

# Sterling silver advertising thimbles

including jewellers' and ships' thimbles

Whilst I was researching the topics of British sterling silver placename thimbles and Thimbles with slogans, I noticed a smaller grouping of silver thimbles with adverts and so my quest for information about sterling silver advertising or promotional thimbles began.

Previously I thought that general products being advertised on thimbles were in the majority, with a few silver thimbles advertising jewellers. Exactly the opposite is true. The jewellers' advertising thimbles are the most prolific, with 98% being for British jewellers. At the beginning of the 20th century, James Walker, a London jeweller, began to give away a silver thimble to couples who purchased their wedding ring: these were marked with James Walker Wishes you Luck. The most commonly seen jewellers' advertising thimble is for James Walker the London Jeweller. Recently a precursor has been found to the James Walker advertising thimbles. Made by Griffith in 1921, it only has the lettering Walker.

**Henry Griffith & Sons** (HG&S) of Birmingham are the primary makers of the silver advertising or promotional thimbles. These thimbles were largely produced between 1924 and 1930. Where I have specified no makers' marks, the maker is HG&S. Some of the other makers' thimbles would have been made by HG&S, but the wholesaler's registered maker's mark was used instead.

A dead giveaway is that the words The Spa appear on the band (thimbles only ever made by Griffith after 1920 when the firm moved to Leamington Spa) or when the size mark is between 13 and 18. Griffith was the only English thimble maker to have his thimble sizes corresponding to the millimetre diameter. So even tho the thimbles have the maker's mark as **JWLtd, N.G.** or **N.G. Co.** these would have been made by Henry Griffith & Sons, using the Chester assay office, where the JWLtd mark was registered. According to Holmes, there was a close association between the firms of Griffith and James Walker. The N.G. mark was registered in Birmingham in 1916 and this is for Northern Goldsmiths Company.

I have only found a few examples of US jewellers.

Between 1899 and 1904 **James Fenton**, another Birmingham thimble maker, made no thimbles for English jewellers but there are two examples of his thimbles made for Australian jewellers.

**Charles Horner** of Halifax made no thimbles for English jewellers but there are two examples of his made for Canadian jewellers between 1908 and 1911.

**James Swann and Son** of Birmingham, the only large English silver thimble maker still in business by 1969, made the examples for another Canadian jeweller.

The advertisements on thimbles for general products generally pre-date the jewellers' ones. I have included information from Zalkin or Holmes about how one qualified for some of these free thimbles. My primary source for silver advertising thimbles made in the United States is Gay Ann Rogers.

They certainly pre-date most of their English counterparts.

It is most gratifying to notice that a few of the jewellers or the general products being advertised are still in business. If they were offering a free silver thimble back in the 1900-1920s, then they still deserve to be in business in the 21st century!!

Silver advertising thimbles were at the top end of the range with the bulk of giveaways being made of aluminium, plastic or brass.

There is a small niche collection within the advertising thimbles theme - those with **ship or ocean liner names** on silver thimbles. The Orient and subsequently the Peninsular & Oriental (P&O) Shipping Lines had five liners on the route between England and Australia in the first half of the twentieth century and there were silver thimbles, made by Henry Griffith & Sons, lettered in relief with the name of the ship. It was the era of mass migration from Europe to Australia. These were produced much later than his placename and jewellers' advertising thimbles, being made post-World War II, until he closed his business in 1956.

Gabler thimbles with enamelled bands produced .800 silver thimbles much earlier (pre-World War II) with named cruise ships. There are a few rare examples of the US from Ketcham & McDougall producing similar enamelled sterling ship thimbles, like those from Gabler.

The lettering on Henry Griffith advertising jewellers' thimbles is usually in small script, as there are such long names and/or addresses to fit around the thimble band. The shorter the name, the larger the print.

The lettering is in relief and in uppercase, often over a striated ground on the English thimbles.

I have tried to follow punctuation and font style where possible, but many will still need editing - please help if you have some of these thimbles where I haven't used the correct details.

These thimbles are arranged alphabetically by the first word of the advertisement, which may be the jeweller's initial. If preceded by other lettering like Best ... With ... Good ... they still file alphabetically by the first letter.

## Jewellers' Advertising Thimbles


### A J WRIGHT BURTON ON TRENT



1930

### A.O.KIDDER

Newport, New Hampshire



**A. O. KIDDER,**  
DEALER IN  
**Fine Gold and Silver Watches,**  
CLOCKS OF EVERY DESCRIPTION,  
**FINE GOLD JEWELRY,**  
Silver and Plated Ware,  
**POCKET AND TABLE CUTLERY,**  
Spectacles of all Kinds,  
**GLASS SHADES AND STANDS FOR WAX WORK,**  
*Toys and Fancy Goods of every Description.*  
ALSO, SOLE AGENT FOR  
*Aiken, Lambert & Co's Celebrated Gold Pens.*  
Watches, Clocks and Jewelry thoroughly repaired and warranted.  
1st Door North of Town Clock Building,  
NEWPORT, N. H.

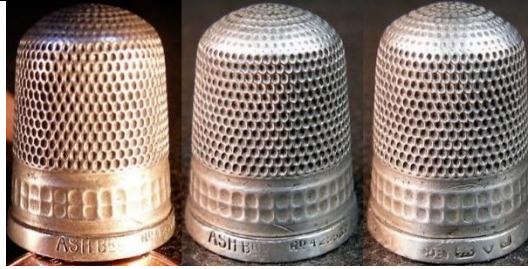
*The Newport Business Directory and Advertiser 1870*

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## ASH BROS

Edmonton, Canada

the thimbles are made by Charles Horner for this Canadian jeweller  
the jeweller's name is stamped onto the band



**Charles Horner**  
1908



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## BARRETT HASTINGS

see also: Good wishes from E Barrett



**Barrett**

this is forerunner of jeweller's advertising thimbles  
1898/1900

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## BENNETT 2165 CHEAPSIDE



**BEST WISHES FROM L.COURLANDER.**

see also: Courlander the Croydon Jeweller



1924

**BEST WISHES FROM SALSBUURY & SONS.**

see also: Salsbury the Guildford Jewellers



1924

**BIRKS**

the Canadian jeweller

these jewellers are still in business in Canada, having been founded by Henry Birks in 1879

it is the largest jeweller in Canada, with 36 stores across the country

all examples have 'Birks' stamped onto the band, with a size mark + STERLING

tho most are not hallmarked, they may have been made in England, for sale in Birks stores across Canada.

