



THIMBLE COLLECTORS INTERNATIONAL

**Forty Years of History
1978-2018**

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PREFACE

Thimble Collectors International (TCI) celebrated its 40th anniversary in 2018. As of January 28, 2019, there are 311 members from the USA and sixty-one International members. TCI has twenty-three regional groups and seven nonaffiliated international groups.

This is a history of how thimble collectors joined to share their common interest, first by correspondence and then by meeting in local groups. This led to the formation of TCI. This information was originally written in 1998, but as with any organization, we continue to grow and the history must be expanded upon and updated. TCI holds a convention every two years in different cities around the USA. The Bulletin, the club newsletter, is produced four times a year and is filled with articles both on needlework tools and thimbles as well as other useful information for the collector. The internet has changed the organization and we have expanded our horizons.

The official TCI website, www.thimblecollectors.com continues to grow and in 2010 a Members Only section was introduced. This part of the website is filled with research files, price guides, makers' marks, hallmarks, collection photos, historical data, and more.

In 2017, TCI launched a new and updated website with even more data for members to enjoy. This includes a Digital Library and as part of ongoing Education, free Series Documentation PDF programs and the CD/DVR Rental Program.

The information gathered here is presented with one caveat. While most of the details have been formally documented in the TCI archives and confirmed by Kathy and Virginia, (the original producers of this document), a very few are based on the memories of those who were present during the early events.

Memories are not infallible: they sometimes fade or are less than accurate. Please bear this in mind if you, the reader, remember something a little differently.

INTRODUCTION

GROUPS PRIOR TO TCI

As late as the 1970s, many thimble collectors in the United States knew of no other enthusiasts; they felt unique and isolated. Antique shops, helpful dealers and happenstance brought a few collectors together. Once together, it was evident that changes would occur. The earliest known regional group was in Seattle, Washington, organized in the mid-1940s. The members were Nell Anderson, Aline LeMire, Nellie Price, Doris Ramstead and Alta Thompson.

When Sarah Anne Weisbrot (New Jersey) came across an article in the December 1950 issue of SPINNING WHEEL magazine about this group, she was encouraged to form a national group of collectors for the sharing of information and the opportunity to meet other collectors. In 1955, National Thimble Collectors (NTC) became a reality with a Newsletter, edited by Sarah Anne, and a Round Robin letter for collecting and sharing information. Members of the Seattle group joined, as well as such notable collectors as Lucy Earle, Elizabeth Sickels and Ann Blakeslee (Black). A later member, Margaret Parshall, went on to form the Embroiderers' Guild of America (EGA).



*Left to right: Bessie Arnold, Sarah Anne Weisbrot, Betty Sickels.
Photo taken in 1965. Photo: Courtesy of Irene Schwall.*

Ruth Mann (Massachusetts) heard about National Thimble Collectors and asked to join, but by that time the membership was full due to the logistics of using the Round Robin.



Ruth Mann. Photo: Courtesy of Harry Mann.

Sarah Anne suggested that Ruth start another group and gave her the names of collectors who had expressed an interest in joining the NTC. Thus, was Thimble Collecting (TC) born in 1967 in the form of a Newsletter, with Ruth as editor, plus a Round Robin. The Newsletter was dropped in 1974 when it was agreed that the members would subscribe to THIMBLETTER. Among the first members was Helen Forcum, whose articles on needlework tools appeared in SILVER MAGAZINE, Pat Rich, Joann Ryan, Joanna Schilling and Clara Sennhenn.

When Evelyn Eubanks (Ohio) wrote to Ruth asking to join Thimble Collecting, Ruth had to tell her that due to the Round Robin's constraints, the membership was full and suggested she start her own group. Evelyn sent a query to a lady's magazine, asking if there were others who would like to form a group. Vera Thompson responded with names of collectors she thought might be interested. Evelyn wrote to them, sixteen collectors responded, and Thimble Guild (TG) was born in 1970. Communication was through a Newsletter with Evelyn as editor. After her death, the editorship passed to Wynneth Mullins (Texas).

In October 1973, Lorraine Crosby (Massachusetts) mailed a trial issue of a thimble newsletter to those who had expressed interest in such a publication. Encouraged by the response, the first official issue of THIMBLETTER, by subscription, six times a year newsletter devoted to needlework tools and collectors, appeared in January 1974. For the first time, all collectors, nationwide, had a publication available that introduced them to other collectors, shared information and encouraged research. Lorraine published THIMBLETTER until the end of 1999. Also, in 1973, Sandy Cortese (Colorado) established Thimbles of Time (TOT) which became inactive in 1977. Individual thimble clubs/groups began to organize in 1974.

PRE-TCI MEETINGS AND CONVENTIONS

In 1970, members of Thimble Collecting, who kept in touch via a Round Robin and a Newsletter, expressed interest in meeting one another. Ruth Mann and Pat Rich co-chaired the event at the Governor's House Motel in Bethesda, MD, October 19-21. The group of ten attendees was too small to rent a room, so they crowded into each other's bedrooms for sharing. Evelyn Eubanks, Myrtle Lundquist, Doris Ramstead and Elizabeth Sickels joined in the festivities. A trip to the Smithsonian Institution and a visit to Pat Rich's home were included in the activities.

The Washington meeting was so successful that Evelyn Eubanks suggested another meeting in two years, which was held at the Holiday Inn in Warren, Ohio, August 7-10, 1972, sponsored by the Thimble Guild. There were thirty-five attendees and twenty guests, with four groups represented: Thimble Guild, National Thimble Collectors, Thimble Collecting, and nonaffiliated collectors. Also attending was Roz Belford (New York), owner of Sewing Corner who, in 1976, started a quarterly publication THE COLLECTOR'S CIRCLE GAZETTE, in conjunction with her commercial organization. The meeting included speakers, a banquet, swap and sell, and a question and answer period.

In 1974, the meeting in Troy, New York, attended by fifty-two collectors, was coordinated by Ruth Mann and Joann Ryan and hosted by Thimble Collecting. Joann, working with the Rensselaer County Historical Society, put together an exhibit at the Hart-Cluett Mansion showcasing thimbles from private collections as well as the Hyde collection from Glen Falls, NY. Additional highlights included the Alden Collection, loaned by the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston; Emily Hunt's Collection from the Washington, Connecticut Historical Society; the Proctor Munson Collection on loan from the Munson-Williams-Proctor Institute along with the Rensselaer County Historical Society Collection.

The fourth meeting, again hosted by members of Thimble Guild and coordinated by Jacquelyn Whetro and Geraldine Baker, was held at the Ramada Inn in Toledo, Ohio, in August 1976. More than ninety collectors attended, including the Keyser's of Simons Bros. who presented all attendees with a pewter thimble engraved "National Thimble Collectors



Convention 1976." One sterling thimble was given as a special prize (to Estelle Zalkin). It was at this meeting that the attendees expressed the need for a more formal organization. An ad hoc committee was formed to draft a constitution and bylaws to be presented at the 1978 meeting along with a proposed slate of officers and directors. Committee members were Beryl Frank, Evelyn Eubanks, Xenia Fane, Mary Keyser, Ruth Mann and Rita Scollo, with Rose Marie Kerschner and Joanne Ryan as co-chairpersons.

Estelle and Julius Zalkin attending the Toledo 1976 Convention.



*Left to Right: Myrtle Lundquist, Elizabeth Sickels, Lois Erdman & Evelyn Eubanks.
Photo: Courtesy of Irene Schwall.*



Aline Le Mire, Seattle, USA Photo: Courtesy of Irene Schwall.

HISTORY OF TCI

CONVENTIONS

The first Thimble Collectors International Convention took place at the Holiday Inn, Northbrook, Illinois, August, 12-15, 1978, chaired by Shirley Newton. The constitution and bylaws were presented and adopted. The slate was accepted, biennial dues were set (\$10 for US members, \$15 for International members) and the name "Thimble Collectors International" was chosen. As stated in the constitution, the purpose of the organization was "to introduce its membership to the various aspects of thimble collecting; to promote research and study, and to provide for its dissemination; and to encourage fellowship through the establishment of regional chapters." It was determined that conventions were to be held biennially in August of even numbered years, hosted by regional groups, alternating throughout the country so that members from all areas would have the chance to attend one near them. Eight thimble groups, twenty-eight states and Canada were represented. Ruth Mann was elected the first President. Edwin Holmes and Myrtle Lundquist received Honorary Memberships and 111 attendees became Charter Members. Simons Bros. again presented the members with hand-wrought pewter commemorative thimble of the convention engraved "Chicago 1978." An extensive program was offered and a Sales Mall was introduced.

