

Tea Leaf On-line Guide & Handbook

Item Descriptions

Updated 4/12/26 v10

Item Name	Description	Sample Photo
Apple Bowl (Scalloped)	A footed container, similar in design to a compote, but for storing apples and other fresh fruit. Unlike a compote, the inside of the bowl is fluted to provide air around the fruit to keep it fresher longer. The edges of the bowl are scalloped. Various pedestal heights. Overall usually 4.5" tall (first photo) or 7" tall (second photo) tall.	 
Ashtray	A receptacle for tobacco ash and cigarette/cigar butts. 20 th Century Tea Leaf only.	
Bacon Rasher	A small rectangular flat service receptacle used for slices of cooked bacon. Approximately 6" long.	
Baker	A heavy oval or rectangular open container in which items can be baked. Various nesting sizes.	
Basin	A large open container which holds water for washing oneself. Also referred to as a wash bowl. Approximately 14" in diameter.	

Batter jug	A single handled container (usually a pouring vessel) which is used for storing and pouring batter. Usually has a lid. 20 th Century Tea Leaf only.	
Bone Dish	Crescent shaped container which is used at the dining table to hold discarded fish bones or other small bones.	
Bowl (Footed, reticulated)	One of a kind decorative footed, reticulated container.	
Bowl (Mush)	A round container, open at the top, used for holding an individual serving of boiled corn meal, oatmeal or sometimes chowder. Similar in size to an oyster bowl, but unlike oyster bowls, mush bowls have no pedestal. Approximately 6" in diameter.	
Bowl (Nested - various sizes)	Round or square graduated containers open at the top which can be stacked inside of each other. There are usually 4-5 containers for a set, there may be more.	
Bowl (Oyster)	A small open round container with a short pedestal. Similar in size to a mush bowl. Originally used to hold a half dozen oysters and their juices. Approximately 6" in diameter.	

Bowl (Potato)	A large open container used to hold cooked potatoes. Approximately 9-11" in diameter.	
Bowl (Punch/Posset)	A large container used to hold beverages. A punch bowl is used to serve cold beverages and has no handles or lid. A posset bowl is used to serve hot beverages. It has two handles and a lid with an opening for a ladle. Various sizes – usually 8-12" tall.	Punch:  Posset: 
Bowl (Waste)	A small open container used to hold discarded food items usually at the dinner table. May also be used to discard tea leaves etc. Often considered part of a tea set. Various sizes.	
Brush Vase/Toothbrush Vase	A square, round or multi-sided container open at the top used to store tooth brushes. Approximately 5 - 6" tall. See Brush Vase/Toothbrush Vase with Undertray for that style.	
Brush Vase/Toothbrush Vase with Undertray	A square, round or multi-sided container open at the top used to store tooth brushes. This brush vase style has drain holes in the bottom and sits on a small plate to catch the drainage. Approximately 5 - 6" tall.	

Brush/Razor/Utility Horizontal	A covered container used to store a straight razor or brushes. Approximately 1" high and 7" long.	 
Butter Dish	A round, square or multi-sided covered container with an interior drainer used to store butter in the kitchen or on the dining table. A complete butter dish would be a three-piece vessel – lid, base and interior drainer. See “Drainer – Butter” for examples.	 
Butter Pat	A small square, round or multi-sided dish for an individual serving of butter. It is placed at each place setting on the dining room table. Approximately 3" in diameter or width.	
Cake Plate	A square, oval, hexagonal or round plate with handles used for the service of individual cakes or cookies. Approximately 9 - 12" in diameter or width (including handles).	 

Cake Stand	A footed plate for serving an entire cake.	
Candlestick	A device used to hold a candle in place. 20th Century Tea Leaf only.	
Chamber Pot	A single handled covered container kept in the bedroom and used as a toilet at night.	
Chowder Tureen	A large <u>round</u> covered serving dish for chowder or stews which is a broad deep vessel with handles. The lid has an opening for a soup ladle. Generally not as tall as a Soup tureen or Posset Bowl.	

