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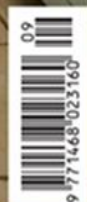
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The Chitra collection: World's largest privately-owned collection of historic tea wares

By **The English Home**

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Chitra tea collection

The world's largest private tea accessories collection, known as the Chitra Collection, is home to the World's most Valuable Teapot, as awarded by the Guinness Book of World Records

Owned by the N Sethia Foundation, the Chitra Collection was named after the beloved late wife of the philanthropist and founder of Newby Teas, Nirmal Sethia. Nimal set himself the task of acquiring the world's greatest collection of historic teawares with an aim to record and preserve tea cultures of the past.



The Chitra collection: World's largest privately-owned collection of historic tea wares

The collection includes over 1,700 objects dating back from the Chinese Song Dynasty (960 – 1279) to the present day. Notable pieces include tea sets and tea caddies by Fabergé and a teapot which was once owned by Admiral Lord Nelson. There is also a teapot which was gifted by Winston Churchill to his daughter as a keepsake from his wartime office.

For centuries, tea played a central role in culture and society as a medicinal drink and a focus for hospitality. Soon, it became a national icon and to this day it occupies an important place in the heart of Britain's.



The Chitra collection: World's largest privately-owned collection of historic tea wares

Aneta Aslakhanova, Director of the Chitra Collection said:

“The collection has been lovingly assembled by Nirmal Sethia himself, and is curated by some of the best specialists in the country. The collection is part of a wider mission to not only demonstrate the historical importance of tea, but also reflect the evolution of the design and craftsmanship of teawares.”

The Chitra Collection is also home to a few designs created by Nirmal Sethia himself. Each piece was created using the finest stones and precious metals and in 2016 “The Egoist” was awarded the title of World’s Most Valuable Teapot by the Guinness Book of World Records. The teapot, created as a tribute to the World’s finest teas, is covered in an array of precious stones including diamonds and rubies and the handle has been crafted with mammoth ivory.



Find out the story behind some of the historic pieces in the Chitra Collection:



Admiral Nelson's Teapot

Place: England

Maker: R and D Hennell

Date: 1799 – 1802

Materials and Techniques: Silver, ivory, wood

This silver teapot, engraved with the initial 'N', once belonged to Admiral Lord Nelson (1758-1805), the hero of the great British naval victory, the Battle of Trafalgar. After Nelson's death the teapot, together with a collection of his personal possessions, passed to his sister Catherine 'Kitty' Matcham in whose family they remained until 2005. This type of teapot is known as a bachelor teapot because it would have contained the ideal amount of tea for one person. Made between 1799 and 1802, a period when Nelson commanded several important naval battles, this teapot may even have been used on board one of his ships. Observe the broad base as is typical for seafaring teapots.



Böttger Porcelain Teapot

Place: Germany

Maker: Meissen

Date: 1718-1725

Materials and Techniques: Hard-paste porcelain with gilding

The discovery of hard-paste porcelain is credited to the mathematician, physicist and physician Ehrenfried Walther von Tschirnhaus. Following his death, the alchemist Johann Friedrich Böttger began producing porcelain at the Meissen porcelain manufactory, where this teapot was created. The body is decorated with gilt Chinese figures and the spout is shaped to form a dragon. As tea was an exotic drink from China, European manufacturers of the eighteenth century considered chinoiserie decoration to be especially appropriate for teawares. The painters Bartolomaus and Abraham Seuter specialised in painting such figurative scenes that were commonly drawn from contemporary engravings. Based in Augsburg, the Seuter brothers were Hausmalers or house painters who decorated Meissen porcelain in their own workshops using in polychrome enamels, silver and gold.



'Dinette'

Place: France

Maker: Sèvres

Date: 1768

Materials and Techniques: Soft-paste porcelain, overglaze enamels, gilding

This miniature tea service, known as a "dinette", was made at the Sèvres porcelain factory and comprises of a teapot, two cups and saucers, a covered sugarbowl and milk jug. It is very finely painted in the Rococo style with garlands of flowers and gilded patterns. This style of decoration was highly fashionable in the middle of the 18th century and was in high demand at Court, particularly amongst aristocratic ladies. During the 18th century miniature tea services such as this were often given to young aristocratic girls to educate them on how to make and serve tea.



Fabergé Tea Caddy

Place: Russia

Maker: Feodor Rückert

Date: 1908 - 1917

Materials and Techniques: Silver-gilt, cloisonné enamel

This silver-gilt and cloisonné tea caddy was made by Feodor Rückert who was a Russian silver and goldsmith. Rückert was a Fabergé workmaster and from 1887 worked directly for the firm of Carl Fabergé, renowned for their Imperial eggs.

Discover decadent locations for enjoying an afternoon tea or [click here](#) to find out about the beautiful Peggy Porschen bakery.