Royal Worcester thimble painters

I have always had a love for handpainted Royal Worcester thimbles.

My best thimble find is an unmarked 19th century handpainted bird, with the lovely translucent porcelain of early Worcester in the taller, narrow shape of their early thimbles. This was found here in Brisbane. It was sold to me as milk or opaline glass, a term I had never heard before.

It is a term used for translucent porcelain of 19th century Royal Worcester.

Another term associated with early Royal Worcester porcelain, is blush, peach bloom or a biscuit finish, describing the warm creamy ground of the porcelain. According to Henry Sandon, Royal Worcester thimbles made between 1860 and 1939 are of a glazed parian body which has a creamier, smoother body than bone china, which is very white and translucent.



Then there is the handpainted Kookaburra (1926) that Edwin Holmes first described in May 1994. This is the only type of Royal Worcester thimble that I have encountered with a self-patterning of indentations on both sides. Holmes could not explain this. I have now seen other examples of RW thimbles with this type of marking.



this strange side hatching is only found with kookaburras, no other subject has been painted on this different surface



three kookaburra thimbles with their unique indented sides kookaburrras and kingfishers are my favourite birds painted by RW painters



example of a handpainted Locke thimble that preceded the Royal Worcester brand



it is impossible to date the plethora of Royal Worcester thimble boxes

Dating your Royal Worcester Thimbles

The early blush, biscuit or translucent thimbles of the late 19th century have no signatures or marks. Up to the 1880s, later painters from then into the twentieth century could not surpass the earlier finest painting.

Royal Worcester thimbles with a **puce** or purple backstamp date from late nineteenth century into early 20th century and thimbles are usually signed by the painters.

Dating of these thimbles can be calculated from 1891 by a series of dots and/or symbols. The table can be found in The Thimble Society of London, winter 1997 catalogue, p5 (some images reproduced below)

Royal Worcester produced hand-painted thimbles until 1986.

Those Royal Worcester thimbles in production after 1986 are decaled thimbles.

See also: "Learn More About ... Royal Worcester Decal thimbles"



A gorgeous bunch of 1975 handpainted flowers - I wish the picture from Elizabeth Aldridge was in colour

Royal Worcester Porcelain Backstamps (1862 - 1963)

Reproduced from Thimble Society of London, winter 1997, p5.

L>R: 1862 - 1876 - 1892 - 1916 - 1928 - 1956

Between 1862 and 1867 specific indications of the year of manufacture are rare but may sometime be found in the form of the last two figures of the date, e.g. 64 for 1864, printed below the standard mark. From 1867 a letter system was used to indicate the year of manufacture. From 1876 the crown sits down onto the circle. U = 1883A = 1867K = 1875V = 1884L = 1876B = 1868M = 1877W = 1885C = 1869X = 1886D = 1870N = 1878Y = 1887E = 1871P = 1879Z = 1888G = 1872R = 18800 = 1889S = 1881H = 1873a = 1890T = 1882I = 1874From 1891 pieces were coded with a system of dots and/or symbols below the standard mark. 1891 'Royal Worcester England' added 1892 One dot 1893 Two dots 1894 Three dots continued until 1915 when 24 dots are arranged around the standard mark. 1916 * below the backstamp 1917 * and one dot 1918 * and two dots continued until 1927 when 11 dots are arranged around the standard mark. 1931 ∞ 1928 and the words 1932 000 "made in England" 1933 600 . 1929 🔷 1934 . 000 . 1930 ÷ continued until 1941 when there were 9 dots and the triple circle mark. 1951 W. 1942-48 no dating system 1952 .W. used 1953 .W.. 1949 V 1950 W continued until 1963 when 13 dots are arranged around the standard mark. After 1956 the lette W was nearly always substituted with a letter R in a circle, i.e. 1960 = R or W under the circle with 10 dots.

The Royal Worcester Porcelain Co., Ltd. was formed as a Joint Stock Company in 1862 and since that time pieces have been marked with some type of date code.

The standard backstamp from 1862 onwards, illustrated here, includes the number 51 in the centre which refers to the year 1751 when the Worcester Porcelain Company was founded by Dr. John Wall.

