

Tea: The World's Green Gold - History of the London Tea Auctions



- The 319 year history of the London Tea Auction began in 1680.
- East India House in London conducted Tea Auctions for a period of 156 years from 1680 to 1835.
- The London commercial sale rooms in Mincina Lane housed the Tea Auctions from 1836 to 1935 - a period of 100 years.
- The Plantation House auditorium, London took over this Auction from 1936 up until 1970 - a period of 35 years.
- Sir John Lyon House, London subsequently conducted auctions from 1971 to 1990, for a period of 19 years.
- The London Chamber of Commerce was the last venue of this historic auction from 1990 to 1998.

- The last Charity Auction of the London Chamber of Commerce was held on Monday, June 29th, 1998 auctioning a mere 20 lots comprising of 229 packages of an assortment of Assam Orthodox and CTC, Darjeeling Orthodox, Ceylon Orthodox,, China Keemun, Kenya Orthodox and CTC tea.
- The highest price achieved was for the last lot which was a “Ceylon Hellbodde Orthodox Flowery Pekoe” which fetched a world record price of GBP 555 per kilo, and was purchased by Taylors of Harrowgate.
- The total proceeds of this Charity Auction were donated to the following charities :-
 - 1) The Sir Percival Griffiths Planters Trust
 - 2) The Planters Benevolent Fund of Ceylon
 - 3) The Tea Trade Benevolent Society of London
- The Colombo Tea Auction remains the oldest and largest tea auction in the world.

ANSELM PERERA (MLESNA TEA CENTRES)