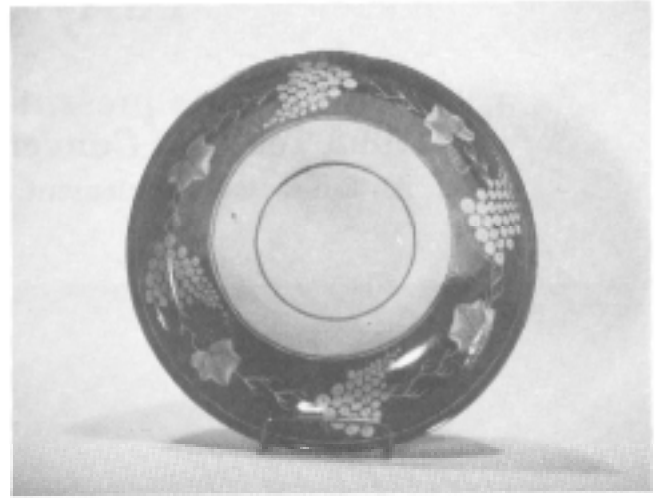


Climbing the Tea Leaf Family Tree: Early Ancestors (Continued)



A grouping of three types of early English lustre: silver, copper and pink



A lustre decorated bowl with etched grapevine design, ca. 1815

wares, one piece with a coppery pink finish, another with a pink lustre trim, and the third with an overall silvedus tre glaze.

An example of one of the earliest types of English lustreware you're likely to find is the bowl shown in another photo. This shallow piece was made in the early 19th century, ca. 1815, and is a lightweight earthenware which should be called "pearlware" NOT "soft paste," term appropriate only for a type of early English procelain.

This thinly cast piece was glazed in white, then painted with a glaze and then, before firing, etched around the border with a grapevine design. The result is a light, thin dish with a fine coppery pink finish. The weight and thinness of such early earthenwares are

important factors to help you date them since many later reproductions are much thicker and heavier.

In the late 18th and early 19th century, the Classical or Neo-Classical style was extremely popular for architecture, furniture and the decorative arts with designs for everything from dishes to dresses based on ancient Greek and Roman designs.

Here we see a simple classical style creamer and open sugar bowl with a rich overall copper lustre glaze. They probably date around 1820 and have thin, lightweight *redware* pottery bodies which helped produce the deep coppery color.

Although copper lustre decorated pieces were the most common, silver lustre was also used and the creamer and

sugar bowl in the next photo, with simple classical ribbing, feature that finish on their redware bodies. Again, they date from the early 19th century.



Below left Simple classical-styled copper lustre creamer and open sugar bowl, ca. 1820

Right: Sugar bowl with simple classical design; below right: Silver lustre creamer

