

The establishment of afternoon tea and its cultural study

Tamao Kuwahara

The concept of afternoon tea is now recognized as one of the cultural characteristics of British society –although the tea drinking tradition did not originate in Britain. This paper seeks to consider how this concept was adopted from the perspective of the usage of ceramic tea wares and style of dining. Through this research I consider that for a better understanding of the culture of tea it is not necessary to classify by geography such as Japanese, Chinese, Indian teas or by type such as black or green.

Tea culture in their various forms all offer the same social role – that is to provide an opportunity for sharing, confirming friendships and helping to create peaceful relationships between all of those people that gather at a tea table. Thus, afternoon tea provides a human and mutual comfort in life.