

The Quilt Show Thimble Slide Show

TQS1. Left: Enamel over sterling silver scenic with waffled top by David Anderson, Oslo Norway, 1933. Right: Sterling silver with enamel decoration and stone top by David Anderson, Oslo Norway, 1930

TQS2. Left: Enamel over guilloche background on a sterling silver thimble with glass top by Gabler Bros., 1824-1963, Germany. Right: Enamel over guilloche background on a sterling silver thimble by Gabler Bros., 1824-1963, Germany.

TQS3. Left: Floral enamel band with guilloche background on silver with glass top by Soergel & Stollmeyer, Germany, 1863-1969, bearing import mark for Sweden 1912 to present. Right: Floral enamel band with guilloche background on silver by Gabler Bros. 1824-1963, Germany

TQS4. Referred to as Marsh Arab thimbles from the Middle East in niello style (black alloy fused into engraved design).

TQS5. Left: Hand painted portraits of George & Martha Washington on a sterling silver thimble by James Swan and Son by artist Peter Swingler, 1976, England right: Hand painted Christmas scene on a sterling silver thimble by James Swan and Son by Peter Swingler, 1975, England.

TQS6. Both thimbles by Simons Bros. Co., Philadelphia PA 1840 to present. Left: Holly and Bells sterling silver; original c1913 and also reissued in 1977. Right: Raised Grapes sterling silver; patent 9 July 1897 and reissued in 1980s.

TQS7. Two versions of thimbles to commemorate 1893 Chicago World's Columbian Exposition by Simons Bros. Co., 1840 to present. Left: Words and commemorative dates of 1492-1892, c1893. Right: Scene of exposition buildings, patent 2 Aug 1892.

TQS8. Sterling silver thimbles by Simons Bros. Co., 1840 to present, Philadelphia PA. Left: Applied disk of logo for the Embroiderers Guild of America. Right: Applied wire work with strawberries and flowers commissioned as a souvenir for the Guild of Strawberry Banke Portsmouth NH, c1970s

TQS9. "A Stitch in Time Saves Nine" sterling silver thimble by Simons Bros. Co., 1894 to present, 1906 and reissued in the 1940s.

TQS10. Left: Bow, Ribbons and Lilies of the Valley, sterling silver, c 1900s by Goldsmith Stern Co., 1913-1933, New York NY. Right: Ornamental Scrolls, sterling silver, Simons Bros., Co, 1840-present, Philadelphia PA, patent Aug 1892.

TQS11. Both thimbles by Simons Bros. Co., Philadelphia PA, 1840 to present. Left: Two Eagles on Three Stripes with Rows of Stars, sterling silver, c1917. Right: St. Louis World's Fair 1904; commonly called the "Golden Spike" thimble, as that momentous occasion is depicted in relief on the band. Original dated 1904; reissued without the date in 1950s.

TQS12. Both thimbles by Simons Bros., Co., Philadelphia PA 1840 to present. Left: Applied disk of Liberty Bell, sterling silver, 1976. Right: Daughters of the American Revolution depicts Constitution Hall and the DAR logo, c1920.

TQS13. Both thimbles by Stern Bros., 1890-1933, New York NY. Left: Femme-Fleur (Swimmer), sterling silver, c1900s. Right: Birds and Foliage, sterling silver, c1890s.

TQS14. Left: Basketweave Embroidery top with Louis XV rim, sterling silver, Stern Bros., 1890-1933c1900s Right: Adirondack Mountains, sterling silver, depicts mountains, canoe, snow shoes, elk and fish in relief, Ketcham & McDougall, 1832-1932, New York NY, c1900s.

TQS15. Left: Swags, sterling silver, by Ketcham & McDougall, 1832-1932, New York NY c1900s. Right: Shells, sterling silver C1900s by Webster Co., 1880-1950, North Attleboro MA.

TQS16. Left: Putti Faces, sterling silver, c1900s by Stern Bros., 1890-1933, New York NY. Right: Liberty Bell, sterling silver by Simons Bros. Co., 1840 to present, patent 6 Sep 1892. Various versions of this thimble have been issued over the years, each with distinctive additions, such as **76** for the reissue in 1976.

TQS17. Left: Wild Roses, sterling silver, c1890s by Webster Co., 1880-1950, North Attleboro MA. Right: Trillium, sterling silver, c1907-1927 by Waiter Thresher, Providence RI, 1886-1927.

TQS18. Both thimbles by Simons Bros. Co., Philadelphia PA 1840 to present. Left: FHA (Future Homemakers of America), sterling silver, c1940s. Right: Engraved 4H logo on sterling silver, c1950s.

