

Lipton is coming

Today, **Sir Thomas Lipton** is a famous man even though he died nearly ninety years ago in 1931. Not just in Scotland where he was born in 1850; not just in Ireland where his family came from; not just in England where he lived and worked in the second half of his life; Sir Thomas Lipton is a name that people recognise all over the world. He is famous from Scotland to Australia, from England to South Africa.

Why? There are two big reasons. The first is that everyone everywhere loves a cup of tea, and Lipton's Tea is still sold and drunk in more countries than any other brand of tea. When he started to sell Lipton's Tea in the 1890s, Sir Thomas did something no-one else had done before. He changed the way tea was presented and sold, making it brighter, cheaper and easier to buy.

The second reason is to do with the world's oldest trophy in international sport. The trophy is called the America's Cup and the sport is sailing. Long before the World Cup or the modern Olympics, the America's Cup was the biggest sporting event anywhere. The sailing competition between nations, represented by yacht clubs, was front page news. And no-one in the 1900s made more America's Cup headlines than Sir Thomas Lipton.

Why? One reason is that he made a challenge to win the America's Cup so many times, at least five, but never won. But if he was just a loser why would Sir Thomas Lipton still be famous in sailing and the America's Cup today? There are lots of reasons. One is that he is admired for his determination, his resilience and his sportsmanship. He badly wanted to win, but he fought fairly, always respected his competitors and never gave up.