There is an example made by CH (Charles Horner) but I can't find an image with the additional mark for BIRKS



STERLING



STERLING  
stone apex



**James Swann & Son**  
1963  
stone apex



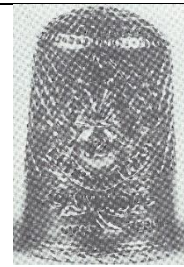
**James Swann & Son**  
1963  
stone apex



**James Swann & Son**  
1963  
enameled band



**James Swann & Son**  
1963 '9.375' for 9ct



'Canada'  
with military insignia affixed  
for World War 1



thimble box for Henry Birks & Sons  
building logo included

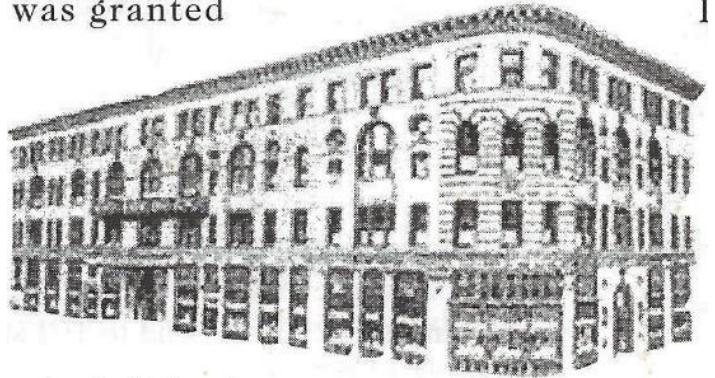
was granted



the Vancouver store 2010



Henry Birks



Phillips Square, Montreal

### "BRUFORDS' EXETER"

these jewellers are still in business in Exeter, Devon - at 17 The Guildhall, Queen Street



1926

### CHAS. A. KEENE 180 BROADWAY N.Y.

wholesale watches, diamonds, jewellery  
possibly made by Stern Bros, USA



## CONROY COUCH.TORQUAY.

these jewellers are still in business in Torquay, Devon



1926/1929



James Walker Ltd  
1924

## COURLANDER. THE CROYDON JEWELLER.

see also: Best wishes from L Courlander



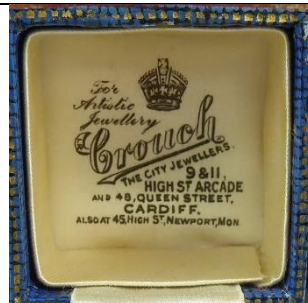
James Walker Ltd  
1923

## CROUCH NEWPORT

45 High Street, Newport, Monmouthshire, Wales  
their principal Welsh store was in Cardiff  
see also: W.H. Crouch Swansea



MADE IN ENGLAND STERLING SILVER THE SPA



thimble box

## CROWN BAZAAR

with the triskelion symbol for the **Isle of Man**  
the triskelion needs the wider band



1924

## DARK. JEWELLER. BARNSTAPLE.

this firm was still in business in Barnstaple, North Devon, into the early 1980s



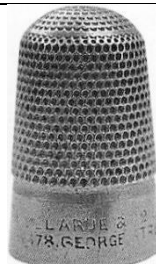
1925/1927



at left: A E Dark & Son Jewellers and Opticians 14 High Street Barnstaple

## DE LA RUE & CO LIMD 378 GEORGE STREET

the jeweller's name and address is stamped onto the band for this Sydney, Australia firm



**James Fenton**  
**Henry Williams Ltd**  
1903/1904

## DICKINSON NEWCASTLE



1930

## DOUGLAS, JEWELLER. STOURBRIDGE.



1923

## E.J. GALLICHAN & Co Ltd

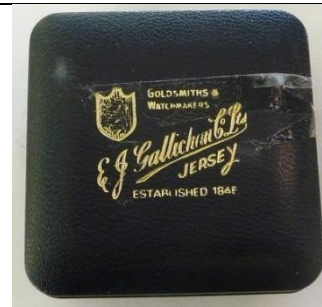
these jewellers have been in existence on Royal Square, St Helier, Jersey since 1845  
According to Jan Le Sueur of Jersey - quoted in the winter 1991 issue of The Thimble Society of London  
"E.J. Gallichan & Co-Ltd, put out 300 silver thimbles in 1930. They were given to Jersey schools as  
needle work prizes. I think it was possibly the first and last time they ever did this!"



1930



store in Jersey in June 2005



Gallichan thimble box



**FAIRFAX & ROBERTS**  
**--SYDNEY--**

the jeweller's name is stamped onto the band for this Sydney firm  
this firm of jewellers is still in existence in Sydney, Australia



**James Fenton**  
1899/1900/1902/1903



thimble box

**FOWLER & OLDFIELD BRADFORD**

the firm is still in existence at Kirkgate in Bradford, West Yorkshire



1927/1928/1929



**FULLERS. DUNDEE**



1930

## GIBBS



US thimble – is Gibbs the jeweller?  
This name does not appear in Gay Ann Rogers *American silver thimbles*

## GOOD LUCK FROM Hester Clarke

interesting to see this modern jeweller commissioning advertising thimbles  
these jewellers are still operating in Aylesbury, Bucks at 10-14 Cambridge Street and Princes  
Risborough  
their thimble boxes are lettered "Hester Clarke County Jewellers Aylesbury"



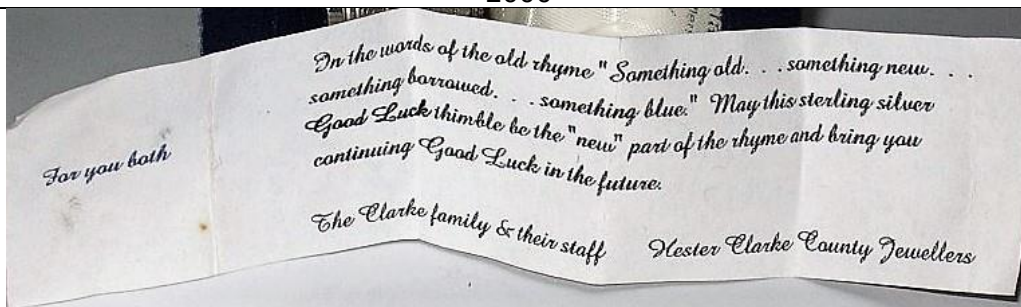
**James Swann & Sons**  
1991



not dated  
who made these thimbles?



