

# Thimble Collectors Club Thimbles

Lang Ebrach <--> Longton Hall

Thimble  
Collectors  
Club

## Ships at Sunset LA SEYNIE, France

Who can resist the allure of sailing ships becalmed in the setting sun? What stories do they tell? Where have they been, and where are they going? For many, they provide a magical world of escape from life's daily vexations, a world of tranquility, brilliantly captured by Bob Hersey's charming design. Bob began his working life in advertising, then turned to designing and illustrating book jackets and record sleeves. Now his landscape paintings are in demand worldwide. Bob's early work is often to be seen in the London sales rooms of Christies and Sotheby's.

Founded in 1887 by Jean Baptiste Joseph du Garreau in the vicinity of Saint Yrieix. La Seynie is today one of the most prominent manufacturers of Limoges porcelain. Indeed, Etienne Baignol, who managed the factory from 1789 to 1797, was one of the Founding Fathers of the world-famous Limoges porcelain.

## Thimble Collectors Club Ships At Sunset Thimble



### LA SEYNIE PORCELAINES - France

Gliding through placid waters bathed in the amber glow of twilight, sailboats at sunset decorate this lovely Limoges porcelain thimble from La Seynie of France.

One of the most important names in the history of French porcelain, La Seynie was founded by Jean Baptiste Joseph Du Garreau in 1774. After discovering high-quality kaolin and pegmatite — essential ingredients for the manufacture of hard-paste porcelain — at Saint-Yrieix, Du Garreau opened a porcelain factory named for his country manor. Known for its pure white porcelain and its superb glaze, La Seynie pioneered early technical improvements which helped lead to the establishment of the nearby town of Limoges as the French porcelain-making center.

The purity and quality of the Limoges porcelain and the artistry of the decorative motif of this thimble demonstrate the excellence which has made La Seynie one of the great porcelain houses of France.

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## Donkeys LANG EBRACH, Germany

The house of Lang Ebrach was founded as long ago as 1778 in Thuringia, today part of East Germany, and moved to Bavaria in West Germany in 1953. As a family firm it is proud to continue a tradition of supplying the very finest products which have delighted collectors over the centuries.

Artist David Thompson, who painted this charming miniature scene of donkeys, won two major art competitions when still only a teenager, and was invited to paint in Canada. Since his return to England he has illustrated many books for leading publishers.

The history of the donkey has been intertwined with that of mankind for millennia. Long before Biblical times it was already well established as man's constant companion, carrying both him and his belongings to destinations far and wide. For many people, it was the only form of transport they had. This gentle animal has always been a favourite with children, and a donkey ride along the sands has been the highlight of many a youngster's summer holiday. This fine-quality thimble, bearing a delightful depiction of those lovable, patient creatures, is one that collectors everywhere will treasure.

# Thimble Collectors Club

## Alpine Meadow LANGENTHAL, Switzerland

The alpine meadows of Switzerland, with the snowy peaks behind them forming a dramatic backdrop, must offer one of the most enchanting displays of flowers you could find anywhere in the world. These small, dainty blooms in jewel-like colours have been lovingly transplanted to gardens all over the globe, where they bring splashes of colour to rockeries and borders far from their native land. Whatever their surroundings, they never fail to evoke an image of gentle, belled cows lowing their way home through the lush pastures and of milkmaids in brightly coloured national dress.

This pretty thimble is brought to you by the Langenthal Swiss China Works, which were founded eighty years ago with the intention of establishing porcelain-making in Switzerland. The raw materials had to be imported, along with skilled craftsmen to train local workers, but such was the success of this new venture that the company's staff now number 800 and a reputation has been established for high quality and innovative technology. Langenthal was the first porcelain house in the world to use electric kilns to fire continental hard porcelain, and the very best of modern methods are employed throughout to create works of the highest standard.

# Thimble Collectors Club

## Suisse Thimble



## LANGENTHAL CHINA - Switzerland

A charming Alpine mountain scene decorates this delightful thimble from Langenthal China, the only manufacturer of porcelain in Switzerland.

Since its founding in 1906 by a group of Swiss businessmen, Langenthal has been dedicated to the goal of producing porcelain of incomparable quality. In addition to importing the finest porcelain clays available and seeking out the most skilled craftsmen, the company has consistently kept pace with the latest technology. In 1936, for example, this firm became the first in the world to fire porcelain with electricity. Today, Langenthal is the official supplier of tableware to many of Switzerland's famous hotels, as well as to the Swiss government. Its wares are also exported to more than forty countries worldwide.

