Pewter thimble makers of the world with their marks

When I created the topic Marks on British silver thimbles, in 2002 I never dreamt it would be the most visited section in my Learn More About ... Thimbles topics. I am hoping to fill a gap that has long existed in creating a similar database for pewter marks – this time from around the world. Maybe it too can become the source for thimble marks on pewter?

Pewter thimbles began to appear for the thimble collectables market – ie thimbles not made to sew with – in the late 1970s. That and the following decade were the heyday for the makers and collectors of this medium. Many were handpainted, had figures atop (also known as toppers). Now we can look back on 100,000s of pewter thimbles!

According to Edwin Holmes, pewter is an alloy of tin (93.6%) lead, copper and antimony is it known as poor man's silver. Modern pewter thimbles are lead-free. Pewter is a soft malleable medium ideal for sculpting in fine detail, with the sculptor or designer limited only by his imagination and much it is cheaper than silver. Pewter thimbles are mostly too heavy to be used for sewing.

Being a darker medium than silver, pewter thimble marks are more difficult to photograph. The great majority of pewter thimbles are unmarked. If we are lucky, the thimble has remained with its presentation box, where the maker's marks may be gleaned.

I have included all names that have come to my attention thru selling thimbles of every variety over the last 35 years and those mentioned in thimble catalogues from 1970. I am interested to hear from you please if your country's pewter makers don't appear here.

Looking back thru the thimble catalogues of the 1970s and 80s, confusion may arise as the sellers were loath to reveal the thimble makers' names for fear of competition. Sometimes they used just the sculptor's name (ie John Ball) and not the firm for whom he worked (McMillan & Wife). By creating this database, we may be able to link one or more makers and sculptors or designers from one stable together?

I have concentrated on listing makers of thimbles wholly made of pewter. <u>Sterling Classic</u>, who have created many pewter pieces for placement on top of their Fine bone china thimbles, are not included here.

Nor will you find makers of wooden thimbles with pewter items affixed, nor resin, nor glass. Swarovski crystals may be included as part of the design as long as pewter is primary. Do you know who created the fire-hydrant thimbles with enamel discs affixed?

As in the previous topic I created, Pewter character head thimbles, I noticed a far greater use of the copyright symbol © on the pewter thimbles listed. This mark never occurs on sterling silver thimbles; it is infrequently found on china thimbles. I have recorded it when I found a copyright mark on pewter thimbles.

I have noticed many identical pewter thimbles – from differing manufacturers. This database hopes to link these sculptors thru their various paths. Warwick Model's Stephen Frost carried the moulds with him from McMillan & Wife (such a name from the early 80s wouldn't be used today?) when they closed. Many thimbles are articulated, some hinged, or having moving parts.

I was intrigued to find an extra British mark on pewter thimbles that I'd never noticed before: **ABPC** for the Association of British Pewter Craftsmen.

It is not a maker's mark. The mark may accompany a maker's mark.

I have included this mark in the alphabetical listing and when it has been used.

One example of each thimble is included, with a purely descriptive title. As I launch this topic, there are **121** makers represented.

Last update: 10 January 2025

Marks arranged by first letter of name

thimble	maker	marks	dates found	Notes with probable dates
The Shrewsbury quest	A E Williams (AEW) 6 Well Lane Digbeth Birmingham UK www.aewilliamspewter.com			on verso oldest family-run pewtersmiths 1779-
knight	Academy Pewter 112 Blakedown Road Halesowen West Midlands UK			unmarked Academy took over making thimbles from Felix Motel of Bath when he retired in 2002
iris - whale	<u>Admiral Z</u> Hawaii USA	AS AS AS		walrus tooth scrimshaw set into apex ©
	Association of British Pewter Craftsmen (ABPC) UK	(BPC inside A)	founded in 1970	on verso often an additional group mark <u>Pewter Made in England</u> seahorse trademark



Philadelphia Thimble Society

see Heirloom Editions	Antiquities of the Holy Land Jerusalem Israel			
	<u>Avebury Pewter</u> UK	CART CBU		
women's faces	<u>Battersea Ltd</u> Colorado USA	S CESSEA LID TOTAL	1970 1978	named on underside of rim 1970s ©
	Bernard G Butler (BGB) North Wales UK	(B.C.B)		
Celtic dog 2008	Boulder Bay Thimbles USA (Wanda Ralston)	2000		
Cleopatra	Brieth Designs Stratford on Avon UK (Anne Wareham)	-		unmarked handpainted articulated figures see also Minnie Maria Ltd