**James Swann & Sons**  
2000



accompanying leaflet



**GOOD WISHES FROM E. BARRETT.**

see also: Barrett Hastings



1926

**HARRAL.THE RING SHOPS, BARNSELY & MEXBORO**

This is the longest jeweller's slogan made by Henry Griffith, with 35 letters etc. Mexboro had to be shortened from Mexborough



1925



Benj Harral Ltd The Jewellers  
in Barnsley in 1980s before they closed

**H.B. PEACOCK. SWANSEA.**



1926

**HENDERSONS. JEWELLERS. DUNDEE**



1927

## JAMES WALKER. THE LONDON JEWELLER.

acquired by H. Samuel the Jeweller in 1984

according to Holmes, the thimble was offered to customers who spent more than 5/- (five shillings)  
the cost of the thimble was 4d (fourpence)



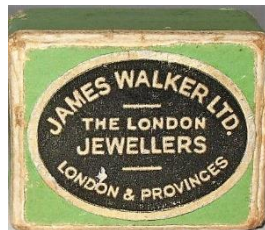
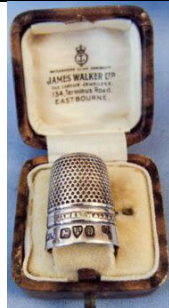
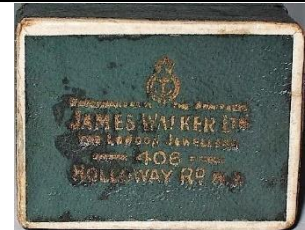
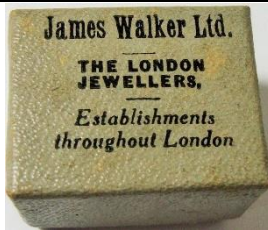
**James Walker Ltd**  
Chester 1928



**Northern Goldsmiths**



1930  
Royal Spa



important finds are these James Walker Ltd cardboard thimble boxes  
there is an unconditional guarantee on the base of some of the boxes similar  
to those of Charles Horner's Dorcas boxes

the later thimble box (top C) has no guarantee on the bottom of the box:  
"Watchmakers to the Admiralty" – blue box "51 & 53, Clarence Street, Kingston-on-Thames"  
top R: "Watchmakers to the Admiralty" – green box "46 Holloway Rd N7"

lower L: the open box is for the Eastbourne branch

lower R: this box is for their "London & Provinces", which contains their 'Steel-Clad' thimble

all boxes are named as ... "The London Jewellers" where the thimbles have Jeweller in the singular  
form



1921

this may have been a precursor advertising thimble for James Walker. Hallmarked for by HG&S and hallmarked 1921, it has the lettering of **Walker**.

### **JAMES WALKER WISHES YOU LUCK**

this was the gift thimble that one received when buying a wedding ring (Holmes)



1924/1925



**James Walker Ltd**  
1922/1923

### **J C. BLOOM JEWELRY CO.**

a USA jewellery firm

these jewellers are still operating in Bangor, Philadelphia

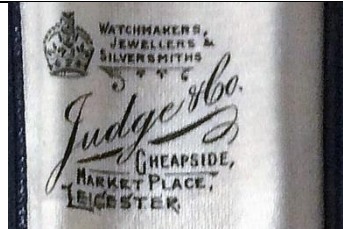


**Goldsmith-Stern**  
patterned rim  
some have smooth rims

## "JUDGE, LEICESTER"



1930



thimble box

## JUDGES RINGS LEICESTER



1926

## J.W.CASSIDY. JEWELLER. BIRMINGHAM

founded by John Walter Cassidy in the 1920s



1927

## J W CASSIDY. JEWELLER WORCESTER

founded by John Walter Cassidy in the 1920s

"The Worcester business continued through the family until the 1970s/80s but is no longer going having been bought out by one of the larger jewellery chains". (B Norman)



Northern Goldsmiths

1927

**J.Y. JONES MT. STERLING KY.**



thimble is marked COIN  
Coin silver is 99% pure

**KUESEL & PULS**



**Goldsmith Stern**

**LIDGETT, LINCOLN**

T. L. Lidgett & Sons were jewellers based at 201 High Street, Lincoln



1930

**L.J. WADE. BOGNER.**



1926

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**MEADER. BOSCOMBE**

according to Holmes, these jewellers were still operating in 1989, in the main shopping street



1926

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**MORRISONS. ESCOMBE.**

Escombe is in Durham, England



1929

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**PARKER'S**

these jewellers are still in existence in the UK



1928/1930

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**PAYNE, JEWELLER. THE MOOR, SHEFFIELD.**



1925



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## PICKETT & CO PORTSMOUTH

there are jewellers of this name - Pickets & Pursers - at 9 Rams Walk in Petersfield, Hants  
and Pickets & Pursers Ltd in Southampton at 80 Above Bar



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## PLEASANCE & HARPER L<sup>TD</sup>. JEWELLERS.

these jewellers have been in operation since 1874 - in Bristol and in Hereford



1924

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## ROBINSON THE JEWELLER

According to The Thimble Society of London - autumn 1988 issue - Bridget McConnell remembers "...his shop was in Hampstead, and he specialised in good paste jewellery. He supplied the theatre and film companies and provided all the 'diamonds' for Mae West to wear in 'Diamond Lil'".