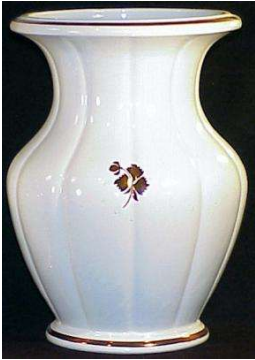
Coffeepot/Teapot	A single handled covered vessel with a spout used to store and serve coffee. Generally measuring 8-10" from base to the spout. The lid should have a small hole for steam to escape. The term coffeepot/teapot is frequently used interchangeably regardless of the size. Some body styles have only one size. Other body styles have 2 sizes and in rare instances 3 sizes. However, if a body style has multiple sizes, the largest size (approximately 9 - 10" from base to top of spout) is generally referred to as the coffeepot and the smaller sizes as teapots. See also "Teapot (squatty)" for that style of teapot.	
Compote (Footed)	A tall, footed, deep container used to store compote (a dessert of cooked fruit and syrup) on the dining table. Unlike an apple bowl, the interior of the bowl is smooth. May be round or oval. Various pedestal heights. Overall height ranges from 5" – 10"	
Condiment Container	A lidded small container to store and serve mustard or jam. It may or may not have a handle. Approximately 2.5" Tall and 3" Diameter	

Cookie Jar	A tall round covered container for the storage of cookies. 20 th Century Tea Leaf only.	
Covered Casserole	A heavy lidded container used for baking a casserole in the oven. 20 th Century Tea Leaf only.	
Cream Soup	A two handled bowl that is about 4" - 5" in diameter. It is used for individual servings of hot and cold soup. 20 th Century Tea Leaf only.	
Creamer	A short single handled pouring vessel for milk or cream. Approximately 4" - 6" in height.	
Cup (Handled)	A small single handled container typically used for drinking hot liquids. In some instances the liquid was poured into the matching saucer for cooling/drinking.	 

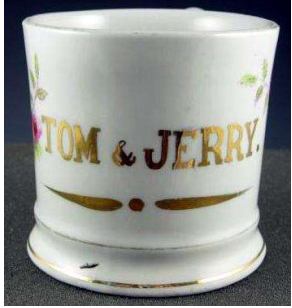
Cup (Handleless)	A small container without handles typically used for drinking hot liquids. In some instances the liquid was poured into the matching saucer for cooling/drinking.	
Cup (Moustache)	A drinking container with a semicircular ledge inside. The ledge has a half moon-shaped opening to allow the passage liquids and serves as a guard to keep moustaches dry. Should include a saucer. See also Mug (Moustache)	
Cup (Posset)	A small single handled, container used for drinking hot liquids (posset) or cold liquids (punch). Often footed, but not always. Cup opening is approximately 2.75" in diameter Footed cups are approximately 3.5", non-footed 3" in height.	
Cup and Saucer (Handled)	A complete pairing of a handled cup and its matching saucer.	
Cup and Saucer (Handleless)	A complete pairing of a handleless cup and its matching saucer.	
Doughnut Stand	A tall, footed shallow container used for the storage of doughnuts or other small pastries and food items. Various pedestal heights. Overall height ranges from 5" – 10".	 

Drainer (Butter)	There are two kinds of drainers – flat or basket shaped. Both kinds have holes used to drain water or other liquids from contents stored in the covered dish. May be round, square or multisided in shape to fit the interior of the butter dish. Basket shaped drainers fit inside the butter dish base and over the rim of the base. These drainers also support the lid.	Flat Drainer:  Basket-style Drainer: 
Drainer (Soap)	There are two kinds of soap drainers – flat or basket shaped. Both kinds have holes used to drain water or other liquids from soap stored in a covered soap dish. Shapes are usually rectangular or oval but on rare occasion may be round to fit the shape of the soap dish. Basket shaped drainers fit inside the soap dish base and over the rim of the base. These drainers also support the lid.	Flat Drainer:  Basket-style Drainer: 
Egg Cup	A small cup for holding a whole boiled egg while it is being eaten. Prior to around 1900, “egg cup” was recognized as unit of measure in cookbooks. Generally accepted to be about 3TBSP or 45ml. Approximately 3.5” tall.	
Egg Cup (Boston)	A small footed vessel used to hold the contents of a shelled boiled egg in which the egg was chopped, mixed with salt/pepper and eaten with a spoon or a fork. Approximately 2” tall and 4” in diameter.	

