



Climate change-denying English Lord crashes U.N. conference



Rappers join Occupy activists in push for 'foreclosure-free zone'



'Zombie Apocalypse' training group questions GOP senator's criticisms



Egyptian man arrested in connection with Benghazi attack

Suffragette autograph album illuminates movement's struggles

Recommend

16 people recommend this.

By Alison Flood, The Guardian

Thursday, December 6, 2012 11:35 EST



11



Topics: **Sylvia Pankhurst** ♦ **Women's Social and Political Union**

Personal collection with messages from leading figures of the Women's Social and Political Union comes to auction next week

"Bravely and willingly we bear our share of the world's burdens. Why then deny us the right to vote which would dignify our labour and increase our power of service?" writes suffragette and feminist icon Sylvia Pankhurst in a rare autograph album collecting the thoughts of dozens of her fellow suffragettes, which is set to go up for auction next week.

Pankhurst's writing in the album is accompanied by a line from playwright and Pankhurst family friend George Bernard Shaw, who has signed the book and replied, "Ungrateful Sylvia! Did I ever deny it?" The album, which dates back to 1909, includes 50 autographs from suffragettes and sympathisers, many written from prison following Emmeline Pankhurst's **Women's Social and Political Union's** second window-breaking campaign in 1912. Pankhurst had said that "the broken pane of glass is the most valuable argument in modern politics".

Constance Bryer was one of the imprisoned suffragettes to sign the album. The 42-year-old violinist was serving four months in Winson Green prison in Birmingham for breaking windows on London's Regent Street, and was on hunger strike. She wrote: "Suffragettes we sit and sew, / Sew and sit and sit and sew, / Twenty-five are we: / Making shirts and socks for men, / Cannot get away from them / Even here you see." The artist Olive Wharry, held in the same place, quoted Richard Lovelace, writing: "Stone walls do

not a prison make / Nor iron bars a cage."

The album is being auctioned for private owners by Dominic Winter Auctioneers of South Cerney, Gloucestershire on 12 December. Auctioneer Chris Albury believes its compiler is likely to have been one of the Redfern sisters, Emily, Elizabeth or Adeline, all of whom signed the album.

Call for Research Participants

An online study, sponsored by IARPA
(The Intelligence Advanced Research Projects Activity)

Adeline, who set up the Stoke-on-Trent branch of the WSPU in 1908, wrote in the album on 18 March 1911: “The women’s movement is a revolution of the highest order; it is a moral revolution which marks a crisis in human evolution, and which will tend to arrest the physical and national decay which has set in.” In March 1912, Adeline was tried at Bow Street for “breaking windows value £20” on New Bond Street, and said –**according to the journal Votes for Women** – “It was one more blow for freedom.”

Other signatories to the album, which Albury expects to fetch £5,000, include Helen Archdale, Sarah Benett, Hilda Burkitt, Charlotte Despard and Kitty Marion, who wrote: “the greatest enemy to freedom is not the tyrant, but the contented slave”. VH Friedlaender wrote out one of her own poems, **The Road**, which ends: “And yet – the road is ours, as never theirs; / Is not one thing on us alone bestowed? / For us the master-joy, oh, pioneers – / We shall not travel, but we make the road!”

“This is a fantastic survival from a period when the militant arm of the women’s suffrage movement was most active. The album of names is like a roll call of well-known and now-forgotten suffragettes who so believed in votes for women that they were prepared to disrupt political meetings, break windows and burn post boxes to publicise their cause,” said Albury.

“Many of these women not only faced imprisonment but social contempt from family and friends as well as the public at large. The passion of conviction shines through these many quotations, many of which were written, like Bryer and Wharry’s, from Winson Green prison in Birmingham while on hunger strike. This prompted the brutal use of force-feeding and what became known as the ‘Cat and Mouse Act’ where weakened hunger-strikers were released from prison only to be re-arrested to continue their sentence once they had recovered their health.”

© Guardian News and Media 2012

Ads by Google

Fab. Shop Now! ▶

Share this story >>



The Electronic Cigarette



The New Skinny Pill



Bad News for Your Insurer



In Espanola? Cruise Deal



Weights 170, Benches 420



1 Sneaky Linguistic Trick



Weird New Mexico Loophole



Shocking Video...

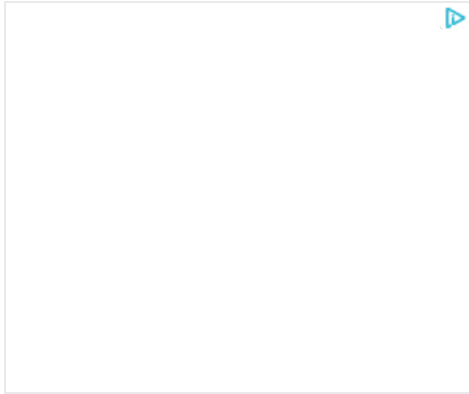
AdChoices ▶

MORE FROM RAW STORY

- Department of Transportation: Marijuana use still ‘unacceptable’
- Projected birth increases leads Texas to revisit family planning funds
- Mobster uses mass campaign emails from Obama and other politicians in court to ‘prove’ he’s well-connected
- Fox News host Gretchen Carlson complains: Courts listen to non-religious minorities
- Right-wing misinformation leads half of Republicans to believe ACORN stole 2012 election

MORE FROM AROUND THE WEB

- Breaking Bad (Habits): The top 7 guilty pleasures you need to quit. (Lifescript.com)
- You Won’t Believe Who Romney’s Related To (Ancestry.com)
- Stop Changing Your Oil (Edmunds)
- ATS: Marijuana Smoking Found Non-Carcinogenic (MedPage Today)
- Finally, One Link Established- Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (CFS), Lupus, Fibromyalgia, Autoimmune disease and Chronic Lyme Disease (Envita)



Sponsored Links

NFL Extra Points Card

Get Unbeatable Rewards & No Annual Fee w/ Your Official NFL Team Credit Card. Apply Today. <http://www.nflextrapoints.com>

Walden University Online

Doctoral, Master's and Bachelor's. Classes Start Soon. Apply Now! Waldenu.edu

Barclaycard Ring

8% Variable APR, No Annual Fee and No Fees on Balance Transfers. www.barclaycardring.com

Buy a link here

By commenting, you agree to our **terms of service** and to abide by our **commenting policy**.

3 comments • 10 reactions

★ 0

Leave a message...

Discussion | Community | Share | Settings

KitTraverse • 3 days ago
Why auction it off to some stupid elitist rich person?
Why not donate it to a museum or library where it can be preserved and shared by all, since we are all part of the legacy of that struggle?
8 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

Bookthief → KitTraverse • 3 days ago
Absolutely!
2 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

dula • 3 days ago
Dirty cops beat them in their cells for trying to make progress. Not much has changed.
2 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

ALSO ON RAW STORY

Country star wears Confederate flag for NBC Christmas special 719 comments

Climate change-denying English Lord crashes U.N. conference 41 comments

Psy to perform in U.S. capital after apology 17 comments

DNA pioneer James Watson reveals helix story was almost never told 16 comments

'Zombie Apocalypse' training group questions GOP senator's criticisms 44 comments

RECOMMENDED FOR YOU

What's this?

Stunning Picture of Princess Kate
Style Bistro

Barefaced Beauty - Kim Kardashian Without Makeup Style Bistro

Barefaced Beauty - Keira Knightley Without Makeup Style Bistro

My Life as a Molly Mormon Learnist

Kate Middleton's Most Stunning Outfits
Style Bistro

Comment feed | Subscribe via email