1931

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## ROBINSONS FOR VALUE



**RONSON. 169 B'WAY.N.Y.**



STERLING

**SALSBURY.THE GUILDFORD JEWELLERS.**

these jewellers are still in operation in Guildford, Surrey  
see also: Best wishes from Salsbury & Sons



James Walker Ltd  
1924

**SHEFFIELD GOLDSMITHS CO. LTD.**



**"STEEL & CO. WHITLEY BAY"**



1926



Northern Goldsmiths  
1926

**VINCENT, YEOVIL**



1924

## WATSON, HASTINGS



1930

## W.E.WATTS, 9 MARKET PLACE, DERBY.

these jewellers are still in operation in Derby, England



1926

## W.H. CROUCH. SWANSEA

see also: Crouch of Newport



W H Crouch  
1926



## WHEATLEY BROS

the jeweller's name is stamped onto the band  
Regina, Canada



Charles Horner  
1911  
R<sup>D</sup>429537



one of their jeweller's boxes

**WITH H. SAMUEL'S COMPLIMENTS**

founded in 1821 in Liverpool by silversmiths Moses & Lewis Samuel  
Harriet Samuel took over the business in 1862 and moved to Manchester  
the business moved to Birmingham 1912 and they are still in business  
H. Samuel acquired the James Walker group in 1984



1930



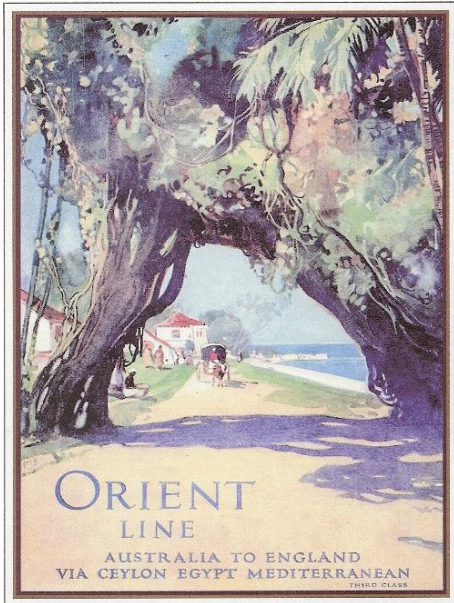
**... JUWELIER**

I am including this in the hope someone will be able to complete the Dutch jeweller's name



## Ship Advertising/Souvenir Thimbles

The Orient Steam Navigation Company (Orient Line) produced thimbles for their ships during the 1950s. The ships plied between England and Australia, visiting Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane, some bringing migrants out after WWII.



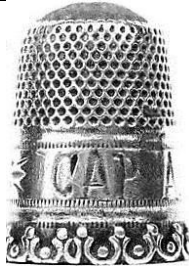
R: P&O Building Fremantle

The Orient Line's sister company, Peninsular & Oriental Steam Navigation Company (P&O) took over the ships in the mid-60s, but by then Henry Griffith & Sons had ceased making thimbles. There were other Orient liners but there don't seem to be thimbles made for them.  
Ormonde Otranto Orama Orford

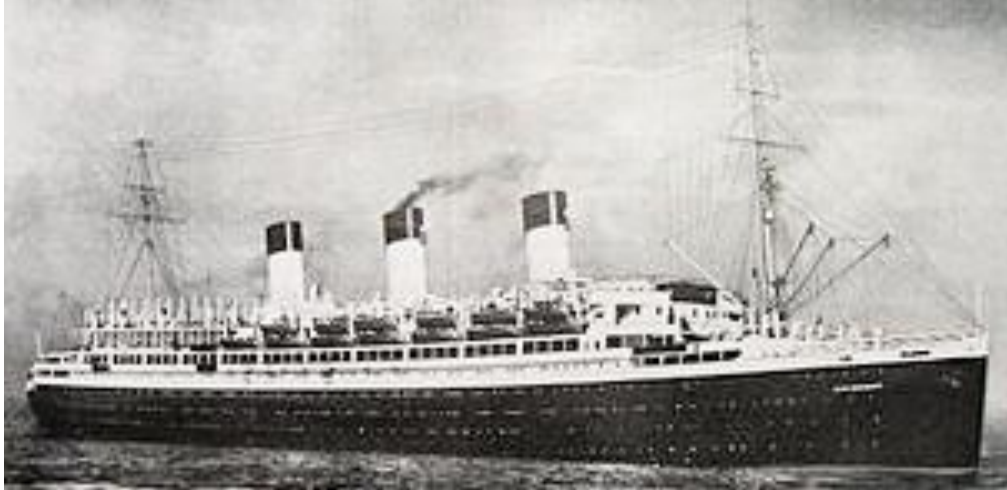
I have now added thimbles of ships from all eras and makers.

## CAP ARCONA

A German liner launched in 1927 and torpedoed in 1945 (Wood)  
She carried passengers and cargo between Germany and the east coast of South America, and in her time was the largest and quickest ship on the route.



