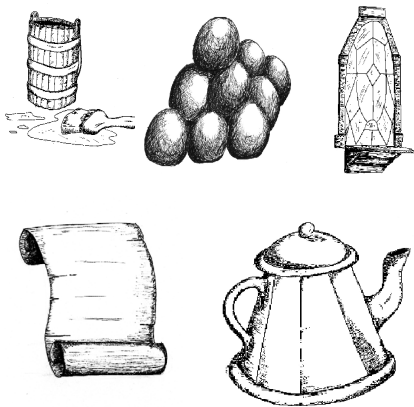


Boston Tea Party Gazette

June 29, 1767-Townshend Acts

Today, Parliament passed a bill placing duties on all lead, glass, paint, paper and tea imported into the colonies. The British legislature desires to pay off its looming debt from the French and Indian War by overtaxing the colonies. All British soldiers stationed in the colonies will be paid from the proceeds of these import duties. Royal tax collectors' salaries shall also be paid from these taxes.

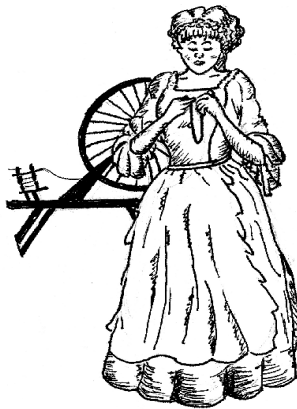
Must we colonists pay for the expansionist greed of our mother country? We say nay!



We refuse to pay these import taxes! We urge all to boycott *all* British goods! No Taxation without Representation!

Hurrah Daughters of Liberty!

Successful boycotting of British goods is only possible through the tireless efforts of our women who meet regularly to spin yarn, weave cloth, and brew herbal teas. The ingenuity of these Daughters of Liberty allows us to do without foppish and fancy British cloth. True patriots prefer simpler homespun goods with vibrant colors from nut and berry dyes. The full impact of our Second Nonimportation Movement is just now emerging. Reports from London tell of a seven-year surplus of



tea piling up the warehouses of the British East India Company. Masses of British merchants facing financial ruin appeal to Parliament daily for repeal of the **Townshend Acts**. Citizens of Boston, we are winning! Do not give in! Refuse all pernicious British teas. Choose instead patriotic Liberty Teas!

April 12, 1770

Townshend Acts Repealed!

Regrettably, the import tax on tea remains. Sources in London report the tea tax stays as a testament to Parliament's right to tax the colonies. We colonists have no voting representatives in Parliament, therefore, we have no voice in Parliamentary matters. Again we say, **"No Taxation Without Representation."** We will not pay the import duty on British tea. Long live Liberty Teas!

May 10, 1773- In Parliament, a law known as the **Tea Act** has been passed. It grants special dispensation to the financially floundering British East India Company for direct exportation of its tea to the British Colonies, without paying the export tax. Parliament hopes to give The British East India Company an unfair advantage in the colonial tea market. By eliminating colonial exporters and mer-

chants, the British East India Company will be able to sell its tea for less than the Dutch East India Company, yet still make a profit. Citizens of Boston, do not be lured by the promise of cheap tea. The **Tea Act** is nothing more than a conspiracy between Parliament and the British East India Company. Every drop of British tea you drink affirms Parliament's right to unfairly tax the colonies. In the colonies, distribution and sales of the vile British East India Company teas will only be permitted through a few designated agents.

August 1773

Tea agents have been appointed for the cities of Philadelphia, New York, Charleston, and Boston. In Boston, the merchants granted monopolies on the tea trade are **Richard Clarke & Sons, Edward Winslow, Benjamin Faneuil, Thomas Hutchinson, and Elisa Hutchinson**. The appointment of two sons of the Royal Governor as exclusive tea agents for



the British East India Company gives many Bostonian patriots much to ponder. Governor Hutchinson once again shows his undying Tory colors. We must be wary of a governor who willingly accepts his salary directly from

the crown. We speak of the same Governor Hutchinson who has repeatedly communicated his views on the limits of colonial freedoms.

October 18, 1773

Sons of Liberty Sam Adams, John Hancock, Paul Revere, and Benjamin Edes are among those present at a meeting of the Long Room Club, over Edes's print shop. Informants loyal to the patriots reveal that four trading ships loaded with 600,000 pounds of British East India Company tea are sailing towards Boston.