In 1980, the Southern California Thimble Collectors (SCTC) hosted the second TCI Convention at the Huntington-Sheraton Hotel in Pasadena, California, on August 16-18, with Roberta Kenny and Pat Akers as co-chairpersons. New features introduced were: a workshop conducted by Mildred Kohls on how to make and paint bisque thimbles; an Ask the Experts Clinic with Edwin Holmes, Mary Keyser, Ruth Mann, Sylvia Silverman and Estelle Zalkin; and a Social Hour. The Keyser's of Simons Bros. again gave each attendee a pewter thimble, this time engraved with a small thimble over "T.C.I. 1980" as a commemorative of the convention. The official TCI thimble, also designed by Simons Bros. was introduced and offered for sale. Idabelle Forker was elected as President to serve the 1980-1982 biennium.

The Dearborn Inn in Dearborn, Michigan, was the site of the third TCI Convention held August 13-15, 1982, chaired by Gloria Rousseau. There were 182 attendees. Before the convention convened, members had the opportunity to visit Greenfield Village, created by Henry Ford, and considered one of the finest re-created villages in existence. Also, a limited number of members were able to view sewing related items at the Dearborn Museum which the general public does not usually see. A Competitive Display (thimble) with five different categories, an Exhibitors Choice Display (non-thimble, but sewing related) and an Auction conducted by Mary Keyser were offered for the first time. "A Thimble Quiz" using slides of special thimbles for the members to identify, the creation of Edwin Holmes, was presented by Pat Rich and Marie Littler. Installation of officers for the 1982-84 biennium, presided over by Ruth Mann, was held after the banquet. Idabelle Forker was installed as President for her second term.

August 8-11, 1984, found thimble collectors converging on Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, for the fourth TCI convention, held at the Holiday Inn, Independence Hall, with the PhiladelphiaThimble Society as host. A pre-convention bus trip to Winterthur Museum and Gardens was an option for members who were shown several rooms in the museum containing sewing items that were not part of the general tour. The TCI Awards Program was introduced by Historian Joann Ryan and awards were given out for the first time. Rose Marie Kerschner gave "A Primer Course on Basic Collectible Thimbles" which has become a standard offering at all conventions for beginner collectors. Five of the programs were divided into seminars to accommodate smaller groups and encourage participation and sharing by the members who could choose which four they wished to attend. A members' Artisan Competition was introduced. All entries had to be handmade, with one entry allowed in each of 12 categories. The Competitive Display was again held. The Auction, with Ed Green as auctioneer, proved to be such a success that it, too, has become a regular offering at all conventions, with a percentage of the proceeds going to TCI. Published authors were honored at a wine and cheese reception to introduce them to the members and to recognize their contributions to thimble collecting. Mary and Nelson Keyser, Simons Bros. Co., hosted a cocktail party to welcome members to Philadelphia.

A five hundred dollar grant was awarded the Philadelphia Thimble Society for the publication of PHILADELPHIA THIMBLE MAKERS, HENRY MUHR AND SONS. A Simons sterling silver convention thimble, engraved with the TCI Logo and "Philadelphia 1984" was sold to members for \$10. Each subsequent convention has offered a commemorative thimble designed by members and made by Simons Bros. Mignon Jeffords was installed as President for 1984-86. Entertainment after the banquet was provided by the Philadelphia Mummies, dressed in full regalia. They played and strutted to memorable jazz hits. 204 members and eighty guests from twenty-seven States, Australia, Canada, England, Germany and The Netherlands were present.

The fifth TCI Convention, held at the hotel Fort Des Moines in downtown Des Moines, Iowa, August 7-9, 1986, was dedicated to the memory of Myrtle Lundquist and hosted by the Hawkeye Thimblers; 309 members and guests were in attendance. The pre-convention activity was a morning tour of Des Moines with a stop at the Governor's Residence, then on to the Living History Farms with a barbecue at the farm in the afternoon. The first program session opened with a greeting from Iowa's First Lady, Mrs. Charles Branstad. A new offering, "Your Mystery Thimble," gave members a chance to present their thimbles to a panel made up of Mary Keyser, John von Hoelle, Ruth Mann and Estelle Zalkin, for identification. It was at this convention that the Publishing/Grants Committee was approved, with Beryl Frank as chairperson. Mignon Jeffords was installed as President for a second term. She presented an engraved thimble to Esma Sparrow of Australia for traveling some 150,000 miles to attend conventions. Entertainment for the evening was provided by "The Hat Lady," Mrs. Alvina Sellers.

The Nimble Fingers Thimble Club (NFTC) of Spokane, Washington, hosted the sixth TCI Convention, August 10-13, 1988. Theda Grinwis was the chairperson and, for the first time, other regional groups were asked to share some of the responsibilities, thus easing the

burden on the host club. It is now accepted practice that the regional groups will share responsibility for various committees at each convention. The pre-convention tour of Spokane included a visit to the Arbor Crest Winery, the Bing Crosby Museum, with lunch at the historic Patsy Clark Mansion followed by a visit to Cheney Cowles Museum, the historic Campbell House and Manito Park. Another highlight was a cruise on Lake Coeur d'Alene with dinner and shopping at Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. Installation of officers followed Saturday night's banquet with Rose Marie Kerschner receiving the gavel as our fourth President. The "Whistling Midgets" provided the evening's entertainment.

Louisville, Kentucky, was the site of the seventh TCI Convention held August 8-11, 1990, at the Hyatt Regency and hosted by the Ohio Valley Thimblers (OVT). It was chaired by Debbie Fuller. Total registration was 364 attendees, with 249 members and 115 guests. Dickey Everson, Vice President-Membership, proposed changing the membership from biennial to annual with yearly dues of \$15 for US members and \$20 for International members. The proposal passed. Rose Marie Kerschner was installed as President for a second term. After the installation, entertainment was provided by the "Country Cutie Cloggers," a group of youngsters ages 9-12. A pre-convention tour covered the Hillerich & Bradsby baseball factory, a tour of Churchill Downs and the Kentucky Derby Museum with lunch in the Horseshoe Gallery, ending at Louisville Stoneward Pottery. TCI members were welcome to visit the National Headquarters of the Embroiderers' Guild of America and view the exhibition there. A two-hour evening cruise along the Ohio River aboard the BELL OF LOUISVILLE, built in 1914 and the oldest sternwheeler still operating on the Mississippi River, offered box picnic suppers eaten to the accompaniment of golden oldies played on a calliope.

The eighth TCI Convention, held August 12-15, 1992, was at the Holiday Inn on the Bay, San Diego, California. Thimble Collectors of San Diego (TCSD) were the hosts with Betty Kraviecki as chairperson. Attendance numbered 328. There were 228 members and 100 guests. An "Ask the Panel" session was provided with Patty Caras, Mary Keyser, Ruth Mann and Estelle Zalkin as the experts. A Needle Arts Parade and Member Opportunity Prize (MOP) were offered. Dickey Everson was installed as our fifth President. The pre-convention tour gave the early attendees the chance to see the city sights with a trip to Balboa Park, Old Town where San Diego began, and lunch at the Ruben E. Lee Restaurant on Harbor Island, Shelter Island, the Cabrillo Monument and Point Loma for a panoramic view of San Diego. A social hour was enhanced by a mariachi band overseen by Bob Hum in a gigantic sombrero with a fringe made of thimbles. The convention ended with entertainment provided by fifteen children and adults from the "Folklorico Dancers" performing dances of Central America.

The "Star Spangled Banner Convention" in 1994, was number nine, held at the Sheraton Baltimore North Hotel in Towson, Maryland, August 3-6. This event was organized by Rona Katz, Pat Rich and Edythe Baker as well as members of the Capitol Area Thimblers (CATS). Attendance numbered 201 members and ninety-three guests with thirty-one states and thirty-six international members registered. A new set of bylaws, presented by Beverly Bangs and her special committee appointed during Rose Marie Kerschner's term as President, reducing the Board to a 7-person Executive Board, was voted on and passed. Kathy Hunter, Historian, presented a Certificate of Appreciation plaque to Helmut Greif, in

absentia, for his contributions to our thimble knowledge. Dickey Everson was installed as President for a second term. The pre-convention tour visited Fort McHenry and The Maryland Historical Society where the Society's sewing tools were on display along with their Album Quilts. Later in the week, some members visited the National Aquarium and/or took a Baltimore Harbor Cruise. The convention closed with a delightful presentation by Christina Bertrand of "Coming of Age in Digitapolis" depicting the idiosyncrasies of thimble collectors.

