



PATRICIA H. RICH

CHARTER MEMBER

Pat Rich has been collecting thimbles for 50 years! She loved to sew and wanted to collect something small and related to needlework. Her choice was children's thimbles. During the early years, she was also a member of a Round Robin letter which circulated among a small group of women, seeking and sharing information about thimbles at a time when little was known about them.

Pat served on the 1st TCI Board as 3rd Vice President. At that time, this position was responsible for membership and fund raising.

Over the years Pat's collections grew to include such items as darners, silk thread winders, pin poppits, and objects with reverse painting on glass. Among her collections are religious-themed thimbles and cat-themed thimbles, of which she has over one hundred. Pat's favorite thimble is one painted by Peter Swingler of a beloved cat named Roger. She also collects Austrian bronze figures of cats.

She was introduced to the Philadelphia Thimble Society through Edie Baker who is now deceased. During 1979 and 1980, Pat was President of PTS and her friend Edie was the Vice President.

Pat's favorite story about acquiring a thimble is about one a friend gave her. The friend was compelled to apologize for her gift because it had a hole in the top. It turned out the hole was a "peep" which revealed a scene when you peeped into it.

She grew up in a suburb outside London and attended school in England. Pat and her husband John were both widowed when they married 48 years ago. They downsized last year, and they and their cats moved to a retirement community which they are enjoying very much. She liked to garden in her previous home, but in her new home there is only a small space to plant which she says is "big enough."

Pat's family thinks her collections are great. However, during their downsizing process, she did reduce some of her sewing tool collection also.

For 20 years Pat worked for the Washington Doll House and Toy Museum. Nowadays she volunteers at a thrift shop two days a week.

For someone who started collecting thimbles back in the "good old days" when they were plentiful and cheap, it is not surprising that Pat would say, "It's not as much fun as it used to be." Although she no longer buys much anymore, she does look at eBay and will occasionally buy something.

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Pat's collection includes many miniature needlework tools, some of which are illustrated below:



Bone bucket with mini tools
Measures: 1" x 1 1/2"



Miniature tools in frame
Frame: 5" x 7"



Miniature swift or winder
Measures: 2 1/2" x 1 1/4"



English, Baxter paper needle book in frame
Measures: 1" x 2"



Close-up of needle book



Metal treadle sewing machine tape
Measures: 2" x 1 1/2 "



Germany, wind-up tape of the choir boys of Nurnberg
On the band: "Das mannlein aufen an der rauenkirch"
Measures: 3 1/2 "



Assorted glass silk winders



Sterling silver winder, Griffins
Measures: 2" x 1 1/4 "



Simons Bros. sterling silver punch
Measures: 3 1/4"



English, 19th c. tortoiseshell etui with miniature gilded tools
Measures: 3" x 1 1/2 "



**Horse & Carriage – walnut containing needlecase, thimble and coin with words "To Hanover 1861" and picture of soldier mounted on horse. On reverse the head of Queen Victoria with the words on rim "H.M.G.M. Queen Victoria"
Measures: 6" overall**



The smallest of etuis made from a real chestnut! Tools include a thimble, scissors, needlecase and stiletto. Measures: barely 1" in diameter



**Miniature armoire fitted with shelves. Enamel thimbles and etuis.
Measures: 10" x 11"**



Peter Swingler (UK) enamel thimbles. Case includes the set of Kings & Queens of England



**Pamela, Pat's daughter (16)
She died of pancreatic cancer in 2008**



**Commissioned to celebrate TCI Convention, Aug. 1986
Flags represent the different countries of participants**

Pat has a fond affection for cats and many of her treasures include cat-related items. These are just a few of her favorites.



**Bronze cat tape w. gold ball
Tape is manipulated by winding the tail
Measures: 1 1/2 "**



**Tiny bronze mouse tape measure
Butterfly on end of tape. Mouse
turns to wind tape. Measures: 1 1/2 "**



Pair of Austrian bronze cats dancing
Purchased on a trip to Vienna
Measures 2" tall



Cat peddler doll w. Vienna bronze cats
Basket contains mice, birds & butterflies
Measures: 2 1/2 "



"Desert Cats," hand-made by Pat to include her cat miniatures
13" x 10"

