

# **Rare and Historic Spectacles**

**From the collection of Dr John Gregory Roberts**

## 2 pairs of nose spectacles

Distance and reading

Tortoise shell rims and steel bridge in shaped shagrin case c. 1690. (Hugh Orr Collection Sotheby's Olympia "Instruments of Science..." 28th May 2003)



# **Horn pivot nose spectacles with green glass**

**+2.00 Diopter prescription**

Later leather pouch c. 1730 (purchased  
Sotheby's Olympia "Instruments of Science..."  
28th May 2003 Hugh Orr Collection)



# Pivot nose spectacles

Faceted +3.00 Diopter Lenses

Gilt copper rims and bridge with original paper  
banjo-style case c. 1740s (Hugh Orr Collection  
Sotheby's Olympia "Instruments of Science..."  
28th May 2003)



## **Horn pivot nosed spectacles with wooden case**

One lens +2.0 diopter, other lens +5.0

c. 1760 (Hugh Orr Collection Sotheby's Olympia "Instruments of Science..." 28th May 2003)



## Scissor Glasses

Scissors glasses were patented in London in 1780. They consisted of two round metal frames attached to a stem pinned with a rivet hinge. They were held under the nose and were very popular at the end of the 18th century. Here the frames are silver & the case is mother-of-pearl. They are a forerunner of the lorgnette developed a century later. Early 1800's



# Scissor Glasses

+2.00 Diopter Lenses

The round horn rimmed lenses rotate into the tortoise shell handle for carrying.

Early 1800's



# Brass Framed Spectacles

**+2.00 Diopter Lenses**

The 19th century heralded a continuation of small lenses, initially round but later oval or D shaped. The frames are brass.

Temple rings varied in size and shape (here the ring is oval) and the arms could be straight or adjustable. Here they fold so in the closed position they are worn with a wig & without a wig when open.

c1800



# Botanist spectacles

Plano green tinted lenses on the front and +1.0 D lenses at the back

These innovative silver framed double spectacles are hallmarked London 1800. They are a variation of the “double spectacles” that Benjamin Franklin wrote about in 1784 which were bifocals. These can be hinged to the side, away from the line of sight, or forwards behind the green lenses for near vision. They were popular amongst botanists working in the field.

c1800



# Silver framed spectacles

**+3.00 Diopter Lenses**

Silver frames were very common in the first half of the 19th century. These frames are hallmarked London 1836. The arms are folding. The case is tortoise shell & silver.  
c1836



## Quizzing glasses

The 18th century brought great popularity to the single eye-glass or quizzing glass especially by the fashionable set. These glasses became highly ornate and were made of the most expensive materials. These glasses are gold. c1800-1850



## Quizzing Glasses

These ornate gold quizzing glasses were designed to impress. They were worn on the end of a gold chain around the neck. Most had a reading lens but myopic lenses were used for the short sighted.

Monocles were derived from quizzing glasses at the end of the 19th century.

Date 1840-1860



# Chatelaine

This elaborate gilt metal chatelaine highlights the exotic designs which developed in late Victorian times.

c1890



## Pince-nez ( from the French “pinch nose”)

**+5.50 Diopter lenses**

Pince-nez were developed in the late 19th century. They clipped onto the nose and were without temple arms although some had attachments to the frame for holding. There was considerable variation in the design of the nose piece.

The illustrated pair has a gold frame with loop handle with a bowspring attaching the 2 lenses and cork lining the nosepieces. This design was patented in Germany in 1884.  
c1890



# Pence-nez

## Myopic Correction

These rimless oval lenses have a low myopic correction. The gold nose piece has a spring clip which proved very popular. The gilt metal ear chain was attached to the lens through a small hole in the lens periphery. Both pence-nez & chain were patented in 1894.

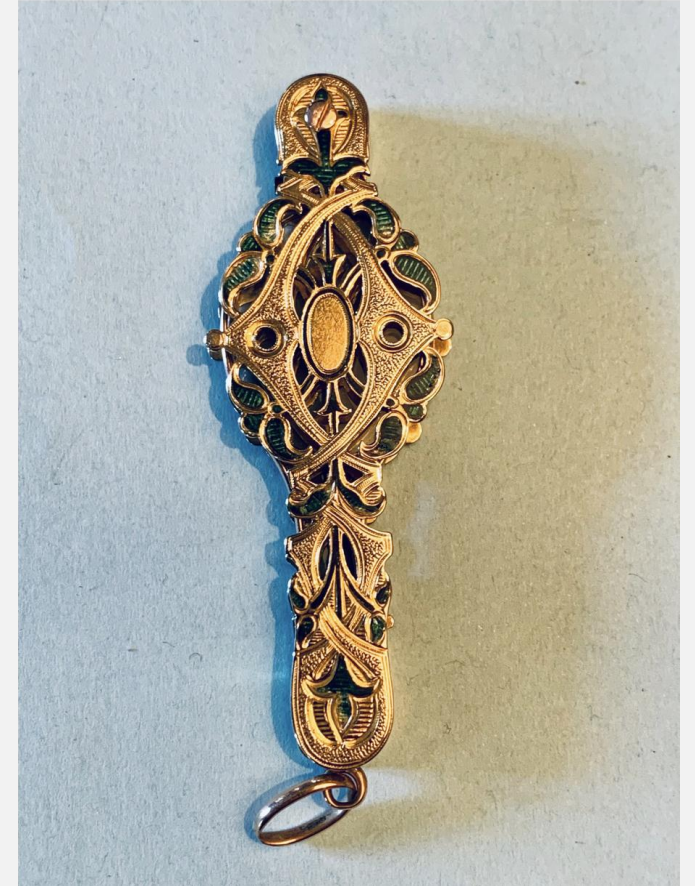
c1900



# Lorgnette

+2.50 Diopter lenses

Lorgnette are spectacles that can be folded into a handle and are derived from scissors spectacles. They were developed in the late 19th century and were made well into the 20th century. The handles varied from tortoise shell to very ornate gold or platinum. This pair is an 18ct gold & enamel shown open & closed.  
c1895



# Lorgnette

+3.00 Diopter lenses

Gilt metal frames. The acetate handle has a  
gold cartouche.

c1890



## Lorgnette

This lorgnette has an octagonal 18ct white gold frame with an enamel & white gold handle. The accompanying case is leather.  
Date c 1930



# Art Nouveau Lorgnette

+1.50 Diopter lenses

Made with gilt metal.  
c1900



# French lorgnette

Plano Lenses

Gold frame with a silver and enamel handle.  
c1900



# Gold lorgnette & case

Myopic Correction

This is a typical Art Deco design.  
c1930



# Modern Framed Slit Spectacles

## No lenses

Ornate and very original spectacle frames were designed and developed after WW2.

This pair were hand made by Brian Adam, a New Zealand spectacle maker. They are made of Paua shell and brass. They are signed & dated 24.3.1983 on the inside of the bridge. There is no lens, only slits in the shell. The slits produce a similar optical effect to a pinhole.

Date: 24 February 1983