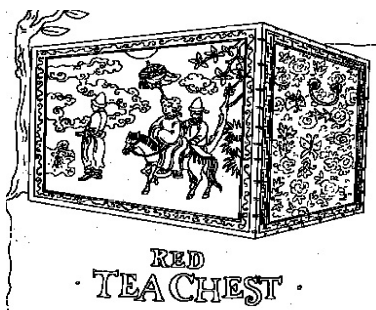
These ships will be the first to put the new **Tea Act** to the test. Fellow patriots, if we allow the tea to land, it will seep its way into the marketplace. Every sip of this vile tea affirms Parliament's right to taxation without representation. Therefore, we, the Sons of Liberty, have met and declared that the tea shall not be landed. Fellow patriots, we urge you to continue to sign your petitions vowing to avoid **"... the pernicious custom of drinking tea, until such time as all Acts which tend to enslave our native country shall be repealed."**

November 2, 1773

We, the Sons of Liberty, demand the resignations of the Boston British East India Company Tea agents. Notices have been sent by courier to all involved. Resignations will be taken under the Liberty Tree in Hanover Square at noon.

November 3, 1773

Yesterday, a crowd of 500 patriotic citizens awaited the arrival of the British East India Company tea merchants beneath the Liberty



Tree. Every Boston patriot waited to hear the

resignations of the tea agents as well as their promise to return the tea to England. When the tea agents failed to appear, a search party was dispatched to find them. The tea agents were found hiding in Clarke & Sons warehouse on Long Wharf. True patriots of Boston, we urge you to remember John Dickinson's inspirational writings "Two Letters on the Tea Tax". Now more than ever, we must oppose taxation without representation.

Let **"No Taxation Without Representation"** be our rallying cry!

November 18, 1773

The East India Company tea agents still refuse to resign. Today, the tea agents asked Governor Hutchinson to take charge of the tea. The tea agents have taken refuge at fort *Castle William*, in Boston Harbor.

November 28, 1773

The first of the dreaded tea ships has sailed into Boston Harbor. The *Dartmouth* is loaded with 114 chests of British East India Company tea.

November 29, 1773

Sons and Daughters of Liberty beware! Read the handbill before thee carefully. A Town Meeting is called at nine o'clock tomorrow morning at Faneuil Hall.

November 30, 1773

When more than 5000 people showed up at Faneuil Hall early this morning, the meeting was moved to the Old South Meeting House. Notes from this meeting report:



"That it was solemnly voted by the Body of the People of this and the neighbouring Towns assembled at the Old south Meeting House on

Tuesday, the 30th day of November, that the said Tea never should be landed in this Province, or pay one Farthing of duty."

The Boston Town Meeting voted unanimously **"... that the tea should be returned to the place from whence it came."** A watch committee has been appointed to guard the tea ship. This is to ensure that the tea not be unloaded. Paul Revere and others are appointed as lookouts. The *Dartmouth* will be permitted to unload all of its cargo except the vile tea.

November 30, 1773

Francis Rotch, son and legal representative of

That worst of plagues, the detested tea shipped for this port by the East India Company is now arrived in this harbor. The hour of destruction or manly opposition to the machinations of tyranny, stress you.

the *Dartmouth's* owner, arrives at the Old South Meeting House. James Hall, the ship's captain, accompanies him. Captain Hall is ordered to move the *Dartmouth* to Griffin's Wharf. Francis Rotch promises to return the tea to Europe. Under the law, once the *Dartmouth* has entered its cargo at the Customs House, it has 20 days to pay customs and the tea tax, or leave port. If the *Dartmouth* attempts to leave port without paying the duties, or without receiving customs clearance, the British Navy may seize its cargo and sink the ship. Governor Hutchinson has ordered the British warships *Active* and *Kingfisher* to block any ships attempting to illegally leave Boston Harbor. The *Dartmouth* has to pay the tax by December 17th, or the ship and its cargo may be destroyed.

December 1, 1773

Today, a second tea ship, the *Eleanor*, sailed into port. The patriots commanded the *Elea-*

nor to dock at Griffin's Wharf, near the *Dartmouth*. Patriot sentries stand watch over both tea ships.

December 2, 1773

British East India Company tea agents in Philadelphia, New York, and Charleston resign!

December 6, 1773

The *Beaver* approaches Boston loaded with 112 chests of British East India Company tea. However, a smallpox epidemic on board will keep the ship in quarantine out in the harbor.

December 15, 1773

Quarantine on the *Beaver* has been lifted. The ship is now docked at Griffin's Wharf along with the *Dartmouth* and the *Eleanor*. A fourth tea ship bound for Boston, the *William*, has wrecked off the coast of Cape Cod. A total of 342 crates of tea owned by the East India Company of Britain (enough to make 26 million cups of tea), fill the holds of the three intact tea ships.

December 11, 1773

At a town meeting, Sam Adams questions Francis Rotch concerning his promise to return the *Dartmouth's* cargo of tea to England. Rotch replies he is unable to obtain a pass to leave the harbor. Samuel Adams insists that Rotch try again.

December 13, 1773

Sam Adams and Committees of Correspondence from Boston and five nearby towns meet over Benjamin Edes' print shop. They decide to destroy the tea if it is not returned to England before midnight on December 16th.

