

# Toby Jugs and 18th Century Caricature: Popular Forms of Pottery, Drinking, and Shared Visual Cultures

*Kerry Love, University of  
Northampton*

*Image: Victoria & Albert Museum*





Character Jug  
Royal Doulton c. 1951  
V&A



Toby Jug  
Ralph Wood c. 1785  
V&A



# Pottery in the 18th Century

## *Taste*

'Taste can be read as a system of social and cultural values focused in the eighteenth century on regularity, hierarchy, order and standardisation, all materially grounded in and made visible through architecture and an astonishing range of artifacts and social behaviours. Taste also functions as a coded material and performative language strategically employed in a process of self-identification along lines of both affinity and difference. In this sense, taste serves as an instrument that simultaneously privileges processes of social cohesion and social distinction. Taste in this context informs material and visual representations of power.'

Bernard L. Herman in *Gender, Taste and Material Culture in Britain and North America, 1700-1830* ed. John Styles and Amanda Vickery

# Pottery in the 18th Century

## *Gender*

Tea, Coffee, Punch, Beer and Tobacco: all intoxicants consumed in the 18th century, often using objects made from clay.

The spaces in which they were consumed are often gendered, tied to practices and societal expectations that maintain societal norms and structures.



# Advertisements

*This Fountain runs water and stops at the word of Command.*

*This Fountain raises Water of it self with a constant Pressure 24 inches above its Level.*

*Lives.*

**Charles Butcher.**  
 Who is now willing to serve his Customers as formerly with 3 several Sorts of Wares he makes (viz.)  
 The new works now in fashion made of white Iron plate being 3 days more for lightness and Cheapsness in 3 ways 1st retains 3 right hand Indian Iron much longer & is more durable than 3 other Iron plate not whitened.  
 2d you may have Brass Silvered over so during 3 when furnished cannot be distinguished from true plate.  
 You may be likewise provided with all sorts of Goods made of durable Tin useful in publick or private houses at reasonable Rates as any man can afford.  
 Models likewise made for all sorts of Waterworks from a draught or otherwise either for Service or pleasure which have been of both sorts shewn before his present Maj<sup>ty</sup> King William at Hampton Court and Kensington and is Seldom or never without some by him to shew.  
 Copper or Brass pots or Sauces pure large or small are had over as well as new.

*Flowers in 3 Margin I make in White Iron.* { 1700

**CHESTER**  
 White Ware Manufactory.

*Mess<sup>rs</sup> Randle, Torton & Co*  
**PROPRIETORS**  
 Have opened their Warehouse  
 near the Bridge in **HANDBRIDGE,**  
 and Sell all Sorts of  
 White Stone & Tortoiseshell Colour'd Ware,  
 Made at their Works, &  
 not Inferior to any done in Staffordshire.  
 Wholesale and Retail.

*As Gentlemen & Ladies may have Samples sent into the  
 try paying 3 carriage good Allowance for Shopkeepers & Exportation.*



# Material culture studies during Covid-19

## eBay and Antiques Dealers

1980's replica

Similar weight, size and colours

The same manufacturer- L/S Philpot Toby  
Jug. Wood & Sons.





Toby Filpot



Toby Jug  
 Ralph Wood c. 1785  
 V&A



## BEER-STREET.

“ Beer, happy product of our isle,  
“ Can sinewy strength impart ;  
“ And, wearied with fatigue and toil,  
“ Can cheer each manly heart.

“ Labour and art, upheld by thee,  
“ Successfully advance ;  
“ We quaff the balmy juice with glee,  
“ And water leave to France.

“ Genius of health, thy grateful taste,  
“ Rivals the cup of Jove ;  
“ And warms each English, generous breast,  
“ With liberty and love.”

THIS admirable delineation is a picture of *John Bull* in his most happy moments. In the

Accompanying text to a  
small print of ‘Beer  
Street’

Making the connection  
between beer and the  
British Man/ *John Bull*





V & A



Brighton Museums and Art Gallery



Britannia in tribulation  
for the loss of her allies of  
John Bull's advice.



BRITANNIA in tribulation for the loss of her ALLIES or JOHN BULL'S advice. 1807 by Walker. 117, Cornhill Aug. 1807

BM Satires / Catalogue of Political  
and Personal Satires in the  
Department of Prints and Drawings  
in the British Museum (10757)

Hand Coloured Etching



# The Danger Over, Or Billy's Return To John Bull

British Museum Department of Prints &

Drawings

Hand Coloured Etching





## 'A Smoking Club,'

Tobacco: Its History and Associations; Including an Account of the Plant and Its Manufacture; with Its Modes of Use in All Ages and Countries.

Frederick William Fairholt, 1859

Image: NYPL





# Britishness

'A Curious Mug'

1825-1864







Martha Gunn  
portrait

W. Nutter

1797



Martha Gunn Jug,  
Brighton Museums



*French Invasion; or Brighton  
in a Bustle*

*J. Downs*

1794



FRENCH INVASION OR BRIGHTON IN A BUSTLE.

*Published March 1794. by J. Downs No 246 Strand.*





‘Gin Woman’ Toby  
Jugs





BEER STREET.



Beer, happy Produce of our Isle  
Can strew Strength impart,  
And wearied with Fatigue and Toil,  
Can cheer each manly Heart.

