

# Tea totalers tantalized by tempting tannic tastes

By JULIE SWINDELL  
Collegian Staff Writer

"There are few hours in life more agreeable than the hour dedicated to the ceremony known as afternoon tea." — Henry James.

Penny-pinchers, arise! Next to water, tea is the least expensive beverage you can consume. Even the rarest, finest teas cost less than a nickel a cup to prepare. Coffee prices climbed faster than gas did during the oil embargo. You choose.

Ahh, but let's talk about tea at its very best. There is good coffee and there is bad coffee but there are teas and there are many more teas to be purchased.

Richard Hurwitz (6th psychology), an avid aficionado of exotic teas, says: "I really like it so much. It gives you such a nice warm feeling... it's better than sex."

"I dig it for the buzz it sends through you," says Hurwitz, whose favorite blends are Papaya, Tea & Spice and Swiss Macho. "Obviously

there are probably good coffees that I haven't tried. But with coffee I realized I was indulging more in the acts of adding cream and sugar than relating to the pure coffee. With tea I find that I can go all the way to get into a natural state. I can find a flavor that really appeals to me and for a sweetener I'll just add honey if I want. Honey's fabulous in tea."

Hurwitz has been a tea buff for six years and drinks coffee only for the added stimulant of caffeine. "When it's damp out and your bones are turning cumulous, tea's the answer. It's exhilarating," he says.

Tea legends are abundant from regions where it was first cultivated such as India, Burma, China and Tibet.

One piece of lore from Japan credits the discovery of tea to the Indian saint Bodhidharma (Daruma), the founder of Zen Buddhism. He travelled to China about 520 A.D., where Emperor Liang Wu Ti gave him a temple-cave near his own capital in

Nanking. In the cave, Daruma sat in sleepless meditation for nine years. One day he grew drowsy and in anger at his weakness cut off his eyelids. Drops of blood from his gruesome act dropped on the ground of the cave and a holy plant appeared which made a drink that seemed to lessen his desire for sleep.

There's an unending variety of tea leaves and blends available in brands such as Jacksions of Piccadilly, Twinings, Wagner and Bigelow. Names of teas originate in various ways: by regions in which they were grown (such as Darjeeling or Assam), by size of characteristic of the plant leaf or by the method of processing the plant. There are three variations of tea: black, which is fermented; green, which isn't and Oolong, the standard Chinese tea which is the happy medium.

Earl Grey (named for its founder) and English breakfast teas are blends of traditional mixtures. Earl



Grey has an exquisite flavor resulting from Bergamont Oil; English breakfast is a robust and slightly lemony blend of Ceylon and Indian teas and is a world wide favorite of those who prefer a full-bodied tea.

Darjeeling tea has an exotic oriental aroma and is grown in India. Its brisk, earthy flavor is a favorite at the most exclusive clubs in London's West End. The other main tea from India is Assam Flowery B.O.P., which contains an unusual high portion of top quality flower-petals. In the

northeast corner of Assam, the Brahmaputra river flows. On one side of this river the rich, strong Assam tea plant grows and on the other side, the light, delicate Darjeeling is found.

Celestial Seasonings brand makes Morning Thunder Tea, a blend which "has the power of a thousand charging buffaloes." Morning Thunder is new, a delicious blend of coffee, the world's finest black tea and green roasted matte. It's for the caffeine-seeker asking for the pizzazz to stay

awake, because it contains 54 per cent more caffeine than coffee the yet 26 per cent less tannic acid than black tea. Testers say it's perhaps the most innovative caffeine beverage introduced in the last 300 years. It's very powerful, with a rounded flavor and aroma.

The easiest way to save money on coffee is to switch to tea. Tea is a natural food product from the earth; it varies according to climate, soil and processes in harvesting. Tea yields 200 cups per pound, coffee gives perhaps 40-50 cups. Tea contains only about half as much caffeine as coffee.

There is truly a tea for every taste, mood and occasion, and young people are finding this out. In the past five years, many have signaled their claim to adulthood by adopting the newfound herb and spice teas rather than instant coffee. Some find also that unlike coffee, which loses its flavor quickly after roasting and grinding, tea keeps extremely

well. Store it dry and keep it away from high heat and it's guaranteed to retain its full flavor for over a year.

Still, Americans drink tea with their eyes. In claiming not to fancy it, they think only of the weak Salada consumed during illness. Hence, they're denying their taste buds innumerable experiences. An example could be the enchanting taste of Formosa Oolong, found on the Island of Formosa with delightful aroma of ripe peaches. Although black tea is called the red wine of teas and green tea the white wine, Oolong is considered the "champagne" of all teas.

In a personal diary entry on Sept. 20, 1660, Samuel Pepys mentions trying tea at his coffee house in London. That same year Charles II raised the tax on tea because it was hindering liquor purchases. Charles' wife, Catherine of Braganza, was the first tea-drinking English Queen.

Remember also Nov. 23, 1773, when disguised patriots smashed open 342 chests of

tea and dumped them into the Boston harbor in protest to unjust taxation on the colonists. For the new Americans craved their tea... it was the touch of home to them.

The task of the professional tea taster is not to be sipped lightly. It involves talent, skill and a seven-year apprenticeship with a skilled taster before qualification. The tea samples are placed in small white pitchers in an all-white room. Each has been tasted in the leaf form and weighed out carefully. Tasters move swiftly down the row sniffing, tasting and discarding rejects without hesitation. The tea is also gargled and spit and then sucked into the mouth with plenty of air and noise.

Sydney Smith once said: "Thank God for tea! What would the world do without tea? — how did it exist? I am glad I was not born before tea." For it's more than a slight remedy. It's an enjoyment and a treasure. If given the fair chance.

## Prices of local art supplies compared

By KAREN GOTTENBERG  
Collegian Staff Writer

The following is a list of common art supplies and a comparison to current retail prices. Also included are the prices found at a major Philadelphia art supply store.

	Phil. Art Supply Co.	Eli's	UBC	SBS	HUB	#2	#5
Canvas Stretchers 8"						1.50	1.50
24"						1.65	1.50
18"						1.75	1.40
Dexter Mat Cutter						.34	.30
						.55	.50
						.44	.40
Pelikan India Ink						8.95	8.95
						1.10	1.20
8 Crayola Crayons						—	.25
							.30
							.29

Liquitex Acrylics Raw Sienna Cobalt Blue  
X-Acto Knives #1

**arts  
trivia**

**arts  
trivia**

**arts  
trivia**

Name the film which had this geographic place in its title and these two stars:

- Russia; Robert Shaw, Sean Connery
- London; David Hemmings, Joanna Pettet
- Paris; Gene Kelly, Leslie Caron
- Palm Springs; Connie Stevens, Troy Donahue
- San Francisco; Clark Gable, Spencer Tracy
- Peking; Charlton Heston, Ava Gardner

Answers:

- "From Russia With Love"
- "The Best House in London"
- "An American in Paris"
- "Palm Springs Weekend"
- "San Francisco"
- "55 Days in Peking"

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Oscar De Lorenza

(answers to page 4 puzzle)

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