

The British  
Museum

**Involved  
by Literati**  
Change of  
**Yixing Teapot**

3 September - 15 November 2015



Free  
Room 3  
Open late Fridays

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# I.Yixing Teapot

## What is Yixing Teapot

Yixing Teapot is made from purple clay from Yixing, China. It's a very special clay has been known since the 10th century, but the production of Yixing teapots flourished with the popular fashion for tea drinking among the literati in the late Ming dynasty.



Gong Chun Pot-- Collect in China History museum

# I.Yixing Teapot

Yixing teapot is ideal for **black** and **oolong teas**, as well as aged **pu-erh teas**.

- The composition of the clay allows for minimal shrinking during firing, and this makes for a tightly fitting lid, which reduces oxidation and holds the tea's flavour. The porosity of purple clay also helps it to absorb the flavour of the tea brewed in the teapot. Teapots made of purple sand keep tea fresh and they make tea vibrate with taste.



## Teapot in the shape of bamboo trucks

The handcrafted Yixing teapot is in the shape of bamboo trunks and decorated with an openwork design of bamboo leaves. Bamboo is one of the “Three Friends of Winter”, the symbol of steadfastness, perseverance, and resilience in Chinese culture. They are highly regarded in Confucianism and as such represent the Chinese literati’s spirits.

Yixing teapots are made from *Zisha* (purple clay) nearby Dīngshān, on the west side of Lake Tai in China. It has been known since the 10th century, and flourished with the popular fashion of tea drinking among the literati in the late Ming dynasty.

Stoneware(*zisha*)

Chinese, Yixing

AD 1700-1750, Qing Dynasty

Franks.2478

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## How to make Yixing Teapot

- Purple clay
- Tools
- Dragon kiln