Egg Cup (Miniature)	Very small footed vessel, shaped like an egg cup, but much smaller than the standard sized egg cup. Use is unknown. Approximately 2.5" tall.	
Ewer	A large single handled pouring vessel for bathing water (usually about 12" tall). The water would be poured into a matching basin when washing oneself. See Basin and Ewer and Basin.	
Ewer and Basin	A 2 piece matching set used for personal hygiene. See individual items for detailed descriptions.	
Foot Bath	A large container used for washing one's feet. Approximately 20" wide and 9-10" tall.	
Gravy Boat	A single handled vessel used for pouring gravy. It often includes a matching under plate.	

Honey Dish	A small <u>round</u> dish with a rim. Used for individual portions of honey on the dining table. Approximately 4.5" in diameter.	
Hot Water/Service Pitcher	A small pitcher used to contain hot water for personal hygiene. It is part of a bath set. It is usually about 7 to 8" tall and is shaped like the Ewer.	
Jardiniere	An ornamental pot or stand for the display of flowers or growing plants. Approximately 13.25" tall.	
Ladle (Sauce)	A small dipper that fits inside of a covered sauce tureen. Usually about 6" long	
Ladle (Soup)	A large dipper that fits inside of a covered soup tureen, covered posset bowl, punch bowl or chowder. Usually about 12" long	
Lamp	A device for giving light consisting of a base, bulb and shade. Tea Leaf Lamps were typically manufactured in the mid-20 th Century	

Lid	A removable or hinged cover for the top of a container.	
Mug (Child)	A small single handled cylindrical container used by a child for drinking. Mugs do not typically have saucers. Approximately 2.5" – 2.75" tall.	
Mug (Moustache)	A drinking container with a semicircular ledge inside. The ledge has a half moon-shaped opening to allow the passage liquids and serves as a guard to keep moustaches dry. A mug has straight sides and flat bottom. See also Cup (Moustache) for version that is more barrel shaped and includes a saucer.	
Mug (Shaving-Scuttle)	A scuttle mug is a single handled container with a "double boiler arrangement". Hot water is placed in the under portion of the container and sealed with a cork. Shaving lather is placed in the top portion along with a shaving brush. The hot water keeps the lather warm during the shaving process.	
Mug (Shaving various sizes)	A single handled container (without the "double boiler arrangement" like a scuttle mug) in which lather and a shaving brush is used for shaving. Shaving mugs with numbers were used in barber shops. Can also be used for hot beverages. Ranges from approximately 3 5/8" to 4 1/8" in height.	   

Mug (Soda)	The largest ironstone mug (see photo above). A single handled container used for drinking carbonated beverages. Approximately 4.25" tall and 4.20" diameter. Root beer created in 1876 was the first marketed soda drink option. Cola was marketed shortly after in 1881 and Dr. Pepper in 1885.	
Mug (Tom & Jerry)	A single handled container for drinking Tom & Jerry. The words "Tom & Jerry" are captured on the side of the mug.	
Nappy/Sauce Dish	A small round or square dish used for individual portions of side dishes at each individual place setting on a dining table. Approximately 4.5" in diameter.	
Other	Various advertising items and unique mid-20th century trinkets	
Pancake (Covered)	A round dish with a lid used to store freshly made pancakes on the dining table. Approximately 11" in diameter including handles and 6.5" tall including finial.	
Pie Baker	A round rimmed vessel with sloped sides for baking pie. Approximately 9.5" in diameter.	

Pitcher/Jug	A vessel used to store and pour various cold liquids such as water, milk or cream. Pitchers/Jugs come in various graduated sizes ranging from approximately 4" - 9" (including creamers).	 
Pitcher/Jug (Toast Water)	A vessel used to store and pour toast water, a medicinal drink. The Jug is specifically designed with a ledge in the spout with holes to strain the liquid from the toast so that only clear liquid is poured. There is also a lid to help keep the liquid warm.	
Plate	A plate is a flat shaped serving utensil from which food is eaten. A plate is typically round. Plates are of various diameter sizes depending on the food being eaten. (e.g. 6" dessert, 7" salad, 8" luncheon, 9-10" dinner, etc.)	
Plate (Child's 4.5" - 5")	A small plate which is part of a children's tea set. Approximately 4.5" – 5" in diameter.	
Plate (Cup 3" - 4")	A coaster for tea/coffee cups. It is used to hold the cup after the hot liquid was poured into a deep saucer to cool prior to drinking. Approximately 3" - 4" in diameter.	

