

By the King: A Proclamation for the Suppression of Coffee Houses

On December 29, 1675, King Charles II issued this edict banning coffee houses in London. He withdrew it before the ban took effect.

Text WHEREAS it Is most apparent that the multitude of Coffee Houses of late years set up and kept within this kingdom, the dominion of Wales, and town of Berwick-upon-Tweed, and the great resort of Idle and disaffected persons to them, have produced very evil and dangerous effect"; as well for that many tradesmen and others, do herein mispend much of their time. which might and probably would be employed in and about their Lawful Calling and Affairs; but also, for that in such houses divers false, malicious and scandalous reports are devised and spread abroad to the Defamation of his Majestie's Government, and to the Disturbance of the Peace and Quiet of the Realm : his Majesty hath thought fit and necessary, that the said Coffee Houses be (for the future) Put down, and suppressed, and doth ...strictly charge and command all manner of persons. That they or any of them do not presume from and after the Tenth Day of January next ensuing, to keep any Public Coffee House, or to utter or sell by retail, in his. her or their house or houses (to be spent or "ounturned within the same) any Coffee, Chocolet, Sherbett or Tea, as they will answer the contrary at their utmost perils . . . (all licenses to be revoked). Given at our Court at Whitehall, this third- and-twentieth day of Dec., 1675, in the seven- and-twentieth year of our Reign. GOD SAVE THE KING.

Source William Harrison Ukers, *All about Coffee* (The Tea and Coffee Trade Journal Company, 1922), p. 73