In ignorance, this number is often mistaken for the date of manufacture of a particular thimble.











L>R: puce 1928 - black, 1959 - black, bone china (1951) - black post-1964 fine bone china (no England) -- fine bone china (England)

It is difficult to find information on thimbles produced by Royal Worcester. There is a list of Royal Worcester painters in Von Hoelle's *Encyclopedia of thimbles*, but it is incomplete. Hopefully, this listing will go somewhat to remedy this.

The Sandon listing of RW painters was only compiled until 1971.

It really inspires me when former Royal Worcester thimble painters or their descendants, have taken the time to make contact and send me their own Royal Worcester painting history. They probably found their names on these thimble pages, when doing an internet search. Not many of them have kept examples of their own work on thimbles.

One painter remembers: "Also, a lovely lady guilder who was in her own section of the room, putting the gold lines around our finished work... Mrs Appleton (known as Mrs A)".

Thimbles are small, so when painter's name is too long the **signatures** were often shortened or only initials used.

I have included the first names even when not part of the signature.

Most signatures only contain the initial and surname. The signature is usually on the back of the thimble, alongside a leaf or flower sprig. The early thimbles usually have the signature closer to the main painting, and not on the back.

Royal Worcester thimbles were never signed by the artist inside the thimble.

Some signatures are always going to be difficult to decipher, but with practice one can become familiar with styles of painting and so be able to attempt to guess – e.g. Kitty Blake's signature is often illegible or "messy".

You may notice how many identical paintings there are, done by different artists, especially amongst the later painters. Once you have handled or looked at the painting depicted, you will soon be able to identify the later style of painting (post 1970), even tho the thimbles are not dated.

This interesting item of information has just come to my attention:

"In the late 1970s the demand for Royal Worcester hand-painted thimbles grew enormously. One can speculate as to the reason(s). Maybe the thought of an original thimble was alluring. Royal Worcester did not want to employ more artists for economic reasons as thimbles are time-consuming to paint freehand (at least three firings).

The foreman of the painters' division, Edward Townsend, came up with a solution.

He designed a number of outline prints - six flowers, six fruit and eight birds - which were printed onto the blank thimbles. The artists did not have to create an individual painting but merely coloured in the blank design. This speeded up the process noticeably.

Some of the painters (Sue Waldron) were dismissive of this process and much preferred doing original work on larger items."

Compare the same topic (ie blue tit) amongst the most modern thimbles and you will notice that this is true: they all look alike. From observation the common themes are = fruit with apple, peach, pear and plum in that order with smaller fruits used alongside. The birds depicted are tit, kingfisher, wren, robin, bullfinch, and a generic red bird and one with yellow colouring.

Rose and daisy of various colours dominate the flower paintings with iris, violets and forget-me-nots following.

Other English garden birds were handpainted by the earlier bird painting experts and feature swallow, chaffinch, redstart, thrush, goldfinch and even a woodpecker.

Primrose, heather, pansy, morning glory, daffodil, anemone, crocus, wattle, tulip, carnation, poppy and bluebell are some of the rarer flower paintings on RW thimbles, including an example of strawberry flower and the fruit.

Fruit is a more modern topic for painting.

The modern painters who painted from the 1970s onwards include:

Fiona Bakewell, Christine Cameron, Janet Collins, Claire Cox, Pat Dunkley, Sheila Dutfield, Gioran Garcia, Mary Igoe, Angela Lawson, Helene Ligthert, Mandy Munslow, Christine Parker, Sue Roberts, Dorothy Sparks, Julia Vass, Christine Wilson.

It is interesting to note that the later painters were all women - in the early days of Royal Worcester, most of the painters were men.

With the modern painters, note that there are two sizes of the RW backstamp. I have used this information to date the probable time period the painters worked in the thimble painting dept.



modern RW backstamps in two sizes L: 1964-1970 - R: 1970-

The Royal Worcester factory and shop at Severn Street in Worcester closed on 14th June 2009. The buildings were then demolished, for other development.

The Royal Worcester name was purchased by Portmeirion Pottery of Stoke-on-Trent.