The 1996 TCI Convention, hosted by Lady Slipper Thimblers of Minnesota (LST), was held at the Radisson South Hotel in Bloomington, Minnesota, from August 14-17. Melissa Yauk was the chairperson. Throughout the convention, several panels of experienced collectors were available in the Hospitality Room to any collector with questions about needlework tools. On Wednesday evening, before the business meeting, convention newcomers had the opportunity to meet the Board Members. The Philadelphia Thimble Society organized a thimble jewelry display which was outstanding. Edie Phillips was installed as President for the 1996-98 term. The pre-convention bus tour was of the twin cities, Minneapolis and St. Paul. A bus tour of historic Stillwater on the St. Croix River took place on the afternoon of the 15th. Friday afternoon was a Riverboat Tour through several locks on the Mississippi River. There was musical entertainment aboard and several members showed what they could do on the dance floor. At the closing banquet, Christina Bertrand talked about "The Joy of Digitapolis" the lifestyle and fashions in that land.

TCI celebrated its 20th Anniversary at its eleventh convention held at the Hyatt Regency Dallas-Fort Worth Airport, Texas, August 18-23, 1998, chaired by Patti Brown, assisted by Mary Craft. There were 156 attendees, including those from Canada, England, Germany, Indonesia, The Netherlands, Russia and The Republic of South Africa. Changes to the bylaws were approved with the exception of Family Membership. Edie Phillips was installed as President for a second term. In order to encourage members to get to meet one another, the Hospitality Room was the site for the distribution of door prizes. The Needlework Fashion Show had many unique garments, including a group of dresses shaped like thimbles. Each garment was modeled after a different type of thimble. "Ask The Panel" members were kept busy. The Empire State Thimblers sponsored The Bizarre Bazaar which introduced members to many unusual sewing related items. The pre-convention tour gave members a view of the Dallas area and included stops at Dealey Plaza, site of President J.F. Kennedy's assassination, Pioneer Plaza, which offered a larger than life bronze scene of a cattle drive, and a visit to an open-air public market. The program after the banquet featured Amy Webb's "The Story of Joanna Troutman, the Betsy Ross of Texas" and Ken Fry, the "Lone Star Storyteller," who was also the artist who drew the cattle-drive scene used around the band of the convention thimble.

The 12th biennial convention of TCI was held in Orlando, Florida, at the Holiday Inn International Resort, August 8-12, 2000. With Dickey Everson at the helm as site chairman many regional groups assisted in making the convention all that we have come to expect. There were 191 registered members and sixty-seven guests to take advantage of the programs, auction, MOP, fashion show, sales mall and tour. The tour was a full day and took members to the NASA's Cape Kennedy where we were offered insight into the exciting lives of astronauts. The Philadelphia Thimble Society introduced the "Thimble Road Show". Items

were presented to a panel for information and projected onto a screen for the members to view. Melissa Yauk was installed as President at the last night's luau banquet.

August 6-11, 2002 found TCI at the Renaissance Hotel in Long Beach, California. Convention co-site chairmen Donna Rothman and Tricia Sinclair worked to provide members with an outstanding convention with a few new twists. The game "Thimblopoly" (fashioned after Monopoly) was introduced by Barbara Acchino & Cyberthimble and it had collectors scurrying around for clues. The "Collection within a Collection" exhibit was well received and allowed members to share their treasures with their fellow collectors. The tour took members, spouses and guests to Catalina Island aboard the Catalina Express - a high speed catamaran service taking about one hour from Long Beach. The fashion show was a huge success with members showing off their creativity with a needle and or glue gun. The convention ended with a "Red, White and Blue" banquet and installation of officers for the next two years. Melissa Yauk was installed as President for a second term.

Boston/Danvers, Massachusetts, was the location of the August 11-14, 2004 TCI convention. The Danvers Sheraton welcomed us with Ruthie Broughton as the site chairman and Priscilla Nutmeggers as the host club, Lorraine Crosby and Ruth Mann as Honorary Chairmen. There were 193 members attending the convention along with seventy-four guests. The tour took us to Old Ironsides, Old North Church and Faneuil Hall with lunch at Quincy Market. Favorite activities were back and this included Thimblopoly, the fashion show with member models dressed as the Avon thimble ladies and a Salem Witch wedding dress as well as a patriotic/historical display. David Neill showed us how to restore the roundness to our thimbles and he helped to accomplish some of these tasks on our behalf. It goes without saying that the auction and the sales mall were huge successes. The hotel was also hosting a Harley Davidson motorcycle gathering and this made for many interesting experiences. On the final evening a "Hats Off" Banquet was a colorful and multi-dimensional event that included free thimbles and ended with Peggy Green being installed as the new President.

Are Ya comin' to Seattle in 2006?" TCI said a resounding 'yes' and our 15th biennial convention was held at the Hilton Airport Hotel. Bonnie Ecker and Sondra Hirsch as co-site chairmen worked with committees formed all over the USA to make this convention a success. With 166 members and forty-eight guests attending, we ventured on a tour of Seattle that included the Museum of Flight, the Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park, Pike Place Market and ended at the Seattle Space Needle where we rode to the top and enjoyed a box lunch. The next morning the convention began in earnest with a buffet breakfast and the business meeting. The Hospitality Room had a new theme where convention banners were displayed. Each regional club was invited to design and present a banner to display at convention. The convention speakers have now converted to PowerPoint and this adds a much more powerful and interesting dimension to the programs. Digital photography has enabled us to show higher quality photographs and sound can be included in the program whereas before we only showed slides. The sales mall, auction and fashion show were enjoyed by all. Our final event of the convention was "A Rainbow of Thimblers" banquet and installation of officers with Peggy Green serving her second term as president.

“Come ye thimblers near and far and please don’t think us silly; Pack your bags and board the planes 2008 in Philly!” In 2008 TCI celebrated its 30th anniversary and celebrated in style in Philadelphia. This was the first time that a city and club had hosted a convention the second time around with the first Philadelphia convention in 1984. The Philadelphia Thimble Society (PTS) hosted the convention and staffed all of the committees with Ed Green and Bobbie Howard as site co-chairmen. The convention dates were changed to ensure a hotel in the downtown area at an affordable rate. The Sheraton Society Hill opened their doors to 195 members and sixty-three guests on August 29, 2008. A tour of downtown Philadelphia included stops at Independence Hall, the Liberty Bell, the Betsy Ross House and ending with lunch at City Tavern. The convention official opened with a dinner-business meeting. During the remainder of the convention, members, spouses and guests were mesmerized with well researched programs and all the usual events that make our TCI conventions varied and interesting. The fashion show was well orchestrated by Jean Shoup. The auction and sales mall were coveted events with lines of people waiting for the doors to open. The exhibits were interesting and varied with the theme being “What Rings My Bell!”. Instead of drawing for the MOP at the banquet a separate meeting was held earlier in the afternoon and this was a success. The final banquet and installation of officers, with Mabel Rogers, president, was topped by the “Mummers” — a performing troupe who in medieval times would go from door-to-door wearing masks and costumes, staging plays in rhyme and song and mime. Members danced the night away. Final farewells were made and promises pledged to meet again at the next convention which will be held in Cincinnati, Ohio August 10 – 14, 2010.