Available exclusively from The Thimble Collectors Club, the "Suisse" thimble exhibits the superb white porcelain and vividly colored decoration which typify the products of Langenthal China.

# Thimble Collectors Club

## Austrian Heritage LILIEN, Austria

Austria is a beautiful land famous for her magnificent alpine scenery, her rich cultural heritage – and her confectionery! Who would not relish a day in Vienna admiring historic buildings of princely proportions before sitting down in one of the many cafés to an afternoon tea of pastries and strudels so luscious as to tempt the strictest weightwatcher? At night, you might attend a concert of music by Mozart, Austria's most famous son. This towering genius of the eighteenth century toured Paris, London and Italy giving recitals at only six years of age and by thirteen had written his first opera. Today, his joyous music fills the streets of the delightful city in which he lived.

Lilien Porcelain was founded in 1795 and grew slowly but steadily until 1885, when Richard Lichtenstern, the fifteen-year-old son of the owner, joined the firm. Within a year he took over the running of the factory and from that moment it expanded in leaps and bounds until by 1912 it had become the biggest earthenware factory of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Today, Lilien is still in the hands of the Lichtenstern family and is proud to claim an unbroken tradition of china production stretching back almost two centuries.

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## Thimble Collectors Club

Country Folk Thimble



LILIEN PORZELLAN - Austria

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Three young Austrian couples, traditionally attired, stroll together across this charming thimble from Lilien Porzellan.

Martin Leinwather opened the doors of Lilien Porzellan almost two hundred years ago in the town of Wilhelmsburg. From humble beginnings as a converted flour mill, Leinwather's factory went on to produce fine-quality earthenware to rival that of the famous house of Wedgwood. At the height of its success in the late 19th century, Lilien was the largest porcelain house in the entire Austro-Hungarian Empire. Today, Lilien is best known for its stunning ornamental ceramics and fine white china pieces.

The "Country Folk Thimble", with its enchanting motif glowing with vibrant colors and accented with an inlaid flower crown, is one of the few thimbles ever produced by Lilien Porzellan. Available exclusively from The Thimble Collector's Club, this thimble is an important addition to any collection.

## Midnight Rose LILIEN PORCELAIN, Austria

A graceful and beautifully painted display of roses, set against a dramatic royal-blue background and surrounded by an elaborate golden framework, makes this a truly impressive thimble. Hexagonal in shape, with a pure white ground and embellished by a fine golden line, this handsome piece would make a stunningly unusual centrepiece for a thimble arrangement, or could stand on its own next to a carefully placed bowl of fresh roses.

The Lilien porcelain house originated as a little pottery in a converted flour mill over two hundred years ago in the Austrian town of Wilhelmsburg, about thirty miles from Vienna. From these humble beginnings, it grew slowly but surely for nearly a hundred years. Then, full of ambition and new ideas, the fifteen-year-old son of the owner joined the company. Within a year he had taken over the running of it, and improved the quality to such an extent that Lilien became the largest porcelain house in the whole of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Today it is best known for its pure white ceramic ware and its accomplished ornamental work, such as is seen on this lovely addition to our collection.

## Thimble Collectors Club

### Nature's Glory LILIEN PORCELAIN, Austria

A graceful spray of windflowers, in pure white and delicate purple, adorns this attractive new thimble. Anemones – named from the Greek word for wind – carpet our woodlands in early spring, and their pale, cup-shaped flowers, nodding gently on their slender stems, add a touch of enchantment to our country walks. If we are tempted to adopt them into our gardens, we can choose from a number of cultivated species and varieties, which flower in all but the coldest months. With its pretty scalloped rim and golden circlet, this delightful thimble is sure to please our collectors everywhere.

Lilien Porcelain, which was commissioned to make this lovely piece, had its origins in a little pottery which was set up in 1795. Over the next hundred years, the company by turns weathered storms and expanded its kilns and its workforce, and by 1912 had become the biggest ceramics factory of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. This is now part of the huge group known as Oespag, which can look back over an unbroken tradition of pottery making lasting over two centuries, and which regards Lilien Porcelain as the jewel in its crown.

