18th century style Edwardian sterling silver tea caddy

George Nathan & Ridley Hayes

£785



REF: 9718

Langfords
London Silver Vaults • Vaults 8 & 10 • 53-64 Chancery Lane • London • WC2A 1QS
+44 20 7242 6646 • silver@langfords.com • www.langfords.com

Height: 110 mm (4.33")

Width: 100 mm (3.94")

Depth: 60 mm (2.36")

Weight: 195 g

Description

An oblong silver tea caddy of bombe form, made in 1907. With embossed floral motifs between the acanthus leaf and claw feet, this caddy is inspired by a Georgian style. It has a hinged lid with spiral fluted finial.

Tea drinking in England became fashionable and hugely popular among the wealthy from the late 17th century. For most of the 18th century, import duties and the East India Company's monopoly on importing tea kept the price of tea artificially high making it a very expensive commodity. This in turn established the need for airtight, lockable tea canisters and chests, not only to preserve the tea's distinctive flavours, but to protect the precious contents.

Commensurate with the high value of the contents, tea caddies became treasured and valuable accessories in their own right often made in fine porcelain or silver, and invariably fitted with a key.

By the end of the 18th century tea canisters and chests were referred to as tea caddies. The word caddy is thought to derive from the Malay word "kati" which was a measure of tea weighing about one imperial pound.

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