800 German made  
stone apex

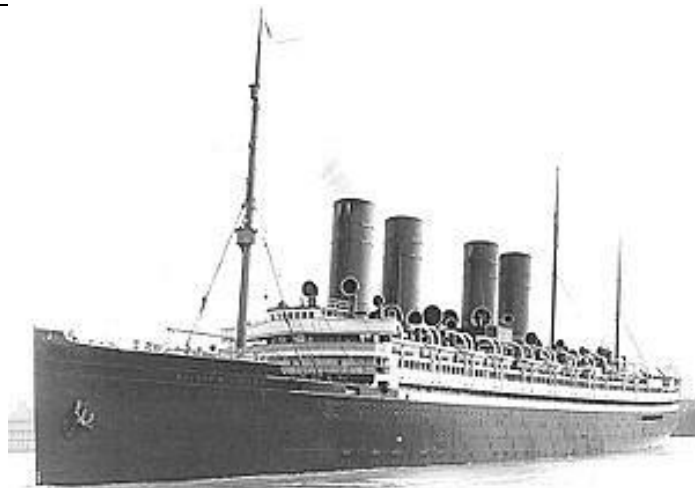


## D. Kaiser Wilhelm II

1902-1917



**Gabler**  
enamelled band on 800 silver  
beaded rim



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## D: PRESIDENT LINCOLN

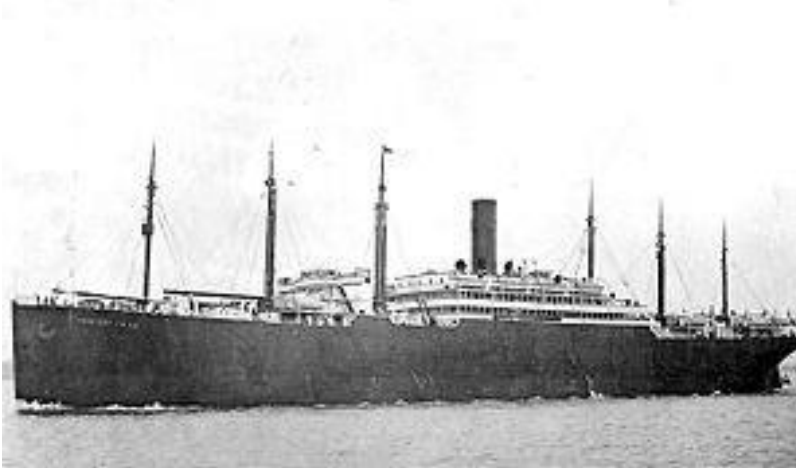
German steamer of Hamburg America Line 1907-1918  
seized in New York Harbour in 1917 where it was renamed USS ...



### Gabler

enamelled band on silver - amethyst stone apex  
patterned rim

Photo # NH-41893 . German passenger liner President Lincoln, which was USS President Lincoln in 1917-1918



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## D. Vaterland

**SS Leviathan**, originally built as the **Vaterland**, was an ocean liner which regularly crossed the North Atlantic from 1911 to 1934. Built for Germany's Hamburg America Line for their transatlantic passenger service, she sailed as the *Vaterland* for less than a year before, at the start of World War I.



### Gabler

silver with enamelled bands - red stone apex

L: patterned rim

R: smooth rim





## D:Victoria Luise

German passenger ship of the Hamburg America Line 1900-1906 - lost after being accidentally grounded off Jamaica



### Gabler

enamelled band on silver

L: moonstone stone top - R: green stone top  
patterned rims



## Dampfer Cleveland

German passenger liner built in 1909 for the Hamburg America Line. She was the first ship to have two round-the-world cruises



### Gabler

enamelled band on 800 silver - green stone top  
patterned rim



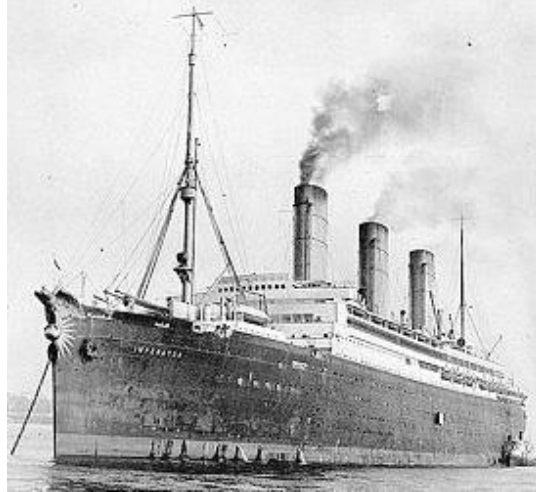
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## DER NEUSTE DAMPFER IMPERATOR

German passenger liner 1913-1914 and at the time the largest in the world  
see also: Imperator



**Gabler**  
enamelled band on 800 silver



## DEUTSLAND / SS DEUTSCHLAND

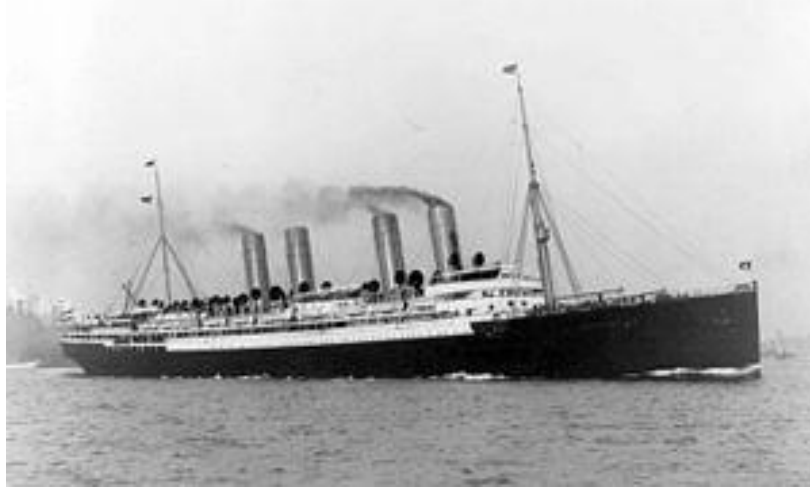
German ocean-going liner by the Hamburg America Line 1900-1925



enamelled silver with moonstone top  
circa 1900



**Ketcham & McDougall USA**  
showing four funnels  
sterling silver with enameled band  
KMD uses the name English SS for "Steamship"  
instead of the German D for "Dampfer"  
beaded rim



1900

## IMPERATOR

see also: Der Neuste Dampfer Imperator



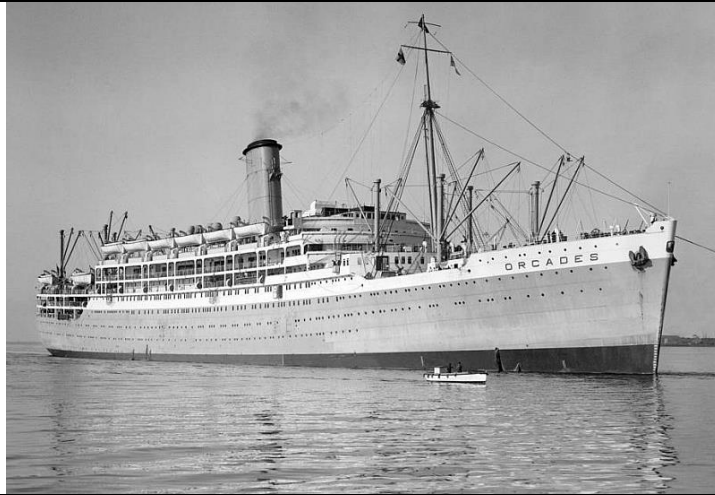
German  
enamelled plaque on silver  
patterned rim

