Victorian sterling silver "Teaette" tea infuser spoon

George Gray

£285



REF: 9742

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Width: 145 mm (5.71")

Weight: 22 g

Description

This is a lovely example of a silver tea infuser marketed as the "TEAETTE" and featuring the patented hinged opening mechanism made exclusively by George Gray in the late Victorian and early 20th century. This piece is one of the first examples. The hinged bowl holds the tea and is secured by a knurled nut on the shank and the infuser is in excellent polished condition.

As the 19th century progressed, manufacturers began to develop teawares that reduced the labour of making tea. Gray designed it as a convenient and easily transportable utensil for travellers and caterers to brew a single cup of tea. It features a perforated spoon bowl with a hinged lid, designed to hold loose tea leaves for brewing a single cup by plunging it into boiling water and brew according to the drinker's taste.

In May 1896, The Caterer and Hotelkeeper's Gazette announced that "the "teaette" should be most useful for travelling luncheon-baskets, and might be introduced by caterers in tea rooms."

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