

CYRIL W KETT OPTOMETRY MUSEUM
AUSTRALIAN COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRY

BOOKS ON OPHTHALMIC COLLECTING

These books are held in the Nathan Library Hewett Collection and are available on loan to members of the Australian College of Optometry

Fashions in Eyeglasses by Richard Corson. London, Peter Owen Publishers, 3rd imp, 2011.
This book covers spectacle frame design from the 14th to 21st C.

Atlas on the History of Spectacles by W.Poulet. Bonn, Wayenborg, 1978.
396 pages, numerous black and white and colour plates illustrating over 2000 spectacles and related items from earliest times to mid 19thC, with brief descriptions in a section at the end of the book.

Eyeglass retrospective by Nancy C Schiffer. Pennsylvania, Schiffer Publications 2000
This book is copiously illustrated in colour showing images of eyewear from earliest times to the 20thC with an emphasis on unusual and exotic eyewear. 192 pages

Spectacles and Other Vision Aids by J. William Rosenthal. San Francisco, Norman Publishing, San Francisco, 1996.
336 pages. Frontispiece and two other preliminary plates plus 134 numbered black and white illustrations

Spectacles, Lorgnettes and Monocles by D.C.Davidson & R.J.S.MacGregor. Shire Publications, Princes Risborough, UK, 2002.
This is an excellent reference book for describing and dating spectacles and other optical aids to vision.

Restoring Ophthalmic Antiques by R.J.S. MacGregor. Ayrshire UK, Ophthalmic Antiques International Collectors Club, 2008. Available from the author, Ronald MacGregor, OAICC, 17 Corsehill Drive, West Kilbride, Ayrshire KA23 9HU, Scotland at £7.50p plus postage (surface mail to Canada & US is £1.50p).
A very useful reference manual for collectors of ophthalmic antiques.

Collectible eyeglasses by Frederique CRESTIN-BILLET (Translated by Jonathon Sly). France, Flammarion, 2004.
373 pages including 39 pages of historical introduction. Striking colour illustrations on nearly every page of spectacles from early times to modern including a range of antique eyeglasses, lorgnettes etc as well as sports glasses and novelty spectacles.

Cult eyewear: the world's enduring classics by Neil Handley. London, Merrell, 2011.
The book covers "fashion" antique spectacles from the 18th C through to fashion eyewear of the 20thC and provides much information on the most famous eyewear designers.

Specs appeal. Extravagant 1950s and 1960s eyewear by Leslie PINA (photography and design) and Donald-Brian JOHNSON (text). Atglen PA, USA, Schiffer publishing Co.
This is a wonderful record of spectacles as exuberant fashion accessories, in the best of the Barry Humphries/Dame Edna Everage tradition.

Spectacles and spyglasses by Pierre MARLY with texts by Jean-Claide MARGOLIN and Paul BIERENT, translated by Barry TULETT. Editions Hoebeke 1988.
This book describes the Marly collection in Paris. Pierre Marly was a French optician who developed a name for his creative designs for spectacle frames. He set up shop in Paris in 1951 and custom-made spectacles for crowned heads and the famous (including Audrey Hepburn). He also collected glasses and lorgnettes, some 3000 items.

Early American Specs. An exciting collectible by L D Bronson. Glendale California, The Occidental publishing Company 1974
This book has 14 chapters on terminology, early history of spectacles and optometry, lorgnettes, pince nez, monocles, magnifiers, safety lenses, sunglasses, groovy glasses, contact lenses and advice to collectors

Spectacles and sunglasses by Anon. Singapore, Pepen Press.
Paperback, lavishly illustrated in colour with spectacles and sunglasses from the earliest time to the modern day
Text in English, German, French, Spanish, Dutch and Japanese

Illustrated history of early antique spectacles by Hugh Orr. Luton, UK, Self published 1985.
This book covers much of the associated history of spectacles with notes on early opticians, items of ophthalmic apparatus and many illustrations. Among the chapters are ones on leather spectacles, orators' spectacles, rivet spectacles, folders, monocles, scissor spectacles and early Chinese spectacles.