

Chrome ladies wristlet watch, Swiss movement, enamel face (25mm in diameter) decorated by hand, set with a pair of slender gold hands.

KEEPING A WATCH ON WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE

Ladies' wristlet watch.

Author
[NATIONAL AMERICAN WOMAN SUFFRAGE ASSOCIATION].

Publication date
[c.1910]

Publisher

Publication place
[U.S.A.]

Physical description
Chrome ladies wristlet watch, Swiss movement, enamel face (25mm in diameter) decorated by hand, set with a pair of slender gold hands.

Dimensions

Notes
A beautiful, small, and yet incredibly powerful symbol of Women's Suffrage in America during the first decade of the twentieth century. The face of this "wristlet" watch (later wrist watch) is decorated with a deceptively delicate yellow rose, and the numbers of the dial replaced with letters spelling out "Vote for Women".

Three colours, “white, purple and yellow, played a prominent role in the iconography of suffrage. They appeared on banners, sashes, pamphlets, and all manner of tricolour badges. White was chosen to represent liberty, purity, and feminine grace. Purple, or violet, represented the vote as well as loyalty, constancy, and steadfastness. Yellow and gold were by far the most widespread colors of the movement. They emerged in 1867 when Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony were in Kansas advocating for a state suffrage referendum. The pair adopted the state flower, the sunflower, as a symbol of the suffrage cause. Suffragists began wearing gold pins and yellow ribbons to advertise their cause. Yellow roses were also popular, and served as floral badges distinguishing suffragists from anti-suffragists, who wore red roses instead” (State of Oregon online).

Bibliography

Provenance

Price: £8000

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