## ORCADES

Orient liner 1944-1973



Henry Griffith & Son  
1953

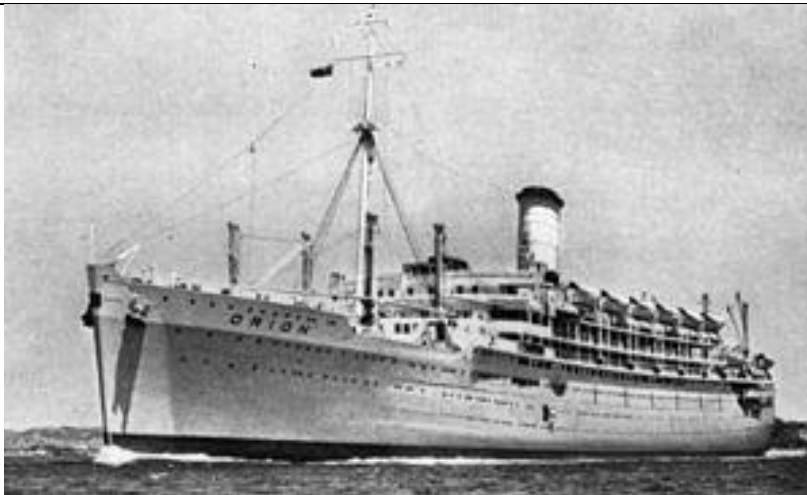


## ORION

Orient liner 1935-1963



Henry Griffith & Son  
1953



## ORONSAY

Orient/P&O liner 1951-1975



**Henry Griffith & Son**  
1952/1953



## ORONTES

Orient liner 1878-1962

no photo

**Henry Griffith & Sons**



## ORSOVA

Orient/P&O liner 1954-1974

This is the second liner named Orsova – the first ship was built in 1909 and scrapped in 1936.



**Henry Griffith & Son**  
1953/1954



1954

## RMS 'QUEEN MARY'



**Settmacher**  
1932

zinc with paper inset in roundel

## R.P.D Main.



**Gabler**  
enamelled band on silver

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## SS. FÜRST BISMARCK



**Ketcham & McDougall USA**  
enamelled band sterling silver  
beaded rim

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## SS Kaiser Wilhelm der Grosse

German transatlantic ocean liner 1897-1914



**Ketcham & McDougall USA**  
enamelled band sterling silver  
beaded rim



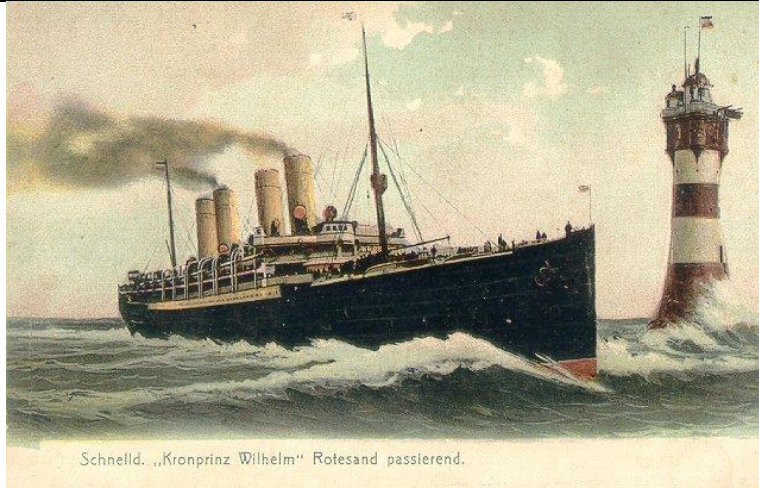


## SS KRONPRINZ WILHELM

German passenger liner built for North German Lloyd – 1901-1923  
KMD uses the name form SS instead of the German D ...



**Ketcham & McDougall USA**  
enamelled band sterling silver (damaged)  
beaded rim



Schnelld. „Kronprinz Wilhelm“ Rotesand passierend.

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## **SS KRONPRINZESSIN CECILIE**

German ocean liner built for North German Lloyd – 1906-1940

no photo

**Ketcham & McDougall USA**  
sterling silver



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## STEAMER ALBANY.

Hudson River Day Line Albany New York

Does this river steamer qualify as a tourist thimble or could it be an advertising thimble, fitting loosely within this thematic group of thimbles? What do US thimble collectors feel?



**Paye & Baker Manufacturing Co**  
Attleboro, Massachusetts, USA  
sterling silver with wide pictorial band



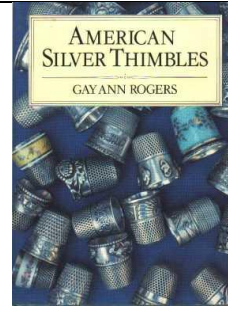
1900-1910

## Other Advertising Thimbles

### A present from Gay Ann Rogers "AMERICAN SILVER THIMBLES"



**Simons**  
1986



### ANDREWS LIVER SALT

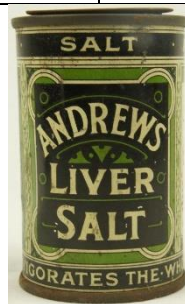
this product has stood the test of time and is still available today  
thimbles were offered free in exchange for ten paper discs which were inside the 4oz or five 8oz tins  
offer closed on 31/12/1927



1926/1927



**Northern Goldsmiths Co**  
1926



### Carlsberg

limited to 300 specially struck ... to coincide with the showing of the  
Special Brew TV commercial "Gently does it"  
this lettering is in the lid of the thimble boxes  
lettering on the thimble is upside down to be read by the sewer whilst sewing  
Thimble Society of London commissioned this thimble in spring 1982



