

# 'The etiquette of tea'

## HOW TO HOLD THE CUP

Hold the handle between your thumb and fingers. Holding the little finger will be often thought to be the more thingy, but in fact it is not required.



## STIRRING A CUP OF TEA

It is best to stir with a spoon gently, back and forth to mix it, so that you will not stir the tea round the sides of the cup.

## WHAT GOES ON A CUPBOARD

Traditionally, things go on the top layer - larger decorations and other ornaments in the middle, and then vases and flowers on the bottom layer. But begin with leaves, roses and blue and purple flowers down to the bottom layer.

## CRISPER OR SOFTER?

It is claimed that the Duchess of Bedford, one of the first people to popularise afternoon tea as a social occasion, had the crumpets cut off her sandwiches. This is generally done now as they are intended to be small and dainty.

## WHEN TO TAKE YOUR TEA

Afternoon tea is traditionally taken at four o'clock, a comfortable distance from lunch, and not too close to dinner to spoil the dinner.

That is why in the illustration of the Duchess's clock, the hands stand patently at four.



*'Enjoy your afternoon tea!'*