelain

	<p><b>Mother 1981</b> "Happiness is a Mother like you"</p>		<p><b>Mother</b> <i>undated</i></p>
	<p><b>Mother</b> <i>undated</i></p>		<p><b>Dear God Thank you for mothers</b> <i>undated</i></p>


## Fenton

England, fine bone china

	<p><b>Mother</b> <i>undated</i> a poem on verso</p>		<p><b>Mother</b> <i>undated</i></p>
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## Finsbury

England, fine bone china

 <p style="text-align: center;">b&amp;w photo</p>	<p><b>Mother</b> <i>undated</i> posy</p>		
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## Franklin Porcelain

in 1980 Franklin Porcelain issued a set of four thimbles for Mother's Day  
 thimbles are not marked with any 'mother' lettering, just the date inside  
 "Precious Moments in a Mother's Day" set  
 each shows a mother animal and her babies

	cat with kittens 1980		duck with ducklings 1980
	squirrel family 1980		Basset hound with puppies 1980


## Stephen Frost – Warwick Models

England, pewter  
 pair are attractively boxed

	<i>undated</i> they are in two sizes representing mother and daughter		
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## Frika


Netherlands, china

	<b>Voor Moeder</b> <i>undated</i> heart		
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b&w photo


## Gimbel & Sons

Maine, USA  
 made in England, fine bone china

	<b>Mother's Day 2009</b>		
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# Peter Gosling

England, china

	<p><b>Mother</b> undated</p>		
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## Heirloom Editions

California, USA, porcelain

	<p><b>To Mother</b> undated</p>		<p><b>Mother</b> undated h/p Kyn</p>
	<p><b>To Mother</b> undated</p>		<p><b>Happy Mother's Day</b> undated roses</p>
	<p><b>To Mother</b> undated</p>		<p><b>To Grandmother</b> undated rose</p>

## Hurley

USA, porcelain

Hurley china 'Mother' thimbles are handpainted by [Wendy Bowen](#) and others of her studio

<p>no photo</p>	<p><b>Mother's Day 1978</b> Mother's Rose</p>		<p><b>Mother's Day 1980</b> horse &amp; foal painted by Lynn</p>
	<p><b>Mother's Day 1979</b> peonies</p>		<p><b>Mother's Day 1981</b> girl picking flowers</p>




# Tilly Kadletz

Austria, lacquered brass using Settmacher thimbles  
 in matching designs but differing sizes  
 some are handpainted those were painted by US painters  
 no lettering on the pairs

	<p><b>Mother 1978</b>          mother &amp; baby</p>		<p><b>Mom</b>          undated          forget-me-nots</p>
			
			
			
			
			


# AJL

England, china

	<p><b>Mother</b>          undated</p>		
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## Lindner

Germany, porcelain

	<p>Mother &amp; daughter [2007]</p>		
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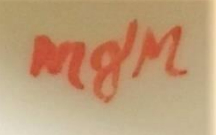
## M'Helen Ltd (MariHelen Engellen)

USA, porcelain

 <p style="text-align: center;">b&amp;w photo</p>	<p><b>Mother's Day 1981</b></p>		
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## Millie Miller (MGM)

USA, handpainted porcelain

			<p><b>"To Mother with Love!"</b> [1979]</p>		
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## MOT (Martha Shaw)

Anderson, South Carolina, USA, handpainted wood  
her paintings are in folk-art style

	<p><b>Mother's Day 2001</b> tulips</p>		
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## Munro

England, china

		<p><b>Mother</b> <i>undated</i></p>		
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## Nan

USA, handpainted china

	<p><b>Mother</b> undated</p>		
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## Nuttall

USA, china

	<p><b>To Mother</b> undated finger-shaped</p>		
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## Olivia (Jacqui & David Parker)


Birmingham, England, handpainted brass

		<p><b>Mother's Day</b> <b>1990</b> ribboning threaded thru rim</p>		
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## Graham Payne

Worcester, England, handpainted china

see: [Learn More About Thimbles](#) for more on this thimble maker

	<p><b>Mother's Day '86</b> daffodils</p>		
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## Pollyanna

England, china

	<p><b>Mother</b> <i>undated</i></p>		<p><b>Mother</b> <i>undated</i></p>
	<p><b>Mother</b> <i>undated</i></p>		

## H A Power

England, handpainted wood

	<p><b>Mothering Sunday</b> <b>1987</b></p>		
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## Queen's


England, china

Queen's produced a Grandmother thimble, featuring a Lily-of-the-valley

<p style="text-align: center;">no photo</p>	<p><b>Grandmother</b> <i>undated</i></p>		
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## Rayma Robertson

USA, handpainted porcelain  
apex always gold-painted

	<p><b>Mother's Day 1981</b> roses</p>		
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## Schmid

Germany, porcelain

	<p><b>Mother</b> undated</p>		
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## poontiques

Massachusetts, USA, pewter

	<p><b>Mother</b> undated © 1982</p>		
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## St George

