

Signet Matrix: Seal Matrix featuring dog, with inscription

A rectangular mauve glass seal matrix, created c 1775. The matrix is decorated with an image of a dog, above which is the inscription 'TOUJOURS FIDELE' ('always faithful'). It may have been purchased as a love token.

Seal matrices also known as signet matrices were used to impress their owner's mark into wax on documents during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Many were made of moulded translucent glass. Little is known of their manufacture. They seem to have been produced for personal rather than commercial use. Birmingham Museums & Art Gallery acquired a collection of twenty-seven seal matrices in 1934. This is one of the items.

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