

TEA THROUGH TIME

HOME GALLERIES



This porcelain, transfer-printed Victorian tea service was mass produced by Royal Worcester in 1876. It capitalises on the popularity of Japanese style at the time, which bolstered a sense of class prestige within the home.

The blue and white colour palette and design motifs including bamboo stalks, fans and scrolls evoked expensive tea sets imported from China and used by wealthy Georgian families.

The angular shape of the objects and stepped lids of the tea and sugar pots were inspired by Japanese pagoda roofs.

A PARLOUR IN 1745



A drive for new products in the 1700s created a violent, exploitative colonial trade.

Tea arrived in Britain in the 1600s. In the 1700s, mahogany was felled in Jamaica, then a British colony, where enslaved people worked clearing land to plant sugar for export. British furniture makers began using Caribbean mahogany due to its durability.

The tripod table in this room was made in England from mahogany around 1740. Tripod tables were symbols of polite refinement. This one is being prepared for the lady of the house to host a tea party for friends.

Porcelain teapot from China, c.1750-1780



Mahogany
Tea Caddy, c.1740



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Image far left: Londoners Gypsying
The Family Holiday Party, in Epping Forest near London
C R Leslie, 1820

STRANGE BREW



How has tea been taken in London homes through the last 400 years? What has tea meant to diaspora communities?

What does tea tell us about colonial histories in the home?

Follow this simple trail through the Museum and Gardens Through Time to explore these questions.

TEA THROUGH TIME

A PARLOUR IN 1870

ABOLITION MUG



Image Theo Deproost

This mug was made in England around 1830. The quote is inspired by the painting *Am Not I A Man And A Brother*, dated around 1800, the early phase of the British movement to abolish the transatlantic slave trade. The painting inspired variations used to decorate various household items, including mugs and sugar bowls, a powerful way to advocate for abolition at the heart of every home.



Teapoy,
1835-c.1866

This teapoy is in the right-hand corner of the Victorian parlour. Teapoys were originally portable, folding tables for serving tea to wealthy families in gardens or under shady trees in the colonies. As the price of tea fell and was bought in larger quantities, increasingly from India, the teapoy evolved into a tea storage box. By the late 1700s, they were too bulky to be portable and migrated inside the home.

1970 FRONT ROOM



The 1970s front room explores curator Michael McMillan's family's experience migrating from the Caribbean to set up home in Britain in the mid-20th century.

There are several tea-sets and mugs on display in the Front Room. Tea has played a crucial role in the life of African-Caribbean families settling in Britain, with tea objects and rituals signifying social status within the diaspora, as well as to British society at large.

As Michael McMillan explains:

TEA BLING

"There was a fetish for orange lustre ware, particularly tea-sets and mugs, manufactured in Czechoslovakia. In many Caribbean front rooms, it was displayed in a glass cabinet like the one here, along with rarely-used glassware.

"The key aesthetic with any of this 'chinaware' and glassware was that they included an element of 'bling' or conspicuous consumption, whether that be gold trimming or just looking opulent.

"The Thermos flask belonged to my Dad. He used it to take hot drinks on his night shifts working at Ford Dagenham. Sometimes my Mum used it working night shifts at Royal Mail."

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TEA THROUGH TIME

GARDENS THROUGH TIME



Our Gardens Through Time show how city gardens have developed over the centuries. We grow many herbs that can be made into teas.

Explore the Gardens and head to the Terrace, in the centre, to find two baths planted with a selection of the many varieties we grow.

Some herbs can be used to make teas for medicinal use. Always take advice before using these, as some herbs can cause harm, especially in pregnancy.

TEA HERBS



Many of the herbs you'll find in our selection are planted in our Herb Garden. They include:

Anise Hyssop (*Agastache Foeniculum*)

Peppermint (*Mentha x piperita*)



Lemon Verbena (*Aloysia citriodora*)

Lemon Balm (*Melissa officinalis*)

CUPPA?



'Heirloom' mug, 1967
In our Domestic Gamechangers display

On Saturday, 21 May, International Tea Day, end the Tea Through Time trail with a free cup of tea in our Gardens Through Time. Please remain on the garden terrace to drink your tea.

TEA HOUSE

We invite children and families to play at making tea in our wooden tea house, at the Information Desk area. You can also design a teapot and teacup.

HOME BREW

Head to our Museum shop to find a collection of tea-related items celebrating the Tea Through Time trail, or shop online at museumofthehome.org.uk

A BLEND FOR HACKNEY



We are working with Hackney residents and creative duo Yara + Davina to design a custom tea blend that reflects and celebrates Hackney and all its people.

Find out more about our project, What's Your Cup of Tea, from our team at the Museum - or head to our website to learn more.

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