

Wolf Telescopes

A Collection of Historical Telescopes

Collection Summary Highlights

111 telescopes ---> 65 different makers working in 8 countries during 4 centuries
103 telescopes are signed by their maker
1 telescope signed "Dolland" (HRA19); made by an unknown antagonist against Dollond's patents
4 of 8 telescopes unsigned, but have distinguishing characteristics of known makers FRA12 (Bardou?), FRA21 (Secretan?), TRE4 (Cole), and HRA31 (Bardou?)
4 Remaining telescope makers unknown HRE1, TRE14, HBRA2, and HBRA3
Only 5 out of 111 telescopes in the collection are by unknown makers

Selected important telescopes in the collection
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 1/8-inch Alvan Clark and Sons refractor, signed/dated 1867, oldest known S & D Clark held privately • 150-mm Lerebours & Secretan reflector, signed/dated 1866, owned by two former Presidents of Uruguay • 19-mm 3-draw Handheld Mori Nizaemon Masatomi 森仁左衛門正富 refractor, c. 1690-1740 • 100-mm Foucault SECRETAN Serial #4 reflector c.1859; square walnut tube; only 5 others in museums • 100-mm James Short reflector 171/1087=18, 1758 formerly exhibited at Royal Observatory Edinburgh • 53-mm Claude-Simeon Passemant refractor, c. 1750 • 2 1/2-inch, 4 1/4-inch reflectors by refractor makers, Ramsden and Dollond, respectively. Both c. <1800 • 3 1/2-inch, Dollond 12-foot tapered-mahogany refractor, c. 1770s; pole mounted • 1-inch, unsigned petite shagreen handheld reflector (contemporary with Jo Jackson <mid 1700s)

Country of Origin/Century Made	18th	19th	20th	21st	Total	Total%
Austria	0	2	0	0	2	2
England	30	31	4	0	65	58
France	1	15	6	0	22	20
Germany	0	12	3	0	15	14
United States	0	1	2	1	4	4
China	0	0	1	0	1	1
Holland	1	0	0	0	1	1
Japan	1	0	0	0	1	1
Total#	33	61	16	1	111	100
%	30	55	14	1		

Telescope Type/Features	Finder	Wood Tube	Tapered Tube	Slow Motion	Storage Case
Floor Standing	21	9	6	14	20
Tabletop Refractors	5	4	3	3	9
Tabletop Reflectors	8	2	0	6	9
Handheld Refractors	na	21	5	na	20
Total	34	36	14	23	58

Telescope Type/Number	Number	Number	Number	Totals
Floor Standing Refractors (FRA)	29	FRA=29	FS=29	Floor=36
Tabletop Refractors (TRA)	18	TRA=18	T=18	
Floor standing Reflector (FRE)	1	FRE=1	FS=1	
Tabletop Reflectors (TRE)	18	TRE=18	T=18	Tabletop=37
Handheld Reflectors (HRE)	1	HRE=1	HH=1	
Handheld Refractors (HRA)	34	HRA=34	HH=33	Handheld=38
Binoculars (HBRA, TBRA and FBRA)	7	BRA=7	HH=3, T=1, FS=3	
Floor Standing Surveying Instr. (FSA)	3	FRA=3	FS=3	
Total	111	111	111	111

Parameters	Range	Magnitude	Materials
Weight	0.2 to 350 lb.	2,188x	Mahogany Oak, Walnut Brass, Steel, Aluminum Glass Ivory, Leather Parchment Gold Leaf, Silk Gutta Percha
Optical Path Length	1 to 135 inch.	135x	
Object. Diam.	0.5 to 5.3 inch.	light gather 112x	
Mirror Diam.	1 to 6 inch.	light gather 36x	
Year Made	1730? To 2002	span 272 yrs	
Functionality %	Mechanically	>95%	
Functionality %	Optically	>95%	
Quality %	Museum	>95%	

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Country and Name of Maker	Number
Austria	2
Simon Plossl	2
China	1
Zeiss Military/Kuhne (Conn. USA)	1
England	65
Adams	2
Dudley Adams	2
Armstrong & Bro	1
John Bennett (I)	1
Berge, London late Ramsden	1
John Bloore	1
G. (George) Bracher	1
William Cary	3
Alexander Clarkson	1
Benjamin Cole case with fitted telescope	1
Benjamin Dancer	1
Dolland-unkn protestor/profiteer of Dollond	1
Dollond (Peter, Geo.Jr.,William, & J.R.Chant)	15
John Gilbert (II)	1
Gregory Gilbert & Co.	1
Grubb-Parsons	1
Harris	1
H. Hughes and Son	1
David Jones	1
W & S Jones	2
Edward Nairne	2
Nairne & Blunt	1
Negretti Zambra	1
James Parkes and Son	1
James Potts	1
Jesse Ramsden	7
Andrew Ross	3
Spencer, Browning and Rust	1
James Short	1
Simms	1
J. H. Steward	1
Troughton & Simms	2
Watson	1
Unsigned/unknown	3
France	23
Bardou and Fils	2
Bardou and Son	2
Unsigned, stamped "Brevete SGDG"	1
Howell, James & Co Paris	1
L'Ing. Chavallier Opticien du ROI a Paris	1
Lemaire	1
Lerebours et Secretan	2
R. Mailhat	1
Claude-Simeon Passemant	1
Secretan	7
L Foucault/SECRETAN	1
Unsigned - may be Bardou or Secretan?	3

Germany	15
Mich. Baader in Munchen	1
Irrgang	1
G. & S. Merz vorm. Utz. und Fraunhofer	1
Merz, Utzschneider und Fraunhofer	2
Merz und Sohn	1
Steinheil	1
Utzschneider und Fraunhofer	4
Utzschneider Reichenbach und Fraunhofer	1
Carl Zeiss Jena	3
Japan	1
Mori Nizaemon Masatomi 森仁左衛門正富	1
Holland	1
L. van der Bildt	1
USA	4
Alvan Clark	1
Brashear	1
Gurley	1
Questar	1
Total	111

Selected Premier Makers	Number
Dollond	15
Secretan	9
Jesse Ramsden	7
Utzschneider und Fraunhofer	4
Adams	4
Bardou	4
Carl Zeiss Jena	3
G & S Merz	3
William Cary	2
W & S Jones	2
Edward Nairne	2
Andrew Ross	2
Troughton & Simms	2
J. H. Steward	1
James Short	1
Berge, late Ramsden	1
Brashear	1
Alvan Clark	1
Benjamin Cole	1
JB Dancer	1
Merz und Sohn	1
Claude-Simeon Passemant	1
Simon Plossl	1
Spencer, Browning and Rust	1
Lubertus van der Bildt	1
Watson	1
Mori Nizaemon Masatomi	1