TQS19. Left: Sterling silver with floral enamel band by Simons Bros. Co, Philadelphia PA 1840 to present, C1920s. Right: Sterling silver with enameled floral band and Louis XV rim by Ketcham & McDougall, 1832-1932, New York NY, c1890s.

TQS20. Left: Silver with applied enamel disk of Sunbonnet Sue quilting. Downs Collectors Showcase issued a Sunbonnet Sue series of thimbles, limited edition of 2500, in the late 1970s. Each applied enamel disk depicted Sunbonnet Sue performing various household chores. (I've included this one especially for Alex as I remember how Sue was a hot topic for her at one time) Right: Novelty/gadget hem roller thimble with ivory roller. This was patented in 1870.

TQS21. Left: Silver filled Butterfly by Simons Bros. Co, Philadelphia PA, 1840 to present, c1980s. When the cost of silver skyrocketed in 1979-1980, Simons tried to keep thimbles reasonably priced by issuing silver filled vs sterling silver thimbles. There are 4 different band designs in silver filled thimbles. Right: Sterling silver with green stone top by Georg Jensen, Denmark, 1948.

TQS22. Left: Sterling silver thimble holder by Foster & Baily, Providence RI, 1878-1898. Right: Sterling silver thread barrel by LaPierre Manufacturing Co., Newark NJ, 1888-1929. They became part of International Silver in 1929.

TQS23. Left: Unmarked gold with enameled Greek key band. Right: Unmarked gold with enameled decoration on lower band.

TQS24. Left: 14k gold with applied band decorations in green, white and rose gold by Carter, Gough & Co., New York NY, 1880-1927. CLARA in applied letters on reverse. Right: Gold with applied floral decorations, French.

TQS25. Left: Unmarked gold. Right: Unmarked gold, cartouche engraved "Maria Mann, Sept 1st 1874"

TQS26. Left: 10k gold engraved "Daddy to Dau Flo" by Waite Thresher Providence RI, 1886-1927. Right: Unmarked gold.

TQS27. A sterling silver (left) and 14k gold (right) version of thimbles commissioned from Simons Bros. Co., Philadelphia PA 1840 to present. The Empire State Thimble Collectors (ESTC) offers the sterling silver version as their official club thimble. There are only three gold thimbles in the hands of private collectors. Each one depicts Niagara Falls with Maid of the Mist, Statue of Liberty, Manhattan skyline, Empire State Building, Adirondack Mountains, the official state tree (pine), the official state bird (blue bird) and the official state flower (rose)...all on a tiny thimble band.

TQS28. These three dropped rim sterling silver thimbles, two with gold washed bands, were made by Ketcham & McDougall, 1832-1932, New York NY, c1900s. Left: Rose with gold washed band. Center: Chrysanthemum, patent 1912. Right: Holly with gem stone and gold washed band. These are highly sought by thimble collectors. Each has been known to sell for four figures! Some very lucky collectors have found them for much less.....don't you LOVE a bargain???

TQS29. The Empire State Thimble Collectors "Bride" thimble. It has been the tradition of the club to present this thimble to a member who marries. Thimbles were considered tokens of affection. Some thimbles were actually engagement presents and the bottom rim would be cut off for use as a wedding ring when the couple married. The thimble shown is rust enamel with a floral decal on a sterling silver thimble by James Swan and Son, England. There have been three "bride" thimbles presented to members of ESTC. I received the very first one over 20 years ago.

TQS30. 14k gold with stippled band with applied wire work and enamel decorations by Simons Bros. Co., Philadelphia PA from 1840 to present.

TQS 31. Sterling silver with enamel, hand painted by Peter Swingler of England, by private commission. Left: Scottish Terrier. Right: In memory of Lochmaree's Redcoats Return, my very first Scottie dog.

TQS32. Reverse of thimbles in previous slide.

TQS33. Some thimble "go withs"...when your thimble collecting expands to other sewing tools! Two Scottie dog tape measures. Left c1920s. Right c1950s

TQS34. Jiggers (Just a Thimble Full). Left: Applied enamel shield of a thistle and "Frae Bonnie Scotland" banner. Right: Enamel shield of Silverton Colorado (that's the best I could do for Ricky)

TQS35. Souvenir mauchlineware. Left: Egg shaped thimble holder with decal of Shady Glens Falls and Devil's Oven, Catskill Mountains. Center: Heart-shaped pin disk with applied decal of Thousand Island House, Alexandria Bay NY (on the St. Lawrence River). Right: Casket thimble holder with decal of Toboggan Slide, Sylvan Beach NY, c1920s.

For more information on thimbles and other antique sewing tools, visit:

www.thimblecollectors.com

Barbara is "List Mom" for CyberThimble – an electronic round robin for collectors on yahoogroups.com