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## Thimble Collectors Club

### "Sunflowers" Thimble



LILJEN PORZELLAN - Austria

A large, vibrant sunflower basks in the warm glow of the noontday sun. This simple yet elegant design decorates the fine white porcelain of this thimble from Austrian manufacturer Lilien Porzellan.

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A perfect example of the creativity that goes into every Lilien Porzellan thimble, this "Sunflowers" thimble, strikingly accented with a gleaming band of 22kt gold, has been exclusively manufactured for the enjoyment of members of the Thimble Collectors Club.

## Thimble Collectors Club

### Flower Basket LIMOGES CASTEL, France


Delicately decorated with an intricately detailed basket of flowers, this elegant thimble from Limoges Castel is a beautiful example of the qualities which have made the name of Limoges synonymous with the finest French porcelain.

The famous white porcelain clay was first discovered near the city of Limoges in 1768. The articles fashioned from this clay were so superior to any other French porcelain that Limoges soon became a celebrated porcelain-making centre. Limoges Castel, founded in 1907 by Jules Teissonnière, has triumphantly carried this historic tradition into the twentieth century. Over the years, this company has earned recognition for a wide range of exceptional porcelain wares. Artisans at Limoges Castel still use many of the techniques developed more than two centuries ago, and specialise in the elegant floral decorative patterns always favoured in France.

With its exquisite flower basket motif and luxurious accents of gleaming gold, the Limoges Castel 'Flower Basket' thimble makes a prized addition to any collection.

## Thimble Collectors Club

### Basket Thimble



LIMOGES CASTEL - France

# Thimble Collectors Club

## Fragonard LIMOGES CASTEL, France

Romance is blossoming on this delightful new thimble. An eighteenth-century gentleman and his elegant lady walk amid a riot of blooms. Whispering many a sweet nothing, he takes her hand in his and presses it tenderly to his lips. The motifs of this enchanting design come from the paintings of the French artist Jean Honoré Fragonard, who worked for both Madame de Pompadour and Madame du Barry, and was renowned for his pretty scenes of courtly gallants and flirtatious ladies.

Limoges porcelain was made for the Kings of France and for the Emperor Napoleon, and the rich combination of sumptuous cobalt blue and soft burnished gold is one of its traditional specialities. This fine example is from the house of Limoges Castel, which was formed from four notable companies, each of which brought its own particular refinement to the elegant craft of French porcelain making. In order to produce the genuine 'hard' Limoges porcelain, over twelve separate operations are necessary. The techniques have changed very little over the years, and the same loving dedication, as essential to the process today as it was in the eighteenth century, is evident in this miniature masterpiece.

# Thimble Collectors Club

## Golden Bouquet LIMOGES CASTEL, France

The formula for Limoges porcelain was discovered in the second half of the 18th century. It is characterised by its tremendous hardness which is achieved after over twelve different processes and firing at 1400°C. Limoges Castel still use many of the techniques developed all those years ago, and even some of the original moulds. Every piece is individually made to the highest quality standard and carefully checked. The great attraction of this style of Limoges porcelain is the deep lustre of the cobalt blue embellished with glowing 22 carat gold — no wonder it has made Limoges a name known around the world.

# Thimble Collectors Club

## Golden Bouquet Thimble



## LIMOGES CASTEL - France

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## Der Fingerhut-Sammler- Club

### Goldenes Bouquet Limoges Castel, Frankreich

Die Formel des Porzellans aus Limoges wurde in der zweiten Hälfte des 18. Jahrhunderts entdeckt. Das Hauptmerkmal ist seine ungewöhnliche Härte, die durch über zwölf verschiedene Verarbeitungsprozesse und durch das Brennen mit über 1400°C entsteht.

Limoges Castel verwendet immer noch viele der überlieferten Techniken und sogar noch einige der Originalgußformen. Jedes Stück wird individuell und in höchster Qualität hergestellt.

Den größten Reiz dieser Art Limoger Porzellans ist der tiefe Glanz des Kobaltblau, das mit glänzendem 22-karätigen Gold verschönt ist – es ist daher kein Wunder, daß Limoges sich einen Namen auf der ganzen Welt geschaffen hat.

