

in Bantam for purposes of trade early in the seventeenth century, learned the habit of tea-drinking from the Orientals, and a quantity was shipped to Holland in 1606. Later, many works were published dealing with the medicinal and other properties of tea. Nicolas de Blegny, about whom more anon, refers to one published about 1672 by Sylvestre du Four, a merchant of Lyons. The fact that this book went into a second edition some years later shows that interest in the subject was growing. One of the first to advocate the use of the wonderful plant was Cornelius Rontekoe, professor in the University of Leyden, and principal physician to the Elector of Brandenburg. In a treatise on "Tea, Coffee, and Chocolate," published in 1679, he pronounced strongly in favour of the first-named drink, and denied the possibility of its being injurious to health.

Catherine of Braganza, queen of Charles II, who had tasted it in Portugal, brought tea-drinking into fashion in England. Ladies of *haut ton* delighted in their "dish of tea," and the practice gradually spread to the lower classes, until it became a confirmed habit. By the middle of the seventeenth century tea was no longer a curiosity, for *Rugge's Diurnal* speaks of "Coffee, chocolate, and a kind of drink called tee sold in almost every street in 1659." In the *Mercurius Politicus* (No. 435, Sept. 1658) this advertisement appears—"That excellent and by all Physitians approved China Drink called by the Chineans 'Tcha', by other nations 'Tay' alias 'Tee,' is sold at the Sultaness Head, a cophee-house in Sweeting's Rents, by the Royal Exchange, London." The price of tea at this time ranged from £6 to £10 per pound. The advertisement to the contrary, "doctors differed", as before and since, and not a few denounced and derided the new fad. In 1673 an attempt was actually made in parliament to forbid the use of tea. But without avail.

Thomas Garway, the first English tea merchant, and founder of the well known coffee-house, Garraway's, published a curious handbill about 1659 or 1660, entitled "An exact description of the growth, quality and virtues of the leaf Tea, by Thomas Garway, in Exchange-alley, near the Royal Exchange in London, Tobacco-nist, and Seller and Retailer of Tea and Coffee". In it one reads,—"In respect of its scarceness and dearness, it hath been only used as a regalia in high treatments and entertainments, and presents made thereof to princes and grandees." Garway had purchased a quantity of tea and offered it to the public at prices ranging from fifteen to fifty shillings a pound, according to quality, and also the infusion, "made according to the directions of the most knowing merchants and travellers into those eastern countries."