

WATCHES AND JEWELRY

Tiffany & Co. acquires historic Titanic timepiece at auction

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Purchased at auction in the UK for \$1.97 million, the historic pocket watch from 1912 is the highest-valued piece of Titanic memorabilia ever sold. Image courtesy of Tiffany & Co.

By LUXURY DAILY NEWS SERVICE

U.S. jeweler Tiffany & Co. is setting a new record.

The house has announced its acquisition of a historic pocket watch from 1912, the highest-valued piece of Titanic memorabilia ever sold. Purchased at auction in the UK for \$1.97 million, the 18k gold timepiece bears testament to Tiffany's horological legacy.

"Tiffany & Co. jewelry and objects have been a cornerstone of global luxury since the mid-nineteenth century," said Christopher Young, vice president of creative visual merchandising, events and [The Tiffany Archives](#), in a statement.

"Captain Rostron's pocket watch is an incredible expression of thanks and gratitude, and we are humbled to welcome this extraordinary treasure home to Tiffany & Co."

Horological legacy

The watch was originally gifted to Captain Arthur Rostron of the R.M.S. Carpathia by three Titanic survivors Madeleine Talmage Astor, Marian Longstreth Thayer and Eleanor Elkins Widener as a gesture of gratitude for saving nearly 700 passengers after the Titanic's sinking on April 15, 1912.

The pocket watch, engraved with the monogram "AHR" and an inscription honoring the captain's heroism, was presented during an intimate luncheon hosted by Mrs. Astor in New York City shortly after the disaster. The Tiffany Archives confirm that the watch was originally purchased by Mrs. Widener, making its acquisition by Tiffany & Co. over a century later a poignant moment.



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The acquisition highlights Tiffany's roots in watchmaking, which began in 1847 and expanded with the establishment of a Geneva Manufacture in 1874. Known for producing timepieces with intricate complications and decorative artistry, Tiffany's legacy in horology continues to reflect its commitment to craftsmanship and timeless design.

The watch's historical significance also underscores the enduring impact of the Titanic, as noted by Andrew Aldridge, managing director of Henry Aldridge and Son Ltd., the auction house behind the sale.

"This watch is a testament to the bravery of Sir Arthur Rostron and the regard he was held in by the widows of three of the most influential men on the Titanic," Mr. Aldridge said, in a statement.

"The fact that Tiffany & Co. purchased the piece 112 years after selling it shows the circle being completed and it going home."

Earlier this week, Tiffany & Co. announced a homeware partnership with auction house Sotheby's ([see story](#)).

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