## Thimble Collectors Club

### Flower Cart Thimble



### LIN PORCELAIN - Taiwan

A colorful Oriental motif, featuring a profusion of stylized flowers on a background of aquamarine and periwinkle, has been selected by Lin Porcelain for this lovely Chinese porcelain thimble.

This large porcelain house was founded in Taipei, Taiwan, by the prestigious Lin family sixty years ago. At first, the firm specialized in traditional Chinese-style porcelain wares, but over the past twenty years the Lin name has gained widespread recognition outside of the Orient for its delightful Western-style figurines. At Lin, the heritage of porcelain-making, which was originated by the Chinese centuries ago, is revered. To assure the highest quality in its products, no porcelain piece leaves the factory without passing the personal inspection of a family member.

This beautiful Lin Porcelain thimble, luxuriously finished with bands of hand-applied gold, is available only from The Thimble Collectors Club.

## Thimble Collectors Club

"Clowns on Parade" Thimble



LINDNER PORZELLAN - Germany

Crash go the cymbals and boom go the drums, the clowns are coming on stage! Lindner Porzellan awakens the spirit of childhood in us all with this charmingly illustrated and uniquely shaped thimble.

The Lindner name has been identified with superior craftsmanship since 1929. Collectors from around the world have long valued their porcelain plates, vases, lamps, and giftware. Personally hiring artisans whose hand-crafting techniques and meticulous attention to detail rivaled his own, founder Ernst Lindner ensured the high quality product for which the house became famous. Located in the town of Küps, near the border of the forest region of Thuringia, Lindner Porzellan continues to build an unmatched reputation.

A classic Bavarian design, the "Clowns on Parade" thimble offers collectors a unique piece of German culture. Topped off with a spray of gold on top, this thimble, available exclusively from the Thimble Collectors Club, makes a wonderful addition to your collection.

## Thimble Collectors Club

Daisies

LINDNER PORZELLAN, Germany

This lustrous thimble has been manufactured exclusively for the Thimble Collectors Club by the Bavarian company Lindner Porzellan, which has enjoyed the highest esteem amongst porcelain collectors for over half a century. Situated at Kueps, on the border near Thuringia in East Germany, the company has a workforce of about one hundred people, many of whom have been with the company for more than twenty years. The loyalty this family firm generates amongst its craftsmen is only equalled by the quality of their finely honed product. Lindner porcelain is still turned on the potter's wheel, cut by knife, smoothed, glazed, painted and gilded by hand, resulting in products of a standard that has made them keenly sought after.

Germany was one of the first European countries to perfect the technique of purifying cobalt ore to produce the deep underglaze blue originally inspired by the exquisite blue and white porcelain of the Ming and Ch'ing dynasties in China. In Lindner's early years the accent was on ornate porcelain jewellery, hand painting and acid etching, but later the company began to specialise in other splendid gilded cobalt porcelain. This lustrous, delicately scalloped thimble typifies the superlative quality for which the house has long been renowned.

## Thimble Collectors Club

Flower Thimble



LINDNER PORZELLAN - West Germany

Fifty years ago, Ernst Lindner founded Lindner Porzellan in the Bavarian town of Kueps. This region of Germany has a long tradition of porcelain-making, and many of Lindner's craftsmen are carrying on skills which have been passed down in their families for generations.

At Lindner, porcelain is still shaped on the potter's wheel — then smoothed, glazed, painted and gilded by hand. From charming porcelain clocks and decorative gift items, to ornate porcelain candelabra for historic castles and manor houses — Lindner porcelain wares reflect a perfection rarely seen today.

The rich cobalt blue underglaze, lustrous finishing glaze, and delicately painted gold flowers on this paneled thimble exemplify the remarkable artisanship which has won worldwide acclaim for Lindner Porzellan. This beautiful thimble, featuring a raised rim and deeply scalloped border, was created exclusively for The Thimble Collectors Club.



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# Thimble Collectors Club

## "Flower-Crowned" Thimble



LINDNER PORZELLAN - Germany

From its exceptionally unique "crowned" top to the captivating purple and gold flower petal design, this artfully crafted thimble, fashioned by the world-famous artisans of Lindner Porzellan, stands as a porcelain masterpiece.

