Additional Membership Benefits

Tea Leaf Ironstone Body Styles and Potters Handbooks

Tea Leaf Ironstone china was made on 200+ different body styles. When you say you have a "coffeepot" you are actually saying that you have one of over 250 different styles of coffeepots manufactured. Values will depend on the potter, the body style, the decorative motif, whether the item is copper or gold lustre, whether you have an adult-size or child's size piece, condition, etc. To help you identify what you have, the Club has created an online guide, also available to order as printed handbooks.

Tea Leaf Values Guide

The **Value Guide** was created in response to frequent inquiries from individuals needing to make decisions on the disposition of a Tea Leaf Ironstone collection for themselves, a family member, or a friend. These individuals are often unfamiliar with Tea Leaf Ironstone or today's Tea Leaf Ironstone collecting market. The **Value Guide** is not intended to be all-inclusive. It is intended to provide a high-level overview.

Tea Leaf Item Identification Guide

Are you a new collector, or have you been collecting for a while and still have questions about your collection? Wondering what the difference is between a soap dish and a butter dish? Do you have a punch bowl or a posset bowl, and is it supposed to have a lid? Are you puzzled about what an item in your collection was used for? The Education Committee has come to your rescue and developed a 20-page **Item Identification Guide** to help you figure out what you have!



Elsmore & Forster
Portland Shape Morning Glory
Covered Vegetable Tureen



Clementson Heavy Square
Teaberry Butter Dish

Rev 10/26

Tea Leaf Ironstone China & Tea Leaf Club International

Tea Leaf: A Brief History

In exploring the history of Tea Leaf Ironstone China, we travel back to the days of our grandmothers—and before. Historically, Tea Leaf was considered to be any English or American-produced ironstone china decorated with the traditional Tea Leaf motif consisting of three leaves and a bud in copper or gold lustre. Today's collectors have expanded that definition of Tea Leaf to include all white ironstone decorated with copper lustre or gold motifs and/or banding. Names for these Tea Leaf variant motifs include Teaberry, Morning Glory, Pinwheel, and Cinquefoil, among others. Collectors of lustre-decorated white ironstone (i.e. Ceres & Laurel Wreath) and lustre-enhanced transfer-printed ironstone (i.e. Moss Rose and Lustre-enhanced Flow Blue) are also welcome.

What is Tea Leaf?

Beginning in the 1840's English potters manufactured white ironstone china decorated with lustre bands and/or simple motifs, exclusively for the American market. Anthony Shaw is considered to have produced the original Tea Leaf motif on his Niagara Fan and Chinese Shape body styles registered in 1856. These were the first of over 150 body styles decorated with the Tea Leaf motif produced by dozens of English and American potters. These talented potters continued to produce this beautiful copper lustre decorated white ironstone until the beginning of the 20th century. Shipped across the Atlantic in huge sailing vessels, Tea Leaf Ironstone China became the everyday tableware of Americans. It adorned tables in town and farm homes across the country. Today it is used and displayed in homes and museums around the land.

Purpose and History of the Club

In 1980, some 130 years after the introduction of Tea Leaf to the American market, a group of Tea Leaf collectors from ten states gathered in Illinois to formally organize the Tea Leaf Club International (TLCI). Members now come from across the U.S. The Tea Leaf Club is dedicated to the study of Tea Leaf Ironstone China and its variants and supports Tea Leaf collectors through its many activities. TLCI members collect, study, and are passionate about Tea Leaf Ironstone China.

You are invited to join…

Tea Leaf Club International

For collectors and enthusiasts of Tea Leaf Ironstone China and its Copper Lustre cousins, including Ceres, Moss Rose, and more



Anthony Shaw Lily-of-the-Valley Tea Leaf Coffeepot, circa 1860s

For more information visit us online at
www.TeaLeafClub.com
and join us on Facebook

Membership Invitation

Please enter a membership in Tea Leaf Club International for:

1st Name_____ 2nd Name_____

Email_____ Phone_____

Address_____ City/State/Zip_____

Membership Year: January 1 thru December 31. Regular dues are $30 for one or two persons at the same address.

___Please do NOT list me in Club Membership Directory. (Unless you check here you will be listed in the directory.)

___I am interested in participating on a Tea Leaf committee.

___I would like to receive my Tea Leaf Readings at the email address shown above. (Email Readings are printed in full color)

Please make check payable to Tea Leaf Club International and mail to:
Tea Leaf Club Membership, 1320 N Co Rd 565 W, Connersville IN 47331

Benefits of Membership

Membership

Open to anyone interested in Teal Leaf or its variants. To join, complete and return the attached Membership Invitation with your check to the address listed. Our membership year runs from January 1 through December 31. If you join the club mid-year, you will receive all newsletters published during the year you join, and your membership will renew the following January 1.

Tea Leaf Readings: Our Newsletter

Tea Leaf Readings has been described as one of the most interesting antique publications in the country

- Sent to all current TLCI members three times a year
- Packed with educational articles and photos (full-color for those who select to receive by email)
- Includes updates on annual convention details and information from and about Club members

Web Resources: Tea Leaf Website www.TeaLeafClub.com and our Facebook Page

- Carries interesting articles and educational information
- Links to Tea Leaf's Facebook site and other ironstone collector clubs
- Annual convention and auction submission details
- Facebook gives members a social media network to connect, ask questions, and interact with Tea Leaf specialists
- The Tea Leaf Online Guide is the premiere resource for information about Tea Leaf Ironstone China.

Educational Commitment

The Education Committee is the research arm of TLCI

- Focuses on the research and publication of newsletter articles for Tea Leaf Readings
- Develops and promotes the use of standardized terminology for the various body styles and motifs
- Created the online and print versions of the *Handbook of Tea Leaf Body Styles*, and the *Handbook of Tea Leaf Potters*, and maintains their subsequent updates and improvements. These definitive references are the best available educational resources devoted to English and American Tea Leaf. They consist of hundreds of pages of photos, descriptions, potters, and dates of manufacture of Tea Leaf Ironstone China. Purchase details are available on the Tea Leaf website.

National Conventions

The TLCI annual convention is a time for Friends, Facts, and Fun

- Buy, sell, or trade Tea Leaf
- Meet others who share a passion for these highly collectible pieces
- Learn from speakers and education programs featuring topics of interest to Tea Leaf collectors
- Explore the U.S. since meetings are held in different locations each year, usually in September
- See displays of rare and unusual pieces
- Participate in sales and swaps; auction; dealers and collectors offering Tea Leaf and related items for sale throughout the weekend, as well as other weekend activities

It's an extraordinary experience for experienced and new members alike!

Membership Directory

TLCI has members across the U.S. and the membership directory is a resource for you connect to other members in your area.