Labour and Art upheld by Thee  
Successfully advance,  
We quaff thy balmy Juice with Glee  
And Water leave to France.

Genius of Health, thy grateful Taste  
Rivals the Cup of Love,  
And warms each English generous Breast  
With Liberty and Love.

Designed by W. Hogarth.

Published according to Act of Parliament Feb. 1. 1751.

GIN LANE.



Gin-cursed Fiend, with Fury fraught,  
Makes human Race a Prey,  
It enters by a deadly Draught,  
And steals our Life away.

Virtue and Truth, driv'n to Despair,  
By Rage, compells to fly,  
But cherishes with belchish Care,  
Thee, Murder, Perjury.

Dam'd Cup! that on the Vitals preys,  
That liquid Fire contains,  
Which Madness to the Heart conveys,  
And rolls it thro' the Veins.

Designed by W. Hogarth.

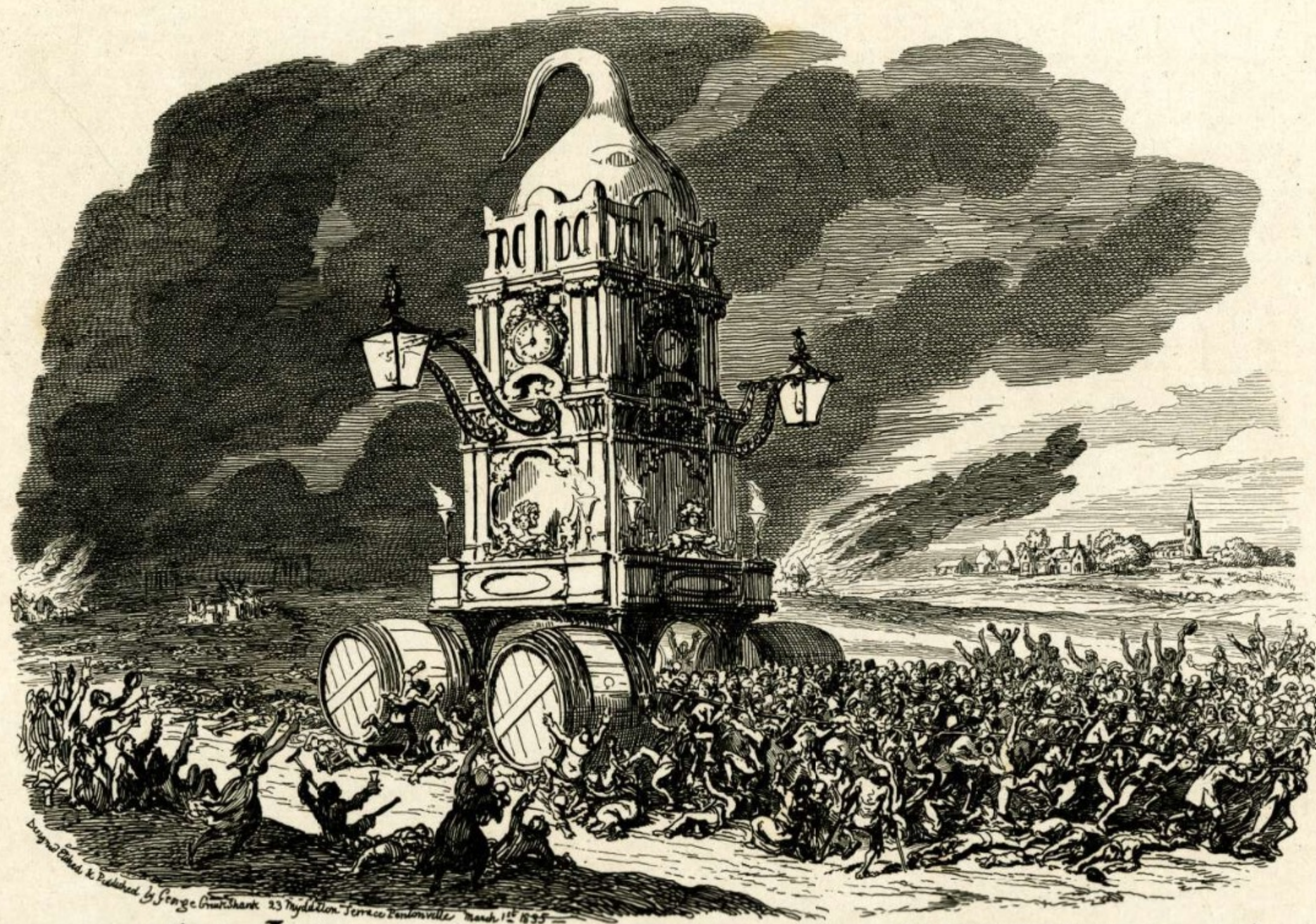
Published according to Act of Parliament Feb. 1. 1751.

Beer Street  
(L)

Gin Lane  
(R)

William  
Hogarth,  
1751





**The GIN-JUGGARNATH.** Or, The Worship of the GREAT SPIRIT of the age !!  
 — Its Devotees destroy themselves — Its progress is marked with desolation, misery, and crime —

# ‘The Gin Juggarnath’ George Cruikshank (L)





## *'Reform' Flasks*



'Old Tom' (Nickname for Gin) c. 1830



Lord Brougham Flask,  
Museum of London, 1832



Lord Grey Flask,  
Museum of London, 1832





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