The list of RW thimble painters includes dates that each painter is known to have painted for Royal Worcester. I have included their life dates, where they are available, in square brackets alongside their names.

Last updated: 12 December 2024

I have included as many thimble examples as possible for each artist.

The list may not be complete. To date there are **235 artists** listed who are believed to have painted thimbles for Royal Worcester (this includes paintresses' (a delightful RW early term used in the factory) maiden and married names, where they painted under both names).

So far - with help from collectors around the world - **218** have examples of their handpainted Royal Worcester thimbles. There are now only **18** thimbles to find by these RW painters (* definitely known to have painted RW thimbles).

F Bizl* | Tony Blakemore | E Burkin | T Dear* | C Gull* | Kevin Hunt | JOH* | Keever* | Peter Love | Mona McHarg | Terence (Terry) Nutt Maurice J Pledger | Michael Powell | Christopher Smith | Judy Vickers | Fay Stephens | Beverly Waldo



some of the Royal Worcester fruit painters

I have found and included examples of **20** modern thimble painters who were painters for RW. They went on to paint thimbles under their own names or brand. There is a quite a trail for modern thimble collectors to discover! Check their entries below to see where else they appear.

Fiona Bakewell | Wendy Bowen (nee Clarke) | David R Bowkett | Christopher Burns | Nigel Creed | Gerald Delaney | Milwyn Holloway Christopher Hughes | John Smith | Allan Norwood | Terence Nutt | Judy Oram | Peter Platt | Maurice J Pledger | Steve Smith James Skerrett | Rosemary Waldron | Sheila Whitcombe | Derek Wilson

For other handpainted thimble topics see

Australian handpainted thimbles
British modern handpainted thimbles
Gerald Delaney handpainted thimbles
Graham Payne handpainted thimbles
Jasper's of Yorkshire handpainted thimbles

- ' Abdul '
- Peter Platt's nickname

(sadly the signature won't photograph)



James Allen [Allen] (b.1923) 1937-1958 and 1971

- a protégé of William Powell





H Annaby 1955



J Archer 1970s-





Annette Arnold [O] (b.1953)

1966- [larger backstamp]





Arnott.





L Atkinson [L Atkins] 1970s-





Arthur Badham [A Bad.] (b.1935) Ì951-



















Fiona Bakewell [F BWell] (b.1956)

- maiden name **Fiona Round** 1973-
- in July 2009 I read on ebay that Fiona is still painting I have an enamelled pillbox handpainted by Fiona





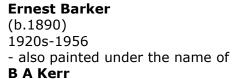




















Anthea Bills [AB]

















M Bills 1959-

























F Bizl

known to have painted a flower thimble date-coded 1941-49

Kitty Blake

1905-1953

- she specialised in flowers and small fruits
- a difficult signature to decipher









Tony Blakemore 1970-

J Blight 1970s-





























C Bootle 1970s-







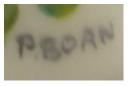






P Born 1950s-













David R Bowkett

1948-1963

- moved to Devon where he opened his own studio. He handpainted thimbles in 2002. Bowkett died in 2009

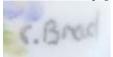




signed 'Bowkett'. An example of his fruit thimbles, from his time in Devon:



Edith Bradley [C Brad]













R Bridle

1960s-

- this artist's thimbles don't have gold trims





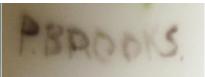
S T Bright





P Brooks 1960s-







E Brown 1970s-

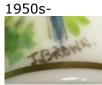








J Brown





J Bulls (?)

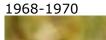
1950s-

This is a strange one!! Look at the backstamp carefully. The owner can see that the backstamp is under the glaze, but the Royal Worcester name is missing!! Have you seen anything like this before?





