

## PRAISE FOR VINTAGE TWEETS...

"Postcards served as early 20th century memes that expressed social commentary about woman suffrage. An amusing and insightful collection, *Vintage Tweets* conveys both pro- and anti-suffrage sentiments and covers a myriad of themes, including henpecked husbands, women's moral impact on society, and the bicycle's influence on enlarging women's sphere. I appreciate that postcards featuring Susan B. Anthony, a forerunner of woman suffrage, are also prominently featured.

—Jeanne Gehret, author of *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 Americans viewed the 19th Amendment before its enactment in August of 1920. Amazingly crude or cute and enough room for a tweet, postcards in *Vintage Tweets* portray early passion of those for and against women's right to vote. Issues and method of communication may change, 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, MA

"This collection of postcards is incredibly important, especially with the upcoming Suffrage Centennial, in understanding the social and political implications and influences of print culture in the 19th and early 20th centuries. The book is a wonderful opportunity for collectors, history buffs, and those with a sense of humor to delve into that era. Carol's passion and enthusiasm for history spill over every page!"

—Cassie Peltier, Executive Director, Susan B. Anthony Birthplace Museum, Adams, Mass.

"While postcards got the messages 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 and suffrage, and the importance of the bicycle and the change it had on women's fashions. 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, the decades-long campaign to extend the right to vote to women."

—Mary Ann Sachse Brown, Leavenworth County Historical Society, First City of Kansas, and author, *Celebrating Women of Leavenworth County, Kansas*

"Kudos to Carol Crossed for telling an eye-catching, enthralling, and significant story of American history through the exchange of penny postcards—that reveals how hard-fought and at times bitter and vicious the social and political struggles that played out among ordinary citizens over women's suffrage, abolition, prohibition, even tobacco use were. As the proud great granddaughter of a Coloradan suffragist, I took particular pleasure in imagining, as I read *Vintage Tweets*, how my own long-ago family members sent, received, delighted in or mocked the colorful postcards

that were commonplace in 19th and early 20th-century lives. This carefully edited and thoughtful book will appeal to casual readers and professional historians alike."

—Sheila O'Connor-Ambrose, Ph.D.

"Witty yet poignant, possibly risqué or controversial today but frankly just honest, highlights how a cause or fight can be achieved without hate or violence, 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, irreverent, 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 us a sense of how popular artists and audiences alike viewed the period's most pressing issues—universal suffrage, temperance, and abolition—and their related concerns. She is judicious in her selection of cards, frequently showing both sides of an argument, and 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 analyses, such as the Chantecler 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 also astutely contextualized.

"Art Historians will appreciate her decision to underscore the postcards' aesthetic qualities by grouping them formally as well thematically. Crossed devotes chapters to leather postcards, actual photocards, and the appeal of the more well-known illustrators and publishers of the various genres—making the case that art doesn't have to be singular or expensive to soften hearts and change minds. To the contrary, their cheap cost and mass-production made this popular art form a low commitment 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 is one to pore over, just as suitable for the classroom as it is for one's coffee table, with glossy reproductions and accessible language capable of reaching and teaching a wide readership. Additionally, the layout—in which the majority of the cards are reproduced to size—makes it easy to see details. It also makes it easier get a physical sense of just how effective these postcards would have been at gaining a national—perhaps even global—audience as they traveled from the sender's hand, through those of the myriad postmen, and into the recipient's home, where they were typically seen by the entire household. Thanks to Crossed's scholarship, these "vintage tweets" can reach a whole new audience in our era."

—Dr. Alisia Grace Chase, Ph.D, Historian of Art and Visual Culture, SUNY Brockport