Plate (High Relief)	An ornate plate with a heavily embossed surface that is used to serve individual cakes and cookies. Generally round with no handles and smaller than a cake plate.	
Platter (various sizes)	A large oval or rectangular serving tray made of heavy ironstone used to hold cooked meat or poultry items on the dining table. Various graduated sizes with the largest often referred to as a Turkey Platter. Approximately 6" – 20" in length.	
Powder Jar	A covered container used to store face powder. 20th Century Tea Leaf only.	
Relish/Pickle	A small, shallow dish used to hold pickles or relish on the dining table. Shapes vary by body style. They can be oval, rectangular or the more ornate mitten style. Approximately 9" x 5.5" or 9.5" x 6.5"	
Salt & Pepper Shakers	Containers for salt and pepper. Used on the dining table. 20th Century Tea Leaf only.	
Sauce Tureen	A covered two handled rectangular or oval container with a ladle and an under tray used to store sauce on the dining table. Similar in style to a soup tureen, but much smaller in size. The lid has an opening for the ladle. Approximately 8" x 9" including handles.	

Saucer	A small plate with an indentation used under a cup.	
Soap Dish (Covered)	A covered rectangular, round or oval container with an interior drainer used for a bar of soap. See “Drainer (soap)” for details on different types of drainers. Approximately 5.5” in length and 4” tall.	
Soap Slab	An open receptacle for a bar of soap. It often has interior ridges to allow the soap to drain. Approximately 4.5” x 3.25”	
Soup Plate	A flat rimmed bowl used for individual portions of soup or stew. Soup bowls range in size from approx. 8-9”.	
Soup Tureen	A large covered two handled rectangular or oval container with a ladle and an under tray used to store soup on the dining table. Similar in style to a sauce tureen, but much larger. The lid has an opening for the ladle. Size can be as large as 16” from handle to handle, and 12” in height to the top of the finial.	

Spittoon/Cuspidor	A receptacle for spit, especially used by people who chew tobacco. Spittoons are smaller and most commonly used in a home. Cuspidors are larger and were typically used in public or commercial spaces.	 
Spoon Warmer	A decorative utensil filled with hot water and used to warm spoons. Often shaped like a Nautilus Shell.	
Sugar Bowl	A two handled, covered storage container for sugar. Like coffeepots/teapots, some body styles may be found in multiple sizes. The lid does <u>not</u> have vent hole.	 

Syrup Pitcher	A single handled pouring vessel used for thick liquids usually syrup or sorghum. Usually has a hinged, metal lid.	
Tea Tile	A square or round solid flat piece of ironstone used to place a teapot or other hot dish to protect the table. 20th Century Tea Leaf only.	
Teapot (Squatty)	A covered pouring vessel used for hot tea. It is short and squatty in shape. Teapots and coffeepot lids generally have holes in the lids for steam to escape. See also Coffeepot/Teapot for the non-squatty style of teapot.	 
Undertray (Sauce)	A tray with indentations used beneath a sauce tureen.	
Undertray (Soup)	A tray with indentations used beneath a soup tureen.	

Vase	A container for cut flowers. Varying heights. Usually 8” to 12” 20th Century Tea Leaf only.	
Vegetable Tureen (Covered – various sizes)	An oval, rectangular, round or square shaped two handled container with a domed lid for holding and serving hot vegetables. Sometimes referred to as a covered vegetable.	
Waste Jar (Master w/lid)	A large two handled covered jar to collect used bathing water from the wash basin. Ranges from approximately 15” to 17” in height.	
Waste Jar (Master w/silencer)	A large two handled open jar to collect used bathing water from the wash basin. The silencer is a concave piece of ironstone with a center hole that is placed on the top of the open jar as a splash guard. Approximately 10” in diameter and 10” in height.	

Note: Photos of most Children’s pieces may be found in the on-line guide under the same item names as the adult versions such as coffeepot/teapot, creamer, sugar bowl etc. A separate item, “Plate (Child’s 4.5” – 5”)” was created because of the many questions regarding this item.

Children’s sets were made by very few Tea Leaf manufacturers and are often small toy versions of the larger size sets used by adults.

This photo shows Anthony Shaw adult-size Lily-of-the-Valley items along with their child’s size play versions. →

For more information on children’s pieces, see document
Tea Leaf Lustre-Decorated Children’s China rev 2001



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