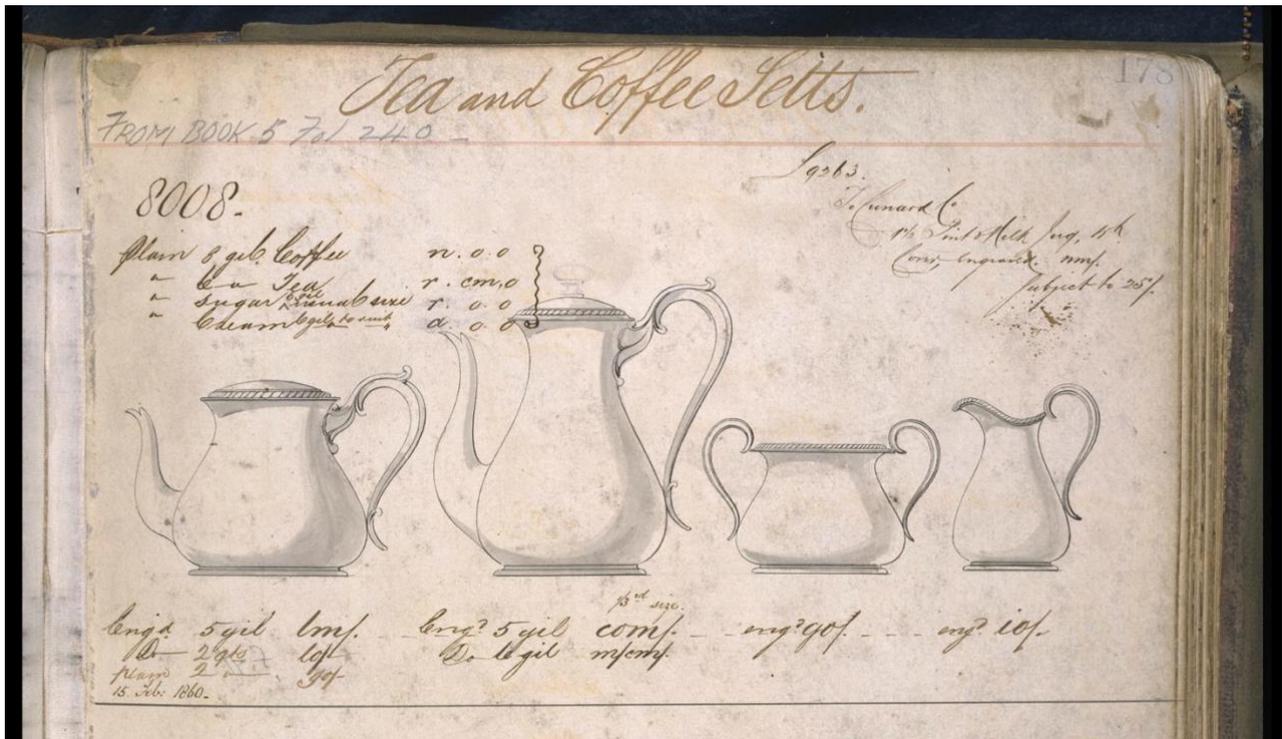


# Archive of Art & Design Research Guide

Silver

W&A

The V&A's Archive of Art and Design (AAD) holds the working papers of individual artists and designers, as well as the records of companies and associations involved in all aspects of applied art and design. The archives can be consulted by appointment at Blythe House, located near Olympia in West London.



Holdings relating to silver design and production are among the earliest records in the Archive of Art and Design. As well as pattern books, order books and ledgers, there are also designs, sketches, photographs and correspondence documenting the histories of several well-known firms and individuals.

Amongst the famous names to be found in the records are Elkington & Company Ltd, who patented their electroplating processes in the 1830s. Designers include Nelson and Edith Dawson, who were both active in the Arts and Crafts movement, and R.E. Stone, who undertook work for the royal yacht Britannia. There are also extensive records from the firm William Comyns and Sons Ltd who held over thirty thousand silverware patterns and created all the coronets for the Queen's coronation.

## Silver in the AAD

- Edward Barnard & Sons Ltd, manufacturing silversmiths: records, 1805–1957  
[AAD/1979/7](#), [AAD/1988/5](#), [AAD/2006/3](#), [AAD/2009/8](#)
- William Comyns and Sons Ltd, manufacturing silversmiths: records, 1896–1987  
[AAD/1987/3](#)
- Nelson and Edith Dawson, silversmiths and decorative artists: papers, 1822–1939  
[AAD/1987/7](#), [AAD/1988/8](#), [AAD/1991/9](#), [AAD/1992/4](#)
- Leslie Durbin, silversmith: papers, 1940s–90s  
[AAD/2007/5](#)
- Elkington & Company Ltd, metalwork manufacturer and electroplater, records, 1829 – about 1968

[AAD/1979/3](#), [AAD/1998/6](#), [AAD/2003/4](#), [AAD/2014/7](#)

- Padgett and Braham, silversmiths: records, 1874–2006  
[AAD/2009/20](#)
- Benton Seymour Rabinovitch, chemist and silverware specialist: papers, 1988–2004  
[AAD/2007/8](#)
- R.E. Stone, silversmith: papers, 1924–83  
[AAD/1994/14](#), [AAD/1998/12](#)

## Search

[Search the Archive of Art & Design](#)

You can also consult the *Guide to the Archive of Art and Design, Victoria & Albert Museum* by Elizabeth Lomas (London: Fitzroy Dearborn Publishers in association with the Victoria and Albert Museum, 2001), which not only lists the AAD archives, but also identifies related material in the V&A and other institutions.

## Access

The V&A Archive of Art & Design is located at Blythe House, near Olympia in West London and can be consulted by appointment only.

[Find out how to access the Archive of Art & Design](#)

## Contact

Archive of Art and Design  
Blythe House  
23 Blythe Road  
London  
W14 0QX  
Tel: +44 (0)20 7942 2303

[Contact us online](#)

Image: Elkington & Co., design for a tea and coffee set, 1860. Museum no. AAD//1979/3 Vol.6. © Victoria and Albert Museum, London