

**Upper Gallery (Mezzanine) Right Side Tall Case
Time for Tea!**



Tea is said to have been first served in Scotland at Holyrood Palace in the 17th Century by Italian-born Mary of Modena, the Duchess of York, later the wife of King James VII of Scotland.

Even what is possibly the most popular type of tea, *English Breakfast*, was created in Scotland! It is said to have been made in Edinburgh, and later popularised by Queen Victoria.

But as well as drinking tea, many Scots emigrated to India and Ceylon (now Sri Lanka) to start and run tea estates.

Scots who played an important role in the story of tea include trader and explorer Robert Bruce, who discovered a new tea variety in Upper Assam in 1823, Robert Fortune, who introduced tea plants to Darjeeling in 1848, and James Taylor, who first introduced tea to Ceylon in 1869 and is often referred to as the Father of Ceylon tea.

Moray played its part too. In 1834, Forres-born Hugh Falconer was asked by a Commission of Bengal to investigate the commercial feasibility of growing tea in India. As a result of his recommendations, tea plants were introduced to the continent, which flourished, subsequently producing a black tea in competition with Chinese tea. This in turn increased the affordability of tea in Britain, contributing to the surge in popularity of the drink.

Top Shelf

Front (L-R)

Milk jug, sugar bowl, teacup and saucer

Part of a tea set, porcelain, from La Seynie (Limoges, France) decorated with delicate violet/purple flowers. The tea set was displayed at the Aberdeen Agricultural Show in 1928 by the Enzie W. R. I.

ELGNM: 1976.7

Tea Brick

Brick made of compressed tea leaves pressed in a decorative mould. Made in India. Prior to 1500 AD, tea was sold in bricks like these, but the tea was so expensive that the bricks were also used as coinage. On the reverse, the brick is divided into eight equal-sized blocks, each decorated with a logo of crossed anchors, Cyrillic script and the number 19. The front is decorated with the initials of the company and a picture of temple or mosque.

To make a drink of tea, you would have to break a piece of the tea brick off, roast it, and tear it into even smaller pieces. This would then be boiled in a kettle of water. ELGNM: 1978.1568

Back

Pewter Tea Pot

Made in China. The teapot is engraved "*This teapot was taken at the capture of Woosung in China 16th June 1842*". The base is stamped with Chinese characters. ELGNM: 1978.244

Middle shelf

Front (L-R)

Burmese Teapot

Ceramic glazed teapot in the shape of a cockerel. Made in the Irrawaddy area, Burma. ELGNM: 1938.70

Teacup and saucer

Bone China teacup and saucer. ELGNM: 1976.12

Jug

Bone China hand painted jug, part of a tea set. ELGNM: 1976.14

Back

Tea Pot

Bone China hand painted tea pot, part of a tea set. ELGNM: 1976.14

Bottom Shelf**Front (L-R)****Teacup, saucer and side plate**

English. Hand painted, part of a tea set by Aynsley. ELGNM: 1976.5

Teacup and saucer

Japanese. Hand painted Mikori-ware. 19th Century. ELGNM: 1976.13

Back (L-R)**Teacup, saucer and side plate**

Royal Doulton. ELGNM: 1976.6

Tea Pot

Chinese tea pot with strainer. ELGNM: 1957.124

This exhibition was prepared May 2022 by Claire Herbert, Museum Volunteer