



Bob Hum

Charter Member

My wife, Melissa started this adventure of thimble collecting on May 10th, 1976 when she brought home a battered and badly damaged brass child's thimble. She had been to the Hartville, Ohio flea market with a dealer friend for the day and talked to one of the vendors about me.

Gun collecting was my interest and it was getting very expensive. I needed something to collect other than coins or stamps. He suggested thimbles as there were few collectors, and a male collector would be rare. Needless to say, I scoffed at the very idea, but after a few days of deliberation, I decided that it would be a great hobby that we could do together.

Thimbles were affordable, small enough to place in a pocket or purse - and we were off and running. Now, some thirty-four years later, we're still at it with the same enthusiasm and interest as when we started.

My first organized thimble meeting was at the Ramada Inn in Toledo, Ohio in 1976, where the first person to greet us was Rose Marie Kerschner. This was the start of meeting the greatest people – fellow collectors of thimbles. This special feeling exists today and nowhere, even in the gun collecting world, does this happen!

The second large meeting that I attended was at Northbrook, Illinois in 1978, where TCI was first organized. I was elected the first Treasurer and served two terms. Thimble collecting had truly become International. I have served as Treasurer, run the Sales Mall and been Program Chairman. In these capacities, I have met collectors from all around the world.

In 1990 I was honored to be the recipient of the Washington, DC Award and in 2002 I was awarded the Lundquist Award.

Nothing about gun collecting equals the experiences one has with a group of thimble collectors.

I was the first elementary principal in my home town of Columbiana, Ohio and worked with three teachers who taught me while in school. My next job was working for a school textbook publisher. They published *Sally, Dick, and Jane* and basic readers. I spent thirty-three and a half years selling textbooks to schools. I retired in 1990 and decided to try my hand at thimble mail-order. Melissa and I ran THIMBLES ONLY after Jean Shoup but we discontinued the business as it became too highly specialized.

Collectors often ask, "How many thimbles do you have?" My best answer is that I have a great number but the most important thing is not the number - but the kind and quality of thimbles that you have collected. One of my greatest achievements this far is the nest of Simons, Priscilla pattern, sizes 1 through 13 that took 22 years to assemble for a total of \$558.30 – from the states of Ohio, Pennsylvania, California, Indiana, Vermont and Illinois.

Some of my favorite thimbles are pictured below:
Gold DORCAS, Gold CUPID, Peter Swingler's DIANA, SALEM WITCH from Ketcham & McDougall and Webster, TCI award thimbles – LUNDQUIST and WASHINGTON, DC. I also treasure a Russian enamel thimble from the Edwin Holmes collection and the scarce SWIMMER thimble. Having said that, I am sure that now many thimbles in my collection feel rather put out and sad that they did not make the list!

My thimbles are housed and displayed in many ways – on thimble trees under glass domes, in inverted type-set drawers, a watchmaker's cabinet, a spool cabinet, other cases, and the center piece of the collection – a large spool cabinet with some eighteen drawers with plate glass fronts, eight drawers at the bottom and a center storage area with two shelves. This cherry and walnut cabinet has gold lettering, "S.S.M. Co. Springfield, Mass" on each side and it is a treasured piece.

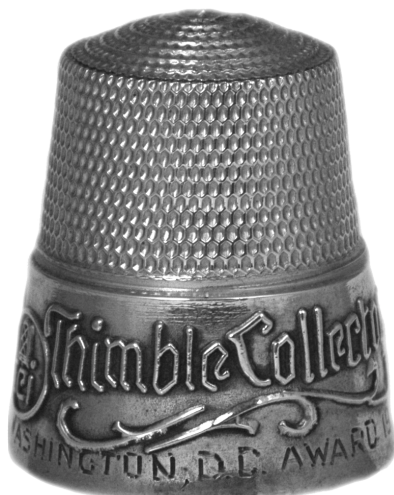
Enjoy your collecting and experiences as I have, and life will be good! *Happy Thimbling!*



1976 -- My 1st thimble



Simons Bros. 14K Cupids



Washington, DC Award 1990



Lundquist Award 2002



Peter Swingler (UK). Diana Princess of Wales 1961-1997



**Russian Enamel
Edwin Holmes Collection**



Charles Horner Dorcas 9ct Gold



Stern Bros. Swimmer



Webster, Salem Witch – size 6

Not satisfied with one Salem Witch in his collection, Bob then found another to add to his favorites. This thimble is marked with the trademark of Ketcham & McDougal.



Ketcham & McDougal, Salem Witch – size 8



Simons Bros. "Priscilla" thimbles sizes 1 – 13 and a size 6 tailor's thimble -- Displayed in a glass case

I'm still seeking sizes 14 and 15 -- let me know if you find them!