Carolyn Bullock [C Bull] - married name Carolyn Hammond







E Burkin

J Burn 1959-











Christopher Burns



painted thimbles on his <u>Harcourt China</u> in 1987. Signed 'C Burns' near the painting. Two examples:





R Bury 1970s-





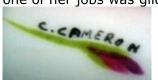
E Cam. 1970s-





Christine Cameron (b.1951)

February 1975-November 1978
- Christine worked in the gilding department from 1967 to 1971, where one of her jobs was gilding thimbles









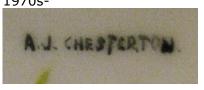








A J Chesterton 1970s-

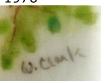






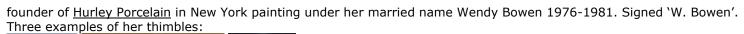
Wendy Clark/Clarke

-1976

















1978

Cole



P Colin 1950s-1960s



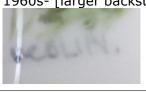






V Colin

1960s- [larger backstamp]













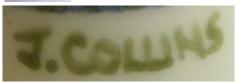
Janet Collins

(b.1957)

1975-1977

- Janet was a thimble painter during the 1970s in The Enamellers Dept, then she went on to paint in the Ladies Figurine Dept
- She kept up her painting, and now (017) paints watercolour commissions (pets, wedding venues etc)
- now Janet E Humphries















M Cotton





K Coty



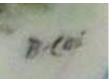






Bryan Cox 1950s-











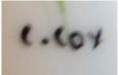






Claire Cox (b.1958) 1975-1977











































Nigel Creed 1963-

Creed, a Master Painter, painted thimbles for Thimble Society of London in 1990s. Ken Russell a Master Gilder completed the design. Russell was Royal Worcester's last Master Gilder

signed 'NC' near painting – 'Russell' or 'Ken Russell' (1934-2020) lettered inside. Three examples:





Charlie Creese 1925-1938



D Cy



Alina (known as Lee) **Dajda** (b.1953) 1975-1977











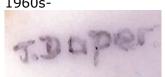








J Daper 1960s-









T Davies















Agnes Davis (1901-1990) 1950s-















C Davis 1950s-





















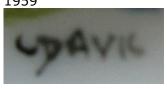








L Davis 1959





V Day 1970s-





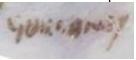
T Dear 1970s-

- known to have painted a bird thimble

Gerald E Delaney

(b.1933) 1948-1959 and 1971-1973

- painted fruit under Ted Townsend
- moved to Coalport
- never on full production



- see my topic on Gerald Delaney thimbles for further information





went freelance painting under his own name/backstamp







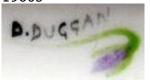
Dorothy Doughty (1892-1962)





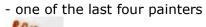
1960

D Duggan 1960s-





Pamela (Pat) Dunkley (b.1945) 1973-1981







Sheila Dutfield [S D/field]

(b.1958) Ì975-

- maiden name Sheila Shinnie















J Egusquiza 1960s-













(b.1950) Ì965-









Yvonne Evans







J Ewan 1950s-





A Faid 1964–















C Farmer











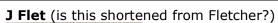
















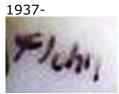








Flohn







A Footman 1960s-











D Fratt







John Fuller (b.1940) 1955-





A Gall' [AG] 1970s-





Giorann Garcia

- married name **Giorann Henshaw** 1974-1980
- joined the enamelling dept Dot Sparks was her supervisor and she was friends with Angela Lawson in the same dept. Giorann returned to Gibraltar (info from the painter in 2004)





































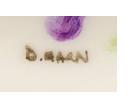
















J Gart. 1970s-



S Gegg















M Gibson 1970s-



















Ron Godfrey

1932-1939

- went on to signwriting after WWII











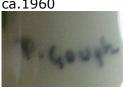








P Gough ca.1960

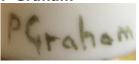








P Graham









Lybbe Griffiths [L Griff.]





















C Gull

known to have painted a bird thimble

Gwilliam

- apprentice in 1950s

known to have painted roses with groups of flowers on thimbles

D Hall.





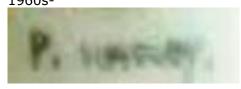




Carolyn Hammond

- maiden name Carolyn Bullock

P Hardy 1960s-





















M Hatch.











D Hatchett





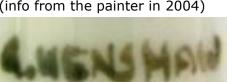
A J Hemming.





