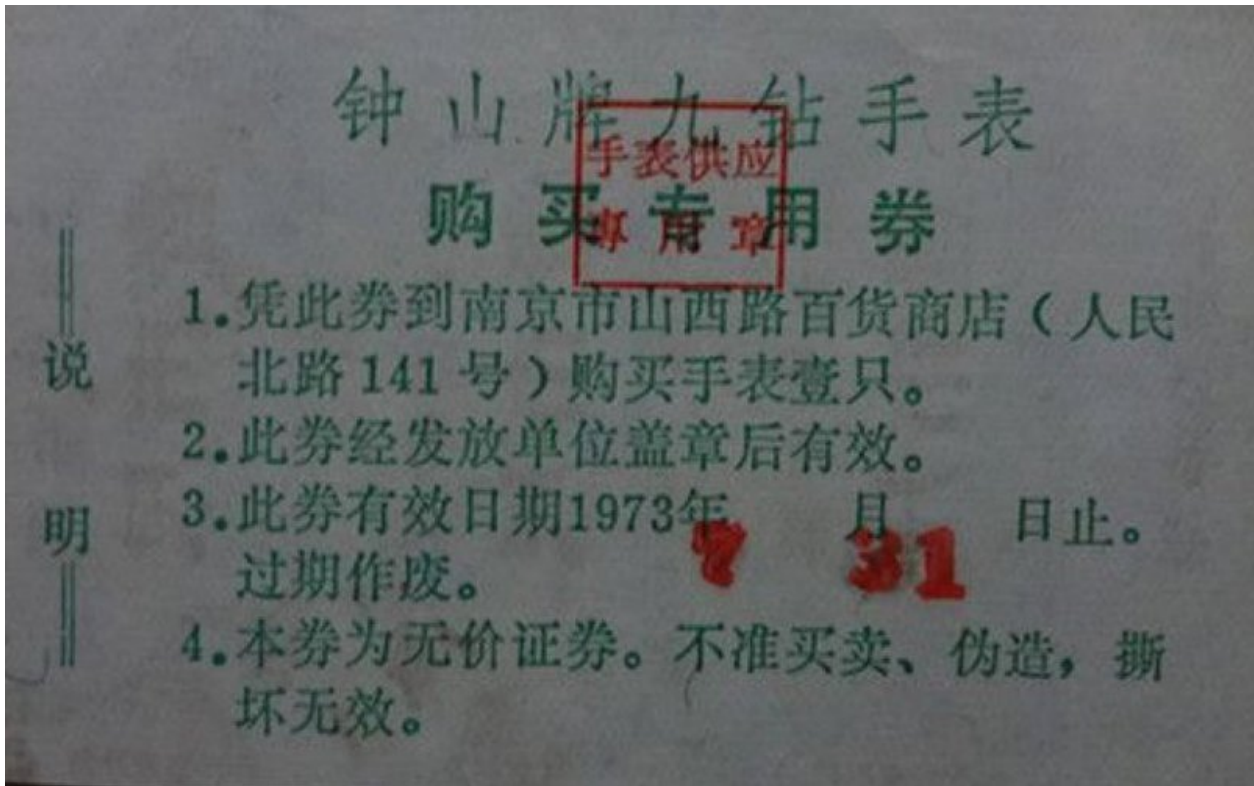


Wristwatch Paperwork

What do wristwatch receipts tell us about the times?



TITLE

Image 1 Wristwatch Ration Coupon

DATE

1973

CREATOR

Unknown

PUBLISHER

N/A

RIGHTS

Courtesy of Shen Yu

DESCRIPTION

This ration coupon allowed the holder to purchase a specific wristwatch, a Zhongshan brand nine jewels watch (*Zhongshanpai jiuzuan shoubiao goumai zhuanyongquan* 钟山牌九钻

手表购买专用券). The ration includes the terms of use. A purchaser must have in their possession this ration and then may only buy a single watch at the department store located on Nanjing's Shanxi Road (*Nanjingshi Shanxilu Baihua Shangdian* 南京市山西路百货商店). Moreover, the coupon was valid only after it had been officially stamped and only until 31 July 1973. Furthermore, the ticket was not allowed to be traded, forged, and would become invalidated if torn.

最高指示
政治工作是一切经济工作的生命线。

国营南京市百货商店

No. 0051762

钟表销货发票(代保修单) 1971年2月29日

品名	单位	数量	金额
手表	只	壹	120元
大写人民币			120元

1969.10.5004

地址: 人民路 108 号 国营南京市百货商店章 电话: 43922 经手人

本店售出钟和手表 1 年内可在下列商店免费联合维修:

北京: 王府井百货商店 天津: 百货大楼 杭州: 解放街百货商店
 上海: 第一百货商店 武汉: 友好商场 太原: 解放路百货商店
 广州: 西堤百货商店 哈尔滨: 第一百货商店 沈阳: 第一百货商店

TITLE

Image 2 Watch Purchase Receipt

DATE

1971-01-29

CREATOR

State-Owned Enterprise Nanjing Department Store (Guoying Nanjingshi Baihua Shangdian 国营南京市百货商店)

PUBLISHER

N/A

RIGHTS

Courtesy of Shen Yu

DESCRIPTION

This image is a watch purchase receipt provided by the State Nanjing Department Store (*Guoying Nanjingshi Baihua Shangdian* 国营南京市百货商店) on 29 January 1971. The receipt includes the Cultural Revolution slogan that quotes Mao Zedong (1955) "Political work is the lifeline of all economic work" (*zhengzhi gongzuo shi yiqie jingji gongzuo de shengmingxian* 政治工作是一切经济工作的生命线). What does this quote on a receipt mean to tell the seller and the buyer about an object such as a wristwatch? Why include a political slogan on a receipt? The receipt also tells us that the buyer bought a steel, shock-resistant Shanghai brand watch for RMB 120. And it lets the customer know they can find free repair services at state department stores in Beijing, Tianjin, Hangzhou, Shanghai, Wuhan, Taiyuan, Guangzhou, Harbin and Shenyang.