

# History on Your Doorstep

## Tameside Inventors & Inventions

Albert Edward Richardson - Designer of the First Practical Teasmade



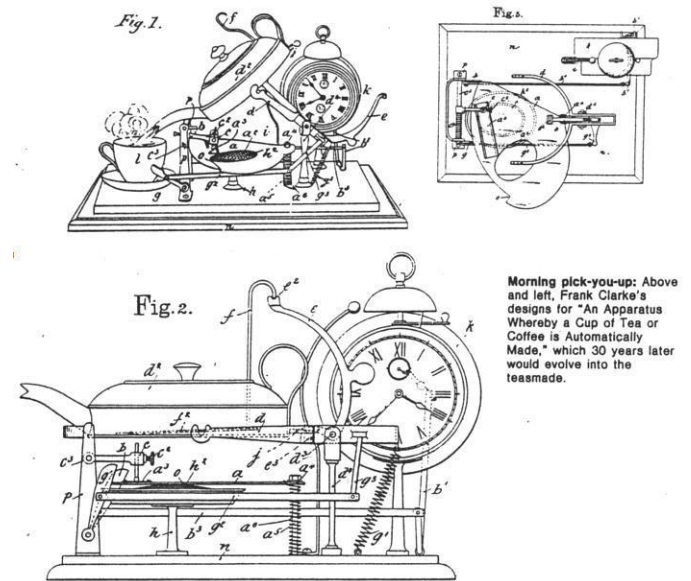
- Albert Edward Richardson was an iron turner and fitter from Ashton-under-Lyne.
- He designed the first practical Teasmade based on an alarm clock, a spirit lamp and a tipping kettle.



The teasmade designed by Albert (top picture) set up ready for making the tea (bottom picture) after the alarm has gone off ready to pour the water into the waiting teapot.

- He sold the design to gunsmith Frank Clarke of Birmingham, who patented it in 1902, calling it "An Apparatus Whereby a Cup of Tea or Coffee is Automatically Made".

- Clarke manufactured the apparatus from around 1904. It was marketed as a clock that makes tea. Clarke's Automatic Water Boiler Company can claim to have been the first to commercially market an automatic teasmade.



Morning pick-up-up: Above and left, Frank Clarke's designs for "An Apparatus Whereby a Cup of Tea or Coffee is Automatically Made," which 30 years later would evolve into the teasmade.

- The Clock that makes the Tea did not meet with universal approval. On Saturday 23 July 1904, the dubious Lancashire Daily Post described it as "almost human" and a "freak", and queried: "Could anything more uncannily well be imagined? Why not fit on a megaphone, so set as to say "Get out of bed, old sleepy head." Teasmade".

**A CLOCK THAT MAKES TEA!**

Calls the sleeper at a given hour, automatically lights spirit lamp, boils a pint of water for tea, shaving, and other purposes, pours it into a pot, extinguishes lamp, and finally rings second bell to signify all is ready. Invaluable to Ladies, Nurses, Professional and Business Men. It is strong, simple, and in no sense a toy. Prices 25s. to 70s. Postage in United Kingdom 1s. extra. With Foreign orders sufficient postage to cover 11 lb. Weight should be sent.

Please send for Illustrated Booklet, post free from  
**AUTOMATIC WATER BOILER CO.,**  
 26a, Corporation St. Birmingham,  
 LONDON OFFICE AND SHOWROOM—  
 31, George Street, Hanover Square.