

## **A Short History of the Tea Cup**

Tea cups are so unique in every country and as well as to any one person who enjoys collecting them or just drinking out of a beautiful cup.

We are all unique and may be as fragile as the perfect tea cup. But, as we all know, none of us are perfect. Time is what we make of it. Plan your days accordingly as you see fit. But.....always make time for YOUR "Tea Time"

It appears the first tea cups made their way to England from imports from China. These first tea cups were handle-less and were called tea bowls. And it was not until the year of 1700 did saucers appear. In about 1750 a man named Robert Adams inspired tea sets that the tea cups had handles. The English welcomed Mr. Adams designs because they thought that the tea bowls were way too messy, and that the English often would burn their hands on the tea bowls. Robert Adams designed tea cups that were taller than their base and came with a saucer. The English thought this was quite unique and this became quickly the standard of what is known as the English Tea Service Set. Since the English loved to put cream and a bit of sugar in their tea, Robert Adams also inspired the tea pot, sugar holders, milk/creamer containers, and even tea spoons to match. Mr. Adams made these tea cups from porcelain that was strong but delicate in its look. If one holds an English porcelain cup into a light, it will have a translucent look.

Today in England there are a couple of companies that come to mind when a collectable type of tea service is sought. Two of them are The Royal Doulton and Limoges. These companies can provide China that while is useful and functional is also collectable for the appearance and quality of the fine bone china. Some would say that they may purchase these for the investment potential, and many a new bride-to-be in England will register and hope that she would receive this special china. The Royal Doulton Company dates back into the 1700's when a man named Thomas Minton designed an under glazed blue printed earthen ware and then in 1799 he began to make things in bone china. This company continued on making fine tableware, gifts, and collectables. How they got the royal name because they regularly supplied the Royal Family with their goods and services and were handed what was known as a royal warrant in the year 1901 by King Edward.