



JACKSON FOSTER
HISTORIC SIGN PAINTER & MAKER
*Hand-crafted signs in the style of
18th and 19th century artisans*

Fine Teas

Tea first came to America in the mid-1600s by way of the Dutch settlement of New Amsterdam (renamed New York in 1664) where the tea trade flourished among women and wealthy colonists. During the 18th century, tea drinking was as popular in Britain's American colonies as it was in Britain itself. Legally, all tea imported into America had to be shipped from Britain. In 1773, the English Parliament imposed heavy taxes on the American colonies by way of the Tea Act, to bolster the failing financial position of the British East India Tea Company. This allowed them to ship tea duty-free directly to the colonists and profit by excluding the colonial merchants. The resulting tense political environment resulted in dissent and the cry of "no taxation without representation". Political tensions came to a climax with the Boston Tea Party.

Tea was a major article in every colonial household, and in 18th century consumer society, it was a beverage which appeared on the tables of the wealthiest merchants and the poorest laborers. In 1768, colonists consumed almost two million pounds of tea, with ninety per cent of the tea drunk being smuggled into the colonies. The price of tea in the colonies varied from an early price of 24 shillings per pound to a low of 1 shilling 9 pence per pound in 1768. Today, tea is the world's most popular beverage after water.

As with the other products on this page, this sign is for sale. Please email or call for details.