	<u>British Barbican Crafts</u> UK	Crafts Barbican		handpainted articulated
Just a Thimble Full	British Nobleman Pewterware Sheffield UK	Princip 20012ment 120012ment 120012ment 120012ment		Made by Craftsman
Mr Pickwick	<u>BS5140</u> UK (B S Sills)			BS5140 is the British Standard for pewter ©
hippo	<u>Carol Ann Miniatures</u> Isle of Portland UK	CAROL ANN MINIATURES CAROL ANN MINIATURES Collectable Powter Thimbles		named on box handpainted figures many are identical to those of Warwick Models some of their boxes are lettered Made in Warwickshire so probably made by Warwick Models
American bison	<u>Carl Wagner</u> Colorado USA	490.6	1978	bronzed pewter

Just a Thimble Full	<u>Cartier</u> UK	Standar Control (A) (3) 4 (5)		Just a Thimble Full
owl	CAT Designs Fine Pewter Grove City Ohio USA	with an imprint of a cat in profile	1986	©
Cross of St John	<u>Celtic Art</u> Scotland (Andy Hynd)		1983	plated in rhodium Andy is a silversmith, who also works in pewter
tea table	<u>Cheryl Harness</u> (CCH) Missouri USA	6311		1990s heavy in weight
King Arthur's castle	<u>Chris Kenny</u> UK			gilt pewter 1980s



Colin Tyler
Worcestershire
UK
(Tyler Castings)
www.thimblegarden.co.uk
(painter Emily Rice)



includes stacking and nesting thimbles set of four Kelly Gang thimbles thru Scissorman, Australia 1980s



see also: Mary Tyler

Raggedy Andy_Ann	<u>Comstock</u>	CGIO		part-painted Swarovski crystals
Wizard of Oz	Comstock Creations Comstock Pewter Durango Colorado USA	PENTER @ 1998	1998	see also Gallo ©
doctor with patient	<u>Curtis</u> USA	SURTIS 128	1984	lettered around rim of apex Norman Rockwell series
unicorn	<u>Cuter Pewter</u>	e princes	© 1985	
	Spain	D&L		lettered on apex large size

quilted cradle	<u>Danbury Mint</u> USA			some are articulated
watermill	<u>Deborah Hulls</u> UK	This is to certify that this thimble has been cast in English powter and hand finished exclusively for Thimble Collections. Deborah Hulls		
Winnie the Pooh	<u>Disney</u> USA	DIENEP		made by Fort
train	Donohue Enterprises (DE) Denver Colorado USA (designer: Paula Fried)(PF) her signature appears within the design		1987 1990	lettered on underside of rim some part-painted © many of their thimbles have a single ring of deep indents on the outer apex
Lady Liberty	<u>Downs</u> USA		1984	
prancing horse	<u>Earthern</u> (sic) <u>Ware</u> Cornwall UK			aided in set-up by Prince of Wales Trust see also PG Enterprises early 1990s

Mother so dear	<u>Enesco</u> USA		1981	some handpainted
Green finch	Exquisite Creations Shirley Solihull UK			lettered in apex © see also W.A.P.W
Jeremy Fisher	<u>Frederick Warne & Co</u> UK	FW&Co		holder of Beatrix Potter creations' licence enamelling, not a maker just a © mark
mermaid	<u>Fellowship Foundry</u> Oaklands California USA	Service Shirt	1991 1992	lettered above rim on verso some handapinted some Swarovski crystals
Alaska	Fort Inc East Providence Rhode Island USA (D Jacobs)	@FORT		the most prolific US pewter thimble manufacturer 1983 "Little Farmers" series ©
embroidered rose I am thimble minded	Framework Miniatures Ltd Birmingham UK (Elizabeth R Anderson) Bromley, Kent			unmarked kit with space affixed to fit embroideries in locket some examples have dried flowers in frame others created in pewter mid 1990s