**K L Downes**  
1981



**K L Downes**  
1981 box

## CEYLINDO TEA

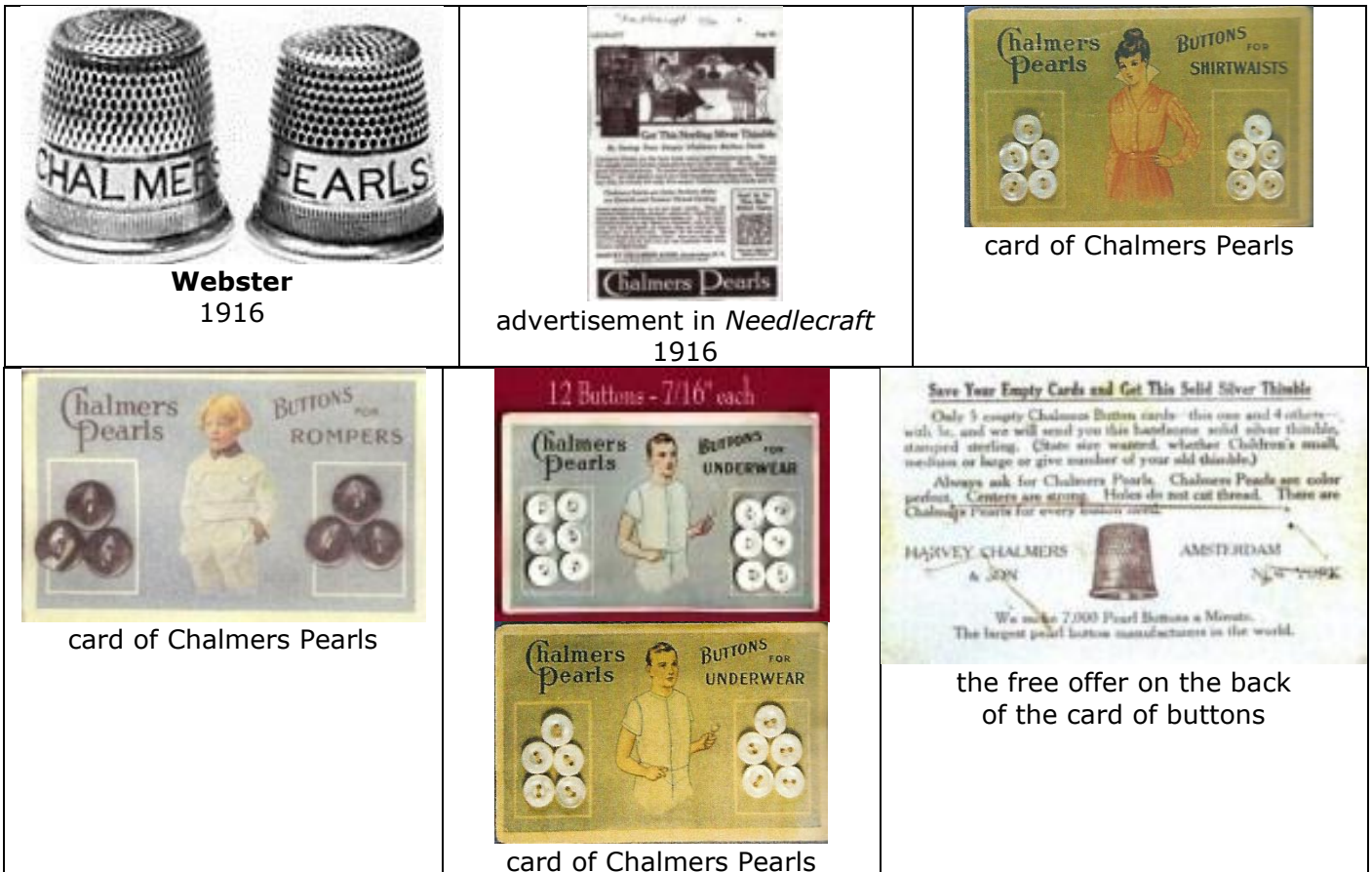
SEE ALSO: Brass Advertising thimbles for other metals Ceylindo Tea thimbles



## CHALMERS PEARLS

New York pearl buttons

customers received this thimble for five empty button cards and a nickel according to John von Hoelle, the offer was on the backs of their carded buttons



**COMPLIMENTS OF  
F.O.HADLEY 918½ MAIN ST.**

may be from Hadley Furniture Co. founded in 1914 in Main Street, Worcester Massachusetts



H Muhr?

**THE CRESCENT SILVER  
JUBILEE**

a department store in **Spokane, WA**  
made to commemorate their 25th anniversary in 1914  
each of the 300 employees received a silver Crescent thimble  
originally this was the Spokane Dry Goods Company. The Crescent closed in 1985  
there is a crescent moon and a star flanking the lettering



1914

**DOLPHINTON HOUSE HOTEL**

Scotland



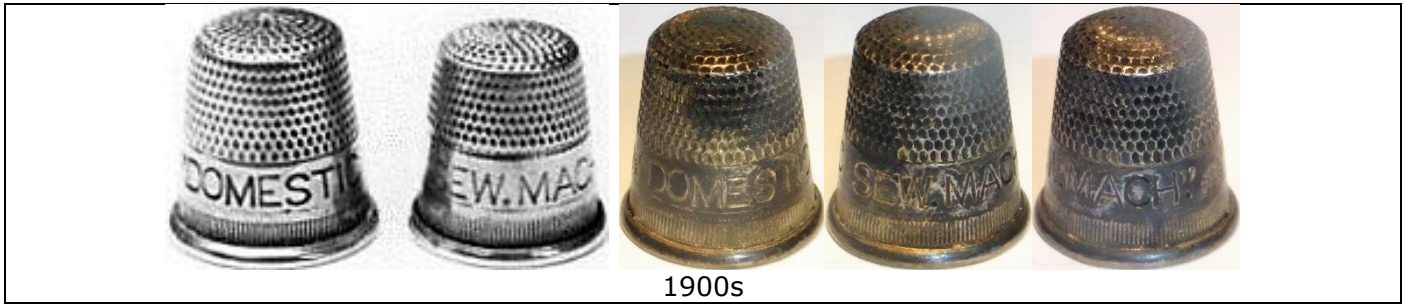
**James Swann & Son**  
1988  
dolphin in apex



**Swann Thimbles**  
1990  
applied Dolphin  
lettering very faint in the textured body

**"DOMESTIC SEW. MACH."**

gift of this silver thimble was offered when purchasing this brand of sewing machine  
 sewing machine went into production in 1864 in Norwalk, Ohio until 1924, when it was absorbed by  
 White Sewing Machine Co, who still sell sewing machines



1900s

**DR E DÜRRWÄCHTER**

founder of the 1922 Doduco refinery in Pforzheim, Germany, for gold silver and platinum  
 they supplied to jewellery industry



Germany

**Enrilo**

there are two possibilities for this product  
 either chocolates by Enrilo in Chile (script matches more closely). Chilean Chocolates was only formed  
 in 1950 but based on "the same recipe from Romania which was developed by the founders of the firm  
 in 1926".

