



01097179

Gift of the V&A, 1986. The cup was made by the artist Charles Thurston in 1866. It is made of silver and is decorated with a pineapple pattern. The cup is part of the V&A collection and is on display in the Gallery.

## Pineapple shape Cup ...

Thompson, Charles Thurston, 1866  
(photographed), Lisbon (city)



Sir Henry Cole, the first director of South Kensington Museum (now the V&A) understood the importance of photography as an extension of the resources of the Museum. He saw a role for photography in terms of documenting and promoting the Museum's collection, as well as a tool for art education. In 1856, Cole appointed his brother-in-law Charles Thurston Thompson as Museum Photographer. The first museum photographic service was born. Under Cole's direction, the Museum sourced photographs from a wide range of suppliers and sponsored photographic campaigns abroad. In 1866, Thurston Thompson traveled to Iberia armed with a registry of desirable items for photographing. Included among the list were objects from the collections of the Royal Palaces in Lisbon. The lack of contextuality of these photographs points to Thurston Thompson's belief in his role as a documentary photographer. His point of departure was generally the object he photographed, as opposed to his own photograph.

Find out more at [collections.vam.ac.uk/item/O1097179](https://collections.vam.ac.uk/item/O1097179)  
Visit me in the Museum. I am in Gallery ...