The peasant's wise daughter	Franklin Mint near Philadelphia USA (designer Gianni Benvenuti)	Certificate of Muthenticity THE GRIMM'S FAIRY TALE THIMBLES This is to certify that The Griman's Fairy Tale Thinshoe in a collection of 23 missible carded in the certification of 25 missible carded in the certification of 25 missible carded in the certification of 25 missible carded in timeted editions by the Brochen Grimm Society, It is father certificate to act chainble in as original work of an extend by Gram Berenard. Man 1992 CHITTERS CHITTERS		includes Grimm's fairy tales set of 24 1982
kiss me	<u>G Martin</u> USA	6 13 8 3 T	1983	before the amalgamation as G&J Martin
tortoise	<u>G&J Martin</u> USA	MATTI	1985 1986 1988	inside rim some articulated
fish	Gallo USA (modellers: EV for E Vincent D Sams SDK for Sheryl Keith)	GNHO POP	1983 1984 1986 1987 1989	see also Comstock © EV® 87 SDK
puppy	<u>Ganz</u> Taiwan	-ava		some handpainted
	<u>Gill Bates</u> Dudley West Midlands UK			see also Woodsetton

teardrops flower				
teepee	<u>Grad Neeleo</u> (?) USA	gna) Mealar 6646		
The White Rabbit	<u>Hallmark Cards</u> Kansas USA	have sealman carca, inc	1995 1996 1997 1998	handpainted figures includes Alice in Wonderland set ©
horn of plenty embroidery stitches	<u>Hantel</u> UK (Frances Moore)	Love Token The hibes Copo Copo A series of his ser Collectors than beloned Copo Copo A series of his series Collectors than beloned Copo Cop		Love Token Thimbles embroidery stitch designs and ABPC mark © were Frances Moore and Frances Wilson the same person – one being a married name?
teddy bear <u>Toys</u>	<u>Hantel Toys</u> Inverness UK (Frances Wilson)			specialises in toys atop thimbles; articulated figures atop are enamelled and are separate entities 1980s
replica from Roman period	Heirloom Editions Ltd (HE) USA (founded by Barbara Ringer 1978)	HE		lettered inside rim includes a series of reproduction antiquities thimbles HERLOM EDITIONS LTD. Brouze Misseum Replica SPANISH 12th-13th Century
William Shakespeare	UK	HM		

the Eskimo	<u>Ian Parry</u> Worcestershire <i>then</i> : Coventry UK		early 1980s includes 'The Thimbleys' shaped characters later his thimbles were of wood with pewter affixed to sides
		JJo	lettered above rim on verso some handpainted
Celtic design	<u>J.M. Crafts</u> Wales UK		1990s
Virgo zodiac sign	<u>Keith Rowlinson</u> UK		includes a set of zodiac thimbles 1990s
field mice		LAP	
rabbits	UK	IM (A)	may be marked <u>Pewter Made in England</u> on verso © and ABLP group mark



Zodiac-Gemini

Laughing Monarch Products Ltd (LMP) St Just Penzance Cornwall UK



may be marked <u>Pewter Made in England</u> on verso and ABLP group mark there is a crown above the maker's name 1970s



Pewter Treasures Laughing Monarch Products Ltd British Made

		LWD		
US constitution	<u>Malcolm Jones</u> USA			
koala	<u>Marylyn Verstraeten</u> Melbourne Australia			unmarked
President Ronald Reagan	<u>Mark Models Ltd</u> Birmingham UK (Trevor Power) (TP)	6	1984 1989	
Dandelion elf	Maureen & Edward Story Jones Berriew Welshpool Powys Wales (Silver Scenes Ltd)		1994	includes flower fairies set silver-plated pewter Silver Scenes Schward & Maureen Scory Jones Stery J