The Lindner name has been identified with superior craftsmanship since 1929. Collectors from around the world have long valued their porcelain plates, vases, lamps and giftware. Personally hiring artisans whose hand-crafting techniques and meticulous attention to detail rivaled his own, founder Ernst Lindner ensured the high quality product for which his house became famous. Located in the town of Küps, near the border of the forest region of Thuringia, Lindner Porzellan continues to build an unmatched reputation.

Outstanding quality and meticulous attention to detail are the hallmarks of Lindner Porzellan. Clarity of design and purity of coloring distinguish this charming "Flower-Crowned" thimble, available exclusively from the Thimble Collectors Club.

# Thimble Collectors Club

## The Golden Roses Thimble



LINDNER PORZELLAN - Germany

Lovely golden roses cascade across the cobalt blue sides of this beautiful and unusual thimble from Lindner Porzellan.

The firm which Ernst Lindner started in the Bavarian town of Küps in 1929 is located near the border of the forest region of Thuringia. In Küps, Lindner found and hired artisans experienced in hand-crafting techniques which had been used for over two hundred years. Workmanship of this caliber soon earned a superior reputation for the porcelain plates, vases, lamps and giftware bearing the Lindner name. These time-honored methods of care and meticulous attention to detail are still practiced at each step of the manufacturing process for every item that Lindner produces.

This uniquely-shaped "Golden Roses" thimble, with its distinctive accents of gold and blue, will be a treasured addition to your thimble collection, and is available exclusively from the Thimble Collectors Club.

## Crinoline Ladies

A tribute to LOCKHART, Scotland

Two graceful Victorian ladies in crinolines and bonnets, each with a bouquet of roses, meet in a garden on a bright and sunny day. This charming thimble design is based on the style of 'art nouveau', which was popular in Europe a hundred years ago. Look at the rose bushes in the background – and then look at some of the chairs and other furniture designed by Charles Rennie Mackintosh, the Scottish architect and designer who studied and worked in Glasgow until 1904, and who designed the famous Glasgow School of Art. He then moved south, to live and work in London – and his studio in Chelsea is still used by an artist today.

This little thimble is our homage to Mackintosh, and also to the ceramics house of Lockhart, of the Victoria Pottery in Pollokshaws, Glasgow. The company was founded by David Lockhart in 1898. He brought his sons into the business, and when the time came they took over from him and ran the pottery until 1953. The attractive backstamp features a crown and laurel leaves.

## Butterflies LONGTON CHINA, England

This gorgeous, butterfly-shaped thimble, covered with a host of delicate, colourful, fluttering butterflies, beautifully sums up a little rhyme that begins:

*Flutter by, Butterfly,  
Summery days,  
Flutter by, Butterfly,  
Merrily gaze...*

The little ceramics house of Longton China was founded in 1873, nearly a hundred and thirty years ago. Longton was the last large town of the Stoke on Trent area to be developed as a pottery town, and a great number of china manufacturers flocked to start up business there. They often decorated their wares with natural subjects observed directly from the charming countryside around them. Our pretty thimble is crafted in the fine traditions of the area, and is evidence of the Staffordshire potters' continuing expertise.

# Thimble Collectors Club

## Chrysanthemum In the style of LONGTON HALL, England

Who can resist the charm of the chrysanthemum, with its cheerful, open flowers borne above a profusion of lacy, bright green leaves? Colourful, graceful and hardy, chrysanthemums were developed from Oriental stock and have been cultivated for over a thousand years. Now grown and admired all over the world, it is in Japan, the 'Land of the Chrysanthemum', that this lovely flower has been brought to the very peak of perfection. It was chosen by the Imperial family for their emblem, and later for their official crest, and the Rising Sun of the Japanese flag was originally a sixteen-petalled chrysanthemum.

The delicate chrysanthemum on this thimble, drawn in blue on a pure white ground, echoes seventeenth-century china made in Delft, in Holland. Dutch potters were so impressed by the Oriental blue and white porcelain brought to the West that they tried to copy it. English potters in their turn adopted the same styles and colouring, and the results were termed 'delftware'. Naturalistic flower pieces in blue and white were one speciality of the Longton Hall factory in Staffordshire, which was founded about 1750 and one of the pioneers of English porcelain production. Our thimble is a tribute in miniature to our glorious ceramic tradition.

# Thimble Collectors Club

## Blue Chrysanthemum Thimble



## LONGTON HALL - England

One of the oldest and historically important names in British porcelain - Longton Hall - is brought back to life in this thimble, so reminiscent of the original designs with its unique shape and lustrous detail.

