PRIVATE TRADE BETWEEN ENGLAND
AND CHINA IN THE EIGHTEENTH
CENTURY

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Concluded1)

The Export Trade

More details of the early export trade are given in the Canton Diaries and Commerce Journal than in the case of imports. The private trade of Captain Elliston of the Lynn (480 tons) in 1729-30 consisted of 886 ounces of gold (£ 2,500), 58 piculs of tea (£ 450), chinaware (£ 318), arrack (£ 120), 300 bundles of rattans (£ 15), 90 cwt. of mother-of-pearl (£ 130), 50 handkerchiefs (£ 40) and fans, pictures, lacquered ware, etc (£ 171), a total of £ 3,744 = tls. 11,232. In 1733-34 Chief Mate Shutter of the Wyndham (470 tons) exported 800 pieces of woven silks (Tls. 2,650), and lacquered ware, chinaware and 465 lbs. of tea (Tls. 257) with a total value of Tls. 2,907, while Second Mate Woodford had woven silks, tea, and chinaware valued at Tls. 1,826 (see Appendix VIII).2)

Captain Fenner of the Walpole (499 tons) in 1759-60 exported 110 chests lbs. each) of tea, 3 boxes of gamboge, 15 boxes of rhubarb, 10 boxes and 50 bags of turmeric, 70 bags of sago, 700 bundles of rattans, and 5 chests, 30 half-chests and 2 boxes of chinaware.3) In 1764-65 Captain Pigou of the British King (499 tons) exported 111 chests of hyson tea (Tls. 3,330), wrought silks (Tls. 250), chinaware and lacquered ware (Tls. 3,100), Nankeens (Tls. 110), rhubarb (Tls. 120),

1) See Nr. 1, p. 108—137.
2) Morse, Chronicles, I, 196 for the Lynn and p. 219 for the Wyndham.
3) Ibid., V, 70.
rattans (Tls. 60), and saltpetre (Tls. 60), total Tls. 7,030. The total value of the export of other officers was Tls. 1,965, while the petty officers and foremost men had sundry packages of an unknown value (see Appendix X).\footnote{1}

A study of other manifests of the period and Appendices IV, V, and VI, will add the following products: dragons' blood, cinnabar, aloes, ink, cornelian beads, soy, tunenague, cassia and cassia buds, stick-lac, paper prints, musk, quicksilver, borax or tincall, fans, \textit{nux vomica}, raw silk, tables, chairs, escritoires, painted glass, images, sweetmeats, teepy sheels, and pepper.\footnote{2} During the early part of the century woven silks, raw silk, tea, chinaware, lacquered ware of all types, fans, musk, and quicksilver were the most important items of export. From the 1720's until near the middle of the century gold was unquestionably the most important single export, but after that time it drops out of the manifests. The ship captains still had the privilege of bringing out silver with which to buy gold, but it seems doubtful that they exercised it a great deal because the price of gold had risen to the point where there was little profit in it. Its exportation from China was also forbidden, but the prohibition seems not to have been very strictly enforced. Noble, discussing the situation in 1747-48, says that the officials themselves sold it in a concealed way. He also states that one could at that time make about $8 per cent profit on it, but that it was seldom bought by any “but those who have more money to lay out than they have either room or privilege in the ship, which seldom happens. There are a great many sorts of goods on which they may make 5 or 600 per cent, if got ashore in London without paying duty, and sold to proper hands.”\footnote{3} During the middle part of the century chinaware, woven silks, tea, particularly hyson, the superior brand of green tea, and to a lesser extent souchong, the best quality black tea, and arrack (probably from Batavia) were the most important exports. In fact, the increase in importance of tea and the decline in the export of gold were the two most significant trends during the middle years of the century.

\footnote{1}{\textit{Ibid.}, V, 113-14.}
\footnote{2}{Morse, I, 201, 207, 237, 239, 282; V, 138, 169, 188.}
\footnote{3}{Noble, 316. His estimate as to the profit to be made on gold is unquestionably wrong. The figure may possibly be a misprint; see Appendices III, VII, VIII, IX and XII.}