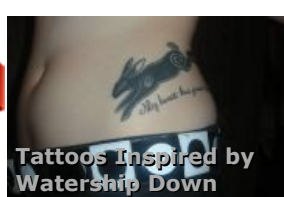


Neatorama



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The War on Women, Waged in Postcards

Miss Cellania • 7 hours ago • 4



It took 80 years of protests and campaigning before women achieved the right to vote in the United States, and it finally happened in 1920. That was less than 100 years ago! Along the way, the anti-suffrage movement used some nasty and ridiculous arguments to deny women the vote, a lot of which is enshrined in printed material, such as political postcards popular in the early 20th century. June Purvis, a professor of women's and gender history at the University of Portsmouth, talks about the suffrage movement and the propaganda postcards that flew through the mail.

The messages you find on anti-suffrage postcards from the 1910s are not dissimilar from what you might hear from Rush Limbaugh or Bill O'Reilly today in the 2010s. Suffragettes were drawn as conniving coquettes, ugly, mean spinsters or, worse, ugly, mean wives who left their families helpless as they attended town-hall meetings. Scenes of women politicians showed them hatching diabolical plots to undermine and emasculate men further. In England, particularly offensive cards took sadomasochistic delight in the force-feeding, while sympathetic cards depicted women as beat-up cats, referring to the Cat and Mouse Act.

"Suffragettes were depicted nagging wives, that was a common one, and the wife was always big, and the husband tiny and puny," Purvis says. "Or they were depicted as very ugly women with big feet, protruding teeth, hair pulled back in a bun, and glasses. They were depicted as quite mannish and unattractive so that no man would want to marry them."

It is estimated that there were 4500 different anti-suffrage postcard designs! See more and read about the fight for the right to vote -plus how the current political atmosphere recalls those days, at [Collector's Weekly](#). [Link](#)

Tags: [suffrage](#), [women's suffrage](#), [vote](#), [postcards](#), [vintage](#)

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marcus 3 • 5 hours ago • 1

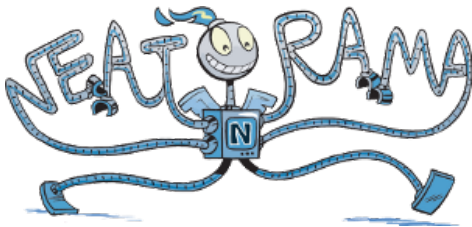
A winner for most offensive post of the month, and it is so early!

[1 reply](#)

Charles 4 • 4 hours ago • 0

"The messages you find on anti-suffrage postcards from the 1910s are not dissimilar from what you might hear from Rush Limbaugh or Bill O'Reilly today in the 2010s. "

Au contraire, Mr. Limbaugh has said he very much appreciates the women's movement.



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