



## ELEGANT, SMOOTH PARISIAN TEA CADDY

### Object number 424

Paris 1789 - 92,

Master: Roch-Louis Dany, see French Master Gold- and Silversmith by Jacques Helft

Year letter: "P" under crown for 1783/4 (Rosenberg, no. 6407)

Recense stamp of the department on the cover, see Rosenberg No. 5890

Height: 7.6 cm ; Weight: about 132g

### Pictures



## Detailed Description

### Silver French Tea Caddy

.This tea caddy is a sober and elegant object, left completely smooth. The body is rectangular in shape and the sliding lid (intended for refilling) is flat. Possibly originally part of a travel set.

The hallmarks are on the bottom and under the lid

### Tea in Europe

Tea was during the 17<sup>th</sup> century, since circa 1680, imposed in Europe. The great supporters of this hot drink were first of all the statesmen and noblemen of the court, as well as doctors. In France, tea was sold already around 1636, but it became popular under cardinal Mazarin (1602-1661). Its price was always relatively high. It was traditionally drunk with sugar, another expensive condiment of the eighteenth century. The necessity to store tea in a dark and dry place, in order to keep its aroma, has resulted in the development of the closing tea caddy. The tea caddies in England were usually made in sets of two, in order to keep separately the green from the black tea.

The habit of drinking tea had by the early 18<sup>th</sup> century a ceremonial character: the lady of the house prepared the tea in front of her guests. This is one of the reasons why the equipage for tea was made of silver.

### .Literatur

Gruber, Al., 1982, *Gebrauchssilber des 16. bis 19. Jahrhunderts*, Würzburg: Edition Popp