рорру	McMillan & Wife UK (Robin & Jill McMillan) (Thimbles Unlimited) sculptors/modellers: John Ball; Stephen Frost; Maxine Sissons (of Worcestershire); hp: DH - DWD - JC - MH Linda - SJF	Thinkles Matemited My Meditlan SNG SNG SNG SNG SNG SNG SNG SNG SNG SN	1979-1981	lettered inside rim from 1981 some are handpainted Maxine's includes 'Fingerhoots' a series of owls first British pewter thimbles to have moving parts
cat	Michel Laude Créations Minerve France			Cursive lettering above rim CERTIFICAT D'AUTHENTICITE Cette pièce en étain 99/5 a été créée, réelisée et signée et
The cow jumped over the moon	Minnie Maria Co Stratford on Avon UK			handpainted figures see also Brieth Designs 1980s-1990s
rocking horse	Moorland Miniatures Devon UK (Andrew Copp)	Moorland Miniatures _{Duvan,} England		unmarked mostly with articulated limbs 1990s – 2000s much larger than average mainly depicting nursery rhymes

cart horse	<u>Moorland Pewter</u> UK			unmarked 1990s
ships bound for Australia	(Trevor Power) Birmingham UK	M.S.I.	1987	base mark there is additional TP mark ©
bear	<u>Nathan Vandermee</u> Colorado USA			late 1990s
Just a Thimbleful	Newburyport Pewter Towle	TOWNS TO THE PARTY OF THE PARTY		base mark
Desert Shield-Desert Storm	<u>Nicholas C Gish</u> New Jersey USA	Alika Calaha	1981 died 2006	signature in cursive; some are articulated; some have star indents or textures on the apex © merry-go-round thimbles around an inner thimble
collie	<u>Nugaris Arts Works</u> Denver Colorado USA	1079 NUCSEUS	1979	name above outer rim bronzed ©

	1	1		
clubs	Olivia (Jacqui & David Parker) Birmingham UK			they mainly work in brass handpainted 1990s
camel	<u>Oporto</u> USA			shapes are like Fort
sulphur-crested cockatoo	Oz Pewter Logan Queensland Australia (Swagman Pottery)	Z T.// C	1998-	no maker's marks large in size ©
surfing koala	<u>Pan-Arts</u> Sydney Australia (Ray)	1		lettered inside rim ©
duck in a tub	<u>Peregrine Pewter</u> West Glamorgan UK			
Thimble Full	Perfection Pewter			
Just a thimbleful	<u>Pewter by Poole</u> UK	TER BY		base mark

Celtic	Pewtermill Crafts Paddockholme North Kilbirnie Scotland UK www.pewtermill.co.uk	PEWTERAILL CRAPTS SCOTLAND		
kangaroo	PG Enterprises Yorkshire UK (Thimbles and Things)	"Timble and Thuge"		marked in apex see also Earthern Ware
flowers of Mull – poppy	Philip D.A. & Brenda Campbell Tobermory Isle of Mull Scotland UK			handpainted gold-plated pewter 1980s
church – forge – post office	<u>Pinder Bros</u> Sheffield	Pinder Brosenglish Priviler Sheffields	2010-2013	miniature village buildings atop pewter thimbles – trees in relief around thimble – some painted some are left plain made thimblefuls and ABPC mark
frog	Platypus Pewter Sylvan Melbourne Australia (Glenice Hope)			unmarked
The old woman who lived in a shoe	<u>Pugwash</u> Nova Scotia Canada			1990s

	USA	PW	1981	lettered on lip of rim
Sputnik – space series		FBV 2		
"thimble" in runes	<u>Quayside Enterprises</u> Cumbria UK			
Smokey Bear prevents forest fires	<u>Quinn's Collectibles</u> USA	Chima	1982	lettered inside rim
sand dollar	<u>Rawcliffe</u> USA			lettered inside rim set of 12 ascribed to Rawcliffe: in italics © *International Design Collector's Thimbles 3 Piece Pewter Finish Thimble Set Collect Your Complete of 12 Today' sold in 4 boxed sets of 3
echidna	Riccardo's Pewter Sydney Australia (Riccardo Pizzimento)			Unmarked his pincushions are marked Riccardo P. & Son
blue tit	<u>Roger Gibbons</u> UK			unmarked part-handpainted 1980s