Giorann Henshaw

- maiden name **Giorann Garcia** 1974-1980
- joined the enamelling dept Dot Sparks was her supervisor and she was friends with Angela Lawson in the same dept Giorann returned to Gibraltar (info from the painter in 2004)



















F Herd



B Hill 1954-



K H Hill 1950s-





A Hinitt 1960s-













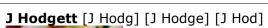
























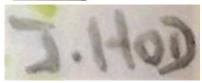












Anne Holian

1960s-



















G Holloway













Milwyn Holloway

(b.1940) 1954-1971







Milwyn Holloway's bird thimbles post-RW are use the name of <u>Claymore Ceramics</u>. All are signed 'MH' near the bird. Two examples:



R Homer 1970s-





Christopher Hughes [C Hugh]

[C Hug.] (b.1948)

1960-1980 [some have larger

backstamps]

















painted thimbles on his <u>The Christopher Hughes Collection</u> label from 1987. Signed 'Christopher Hughes' near the painting. Two examples:





Kevin Hunt

(b.1955) 1971-

Mildred (Millie) Hunt 1926-

- married name Mildred (Millie) Johns
- painted between the two World Wars











John Hussell





















Mary Igoe [M I] (b.1956) 1971-













































Susan Innis 1977-



















S James

1970s-



B Jeff. 1960s-





J Jeynes 1970s-





Mildred (Millie) Johns 1926-

- maiden name Mildred (Millie) Hunt
- painted between the two world wars





JOH 1940s

known to have painted flowers on a thimble date-coded 1940

K Jones 1970s-







Yvonne Jones











Karen. --- 1970s-

- does anyone know her other name?
- could it be K Jones?







Keever 1970s-

known to have painted a bird thimble

Doreen Knott

- 1962
- later Mrs Martin









R Land 1970s-





Jean Lawrence [JL] (b.1951)





Angela Lawson

(b.1950) 1975-





Helene Ligthert

(b.1957) September 1974-1978

- after 1974 she moved to the gilding department where she worked until 1980





Christine Lloyd

- married name **Christine Steadman** 1964

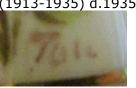






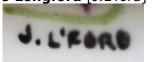


Thomas Greville Lockyer [Tom] (1913-1935) d.1935





J Longford [J.L'ford]







Peter Love ca.1950-1956

known to have painted fruit

D Lowe













S L'Wood 1970s-

- is this Lightwood or Leatherwood?





H Manton [H Man] 1950s-1960s







Pauline Margetts [P Mar] [P Marg] (b.1951)

- maiden name **Pauline Shephard** 1967-

















J L Marks





Michael Mas



Carola Maslyn (long signature shows C Maslen) [C Lyn]

1960s- [larger backstamp]









Douglas Massey [D Masy] 1951





Mona McHarg 1960s-

Sandra Meredith 1960s-







Michelin (Micky) Miller 1944-1955 - apprentice to Kitty Blake







Marie Milward

-1971





F MHN.





Pauline Molloy (b.1951)





Gillian Moody [M] (b.1944)























S Morgan 1960s-





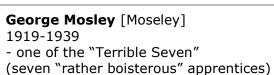
M Morris (b.1957) Ì975-





S Morris 1970s-





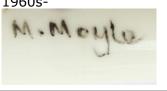








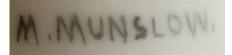
M Moyle 1960s-





Mandy Munslow 1970s-







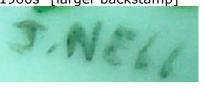
J Nady





J Nell

1960s- [larger backstamp]





William Nicholls

(b.1933) 1950-1972







S Norris

- see **S Morris**

P Norton



Allan Norwood

ca.1948-1956

 went to Heathealey Fine Bone China who started up in Worcester for a short while









Terence (Terry) Nutt 1980s –



This is a handpainted thimble by Terence Nutt of Worcester. Signed 'T. Nutt' alongside fruit. The label was in the thimble box

HAND PAINTED BY

TERENCE NUTT GALLIPOT BEAUCHAMP LANE CALLOW END

WORCESTER 830542



Judy Oram 1971-

 her signature JO also found on Graham Payne Studio handpainted thimbles







Judy Owen (b.1946)