Two hundred and twenty-one delegates (members, guests and family) gathered from around the world in Cincinnati, Ohio for the 18th biennial convention. “Rollin’ on the River” was the theme. The tour of the city and surrounding areas included a riverboat luncheon and tour. The convention was hosted by the Ohio Thimble Seekers and co-chaired by Sandy Woodward and Pat Palmer. Delegates stayed at the Hilton Cincinnati Netherlands Plaza, a National Historic Landmark and charter member of Historic Hotels of America. The hotel features breathtaking French Art Deco that has been restored to its 1930s grandeur. With rare Brazilian rosewood paneling, indirect German silver-nickel light fixtures and soaring ceiling murals, this hotel is one of the world’s finest examples of French Art Deco. The convention programs were most informative and very well attended. Sales Mall was filled crowded with dealers and enthusiastic shopper. The Fashion Show and “What Floats Your Boat” exhibit had many members participating. For the very first time the auction catalog was in color. Items up for auction could be viewed in person and then during the actual auction, each Lot was shown on the screen during the bidding process. Check out ran like clockwork and happy bidders were soon leaving with their prize. The musicians, who recorded the theme music for the convention, entertained us during the final banquet and many delegates joined in the festivities. Before our final goodbyes, the flower children from the Bay Area Thimble Society proclaimed “Are You Ready” for Thimbles By The Bay, San Francisco 2012.

The Bay Area Thimble Society (BATS) rolled out the red carpet for thimble and needlework

tool collectors, their friends and family who travelled to San Francisco in 2012. Convention co-chairs Vicki Camicia, Mark Folden and Sandi Wood welcomed 183 members and guests to the Westin San Francisco on Market, for the biennial Convention held August 8-12, 2012. The theme for this convention was "Thimbles By The Bay." The weather was beautiful all week long and those who participated in the pre-convention tour viewed this lovely city from several vantage points, including: Twin Peaks, Treasure Island and the West end of the Golden Gate Bridge. The tour included a luncheon at the Franciscan Crab House on the waterfront at Fisherman's Wharf. A new slate of officers was elected at the business meeting, including our first male President of the organization. The convention got off to a rousing start with an exhilarating and entertaining multimedia program by Ruthellen Moss entitled "California Dreamin--The Story of the Golden State Through Thimbles and Song." Over the next few days, many other informative programs followed. The new TCI booklet entitled "Enameled Thimbles of Norway" was released for purchase in the sales mall on Thursday. The mall was abuzz with member shoppers looking to add items to their collections. As always, the fashion show provided an opportunity for members to demonstrate their skillful use of a thimble, needle and thread or the sewing machine. The highly anticipated auction did not disappoint and spirited bidding led to some fierce competition to be the high bidder. For the first time ever, TCI made accommodation to members who were not in attendance. They were able to bid at the auction in an absentee bidding format. The closing banquet opened with a troupe of very talented local dancers performed a variation of the Lion Dance. This is a form of traditional dance in Chinese culture where performers mimic a lion's movement while being dressed in costume. The dancers wove their way through the banquet hall and camera flashes filled the air. Dorothy, Toto, Glenna and the Wicked Witch of the West dared us to travel to their next convention which will be held in 2014 in Kansas City, Missouri. We hope it does not take a tornado to gather all our members there! Travel by broom or balloon if you must, travel from near and far we trust, but do not miss out on the next convention!

The Nineteenth TCI Convention (2014), hosted by the Illinois Missouri Thimble Collectors (ILMO) and Lady Slipper Thimblers of Minnesota (LSTMN), was held at the Westin Kansas City at Crown Center hotel in Kansas City, Missouri, from August 12-17. It was chaired by Carolyn Morgan. Total registration was 144 attendees, with 111 members (fourteen were International) and thirty-three guests. The pre-convention activity gave the early attendees an all-day Kansas City Tour with lunch. Priscilla Burrus presented the first program with Thimbling 101 - A Beginner's Seminar to a group of first-timers to the convention. Kay Sullivan gave an interesting program on "Sewing Accessories Made in Holland." Daria Phair delighted everyone with her program on "The Humble Crochet Hook," and Irene Schwall shared her amazing "Life Before eBay - An Update" on a program she originally presented at the Orlando, Florida, TCI Convention in 2000. Terry Meinke presented a program on "Exploring Avery Needle Cases - Their History, Design and Variety," and Mabel Rogers gave a delightful program with her "Around the World in Eighty Thimbles." Other activities at the convention included a colorful fashion parade; Membership Opportunity Prizes (MOP); exhibits/displays of collections by TCI members; sales mall; TCI auction; and back by popular demand, "Ask the Expert Panel." The convention ended with the banquet theme "All That

Jazz" and installation of officers with Dan Walbrun serving his second term as President. The night ended with members of the Empire State Thimble Collectors putting on a skit to entice everyone to join them on September 7-10, 2016, at Niagara Falls, New York.

The Twentieth Biennial TCI Convention (2016), hosted by the Empire State Thimble Collectors (ESTC), was held at the Sheraton hotel in Niagara Falls, New York, from September 6-11. It was co-chaired by Barbara Acchino and Mary Innes Wagner. Total registration was 160 attendees, with twelve International. The pre-convention was an all-day tour of Buffalo, New York, lunch, and one of the Seven Natural Wonders of the World, Niagara Falls. Mary Innes Wagner opened the convention with a welcome to New York at the business meeting and kickoff dinner. A special presentation was given to Mike Meacham. Kay Connors presented the first program, Thimbling 101 - A Beginner's Seminar to a large group of first-timers to the convention. Marilyn Chestnut gave an interesting program on "The Thimbles of Felix Morel." Mary Ann Johnson gave an informative program on "Religious Women and Sacred Symbols." Dan Walbrun's program on "My KMD Adventure" left us in awe of how many KMD thimbles there are out there. Peter Woods delighted the audience with bringing Mr. Singer to life with his talk on "Singer, His Life, Sewing Machines and Other Collectables." Carolyn Meacham gave an interesting program on "Beaded Needlework Tools." Other activities at the convention included a colorful fashion parade; Membership Opportunity Prizes (MOP); sales mall; TCI auction and "Ask the Expert Panel." The convention ended with an informative program "Two Hundred Years of Iroquois Beadwork" presented by guest speaker Dolores Elliott. President Dan Walbrun handed the President's gavel to incoming President Sandy Woodyard who introduced her incoming board. The night ended with Mary Agnes Mosher enticing everyone to join her and the Capital Area Thimblers (CATS) in Alexandria, Virginia for the 2018 TCI convention.

From August 15-18, 2018, the Twenty-first Biennial TCI Convention, hosted by the Capital Area Thimble Society (CATS), was held at the Hilton Alexandria Mark Hotel in Alexandria, Virginia. However, the convention was officially known as the Washington, DC Convention. It also celebrated the 40th Birthday of TCI. Mary Agnes Mosher was the Convention Site chair. The total registration was 138 people, which included eleven international attendees. A tour of Mount Vernon and its property and museums with a lunch buffet on the premises, followed by a Washington, DC, city bus trip, was scheduled for Wednesday as a pre-convention activity. Later that night, Mary Agnes Mosher opened the convention during the business meeting kickoff dinner. Historian Judy McGraw announced the winners of the TCI thimble awards. Irene Schwall received the Myrtle Lundquist Academic Award and Mabel Rogers the Ruth Mann Service Award. Monty Phair provided a marvelous program called "Welcome to the 2018 Washington, DC TCI Convention." Kay Connors started Thursday morning with "Thimbling 101," a beginner's seminar for first-time convention attendees. Irene Schwall followed with an enlightening program on Japanese inlay techniques called "Shibayama and Maki-e Techniques." Dan Walbrun provided an informative presentation called "Enameled Thimbles of Norway." Thursday afternoon was the famous TCI Auction with Ed Green as the auctioneer. Some fabulous exhibits were available for viewing that evening. Friday began with the Sales

Mall and joyful shopping for thimble and needlework tool treasures by all attendees. A new event was added to the convention and called the Craft Flash Mob, managed by Rod Baer. Several people took advantage of relaxing together by working on their craft projects, talking with others about their collecting interests and sharing crafting ideas. In the afternoon, there was an interesting slide program by Susan Webster called "Webster and Company" about Webster sterling silver products. Andrea Lange then presented her remarkable program "People on Thimbles." Saturday, we were treated to Judy McGraw's show on "Needlework Tools Around the World," followed by a detailed program on "Lace and Lacy," presented by Bernadine Biske. Following lunch, Christina Bertrand shared her attention-grabbing program on World War I "Notions of War." Throughout the convention, whenever the hospitality room was open, attendees could play bingo. The MOP drawings took place in this same room on Saturday afternoon. The convention ended with the closing banquet. The clothing theme was "Wear Your Country's Flag Colors." Peggy Green presided over the installation of officers. Mabel Rogers presented a superb program "A Return to Digitabilis" for our entertainment. The evening ended with Kay Connors and Sandi Wood paddling their canoe across the stage and inviting everyone to join them and the Nimble Fingers Thimble Club (NFTC) in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, on September 16-19 for the 2020 TCI convention.

