

Spring 2023 Arts of Asia Lecture Series
Global Connections: Asia and the Arts in the Second Millennium of the Common Era
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Tea, Teapots and Their Contributions to the Rise of Asian Influence on Europe and Europe's Influence on Asia

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The Evolution of Chinese Tea may be roughly divided into Three Main Stages.

- 1) Brick Tea.
- 2) Green Tea.
- 3) Steeped leaf tea.

Tea's Health Benefits:

Vitamins, mineral substances, protein, amino acid, saccharides, antiseptic, and antioxidants in the form of tannins.

"Tea began as a medicine and grew into a beverage." Kakuzo Okarura.

The Brewing or Infusion of Tea and its Implements.

The first Teapot was made in Yixing, China. A place where scholars, artists, tea and Purple Sand Clay all came together to design the teapot.

Yixing Clay and Teapots.

1. There are **3 Types** of Yixing clay. The most common and thus the most known Yixing clay is **Zisha** which literally means **Purple Sand Clay**.
2. Yixing teapots are **Small**. Meant to be personal. Never meant to serve more than 2-3 persons.
3. **Unglazed** (for the most part) and fired to 1100 C. or 2012 F.
4. Slightly **Porous** in nature.
5. Age and use will **"Season"** the pot.
6. **Never Clean** with soap or detergent. Simply rinse with water and dry.
7. Never use different teas. One pot, **One Type of Tea**.
8. Often filled with **Symbols and/or Poetry**.

Chinese Tea Ceremony. Gungfu Tea Ceremony.

Tea Horse Trail.

Tea arrives in Europe in 1610. Portuguese first to bring Tea to Europe.

The Silk Road.

The British East Indies Company 1600-1874. And The Dutch East Indies Company 1602-1799.

Chinese Export-Ware. Qing Dynasty.

Suez Canal, 1869.

Coffee, Tea and Teapots in Europe.

1. Coffee first brought to Europe. 1582.
2. Tea first brought to Europe. 1610.
3. The first European teapots were made. Model on Yixing teapots. 1670.
4. European porcelain production was made in Germany. Teapots followed. 1710.

Caffeine, Coffee Chocolate and Tea.

The First Coffee Houses/Cafes in the West:

Damascus and Mecca 15th Century.

Constantinople 1475.

Venice 1647.

London or Oxford 1650-52.

Paris 1672

Boston 1676.

Vienna 1683.

The Enlightenment.

The Results of Enlightenment Thinking:

- 1) The French Revolution and the American Revolution were almost direct results of Enlightenment thinking.
- 2) Widespread education of the young.
- 3) The founding of universities and libraries.
- 4) Combat the excesses of the church.
- 5) Establish science as a source of knowledge.
- 6) And defend human rights against tyranny.

The Industrial Revolution

Things needed to start the Industrial Revolution:

1. Technology
2. Power
3. Large urban population
4. Easy transportation system
5. Affluent middle class
6. Market driven economy
7. A supportive political system

Pros and Cons of the Industrial Revolution:

Pros

- Advancements in production.
- Growth in innovations and inventions.
- Workers earned higher wages.
- Improvements in transportation networks.

Cons

- Deplorable working conditions and child labor.
- Unsanitary living conditions and pollution.
- Food shortages.

Britain

The Opium Wars 1839-1860.

Results of the Opium Wars:

- 1) Britain gained commercial privileges.
- 2) Gained legal and territorial concessions in China (The island of Hong Kong and 5 trading ports).
- 3) The conflicts marked the start of the era of unequal treaties.
- 4) Helped weaken the Qing Dynasty.
- 5) Ultimately led to the toppling of the dynasty in favor of republican China in the early 20th century.
- 6) Led to the Boxer Rebellion.
- 7) The Chinese to this day view the West through their experience during the Opium War.

The Boxer Rebellion 1899-1901

“Society of Righteous and Harmonious Fists”

1. Anti-Foreigner
2. Anti-Colonial
3. Anti-Christian

The Outcome of the Boxer Rebellion:

1. The Chinese Government was forced to sign the “Boxer Protocol” of Sept. 1901.
2. A number of Chinese officials were executed for their involvement in the rebellion.
3. China was forced to pay 333 million dollars in reparations over the next 39 years.
4. It led to the further disintegration of the Qing Dynasty. Leading to its demise in 1912.
5. Paved the way for the Communist takeover in the 1920's.

Robert Fortune

Tea is not only found, naturally, in China. It was also found growing wild in:

- 1) India's Nagaland region.
- 2) Myanmar
- 3) Thailand
- 4) Laos
- 5) and Vietnam

Reasons why the British put milk and sugar in their tea:

1. Cut the bitterness. Black tea was stronger and more astringent.
2. Sugar was an affordable luxury.
3. Nutritional value.
4. Inadequate pottery (easily cracked when boiling water was poured in.)

Sugar, Tea, Coffee, Chocolate and Slavery.

British Tea Time.

Low Tea (4-5 p.m.) for the Upper Class.

High Tea (6:00 p.m.) for the Lower Class.

Japan

Japanese Tea Ceremony "the way of tea".

Korean Tea Ceremony "darye" "*etiquette for tea*" or "*day tea rite*".

Vietnamese Tea Ceremony.

Russian Tea Ceremony.

Contemporary 20th -21st Century Teapots.

Valuable Tea, Tea Pots, Tea Cups and Tea Pot Collections.

America.

Boston Tea Party.

Wild, Silly and Profound Teapots.

Suggested readings:

- 1) The Book of Tea, Okakura Kakuzo.
- 2) The Story of Tea, Mary Lou Heiss and Robert J Heiss.
- 3) A History of the World in 6 Glasses, Tom Standage.
- 4) The Dutch East Indies Company, by Captivating History.
- 5) For all the Tea in China, Sarah Rose.
- 6) Understanding Japan, Mark J Ravina.
- 7) The History of Sugar, Kelly Fanto Deetz.
- 8) The Corporation that Changed the World, Nick Robins.
- 9) The History of Britain, Simon Schama.
- 10) The Opium War, Brian Inglis.