Christine Parker [C Park] (b.1953) 1971-1983

- one of the last four thimble painters







C Parks 1950-





T Parr 1970s-



















P Payne





J Pearce 1960s-





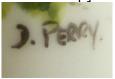






Diane Perry (b.1947) 1962- [larger backstamp]

















M Phips 1955-





Peter Platt

(b.1935) 1951-

 nickname 'Sam' or 'Abdul' was sometimes signed on his thimbles as a joke by apprentices



















in 1990s the Thimble Society of London commissioned thimbles painted by this artist. Three examples:





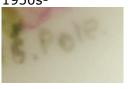


Maurice J Pledger

- I have seen this painter on thimbles issued by TCC [Renaissance and Oakley]

known to have painted birds











R Poole 1950s-









L Port. 1960s-





A Powell [A Pow.]



J Powell [J Pow] 1960s-





Michael Powell (b.1945) 1966-









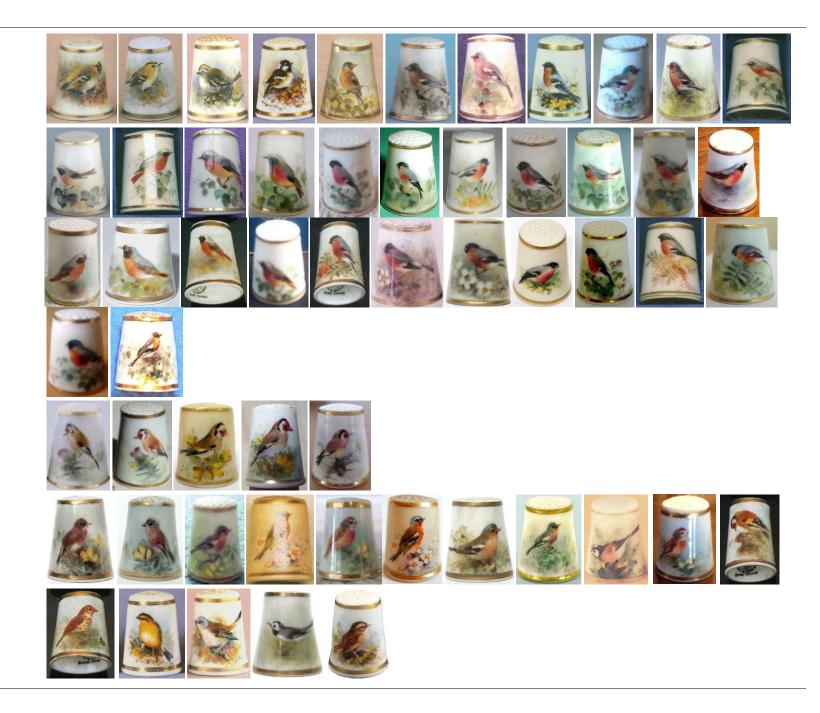
William Seaborn Powell [Willy Powell] (1878-1950) 1891-1950

- hunchback and dwarf











Linda Preece (b.1947) - married name **Linda Wilson** 1960s- [larger backstamp]





C Radburn 1970s-

















J Ranler



J Rayner [J Ray] 1970s-





Daisy Rea [DR] (b.1894-1975) 1909-1975

- forewoman of lady paintressesdid she only paint flowers?



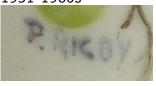




1920s



Pat Rigby [9] 1951-1960s





J Right 1960s-





A or **N Roberts** 1960s-





Susanne Roberts [S Rob.] [Sue Roberts] (b.1955)

- maiden name **Susanne Waldron** 1967-1980s
- one of the last two painters







Joan Ross 1965-







Fiona Round [F R] (b.1956)

- married name Fiona Bakewell 1973-







M Rouse 1950s-







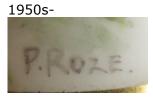
C Row.

- what is the full name?