The owl and the pussycat	<u>Roger Harrison</u> UK			also modelled in applied pewter and silver subjects some designs handpainted 1980s
xmas tree	<u>Roman</u> (RR) Taiwan	GENUIVE		
King Arthur Pendragon	<u>Ronald Davies</u> UK			handpainted new thimble maker in 1993
City of Portsmouth	Rowena Designs/Souvenirs UK			Sometimes wrongly identified as Rowenta
	<u>Schmid</u> USA	Senno Senno	197-	base mark
turkey		SCJ MKTG	1984	©
butterfly	<u>Seagull</u> Canada	2823	1992	lettered inside rim

squirrel	<u>Shaw Leibowitz</u>		1979	lettered on lip of rim ©
Cinderella	painter: (DS)	S.H.D.	1980 1985	© bronzed
TCI 1980	<u>Simons</u> Philadelphia USA (Mary and Nelson Keyser)		1980	lettered in apex; not cast in 1976, 1978 1980 and 1982 Simons produced pewter thimbles for attendees at US thimble conferences
koala	<u>Spoontiques</u> (Spo) Massachusetts USA	in Secondaria Clay	1980 1981 1982 1983 1984 1988	©
'One can too much of a good thing'		SS	1995	©
And did though the country of the co	St Justin Cornwall (SJC) Cuxhaven Way Long Rock Penzance Cornwall UK www.stjustin.co.uk			Pewter Made in England on verso

			II.
Kingfisher	Sterling Classic Sculptures UK (Jeannie Harris)	I hereby certify that this is an authentic. British, handmade, handpainted pewter collectable. It is part of a set cast from the moulds of my series of original Sterling Classic Sculptures.	
Muffin man	<u>Stevelyn</u> UK	Slovelyn was	set of 14 'Cries of London' atop with Swarovski crystals 1980s
U.S. Capitol Washington D.C.	<u>Sunbeam</u> USA		
Just a Thimble Full	UK	TML TML TML TML TML TML TML TML	Just a Thimble Full
Happy 18 th	The Animated Thimble <u>Company</u> UK	Thimble	Banbury Bears
teapot	<u>The Thimble Gallery</u> USA	The Thimble Gallery	

field mice	<u>The Manx Cat</u> Pilgrims Rest South Africa		unmarked
kangaroo at Uluru	The Witley Collection Limited Sterling Classic Studios Somers Park Avenue Malvern Worcestershire UK		set of 60 thimbles with icons for each country
Tower of London	<u>Theodore Paul</u> UK		
working digital clock	Thimble Craft UK (Shirley Hewett)		articulated marked under cap THIMBLE CRAFT
hug	<u>ThimblesnObjectDart</u> Worcestershire (Mary Tyler)	TC	not all her thimbles are marked see also: Colin Tyler
Troll	<u>Tinn-Per</u> Hanefors Norway	MORYAY	lettered on rim on verso

leaf dropped rim	<u>Trevor Power</u> Birmingham UK			includes a set of replicas of old Spanish thimbles see also Mark Models Ltd and M.S.I
Just a Thimble Full	<u>Viners of Sheffield</u> Sheffield UK	Pewter Moder En		base mark
Vermont beef	W.A.P. Watson Ltd [W.A.P.W] Shirley Solihull UK (Birmingham founder: Walter Archibald Parker Watson)	The state of the s		in apex <u>Made in UK</u> ©
shearer with corks on hat	Warwick Models Rigby Close Heathcote Warwick UK (Stephen Frost)	Warwick Model Thimbles Hand Capital in the machineral intern of Hantick By Stephen From Final Petit TER Righty Close Herabasia, Warsick 161, 01926, 4207	1981-	some handpainted figures previously a modeller with McMillan & Wife he was able to use the same moulds from McMillan when they closed some hinged to open this maker has the largest collection of pewter thimbles in its portfolio
teapot	Wentworth the Pewterers (WP) Sheffield UK			late 1990s-2000s

Egyptian hieroglyphs	<u>Westair Reproductions</u> UK	De the Maria Area of most property of the prop	some bronzed
Just a Thimble Full	<u>Williams Adams</u> Sheffield UK	Milliam Mame	base mark <u>Made by Craftsman</u> and ABPC mark
Victorian fashion peep	Woodsetton Pewterers Dudley West Midlands UK (Gill & David Bates)	WP	above outer rim or on apex see also: Gill Bates
thumb	<u>Zoltan Egri</u> Hungary		thumbles (large sized thimbles) first thimble 1993

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Contributors

The original query about an unknown maker's mark came from Mabel Rogers – thank you for the inspiration

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This listing of pewter marks 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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