

Praise for *Vintage Tweets: Suffrage Era Postcards*

"Postcards served as early 20th century memes that expressed social commentary about woman suffrage. An amusing and insightful collection, *Vintage Tweets* illustrates a myriad of themes: henpecked husbands, women's moral impact on society, and the bicycle's influence on the enlarging women's sphere. Postcards featuring Susan B. Anthony, are prominently featured."

-Jeanne Gehret, Author
Susan B. Anthony and Justice for All

"Collecting ephemera on women's issues for decades, Carol Crossed is the perfect person to publish a compendium of early postcards on how American's viewed the 19th Amendment. Amazingly crude or cute and enough room for a tweet, the postcards portray an early passion of those for and against women's right to vote. Issues and methods of communication may have changed over the years, but Crossed gives us a view of the past in a visual art form."

-Martha Lacroix Dailey, Ph.D. History
Retired history teacher and museum director
Williamstown, Massachusetts

"While postcards got the message of the suffrage movement across in short, concise and humorous ways, this is not just another book of postcards. Carol Crossed systematically presents the triumvirate of women's issues, abolition, temperance, suffrage, Thought-provoking explanations of each category cleverly serve as an additional layer of historical interest. *Vintage Tweets* serves to enlighten and refresh our memory on this most significant milestone in democracy."

-Mary Ann Sachse Brown, Author,
Celebrating Women of Leavenworth Co. Kansas
Leavenworth County Historical Society

"An eye catching story of American history through the exchange of penny postcards, *Vintage Tweets* reveals how hard-fought and at times bitter were the social struggles that played out among ordinary citizens over women's suffrage, abolition, prohibition. As the proud great-granddaughter of a Coloradan suffragist, I took particular pleasure in reminiscing about how my own long-ago family members sent, received, delighted or mocked the colorful postcards that were commonplace in 19th century and early 20th-century lives."

-Sheila O'Connor -Ambrose, Ph.D.
Emory University, Atlanta, GA

"Witty, yet poignant, possibly risqué or controversial today, but frankly, *Vintage Tweets* honestly highlights how a cause or fight can be achieved without violence. It is as relevant today as then."

-Chris Podzuweit, Executive Director
Curator, Seneca Falls Historical Society

"Carol Crossed's sizable collection of postcards from the Suffrage era is more than aptly named as Crossed posits. These messages are the postal predecessors of our tweets and memes: combinations of text and image that are by turn playful, political, relevant, humorous and powerful. By saving what some might have seen as mere ephemera and culling through it with a carefully academic but not ideological eye, Crossed has given a sense of how popular artists and audiences alike viewed the period's most pressing issues-universal suffrage, temperance, abolition-and their related concerns. She is judicious in her selection of cards, frequently showing both sides of an argument. This even-handedness legitimizes her historical assessments. When discussing dress reform, for example, Crossed shows that, "pants" and which sex wears them was a motif used by both suffragists and anti- suffragists to promote their respective beliefs. Crossed's iconographic analysis, such as the Chantecler [sic] rooster as a symbolic rebuttal to the henpecked husband or the more insidious use of a muzzle as visual shorthand for a muted woman, are astutely contextualized.

"Art Historians will appreciate her decision to underscore the postcards' aesthetic qualities by grouping them formally as well as thematically. Crossed devotes chapters to leather postcards, actual photo cards, and the appeal of the more well-known illustrators and publishers of various genres-making the case that art doesn't have to be singular or contrary. The cheap cost and mass-production of these postcards made this a popular art form and a way to show one's loyalty towards high stakes causes.

"Crossed's belief that, "art is a persuasive form of education," is evident throughout the book. Displaying glossy reproductions and accessible language, *Vintage Tweets* is a book to pore over. Additionally, the majority of the cards are reproduced to size making it easy to see details and to get a physical sense of just how effective these postcards would have been to even global-audiences as they traveled from sender, to postmen, and to the recipient's home, where they were typically seen by the entire household."

-Alisia Grace Chase, Ph.D.
Historian Art and Visual Culture
State University of New York, Brockport

www.vintagetweetsbook.org