P Roze

















Salter







`Sam`

- Peter Platt's nickname

S Sands

1960s- [+ larger backstamp]





















Eveline Sedgley

(b.1909)

- pseudonym ' Willis ' used when ladies not allowed to sign their own name 1924-1971









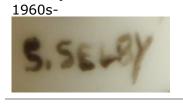






















Filippa Serra

(b.1951) 1970s-

 married name is Filippa Whitford (Christopher Whitford also a RW painter)





Pauline Shephard [P Sheph] [P She] (b.1951)

- married name **Pauline Margetts** 1967-

















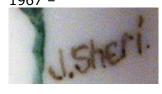








J Sheri. 1967 -





Sheila Shinnie 1960s

- married name Sheila Dutfield





Albert Shuard

-1961





- unusual to have painted dots on apex?





His thimbles are signed 'J Skerrett' and a decaled mark inside. Examples of two thimbles:









Christopher Smith

F Smith 1950s-















John F Smith (b.1934-)









JS signature also found on **Graham Payne Studio** handpainted thimbles





Lorraine Smith [LS] (b.1942)

1950s-















John Smyth 1950-1971













Dorothy Sparks [Sparkes] (b.1935) 1951-1980s

- one of the last two painters and she was also the supervisor















































Christine Steadman

1965-1966

- maiden name Christine Lloyd

Fay Stephens/Stevens [FS] 1949-

Stinton

1941

- could be any one of eight members of this family who painted for Royal Worcester

Harry at Worcester 1896-1963 Highland cattle James (Jas) at Worcester 1902-1951 birds John Jnr at Worcester 1902-1938 birds





K Stott









M Sutton 1940s-















Gertie Taunt 1910-

Angela Taylor





L Taylor 1950s-





























R Thorn 1970s-





Edward (Ted) Townsend (b.1904)

1918-1942 and 1947-1971

- foreman of men painters
- one of the "Terrible Seven" (seven "rather boisterous" apprentices)





Julia Vass [J Vaas][J V] (b.1954)





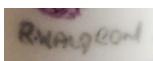
Judy Vickers [V] (b.1946) 1965-

Beverley Waldo 1977-

Rosemary Waldron [R] (b.1951) ì967-

- younger sister is Susanne







her RW initials are also found on **Graham Payne Studio** handpainted thimbles



Susanne Waldron [S W] (b.1955)

- married name Susanne Roberts 1971-
- older sister is Rosemary







B Walter 1970s-

















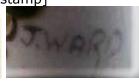




J Ward

1960s- [larger backstamp]



















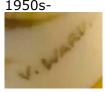














Sheila Whitcombe (nee Watson)

A Royal Worcester modeller so there were no thimbles



paints now under the name of <u>Dunheved China</u> in Cornwall (partner of Derek Wilson). Signed <u>S Whitcombe</u>. Two examples:



S White





W A White



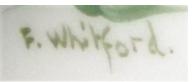




Filippa Whitford (b.1952)

- maiden name Filippa Serra (these two thimbles were privately commissioned, so no thimbles actually exist under her married name?) 1971-







D Wild 1950s-











S Wiley





Helen Williams (b.1949) 1975-

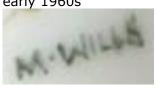




` Willis `

- pseudonym used by **Eveline Sedgley**

M Wills early 1960s



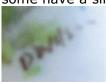


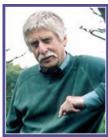






Derek Wilson 1930-1954 some have a single gilded band only























paints now under the name of <u>Dunheved China</u> in Cornwall (partner of Sheila Whitcombe). Signed <u>D Wilson</u>. Two of his thimbles:



Linda Wilson (b.1947)

- maiden name **Linda Preece** 1970s-









































E Wimperis

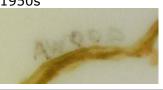








A Wood 1950s





C Wood 1960s-

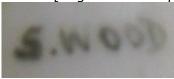






Sally Wood

(b. 1971) 1960s- [larger backstamp]







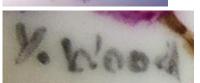
T Wood 1970s-





Y Wood 1960s- [larger backstamp]







M Woodings 1960s-











M Wyer 1970s-







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This listing of Royal Worcester thimble painters 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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