



Tea-Caddy

Date

1790

Medium

Japanned tin

Description

Tea-caddy of painted japanned tin. It has a pattern painted on the front in red, white green and yellow on a blue ground. It depicts a semi-circular structure on four legs, under a red and white arbour. Tea was an important part of domestic life in England in the 1700s and 1800s and there was a major international trade in tea via companies such as the East India Company. Tea-caddies such as this would have been a decorative as well as

practical item and, in the early years of the trade, tea, like sugar, was regarded as a precious commodity.