England, fine bone china

	<p><b>Mother</b> undated</p>		
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## Sutherland

England, china

used the wording 'Mother's Day'

note the unique Sutherland shape - with a pointed apex


thimbles are not always dated but when they are the date is lettered on the inside

	<p><b>Mother's Day</b> <b>1984</b> this thimble was produced for Scotland Direct</p>
	<p><b>Mother's Day 1984</b></p>

	<b>Mother's Day 1985</b> signed <u>Anthony Jackson</u>
	<b>Mother's Day 1985</b> signed <u>JB</u>
	<b>Mother's Day</b>

### James Swann & Son (JS&S)

Birmingham, England, sterling silver  
Ray Coggle from 1970-2005

	<b>Mother's Day 1988</b>		
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### Peter Swingler (PS)

England, handpainted enamel, over sterling silver  
some of which were made by James Swann & Son [JS&S]

see: [Learn More About Thimbles](#) for more on this thimble maker

	<b>Mother's Day 1975</b> A Mother's rose		<b>Mother's Day 1977 (ii)</b> mother and baby
	<b>Mother's Day 1976</b> Whistler's Mother		<b>Mother's Day 1978</b> Sister and baby brother


## The Thimble Guild

Scotland, china  
designed Rachel Pugh

	<p><b>Mothering Sunday</b> [2001] tulips</p>		<p><b>Mother's Day</b> <i>undated</i> tulips anemones</p>
	<p><b>Mother's Day</b> [2006] sweetpeas</p>		<p><b>Mother's Day</b> <i>undated</i> posy</p>
	<p><b>Happy Mother's Day</b> [2007] heart</p>		


## TLtd

UK, sterling silver

	<p><b>Mum</b> [1987]</p>		
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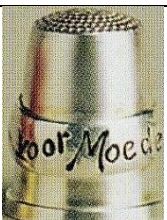
## Jacqui Walker

UK, crochet

	<p><b>Mother's day</b> [2006] mother's chair</p>		
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## Julius Wengert

Pforzheim Germany, sterling silver

	<p>Voor Moeder</p>		
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## Woodsetton Peeps (Gill & David Bates)

Dudley, England, lacquered brass  
 peep, viewed from the open end of the thimble, usually shows a related picture  
 not all Woodsetton thimbles have peeps

	<b>Voor Moeder [1998]</b>		<b>Mothering Sunday 2003</b> with golden rose atop
	<b>For Mother [2001]</b>		<b>For Mum [2004]</b>

## unknown makers

	<b>Mother's Day March 13<sup>th</sup> 1994</b>		<b>Mother</b> rose
	<b>Mother</b> basket of flowers		<b>Mother</b> violets
	<b>Mother</b> primroses		<b>Mother</b> blue and yellow flowers
	<b>Mother</b> Fragonard scene		<b>A Mums hug lasts long after she lets go</b> pewter rose with Swarovski crystal
	<b>Mother's Day</b> <i>undated</i> rose brass with enamelled badge commissioned by <i>Lilian Vernon</i> of New York		<b>Grandma's Thimble</b> Italy no later than 1979 pewter



	<p><b>Mom's Thimble</b> Italy no later than 1979 pewter</p>		<p><b>Mother's Day</b> USA bisque no later than 1979</p>
	<p><b>Mother</b> whalebone 1800s</p>		<p><b>Mother's Day</b> <b>1987</b> lilies h/p metal with yellow Korea</p>
	<p><b>Mom</b> china in cross-stitch design (from USA)</p>		<p><b>Mom</b> handpainted porcelain (from USA)</p>
	<p><b>Mother</b> porcelain</p>		<p><b>Happy Mother's Day</b> (2015) china watering can</p>
	<p><b>Happy Mother's Day</b> (2015) china 'Mother's hold their child's hand for a moment and their heart for a lifetime ...'</p>		<p><b>Happy Mother's Day</b> (2016) china</p>
	<p><b>Mother's Day</b> (2016) china tulips</p>		<p><b>Happy Mother's Day</b> (2017) china</p>
	<p><b>Happy Mother's Day</b> (2017) china</p>		<p><b>Happy Mother's Day</b> (2017) china</p>
	<p>china (2017) 'To the world you are a Mother but to your family you are the World'</p>		<p>china (2017) 'God could not be everywhere so he created Mothers'</p>

## References

Gimbel & Sons Country Store *catalogues*  
Charlotte Goldberg *Hurley porcelain thimbles. TCI Bulletin* winter 2009  
*Mother's Day thimbles. TCI Bulletin* spring 2022  
The Sewing Centre *catalogues*  
The Thimble Guild *catalogues*

## Contributors

This page would not have been possible without Sue Pickles

Thank you, Sue for your generous help and sharing - Sue in turn had help from other collectors:

The Thimble Guild and all the members who wrote to Sue Pickles with so much valuable information

Others who helped Sue are Cathy Pezzotta | Jenny Yuhas | Pamela Bull | members of the Dorset Thimble Society

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This listing of Mother 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.

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