December 14, 1773

Francis Rotch again requests customs clearance to leave port and return the *Dartmouth's* cargo of tea to England. His request is again denied. Customs officials insist he unload the tea.

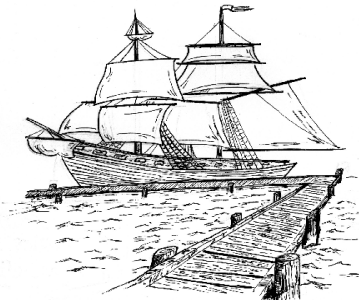
December 15, 1773

Samuel Adams and nine other patriots escort Francis Rotch to the Customs House. The cus-

toms agent again refuses to give the *Dartmouth* clearance out of Boston Harbor. Time is running out. Rotch has only two days left to unload the tea and pay the duties.

December 16, 1773

The Old South Meeting House is brimming with zealous patriots. Nearly the entire male



population of Boston, along with approximately 2000 spectators from nearby towns, attend the early morning town meeting. Even the freezing downpour can't extinguish their rebellious fire. The patriots insist that Rotch ask Governor Hutchinson for a pass out of Boston Harbor. Rotch travels to Milton, seven miles away, to plead his case to the Governor. The Boston town meeting is scheduled to reconvene at three o'clock this afternoon.

Three o'clock p.m. The Boston Town Meeting reconvenes. Rotch is late. Patriot leaders use the time to gather information from neighboring towns regarding boycotts of British tea. At five o'clock p.m. someone calls to adjourn the meeting. The leaders of the Sons of Liberty convince the crowd to extend the meeting for one more hour. Finally, Francis Rotch returns. Governor Hutchinson refuses to issue the *Dartmouth* a pass out of the harbor. Hutchinson offers to tow the *Dartmouth* to *Castle William*, unload the tea, and then let the ship leave Boston. Rotch reports he has refused the Governor's offer. Upon hearing Rotch's declaration, Sam Adams stands up and exclaims

"This meeting can do nothing more to save the country."

As Adams speaks these words, a group of men dressed as Mohawks burst through the door. The Old South Meeting House echoes with cries of

"The Mohawks are come!"

"Hurrah for Griffin's Wharf!"

"Boston Harbor a teapot tonight!"

The patriots head towards Griffin's Wharf. Sam Adams and John Hancock remain at Old South. Many patriots have gathered at the home of James Brewer. Mrs. Brewer blackens the patriots' faces with burnt cork. Sarah Bradlee Fulton, also known as the Mother of the Boston Tea Party, does the same at her house. Only a few men arrive in full disguise. Most wrap themselves in blankets, smudge their faces, cover their hair, and don feathers. Some gather at Griffin's Wharf with no disguises at all. Fearful their identities will be discovered, the men communicate using gestures, whistles and grunts.

Captain Lendall Pitts divides the men into three groups of 40-50. Quickly, quietly, and in an orderly manner, the Sons of Liberty board each of the tea ships. Once on board, they request keys to each ship's hold. They obtain keys for the *Dartmouth* and the *Beaver*.

On the wharf, sailors help the patriots attach block and tackle to the tea chests and hoist them on deck. The tea chests are lined with lead, and weigh as much as 400 pounds. Others, called half chests, weigh approximately 100 pounds.

Silently, the patriots go to work striking the chests with axes and hatchets. Thousands of spectators watch in silence. Only the sounds of ax blades splitting wood ring out from Boston Harbor. Once the crates are open, the patriots dump the tea into the sea. Low tide has just ebbed, so the tea begins to accumulate in mounds in the harbor. In some cases the tea is piled so high, it spills back onto the ships' decks. The patriots shovel the tea back overboard.

The silence is broken only by a cry of "East Indian" as patriots catch Charles O' Conner filling the lining of his coat with tea. George Hewes removes O' Conner's coat, threatens him with death if he reveals the identity of any man present, and sends him scurrying out of town. The patriots work feverishly, fearing an attack by Admiral Montague at any moment. Unbeknownst to the patriots, Montague has no orders to stop them. He is also fearful of killing the thousands of spectators gathered near Griffin's Wharf. By nine o' clock p.m., the Sons of Liberty have emptied a total of 342 crates of tea into Boston Harbor. Fearing any connection to their treasonous deed, the patriots take off their shoes and shake them overboard. They sweep the ships' decks, and make each ship's first mate attest that only the tea is damaged.

Lendall Pitts leads the Sons of Liberty in an orderly procession down the streets of Boston, tomahawks and axes resting on their shoulders. A fife plays as they march past the house where Admiral Montague has been spying on their work. Montague yells out, **" Well boys, you have had a fine, pleasant evening for your Indian caper, haven't you? But mind, you have got to pay the fiddler yet!"** Montague's words were an omen for the patriots. The party was indeed over for Boston.

