



LETTIE (LETA) WILLIAMS

CHARTER MEMBER

I am pleased to be a Charter Member of Thimble Collectors International, but it does mean I am old -- really old.

I became interested in thimbles in 1976 after reading an article in our local Glendale, California News-Press about a lady who had quite a collection on display at a branch library. She was a dear friend, Dottie Draper, who passed away in 2009 at the age of 91.

A group of 20 or so ladies met at the library to see and hear about her collection. Very soon after that, the Southern California Thimble Collectors club/group was established. As they say, the rest is history.

Frankly, I do not remember how I heard about the 1978 Illinois Convention but I arrived totally bewildered about it all, and luckily Shirley Newton (Convention Chairperson), Jeannine Conner and others took pity on me, took me under their wing and introduced me to the collecting world.

Then, in 1980, because I had attended one convention, somehow it seemed that it would only be logical for me to assist the co-chairs Roberta Kennedy and Pat Akers on the Pasadena 1980 convention! Xenia Fane and I were the Program Chairpersons and one duty I will never forget is that I was sent to the Los Angeles Airport in a limousine to meet the late Mr. Edwin Holmes (UK). I became an instant fan of his.

Another memory of that convention that will be with me forever, is that I was to help Myrtle Lindquist with her program by preparing her slides -- which I knew nothing about -- and consequently about half of the slides were either backwards or upside down. She was not amused but she was a big hit with everyone naturally.

I have attended every convention since and plan to keep on doing so as long as I am mobile and can recognize a needlework tool and thimble. Each and every one has been memorable.

I was an officer during Mignon Jeffords presidency, and have held many offices in SCTC including that of President.

My collection can be categorized as eclectic; another word for anything goes I believe. But it really sounds good, doesn't it? I have some wonderful thimbles, and also have let some REALLY good ones get away from me over the years. As a consequence of owning all of these needlework related collectibles, it seemed only right to develop an interest in that field, so I became a quilter and sewing enthusiast. This in turn, led to membership in many other related organizations. I also enjoy volunteering at our branch library, reading and staying active.

The items I have chosen to share with you are special to me -- enjoy!



Hand: Formalities by Baum Bros. China



Top Row:

L: c.1900's Germany, Gabler.

R: c.1890's American, Simons Bros.

Middle Row:

L: c.1900's French, no makers mark.

R: c.1920's American, Simons Bros.

Bottom Row:

M: c.1900's Germany, Lutz & Weiss wholesaler's mark.



Fit for a Queen ~ 'Dolly Varden'
c.1901 American, Stern Bros.



c.1890's Glass Slipper Thimble Holder.



c.1900's German, Gabler
Moonstone top Delft Scene.



c.1900's American Simons Bros.



c.1850-1890 Scottish, Tartanware 'Albert' .



c.1900's Germany, Gabler.



c.1963-1966 Germany, Greif
Fleur de Lis.



Pat. 1870 Spencer's
" Hem Roller".



Pat. Nov. 21, 1905" Cupid"
Simons Bros.



c.1900's Germany.



Top row: 1983 American, Heirloom Editions.
Bottom row: unmarked.



Holder: Pressed Glass, Made in Taiwan



c.1920 Charles Iles, England
The Cupid.



c.1900's American, Stern Bros.
"femme-fleur-swimmer".



20th c. cast pewter.



c.1900's American, Stern Bros. "two band w.putti faces



c.1900's Norway,
David-Andersen.



c.1900's Norway
Unmarked.



c.1966 Germany,
Greif.



c.1900's Germany,
Gabler.



20th c. Germany,
Greif.



c.1890's American,
Simons Bros.



c.1939-40 American, Simons Bros. San Francisco Golden Gate intl. Expo.



c.1900's American,
Simons Bros.



c.1900's English,
Peter Swingler.



c.1880's American, unmarked 14K gold, scenic.
Cartouche has the name "Lettie".