

Immunity from seizure

Objects proposed for protection under Part 6 of the Tribunals, Courts and Enforcement Act 2007 (protection of cultural objects on loan)

Versailles: Science and Splendour exhibition

12 December 2024 to Monday 21 April 2025

Science Museum, Exhibition Road, London SW7 2DD

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Photo: L.A. Mayer Museum for Islamic Art

Object description:

Title: Watch: Breguet No. 160, the 'Marie-Antoinette' Date made: ?1783-1827?

Inventory number: WA 69-71

Medium: gold; rock crystal; steel; sapphire; platinum Dimensions: diameter 60 mm

Maker: Breguet and Son (signed *Breguet et Fils*) Place made: Paris

Lender's name and address:

L.A. Mayer Museum for Islamic Art

HaPalmach St 2, Jerusalem,

Israel Provenance:

- **1783?:** Commissioned for Marie-Antoinette from Abraham-Louis Breguet in this year, possibly by an officer of the Queen's guard or by Swedish nobleman Hans Axel von

Fersen

- **1820-7:** The watch is completed at some point within this time period.
- **1838?:** Having at some point apparently bought or been given the watch by Breguet, the Marquis de La Groye returns it to the Breguet firm for servicing, but never collects it, whereupon the watch rejoins the firm's stock.
- **1887:** Sold to British collector Sir Spencer Brunton and passes to his brother Sidney after he dies.
- **1901?:** Purchased from Sidney by Murray Marks, a Dutch art dealer and collector.
- **1904?:** By this date, the watch is said to be owned by Louis Desoutter, a horologist and jeweller
- **1917:** Sir David Lionel Salomons purchased the watch from a shop near Regent Street, London.
- **1925:** Vera Bryce Salomons, inherits from her father Sir David Lionel Salomons
- **1974:** Vera Bryce Salomons founds the L.A. Mayer Museum for Islamic Art in Jerusalem, where her father's collection of clocks and watches is displayed.
- **1983:** Objects from the Salomons collection, including the Marie-Antoinette watch, are stolen from the Museum for Islamic Art by the burglar Naaman Diller.
- **2006-7:** Marie-Antoinette watch is recovered.

This object has a complete provenance for the years 1933-1945