From a simple beginning with a few collectors' room-hopping as they shared information and treasures, TCI Conventions have grown to include sales malls that thrill collectors, a place to get answers from experienced collectors about thimbles and other needlework tools and auctions of exceptional quality. Conventions have also allowed members to visit other parts of the United States of America in the company of friends. Today that simple room-hopping still occurs, carrying on the traditions of sharing, caring and the continual renewing of friendships.

TCI SERVICES

While conventions are the biggest event of each biennium, TCI offers other services to members. The TCI BULLETIN is issued four times a year; the Publishing committee oversees research and the publication of member written booklets; the Education Committee stores programs that are available to groups and members for a modest rental fee; the Librarian will, for a small fee, make photocopies of articles on request, copyright permitting.

The TCI website www.thimblecollectors.com has been upgraded and has an entirely new and fresh look to it. The Members Only section of the website allows members to view and download research files, rent programs or download PDF files within Series Documentation, keep track of what thimbles and needlework tools are selling for in Price Guides. Visiting the Fakes, Reproductions and Not as Presented files, in an attempt to not spend money on a suspect item, browsing the Hallmarks data file and so much more.

NEWSLETTER

The TCI BULLETIN enables members to stay in touch with each other. Each publication includes articles by members on a variety of topics; notices of proposed changes in bylaws; convention information; regional news; committee information; club and member profiles; and messages from our President and Committee chairpersons.

The first issue, dated Winter 1978, came out January 1979, with Lahoma Goldsmith as editor. It covered the first convention, included our constitution and bylaws, listed our charter members, and announced a contest to select an official logo design to be used on all official TCI items. Velda Skagen's design won and first appeared on the October 1979 issue. It was copyrighted on June 21, 1983, with a new renewed date to 2013 and it is to be used for official TCI business only. President Idabelle Forker was TCI BULLETIN editor from 1980 until Joan Geertz took over in 1982. Debbie Fuller was editor from 1985 until 1995 when Emily Capin assumed the editorship.

In the Spring of 2001, Martha Blackman-Hughes assumed the helm and she was followed by Mildred Jarvis in the Fall of 2001. Daria Phair took over the editorship in the Summer of 2003 and she continued as Editor in 2017. The Bulletin has seen many improvements under Daria and her editorial team. The printed Bulletin now includes some color photos and we also offer a full-color PDF version on the TCI website to all members. In the Fall of 2016 Susan Dempster agreed to become the editor of the Bulletin with Melissa Yauk as assistant editor.

TCI EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

TCI has for many years maintained an educational archive containing slide shows donated by members after presentation at conventions. These have been preserved by TCI for education

and research purposes by members, and are available for rental to organizations or individuals associated with TCI for a nominal fee.

A link to a current list of programs available for rental, along with instructions for renting, can be accessed from the TCI Public page by clicking on the Education tab:

<http://www.thimblecollectors.com>

Over time the use of slides declined, slide projectors became almost impossible to find, and the slides themselves began to deteriorate. Thus, in 2010 over 2,600 slides in the TCI Educational Library were digitized, edited, and organized in PPT format onto CDs and DVDs. Since these images are now digitized, formatting into any future technological advances can easily be accomplished, with no loss of image quality, and this treasure trove of information will remain available to future generations of thimble and sewing tool collectors.

In 2014, the TCI Education Department undertook a new project to document as much information as possible on series and sets of thimbles sold in the 1970s, 80s, and 90s before that information is lost forever since, as time goes by collections are disbursed and often the accompanying paperwork disappears. To date, TCI has over eighty programs in PDF format finished and ready for FREE viewing by members, with many more in process. In addition to photos of the thimbles in each series, included when available are prices, dates, advertisements, descriptive brochures, leaflets, etc. This is an ongoing project and many, many more titles will be added in the future. A preview example can be found on the Public page of our website under the Membership tab. The title of this presentation is "Franklin Mint Garden Birds." A list of available programs can be found by clicking on the Education tab and scrolling down to the bottom of the page. All of the Series Documentation programs are available FREE to members and can be found within the Members Only area of our website.

In 2016, the TCI Education Department added "Free Downloadable Rental Programs" that are over ten years old. They are free to TCI members by contacting the Education Chair.

TCI LIBRARY - History

A library was created in the early years of TCI as a collaboration between Idabelle Forker, then president, and Janet Hawkins. In the mid 1970's everything about thimble collecting was new to collectors, so there was a great need to have a place to collect and organize materials (before the internet). Bobbie Frisk and Mary Lou Koenig contributed much of the materials, such as advertisements from old magazines, references to manufacturer's marks, and newspaper articles of thimbles in the news. Wanda Kauffman was appointed the first librarian and Joanna Schilling followed. They organized the materials and received permission to copy articles for collectors. An index booklet was created by subject matter of these materials. Articles could be requested and photocopied for a fee.

The library maintains the complete set of TCI BULLETIN issues and TCI booklets. Other notable newsletters include: THIMBLETTTER, Collector Circle Gazette, Thimble Guild, Round Robins, Thimble Query and various other miscellaneous titles. There are a wide assortment of auction catalogs, mail order catalogs, and select articles about thimbles and other sewing-related tools, including thimble manufacturers and makers.

An index of TCI BULLETIN articles was compiled to make it easier to find materials in our newsletter. It is available online and is updated annually.

For a variety of reasons, the TCI Board decided to disband the library in 2018. Much of the material created by TCI has been digitized and is available on the TCI Webpage.

Submitted by Melissa Yauk, TCI Librarian, 2/28/2011 and updated in 2019.

TCI PUBLICATIONS

THOUGHTS ON THIMBLES, written by the late Elizabeth Aldridge of England with photographs supplied by Edwin Holmes, was the first copyrighted publication by TCI and appeared in 1983. Printed in eleven separate chapters, it was distributed as a supplement to the TCI BULLETIN.

In 1986, OLD NUREMBERG & ITS THIMBLEMAKERS, a talk prepared by Helmut Greif, translated and presented by Gertrude Kuebler at the Des Moines convention, was published as a booklet under the aegis of TCI with the title NUREMBERG THIMBLEMAKERS. Distribution was at the convention and by mail. Also, in 1986, BRASS THIMBLES was produced by Christina Bertrand.

Since the establishment of the committee, booklets have been published covering a spectrum of topics:

1. BRITISH COMMEMORATIVE & SOUVENIR THIMBLES by Dorothy Friend-1987.
2. INTRODUCTION TO SEWING TRADE CARDS by Debbie Fuller -1988.
3. THREAD WINDERS FOR COLLECTORS by Diane Pelham Burn – 1989.
4. NOTIONS OF WAR by Christina Bertrand – 1991.
5. AMERICAN BELLEEK PORCELAIN THIMBLES & RELATED SEWING ITEMS by Mildred Jarvis -1991.
6. SEW SMALL, CHILDREN'S NEEDLEWORK TOOLS by Diane Pelham Burn – 1995.
7. THIMBLES OF CLAY by Mary Peckover – 1996.
8. WHIMSIES IN THE SEWING ROOM by Frances Graves – 1997.
9. TCI MUSEUM GUIDE by Thimble Collectors International - 1998.
10. OF MEISSEN THIMBLES by Ann Blakeslee Black -2000.
11. EARLY THIMBLES by Diane Pelham Burn – 2001.
12. THIMBLES OF FRANCE WITH WAFFLED KNURLING by Beryl Frank – 2003.
13. ENAMELED THIMBLES OF NORWAY by Dan Walbrun - 2012.

TCI AWARDS PROGRAM

In 1982, a committee was appointed at the Dearborn convention to create an awards program honoring those members who have made outstanding contributions to thimble knowledge, TCI, or have enhanced collecting in some way. Joann Ryan and Evelyn Eubanks were chairpersons with members Bernardine Biske, Leona Coad, Dorothy Friend, Mignon Jeffords and Sandy Woodyard.

The Washington, DC Award, named for the first meeting in 1970, is the award for Firsts. This has been presented for the first thimble book published, TCI's first President, the first subscription thimble newsletter, the first Treasurer and the first male Board Member.