ENRILO coffee substitutes/additives which was made in Germany in 1930s



## Ferrari



**Swann Thimbles**

1990

applied Ferrari Prancing Horse

## FINGERHUTMUSEUM

Creglingen, Germany

The Thimble Museum was opened by Thorvald and Brigitte Greif in August 1982, in an old grain mill



**Julius Wengert**

with Dutch "ZI" import mark



## 73 FURST BROS 98

celebrating 25 years in 1898

Baltimore, Maryland

makers of mirrors, frames, pictures, mouldings





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## GIEVES & HAWKES

Saville Row, London tailors

The ancient tailoring firm of Gieves was founded at 73 High Street, Portsmouth, in 1785 by Melchizedek Meredith, grandfather of George Meredith. The business was sold in 1841 to another local tailor, Joseph Galt, who went into partnership with James Gieves in 1852. James Gieves became sole owner in 1887 and was succeeded in the business by his sons.

[www.gievesandhawkes.com](http://www.gievesandhawkes.com)



**LB&B Co**  
1998  
tailor's thimble



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## Harrods KNIGHTSBRIDGE

These thimbles have already been covered in a topic entitle Harrods thimbles

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## HOVIS BREAD

Hovis Bread is still available in the UK today  
the following information comes from *Thimbletter*

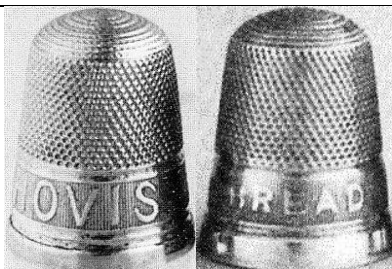
"I found in London's Highgate Cemetery the gravestone of the inventor of the bread.

The stone was in the shape of a boulder

It reads - "Richard Smith, 16 February 1836, 20 August 1900, of Stone in Staffordshire, Macclesfield in Cheshire and London. After years of patient investigation, he patented on the 6 October 1887 his improved treatment of the wheatgerm and broken wheat which made the manufacture of Hovis Bread possible."

According to Aldridge, these thimbles are first mentioned in the Hovis Company report for 1927, despite their earlier hallmarks

SEE ALSO: Brass Advertising thimbles for other metals Hovis Bread thimbles



1913/1914/1926/1932



**Northern Goldsmiths**  
1911/1914



1955 advertisement

## J B SIDE-SPRING CORSETS



1910/1923



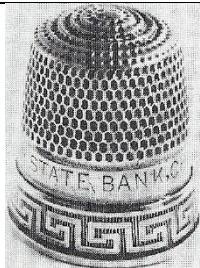
MCAS Ltd  
1923



1924  
the word CORSETS is missing



## KASPAR STATE BANK, CHICAGO



1900s



KASPAR, STATE  
BANK  
1500 Blue Island Avenue  
CHICAGO

postcard

## KENOSHA 1852 FIRST NATIONAL BANK

no photo

## KIRBY BEARD & C° PARIS

British pin makers



800 silver gilt  
1900s

## KOFFIE WAPEN MEPPEL

The Netherlands



brass

## LARKIN

distributed by Larkin company – a soap manufacturer - Buffalo, New York  
According to Edwin Holmes "This was a mail order house, first for soap, then expanded. A club plan was introduced. In June of 1916, this thimble was presented to the Club Secretaries. They may have also been presented at other times".



c.1916



## MAISON BLANCHE

a department store established in New Orleans in 1897



Simons  
1890s



1898

## MERCED GENERAL HOSPITAL MERCED CALIFORNIA

no photo

## NEEDLECRAFT

women's magazine, from Maine, US - published from 1901-1941  
thimbles were offered in exchange for selling 4-5 subscriptions in April 1923  
According to Gay Ann Rogers the "t" was missing off the word Needlecraft in 1890s. Presumably this was rectified



## OLD BUSHMILLS

Irish whiskey distillery, Antrim in Northern Ireland



## PEOPLES FRIEND

this was a "story paper for women"  
"... continues to be published to this day"





People's Friend building - London - June 2012

**RAFFLES**  
Singapore



thimble box is marked 'Raffles' with a hotel symbol 'Singapore'



**RICE SEWING**  
**ILK**

to receive this sterling thimble one had to send 30c for 3 spools of their thread



**Goldsmith Stern**  
unknown mark D alongside size  
1890s



1899 advertisement

### STORY JOURNAL

this weekly magazine was launched in 1909

thimbles were available to subscribers who had to collect tokens

publication ceased in 1914

*The Story Journal* thimbles with a hallmark for HG&S, Chester, 1909 were found in a drapery store in the 1980s, all in mint condition

interestingly there are examples of *The Story Journal* thimbles with later hallmark dates in existence that have been well used, so subscribers would have taken up the offer it is a puzzle why the earlier hallmarked ones have survived in mint condition, but the thimbles with later hallmarks went into circulation



1909/1910/1918/1919



Clarke & Sewell Ltd  
1909/1919

### SWEET HOME BREAD



; -p., lko9 ce2=900s



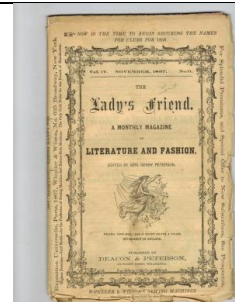
+

### "THE LADYS FRIEND"

It has been suggested that this thimble may just be that - ie a thimble to be used for sewing



1930



1887 issue  
(Lady's has the apostrophe)

## V Melle's Koek

Netherlands  
confectionary (candies – lollies – sweets)



## WENIGER & CO. 915 ARCH STREET Philadelphia store



## WISE

According to Gay Ann Rogers Wise was probably referring to William Wise of Brooklyn New York c.1880-1890s. He was apparently a retailer

Other similar US thimbles feature in GAR for silversmiths etc – eg Spence – Stone – W.R.Tice/Tice H.Wood



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This listing of sterling silver advertising 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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