



JO ANNE RATH SHEPHERD

CHARTER MEMBER

HONORARY MEMBER

Jo Anne Rath Shepherd has been collecting thimbles since her mother gave her a thimble that had belonged to her grandmother's twin sister who died as a young girl. That was in 1970, and it started a 41-plus year addiction to thimbles and thimble holders. Jo Anne was born in Elizabeth, New Jersey, and spent summers at Manasquan, New Jersey, on the beach. Now she has a summer house on a lake in Maine that her husband's grandfather built. Jo Anne is a member of The Embroiderers' Guild of America and enjoys doing many types of embroidery and quilting as well as sewing many of her clothes. She also collects angels, recordings of harp music, and Christmas ornaments with sewing and harp themes as well as crosses and churches. At Christmas she has four trees in her house to hold all the ornaments. Jo Anne is a many-year member of the Daughters of the American Revolution. She enjoys reading and photography.

In 1984 Jo Anne married John P. Shepherd, Jr., and in 1985 they welcomed twins, Bethany and John, III. After retiring from the banking business and the Air National Guard, Jack went to seminary. In 2003, he became a pastor in the Presbyterian Church USA. He was called to a church in Northeast Pennsylvania, so the family moved from New Jersey to Pennsylvania. Jo Anne has been very active in the church all her life. In 2009, shortly after their 25th anniversary, Jack died from cancer. His last pastoral act was to marry Bethany to Rob McCann in 2008. Now John and Bethany and Rob live with Jo - along with 3 dogs and 4 cats. What a lively household it is!

Jo always wanted to learn all she could about her collection and had trouble finding information about thimbles, so an antique dealer friend suggested she write a book about thimbles. After much research and travel to see and learn all she could, *Antique and Unusual Thimbles* was accepted for publication. The publisher took three years to actually get the book out, so it was 1979 before it was available. There were two printings of the book before the publisher went bankrupt. The plates were ruined, so it can never be reprinted.

Jo Anne, in 1976, founded and was the first President of New Jersey's Garden State Thimblers. This group has unfortunately disbanded. Jo is also a member of the Philadelphia Thimble Society, where she is currently Secretary. Jo served Thimble Collectors International as Recording Secretary for a term and gave convention talks in 1978 in Northbrook, Illinois, and in 1984 in Philadelphia. She was honored to be asked to become an Honorary Member of TCI.



A very special thimble in Jo's collection – it is the first thimble she was given.

It is American, sterling silver thimble with the trademark for Stern Bros. Co. This thimble is known as a landscape or scenic. It has a lighthouse and sailboats on the band. The thimble belonged to Jo's grandmother's twin sister who died at the age of twelve.



**French, c. 1870's. Ormolu & Opaline glass etui.
Thimble, scissors, punch & needle case.**



**Germany, Silver compendiums, c.1750.
Left: child sized, 2 3/4" silver compendium.
Seal on the bottom of this case.
Right: adult size. Tulip design on thimble.
Each case has two reels, a patch case &
needlecase & thimble top.**



English, early 19th c. Silver filigree compendium.
Thimble, tape measure & perfume bottle.



French, c. 1850's. Fitted walnut shell etui. C.1850.
Silver scissors, thimble, punch, knife & perfume bottle.



Brass, early 17th c.
Elizabethan strap work.



Bronze, c. 1500's.
Heart pierced by arrow.



English, 19th c. silver.
Ovals w. figures.



English, c.1800's.
Silver w. letter "D".



English, c. 1816. Tortoise Shell.
"Piercy's Patent". Rose design.



Ireland, Bog Oak.
"ERIN" & Shamrocks.



English, Sterling silver. No hallmarks.
"Happy Child", "Unhappy Child".



**Unknown. Sterling silver. No hallmarks.
Rabbit & Phoenix w. flowers.**



**Unknown. Sterling silver, no hallmarks.
Dancing man, woman and flower band.**



**Russian, pre-Revolution, c. 1897-1917.
Silver w. enamel.**



**Swedish, 18K w. steel top
Flowers & arches.**



**English, 19th c. 14K.
Seed pearls & turquoise.**



**English, c. 1857.
James Fenton. "MISPAH"
15K w. Carnelian top.**



**South American. 19th c.
Sterling w. gold heart.**



Norwegian, c. 1900's.
Silver w. moonstone top.
Scenic enamel.



Germany, c. 1900's.
Silver w. enamel
shamrocks. Stone top.



Germany, c. 1900's.
Multi-colored enamel.



Germany, c. 1900's.
Silver w. enamel band.
Palms, man & camel.



A selection of Norwegian enamel thimbles, c.1900's. Silver & also gilded. Moonstone tops.



Spencer's Patent 1870. Hem roller.
Base metal & bone roller.



Dutch, late 17th c. Silver.
Greyhound & hare on band.



Scandinavian, 19th c.
Silver w. moonstone top.



American, Simons Bros. Co. Garden State Thimblers.
Violets (State flower) & leaves. Left: 1980, Middle: w. amethysts -- only available to club members.
Right: 1982, 14K w. amethysts --only available to club members.



American, c.1890's. Sterling silver w. enamel.
Simons Bros. Co. Atlantic City & Newark, NJ 1666-1916.



American, c. 1900's. Sterling silver.
Stern Bros. Co. "Swimmer".



French, c.1900's. Silver.
Maker unknown. Poodles.



French, c.1900's. Silver.
Bow, quiver & arrows.



American, c. 1900's. Sterling silver.
Paye & Baker. RR Station, Southern Pines, NC.



**American, c. 1914. Sterling silver.
Ketcham & McDougall. "Battle of
Plattsburgh on Lake Champlain".**



**American, c. 1880's. Sterling silver.
Ketcham & McDougall. "Lachine Rapids,
Montreal" Pat. Sep. 20 81 on band.**



**American, c. 1900's. Sterling silver. Simons Bros. Co.
Vignettes with scenes of Washington D.C.**



**Modern, Sterling silver. Marked RJK.
Alice in Wonderland & the White Rabbit.**



Portugal, c. 1900's. Fine filigree work, brass & wood.



**English, c.1900's Bone holder & thimble.
Blue velvet interior.**



**English, early 19th c. Silver filigree thimble
holder lined in red velvet. Silver thimble.**



**English, Birmingham c.1899 sterling silver thimble holder. Red velvet interior w.silk cording.
Sterling silver thimble marked "CM" for Charles May.**



And finally, one of the cutest thimble holders in Jo's collection.

**English, c.1900's. Bone w.metal bands. Holder is in the shape of a
small toy train. Thimble is sterling silver. Smoke stack is removable
and it is a small punch.**