Later, four awards were created, named in honor of the first four thimble meetings before the inception of Thimble Collectors International. TCI members are asked to nominate a member

for each award along with a statement why they feel the person they are nominating is qualified for a particular award. A committee, headed by the Historian, selects the recipients from these names. The award recipients are kept secret and announced at the biennial conventions.

Each recipient receives a sterling thimble made by Simons Bros., engraved with the name of the award, their name and the presentation year

The Warren Ohio Award, for the second meeting in 1972, honors those who have made outstanding contributions to TCI.

The Troy, New York Award (1974), named for the third meeting, is given for scholarship and research.

The Toledo, Ohio Award, for the 1976 meeting, is also known as the *President's Choice Award*. This is given to the person the President feels has been of the most help during her/his term of office.

The Toledo, Ohio Award Recipients: Mary Craft (1998).

The Myrtle Lundquist Award was given for the first time in 1986. It was created after her death, to honor her and her belief that compassion, caring and sharing were important to thimble collecting.

The Award Recipients: (there were no awards given in 2006).

The Washington DC Award: Myrtle Lundquist (1984); Ruth Mann (1986; Lorraine Crosby (1988); Bob Hum (1990); Bernadine Biske (1992); Velda Skagen (2000); Shirley Newton (2002).

The Warren Ohio Award: Evelyn Eubanks (1984); Estelle Zalkin (1986); Sandy Woodyard (1988); Debbie Fuller (1990); Rona Katz (1992); Rose Marie Kerchner (1994); Emily Capin (1996); Mildred Jarvis (1998); Dickey Everson (2000); Christina Bertrand (2002); Pat Rich (2004).

The Troy New York Award: Elizabeth Sickels (1984); John von Hoelle (1986); Estelle Zalkin (1988); Gay Ann Rogers (1990); Christina Bertrand (1992); Dorothy Friend (1994); Diane Pelham Burn (1996); Nerylla Taunton (1998); Beryl Frank (2000); Irene Schwall (2002); Mary Keyser (2004).

The Toledo Ohio Award: Shirley Newton (1984); Lahoma Goldsmith (1986); Mary Keyser (1988); Pat Rich (1990); Dickey Everson (1990); Emily Capin (1992); Rose Marie Kerschner (1994); Barbara Acchino (1996); Mary Craft (1998); Peggy Carroll (2000); Mildred Jarvis (2002); Jina Samulka (2004).

The Lundquist Award: Evelyn Eubanks (1988); Mignon Jeffords (1990); Idabele Forker (1992), Wynneth Mullins (1992); Virginia Weaver (1994); Clara Sennhenn (1996); Gertrude Kuebler (1990); Rachel Lent (2000); Bob Hum (2002); Kathy Hunter (2004).

Certificate of Appreciation: Helmut Greif (1994).

In 2008, the TCI awards program was changed as the old program was outdated. It was decided to have only two awards. The Historian is the chairman of this program and works with a committee. Members can now nominate other members for one of two awards:

Ruth Mann Service Award is given for service to TCI. This award is named for Ruth Mann who was instrumental in the founding days of TCI and served as TCI's first president.

The Ruth Mann Service Award: Peggy Green (2008); Emily Capin (2010); Irene Schwall (2012); Sandi Wood (2014); Mary Craft (2016); Mabel Rogers (2018).

Myrtle Lundquist Academic Award is given for academic research and disbursing of information. This award is named for Myrtle Lundquist who was one of the first authors of books on thimbles.

Myrtle Lundquist Academic Award: Daria Phair (2008); Frances Graves, Posthumously (2008); Melissa Yauk (2010); Sue Gowan (2012); Kay Sullivan (2014); Jean Scott (2016); Irene Schwall (2018).

THIMBLE GROUPS

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

One of the goals of Thimble Collectors International is to encourage fellowship through the establishment of regional groups. Although these groups are entities and not part of TCI, it was through the efforts of members of three of the earliest groups, National Thimble Collectors, Thimble Collecting and Thimble Guild, that TCI came into being in 1978. By then, regional groups totaled eight in number. Many others, both here and abroad, have been formed since then. Some have disbanded, but most are still meeting. Some are formal organizations with many members, with bylaws, officers, dues and planned programs while others are small, informal get-togethers of collectors. Membership in TCI, is not a requirement to belong to any of these groups.

- 1974+ Seattle Group – Seattle, WA *
- 1995 National Thimble Collectors – Newsletter & Round Robin – New Jersey *
- 1996 Thimble Collecting – Newsletter & Round Robin – Massachusetts*
- 1970 Thimble Guild – Newsletter – Ohio*
- 1973 Thimbles of Time (TOT) – Colorado*
- 1974 Three Rivers Thimblers – Western Pennsylvania
- 1975 Dorcas Thimblers – West Coast Florida *
Houston Thimble Club – Texas *
Southern California Thimble Collectors (SCTC)
Thimblers of Oklahoma (TOO) *
- 1976 Bay Area Thimble Society (BATS) – San Francisco, California*
Garden State Thimblers – New Jersey *
Thimblefools of Northern Illinois (TONI)
- 1977 Philadelphia Thimble Society – Pennsylvania
- 1981 Gold Coast Thimblers – East Coast Florida *
Hawkeye Thimblers – Iowa *
Thimble Collectors of San Diego (TCSD) – California **
Renamed in 2009 to Thimble Collectors San Diego (TCSD) *
Vermont Stitch-In-Timers *
- 1982 Arizona Thimblers – Phoenix, Arizona *
- 1983 Connecticut Nutmeggers **
Great Lakes Thimblers – Michigan
Michigan Indiana Thimble Society (MITS)
Ohio Thimble Seekers
Priscillas of Massachusetts **
- 1984 Capital Area Thimblers (CATS) – District of Columbia, Maryland, Virginia
Ohio Valley Thimblers – Indiana, Kentucky, Ohio *
Wisconsin – Illinois Thimblers *
- 1985 Empire State Thimble Collectors (ESTC) – New York

	Thimbles Are Us - Texas
1987	Nimble Finger Thimble Club – Eastern Washington
1988	ILMO Thimblers – Illinois, Missouri
	Priscilla Nutmeggers – Connecticut, Massachusetts, Rhode Island **
	Seattle Thimble Society – Washington
1989	Rocky Mountain Thimblers – Colorado, Wyoming *
	Lady Slipper Thimblers of Minnesota – Twin Cities Area
	Columbia Thimble Collectors – Oregon *
1990	Cactus Thimblers – Tucson Area, Arizona *
	Oregon-Southern Washington Area Collectors *
	Thimblers of Tampa Bay – Florida
1992	Dairyland Thimblers – Wisconsin
1998	Dogwood Thimblers – Georgia
	Chesapeake Bay Thimblers *
2003	Carolina Thimble Collectors Group *
	Thimbles on Wheels - a traveling thimble group
2011	Silver State Thimble Society – Las Vegas, Nevada

* **No longer active**

** **Merger**

NON-AFFILIATED: INTERNATIONAL

Australia	Needlework Tool Collectors Society of Australia South Australia
	The South Australia Digitabulist Society
Germany	Freunde Des Fingerhut E.V.
Indonesia	Jakarta Thimble Group *
Israel	Israeli Thimble Collectors
Netherlands	The Netherlands Thimble Club
South Africa	Thimble Collectors Club of South Africa
United Kingdom	Dorset Thimble Society
	Welsh Thimblers *

* **No longer active**

CONVENTION PROGRAMS & SPEAKERS 1978 – 2018

Northbrook, Illinois, 1978

Thimbles:

SIMONS – Mary Keyser

RESEARCH & SBC THIMBLES – Lahoma Goldsmith

DORCAS THIMBLES – Estelle Zalkin

THIMBLES AROUND THE WORLD – Xenia Fane

SLIDES FROM OUTSTANDING COLLECTIONS – Ruth Mann

SLIDES FROM JO ANNE RATH'S COLLECTION – Jo Anne Rath

Other Subjects:

MEET MYRTLE LUNDQUIST – Myrtle Lundquist

PATENTS – Mary Lou Koenig

POEMS – compiled and presented by Evelyn Eubanks

RESEARCH – Joann Ryan

Pasadena, California, 1980

Thimbles:

HITHERTO UNPUBLISHED RESEARCH – Edwin Holmes

EXOTIC THIMBLE FINDS – Estelle Zalkin

THE BIRTH OF THE THIMBLE – Silvia Silverman

BISQUE THIMBLES, HOW TO PAINT THEM – Mildred Kohls

THE LADY WITH THE NIMBLE FINGERS – Natalie Borg

Needlework Tools:

SEWING TOOLS THROUGH THE AGES – Estelle Horowitz

THE HUNT FOR NEEDLEWORK TOOLS – Gay Ann Rogers

Other Subjects:

HOW TO DERIVE SATISFACTION FROM YOUR COLLECTION – Myrtle Lundquist

ARTS & CRAFTS OF CHINA – Marian Ireland

Dearborn, Michigan, 1982

Thimbles:

THE STORY OF KETCHAM & MCDOUGALL – Beryl Frank
FUN IN ADVERTISING KMD 1900 – Mary Keyser
HANDCRAFTED THIMBLES – Eleanor Brand
ADVERTISING THIMBLES & TRADE CARDS – Milt Mager
THIMBLES AS AN ART FORM – John von Hoelle
THIMBLE MARKS & THEIR IDENTIFICATION – Phyllis Underhill

Needlework Tools:

THIMBLE CASES & HOLDERS – Dot Mager
SEWING BIRDS & CLAMPS – Edye Baker
SCISSORS – Grace Blackburn

Other Subjects:

WHY WE SHOULD APPRAISE & INSURE OUR COLLECTIBLES – Dee Jay Strobe
CREATIVE DISPLAYS – Pearl Hazen
THIMBLE COLLECTING IS A THREEFOLD ASSET – Myrtle Lundquist

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 1984

Thimbles:

A PRIMER COURSE ON BASIC COLLECTIBLE THIMBLES – Rose Marie Kerschner
(1984 to present)
TWO YEARS SINCE THE LAST CONVENTION – Edwin Holmes
THIMBLES WITH A MESSAGE – Pat Rich
THE WAY THINGS WERE, LIFE IN THE US 30-60 YEARS AGO AS SURMISED
FROM INSCRIPTIONS ON ADVERTISING THIMBLES – Charles Karns
JOHN LOFTING, AN EARLY THIMBLE MAKER – Edwin Holmes
DUTCH WORKING THIMBLES – 1550-1675 – Henny Holthuizen
EARLY CENTURIES & THEIR THIMBLES – Irmgard von Trautteur
HISTORY OF GABLER FACTORY & FAMILY – Helmut Greif
A VISIT TO CHARLES ILES – John von Hoelle
WHAT'S NEW IN BRASS THIMBLES – Beryl Frank
HISTORICAL & COMMEMORATIVE THIMBLES – Myrtle Lundquist

Needlework Tools:

SOUVENIR WOODENWARE – Dickey Everson
SPOOL HOLDERS & SEWING BOXES – Martha Gibbs
MEASURING UP – Louise Lippert

Other Subjects:

GIVING THIMBLE LECTURES – Jo Ann Rath
WHERE SMALL THINGS LEAD – Mary Keyser
STITCHES IN TIME, OR AMERICAN WOMEN: THEIR LIVES & THEIR NEEDLEWORK –
Susan B. Swan

Des Moines, Iowa, 1986

Thimbles:

FAKES & REPROS – Estelle Zalkin
ENGLISH COMMEMORATIVES – Dorothy Friend
HAND PAINTED THIMBLE ARTISTRY – Bernadine Biske
FAVORITE & UNUSUAL THIMBLES – Willy Swart
MAKING PORCELAIN THIMBLES – Marihelen Engelen
THE CARRADUS FAMILY & THEIR THIMBLES – The Carradus Family
IN SEARCH OF THE ORIGIN OF THE THIMBLE – John von Hoelle
OLD NUREMBERG & ITS THIMBLEMAKERS – Helmut Greif
THE HERITAGE OF HOLLAND – Henny Holthuizen

Other:

MUSEUM, RESEARCH & FUN – Beryl Frank
CATALOGING OF THIMBLES – Natalie Borg
PHOTOGRAPHING THIMBLES – David Brand
COLLECTOR - CONNOISSEUR – Mary Keyser
CARE & DISPLAY OF YOUR COLLECTION – Ruth Mann
RESEARCH – STRATEGY & METHOD: SERENDIPITY OR SCIENCE – Joann Ryan
EUROPEAN THIMBLE CLUBS – Kay Sullivan
THE FIRST THIMBLE TRIP OF EUROPE – Pat Rich

Spokane, Washington, 1988

Thimbles:

THE QUEST FOR DOLLY VARDEN – Virginia Weaver
GOLD – GOLD FILLED THIMBLES – Pat Peck
MODERN COLLECTIBLE THIMBLES – Jean Shoup
PANELED THIMBLES – Idabelle Forker
HISTORY OF MEISSEN – Mary Ann Brand
THE HISTORY OF THE PRISCILLA THIMBLE – Shirley Newton

Needlework Tools:

ROYAL COMMEMORATIVE SEWING TOOLS – Christina Bertrand
UNUSUAL SEWING TOOLS & THEIR USES – Ann Powell
THIMBLE HOLDERS – Debbie Fuller

Other Subjects:

THIMBLES: WHO'S GOING TO GET MY THIMBLES? – Paul Sauvé
BUYER BEWARE – KNOWLEDGE SAVES MONEY – Dorcas Club

Louisville, Kentucky, 1990

Thimbles:

DEAR MRS. EARLE, A COLLECTOR'S LEGACY – Kathy Hunter
ENAMEL IN THE WORLD OF THIMBLES – Beryl Frank
THE HUMBLE BRASS THIMBLE – Christina Bertrand

Needlework Tools:

IF THE SHOE FITS, COLLECT IT – Dorothy Friend
PORTABLE SEWING KITS – Sandy Woodyard
THE SEWING CHATELAINE – Ruth Mann
COLLECTING & RESEARCHING IN AUSTRALIA – Nerylla Taunton

Other Subjects:

MARRIED TO A THIMBLE COLLECTOR – Paul Lipsius
PRACTICAL CONSERVATION TECHNIQUES FOR YOUR ANTIQUE NEEDLEWORK TOOLS
– Kathy Epstein
MUSING WITH POST CARDS & STITCHES – Helen Eastgate

San Diego, California, 1992

Thimbles:

THE CONTEMPORARY PORCELAIN ARTISTS IN AMERICA – Coral Albee
SHRIEN & RELIGIOUS THIMBLES – Pat Rich

Needlework Tools:

ANTIQUÉ LACE BOBBINS – Nerylla Taunton
SEW SMALL – CHILDREN'S NEEDLEWORK TOOLS – Diane Pelham Burn

Other Subjects:

LOBBY FOR YOUR HOBBY – Gretchen Ogelsby
NEW FOUND NEEDLEWORK ARTISTS – Natalie Borg
A TRIBUTE & A CHALLENGE – John von Hoelle

Towson, Maryland, 1994

Thimbles:

ANTIQUÉ HAND-PAINTED WORCESTER PORCELAIN THIMBLES & ANTIQUÉ
SILVER & GOLD THIMBLES FROM THE GABLER FACTORY - Friederike Baechle
THE MAKING OF A THIMBLE – Thorvald Greif
THE ABC'S OF THIMBLING, A PRIMER FOR THE NOVICE COLLECTOR – Kay Connors
SELECTABLE COLLECTIBLE THIMBLES – Estelle Zalkin
TURKMENIAN NOMAD THIMBLES - Irmgard von Traitteur
THIMBLES FIT FOR A QUEEN – Frances Graves

Needlework Tools:

THIMBLES & SEWING TOOLS IN THE SMITHSONIAN COLLECTION – Ruth Mann
THIMBLES & SEWING TOOLS, MY SECOND LOVE – Willy Swart
DARN IT! THE ROMANCE OF DARNERS – Wayne Muller

Other Subjects:

COMING OF AGE IN DIGITAPOLIS – Christina Bertrand
SEWING EDUCATOR–ANTIQUÉ SEWING TOOLS A MAIL ORDER CATALOG – WHICH CAME
FIRST? – Clotilde Lampe

Minneapolis, Minnesota, 1996

Thimbles:

PATENT THIMBLES – Pat Rich

SCANDINAVIAN THIMBLES – Beryl Frank

CHINESE & TIBETAN SEWING RINGS – Irmgard von Traitteur

GERMAN THIMBLES – Edith Jungbludt

RUSSIAN THIMBLES – Andrea Lange

Needlework Tools:

WHIMSIES IN THE SEWING ROOM – Frances Graves

GENIE IN YOUR SEWING BOX – Mary Keyser

WONDERFUL WORLD OF WINDERS – Diane Pelham Burn

Other Subjects:

JOY OF DIGITAPOLIS – Christina Bertrand

EDWIN HOLMES' AUCTION – Jean Scott

Dallas, Texas, 1998

Thimbles:

THE TRENDS IN MODERN RUSSIAN THIMBLES – Nadia Teslenok

Needlework Tools:

DUTCH SEWING ACCESSORIES – Kay Sullivan

A NEEDLE'S EYE VIEW OF SCISSORS – Kathy Hunter

Other Subjects:

FACT OR FANCY? – Virginia Weaver

PRESERVATION – CARING FOR YOUR THIMBLE COLLECTION – Mary Jane Robinson

LOVE, WAR & LADIES OF INSPIRATION – Bernadine Biske

THE SEARCH FOR THE THIMBLE IN CHILDREN'S BOOKS – Charlotte Goldberg

CHRISTIE'S AUCTION OF THE DORIS RAMSTEAD COLLECTION – Kit Froebel

JOANNA TROUTMAN, BETSY ROSS OF TEXAS – Amy Webb

Orlando, Florida 2000

Thimbles:

BEAUTIFUL ENAMEL THIMBLES – Emily Vischer
EARLY THIMBLES – Diane Pelham Burn
THIMBLING BEFORE EBAY – Irene Schwall
FRENCH & NORWEGIAN THIMBLES & THIMBLE PAIRS – Jan Ellerbroek

Needlework Tools:

MAUCHLINE MEMORIES – Diana Kwader
ANTIQUÉ KNITTING ACCESSORIES – Kay Sullivan
A NOSEGAY OF NEEDLECASES – Jean Scott

Other Subjects:

CREATIVE THIMBLE CARDS – Beverly Bangs
THE RISE & FALL OF DIGITAPOLIS – Christina Bertrand
INFORMATION HIGHWAY DIRECTIONS – Barbara Acchino
HOW TO SELL YOUR COLLECTION – Jeff Lovell, Christie's South Kensington

Long Beach, California 2002

Thimbles:

SEW OHIO – Heather Kiggans
NATIVE AMERICAN THIMBLES – Lucerne Wulf
A FLOCK OF THIMBLES – Rachel Lent
A COLLECTOR'S MEDLEY OF THIMBLES & NEEDLECASES – Rona Katz
THE MYSTERY OF THE PURSALL THIMBLE – Jean Scott

Needlework Tools:

SHOE PINCUSHIONS OF THE 19th AND 20th CENTURIES – Patty Newman
AMERICAN TATTING SHUTTLES – WHAT TO LOOK FOR – Heidi Nakayama
HISTORY OF THE NEEDLE – Ineke Hulsman

Other:

HOW TO PHOTOGRAPH & PRESENT YOUR COLLECTION – Fran Dickson

Danvers, Massachusetts 2004

Thimbles:

SALEM WITCH SOUVENIRS – Nina Harby

SCRIMSHAW ~A WHALE OF A TALE – Irene Schwall

THE BEST OF THE REST~ANN'S COLLECTION - Ann Blakeslee Black

Needlework Tools:

MINIATURE SEWING TOOLS – Diane Pelham Burn

DATING SEWING TOOLS – Carolyn Meacham TATTING SHUTTLES – Pam Palmer

Other Subjects:

REPAIR, RESTORE & MORE – Virginia & David Neill

Seattle, Washington 2006

Thimbles:

KETCHAM & MCDUGALL THIMBLES – Kit Froebel

LOVE IS A MANY SPLENDORED THIMBLE – Ruthellen Moss

THIMBLES & SEWING TOOLS FROM DOWN UNDER – Sue Gowan

Needlework Tools:

SEWING THROUGH THE MAIL – Mabel Rogers

VEGETABLE IVORY THIMBLES & SEWING ACCESSORIES – Jean Scott

I'D RATHER BE FISHING! – Christina Bertrand

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 2008

Thimbles:

FRENCH THIMBLES & NEEDLEWORK TOOLS – Irene Schwall

IRON & STEEL THIMBLES – Andrea Lange

NEW YORK THIMBLE MAKERS – Mary Ellen Wakeley

Needlework Tools:

WHEN HOUSEWIVES WENT TO WAR – MILITARY SEWING KITS – Monty Phair

KNITTING ~SOCIAL CONTEXT & DEVELOPMENT – Susan Webster

NINA'S WHIMSIES – Nina Harby

Cincinnati, Ohio 2010

Thimbles:

PETER SWINGLER THIMBLES – Linda Shaneyfelt
1710-2010 TRICENTENARY OF MEISSEN – Friedy Kamp
THE GENTLEMAN IN KHARKI – Jenny Bockel

Needlework Tools:

TAPE MEASURES THROUGH THE AGES – Joan Riegel

Other Subjects:

CAVEAT EMPTOR ~ FAKES, REPRODUCTIONS AND NOT AS PRESENTED – Carolyn Meacham and Irene Schwall
WHAT'S NEW ON THE TCI WEBSITE – Bobbie Howard and Mike Meacham

San Francisco, California 2012

Thimbles:

CALIFORNIA DREAMIN' - Ruthellen Moss
LANDS OF THE MIDNIGHT SUN - Dan Walbrun
THIMBLES OF AUSTRIA - Wolf-Dieter Scholz

Needlework Tools:

LUCETS AND KNOTTING SHUTTLES - Judith McGraw
SOUVENIRS OF REVERSE PAINTED GLASS - Jean Scott
TUNBRIDGE WARE NEEDLEWORK TOOLS - Virginia Neill

Other Subjects:

TCI WEBSITE - Irene Schwall & Mike Meacham

Kansas City, Missouri - 2014

Thimbles:

THIMBLING 101 - A BEGINNER'S SEMINAR - Priscilla Burris

AROUND THE WORLD IN EIGHTY THIMBLES - Mabel Rogers

LIFE BEFORE eBay - AN UPDATE (Original program presented at the Orlando 2000 convention) - Irene Schwall

Needlework Tools:

SEWING ACCESSORIES MADE IN HOLLAND - Kay Sullivan

THE HUMBLE CROCHET HOOK - Daria Phair

EXPLORING EVERY NEEDLE CASES - THEIR HISTORY, DESIGN & VARIETY - Terry Meinke

Other Subjects:

ASK THE EXPERT PANEL - Kay Sullivan, Jean Shoup-La Flesch, Barbara Acchino

Niagara Falls, New York - 2016

Thimbles:

THIMBLING 101 - A BEGINNER'S SEMINAR - Kay Connors

THE THIMBLES OF FELIX MOREL - Marilyn Chestnut

RELIGIOUS WOMEN & SACRED SYMBOLS - Mary Ann Johnson

MY KMD ADVENTURE - Dan Walbrun

Needlework Tools:

BEADED NEEDLEWORK TOOLS - Carolyn Meacham

Other Subjects:

SINGER, HIS LIFE, MACHINES & OTHER COLLECTIBLES - Peter Woods

TWO HUNDRED YEARS OF IROQUOIS BEADWORK - Dolores Elliott (Guest Speaker)

ASK THE EXPERT PANEL - Carolyn Meacham, Irene Schwall, Sandi Wood, Christina Bertrand

Washington, DC- 2018

Thimbles:

THIMBLING 101 – A BEGINNER’S SEMINAR – Kay Connors

ENAMELED THIMBLES OF NORWAY = Dan Walbrun

WEBSTER AND COMPANY – Susan Webster

PEOPLE ON THIMBLES – Andrea Lange

Needlework Tools

NEEDLEWORK TOOLS AROUND THE WORLD – Judy McGraw

NOTIONS OF WAR – Christina Bertrand

Other Subjects:

SHIBAYAMA AND MAKI-E TECHNIQUES – Irene Schwall

LACE AND LACY – Bernadine Biske

Other Subjects:

WELCOME TO WASHINGTON, DC – Monty Phair

RETURN TO DIGIBITALIS – Mabel Rogers