Founded around 1750 by William Jenkinson and William Littler, Longton Hall took its name from the town of Longton - one of the cluster of Staffordshire towns once collectively known as "The Potteries." Producing delicate figurines of wild animals and birds, Longton Hall soon became one of the most popular and well-respected names among Britain's porcelain houses. The founders quickly expanded their production to include dishes, teapots and small tureens which featured scrolled borders, colorful decorations and molded ornamental leaves. Unfortunately, within a few years, despite respectable sales and an avid customer base, the pottery began to encounter financial difficulties and was eventually forced to close its doors.

The Longton Hall name, however, has been firmly established as one of the elite British potteries. Original porcelain items, selling for just pennies when first offered, now command high prices among collectors. The Thimble Collectors Club is proud to bring you this Blue Chrysanthemum thimble, with its brilliant bone-white china and richly colored designs, as a fitting tribute to the Longton Hall name.

# Thimble Collectors Club

## Memories of Spring A thimble in the eighteenth-century style of LONGTON HALL, England

This lovely thimble with its delicate flowers is a beautiful representative of old English porcelain craftsmanship. Its enchanting octagonal shape, particularly accentuated by the hand-painted 22 carat gold edging, gives the thimble a quite exquisite air. The motif is also beautifully elegant: a bright filigree portrayal of a delicate bloom in all its glory. The varied dashes of white inside the petals bring the flower vividly to life and its gentle pastel shades perfectly complement the pure white of the fine bone china.

The Longton Hall factory, steeped in tradition, was a founding father of English porcelain production. Established around 1750 in the small village of Longton Hall in Staffordshire, it was one of the first of its kind in England. To this day, Staffordshire has remained the centre of English porcelain production. The most famous manufacturers are based in this richly historical area, and it attracts the most talented and gifted craftsmen and designers, whose skills have been handed down through many generations. That such exquisite works of art can still be created in this way is clearly and impressively shown by our thimble, 'Memories of Spring', which honours the memory of Longton Hall with the traditional mark of the factory - the two crossed L's.

# Thimble Collectors Club

## Rule Britannia!

A thimble in tribute to the eighteenth-century  
LONGTON HALL, England

*'Rule, Britannia! Britannia rule the waves;  
Britons never, never, never shall be slaves.'*

This stirring refrain of the guardian angels is the best-known part of the poet James Thomson's ode to a victorious and mighty land. It appeared first in the masque *Alfred*, performed in 1740. Masques were elaborate dramatic productions, full of patriotic and political fervour, flamboyant dress, disguises, spectacle and song, and were often performed before the king and court. George II would doubtless have appreciated this song, for he was the last British sovereign to lead his troops into battle, which he did in 1743 at Dettingen, during the War of the Austrian Succession.

Our striking thimble shows the music to the refrain, with the magnificent Britannia, in her horse-drawn chariot, guarding the cliffs of Dover. Two golden bands finish the design. This handsome collector's item has been created as a tribute to the Longton Hall factory, which was established in a small Staffordshire village shortly after Thomson wrote his timeless words, and which was to become one of the founders of English porcelain production.

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# Thimble Collectors Club

## Rustic Castle

A thimble honouring the tradition of the mid-eighteenth century porcelain house of LONGTON HALL, England.

Unlike the houses of Wedgwood and Spode, some of the founders of the English porcelain tradition have not survived to the present day. It is a shame that modern collectors should be denied the local names of England's china-making heritage.

One of our greatest losses must be Longton Hall, the first porcelain factory in this country. Around 1750, William Jenkinson announced that he had obtained "the art, secret and mystery of making a certain porcelain ware in imitation of china", and set about establishing a pottery at Longton Hall, between Stone and Newcastle-under-Lyme, in Staffordshire. Taking into partnership William Litter, an experienced potter, and William Nicklin, a lawyer, Jenkinson started making figurines of elephants, lions and birds which showed great promise. These were followed by tableware, and an identifiable Longton Hall style began to develop.

A teapot of about 1755 incorporated a spout shaped like a leaf and featured a landscape of a bridge and a castle, hand-painted by John Hayfield, Longton Hall's sole decorator who earned one guinea a week for his talents. In this thimble, after the style of Longton Hall, you can see some of the characteristics of their ware: the leaf-form on the top and a 'wrap-around' rustic castle scene. Inside is the mark of Longton Hall—two L's crossed—perhaps signifying Litter and Longton.

