

Gilded Tea Cups

THE ANNA SAFLEY HOUSTON COLLECTION



During the Victorian era, gilded teacups and mustache cups were symbols of status and refined taste. These “cabinet cups” were made by leading factories and displayed as works of art in the homes of the wealthy. The use of gilding on teacups added a touch of luxury and elegance to the tea drinking experience.

Tea drinking became increasingly popular in Britain during the 18th century and the Victorian era saw the rise of tea drinking as a social ritual. Gilded teacups became an important part of this culture.



Houston Museum
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Gilding enhanced the appearance of these teacups and added to their perceived value. In the early 19th century some cabinet cups were gilded all over, making them more costly and less practical for daily use.



Anna Safley Houston, pioneering businesswoman and antiques collector, curated a remarkable collection of over 15,000 items, spanning glassware, pottery, textiles, furniture, and much more.