Sadly, Longton Hall was short-lived. Jenkinson retired in 1753 and despite finding new partners, Litter was forced to close the pottery in 1760, probably due to lack of capital. A great sale was held in Salisbury in September of 1760 of the final production. It is strange to think that pieces sold for pennies then would be highly valuable today. This thimble is in memory of the beginnings of the greatness of English china and porcelain.

# Thimble Collectors Club

Rustic Castle Thimble



LONGTON HALL - England

A rustic castle scene featuring a rich blue in its background coloring...a classic acanthus leaf molded in white relief...and the "crossed L's" hallmark — all were characteristic of the wares of England's very first porcelain factory, Longton Hall. Now they have been beautifully recreated on this unique bone china thimble honoring the tradition of a short-lived, but historically significant, porcelain house.

Named for Longton — one of the cluster of Staffordshire towns once collectively known as "The Potteries" — Longton Hall was founded around 1750 by William Jenkinson. During his brief partnership with William Litter, a potter from nearby Burslem, and William Nicklin, a lawyer, Longton Hall produced figurines of wild animals and birds which showed great promise. These were followed by dishes, teapots and small tureens featuring scrolled borders, colorful country scenes and molded ornamental leaves.

Unfortunately, the firm had been insufficiently financed from the start, and despite respectable sales and the replacement of the departed Jenkinson and Nicklin with new partners, Litter was forced to close the pottery after less than a decade. The final production run of Longton Hall was offered at a great sale in September, 1760. Porcelain articles sold for just pennies at the time have become extremely valuable over the years, commanding high prices among avid collectors.

The velvety-white bone china, richly colored decorative motifs and the hard, yet not overwhelmingly bright, glaze for which Longton Hall was known in the brief period which established it as one of the principal founders of English porcelain-making, can be seen on this special thimble, exclusively available from The Thimble Collectors Club.

# Thimble Collectors Club

Violets & Roses Thimble



LONGTON HALL - England

An elegant garland of delicate Violets and Roses encircles this uniquely-shaped thimble, honoring the tradition of an historically important porcelain house.

Named for Longton – one of the cluster of Staffordshire towns once collectively known as “The Potteries” – Longton Hall was founded around 1750 by William Jenkinson. During his brief partnership with William Littler, a potter, and William Nicklin, a lawyer, Longton Hall originally produced figurines of wild animals and birds. These were soon followed by dishes, teapots and small tureens featuring scrolled borders, colorful decorations and molded ornamental leaves. Unfortunately, the firm had been insufficiently financed from the start, and despite respectable sales and the replacement of Jenkinson and Nicklin with new partners, Littler was hard pressed to keep the pottery open. Longton Hall’s reputation, however, was firmly established and porcelain articles which sold for just pennies then, now command high prices among avid collectors.

The velvety-white bone china, richly colored decorative motifs and the hard, yet not overwhelmingly bright glaze for which Longton Hall wares are noted can be seen on this special “Violets & Roses” thimble, available exclusively from the Thimble Collectors Club.

# Thimble Collectors Club

## Young Bunny

A thimble designed in tribute to  
LONGTON HALL, England

All children adore a cuddly bunny rabbit, with its big eyes, long ears, quivering whiskers and warm, furry coat. Rabbits make wonderful first pets, and can live happily for many years as much-loved and cosseted family members. Seen in the wild, they are just as appealing, but will sprint away, white cotton tails bobbing, at your friendly approach! This delightful little thimble shows us all the charm of a baby rabbit exploring its surroundings of leaves and flowers. What little girl would not love this child-sized thimble as an extra present, to help her enjoy her first lessons in needlework?

Longton Hall was a founding father of English porcelain production. It was the first Staffordshire porcelain factory, having been established around 1750. Even today, the most famous English pottery and porcelain houses are based in Staffordshire, where that first spadeful of fine-quality clay was recognised for what it was – or for what it could become. Longton Hall included many naturalistic subjects among its decorative motifs: birds, flowers, foliage, fruit and animals. It had as its distinctive mark the two crossed Ls, which form the backstamp used now on our attractive mini-thimble.