1. Mother of Pearl magnifier, two putties (small angels without wings - male on the left and female on the right) holding a globe on their backs, circa 1820-40. Musée Carnavalet. Photo Roselyne Hurel.

2. Carved wooden pull-off case with white metal trim containing blue-tinted rectangular spectacles made of white metal, crank bridge and sliding sides. Paper label says "Duca di San Marco Capoce Zuriol". Front: The Flight into Egypt and also the "Last Supper". Musée National de la Renaissance. Photo Devriendt.

3. Four draw spyglass, gilded brass, ivory covered barrels with symbols of Napoleon. Chateau Malmaison. Photo Alain Pougetoux.

CHAIRMAN’S CHAT
This July issue is indeed special as we wish to celebrate a landmark event in the history of ophthalmic antique collecting – the rediscovery of the fantastic Heymann collection after being effectively “lost” for some 80 years. It is particularly special for our club as the rediscovery was made possible by the persistent efforts of our David Fleishman backed up by several other club members, whose activities are highlighted in this issue.

The history of great collections of ophthalmic antiques has generally been well documented and recorded, as they were usually preserved by being acquired and integrated into later collections, enabling the public to continue to enjoy visiting them. For example the Science Museum has the Duuiscombe Collection, Zeiss, Jena acquired the collections of Von Rohr and Von Graef, Lutroxxica acquired the Ratzschuler collection and the BOA Museum at the College has acquired much of the Dollond & Aitchison and Boots Collections.

The Heymann Collection, in contrast, although initially very well documented by the lady herself in her excellent 1911 book Lunettes et Lorgnettes de Jadis, had been dispersed and effectively forgotten within less than two decades. Now, although it is still dispersed; the whereabouts of most of its items are known and, better still, thanks to the efforts of David and his supporting Club members, they can be studied in detail at David’s online museum www.antiquespectacles.com. This really is a special occasion to be celebrated.

After last year’s successful visit to Germany, Graeme is preparing this year’s visit to The Netherlands in October. Members should also be aware of the Ocular Heritage Society’s meeting in Boston in April 2011. It will be hosted by David & Jacqueline Fleishman and will be a major event. Club members will be very welcome indeed and at least two are going, anyone interested please email David at DFlash50@comcast.net

The 2010 AGM in May was well attended. Treasurer Alan reported a very satisfactory financial position and recommended the subscription again remains unchanged for next year at £15. Dilys’ luncheon was excellent as usual and enjoyed by all. The Auction had some very good items, resulting in the sale total exceeding £5,000. My thanks to everyone involved for making it a really good day.

Frank Barraclough

THE EDITOR First prize this month goes to Frank Barraclough. He was the first to spot, and tell me, that there was an error in the last issue. Only one? Well, all that I am owning up to anyway. The super new website of the OAICC is now www.oaicc.com

MIKE LING writes “I was interested to see the photos of the monocular, or "Optical Charm" on the cover. I have got a small collection of 13 of such items including one fashioned like a shallow jug with twisted, wire handle and a similar red flower. Rosenthal, in "Spectacles and Other Vision Aids", mentions them on page 147 (fig.298) as... "during the directoire period (1797-1803), lorgnettes were made so small that they were sometimes worn around the neck as charms."
Most of my collection is optically sound but, with an objective lens less than 10mm, they are hardly practical and much nicer as just being decorative.”
OCULAR HERITAGE SOCIETY 2009

Thirty-three members attended the Ocular Heritage Society's 27th annual meeting hosted in New York City by Dr. Jay Galst. Mid-March weather in the Northeast is very unpredictable, but we had spectacular sunny days throughout the meeting, staying at the Hampton Inn in SoHo. Our first visit was to the New York Historical Society where the staff had kindly pulled many of the items from their collection for us to view. These included several 19th century portraits with spectacles as well as spectacles from their collection. They have a pair marked “B Franklin 1788” but it has oval lenses, telescoping temple pieces and the maker was not in business until the 19th century so we had to conclude they really were not Ben’s! Later, we visited the New York State College of Optometry, where Dr. Ben Fried showed us their collection of antique instruments.

At the library of the New York Academy of Medicine we saw some of their rare eye-related books including Vesalius’ De Humani Corporis Fabrica libri septum; Bartisch’s Ophthalmodouleia (both the 1583 and 1686 editions); Hooke’s Micrographia; tomes by Maitre-Jan, Saint-Yves, John Taylor, Zinn, George Adams, Scarpa, Dieffenbach, Helmholtz, Sichel, Donders, Arlt, Javal, and a copy of Heymann’s Lunettes et Lorgnettes de Jadis. Dr. Norman Medow kindly lent some of the items from his personal collection. Then, we visited their book conservation laboratory, where we learnt more about book repair and preservation. Taking the subway to the southern part of the city, we toured the Federal Reserve Bank of New York seeing some of the gold bullion in their vaults. In the lobby is an impressive display of some of the finest items from the collection of the American Numismatic Society. These included an 1804 silver dollar and the 1933 $20 gold piece that had been in the collection of King Farouk and sold for more than $7,000,000 a few years ago. On a beautiful afternoon local resident and member, Jerry Login, gave us a very personal walking tour of Wall Street, the World Trade Centre site, and the neighbourhood near his apartment. We made our way back to the India House Club for a nice dinner.

Talks included “A History of the New York Eye & Ear Infirmary” by Dr. Richard Rosen; “Modern Frames Based on Victorian Prototypes” by Tom Valenza; “A History of the Mt. Sinai Ophthalmology Department” by Dr. Ira Eliassoph; “Crime and Spectacles” by Dr. Charles Letocha; “An Update on the Discovery of the Madame Heymann Collection” by Dr. David Fleishman; “Lucien Howe and the Eugenics Movement” by Dr. James Ravin; “Ophthalmological Numismatics at the American Numismatic Society” by Dr. Peter van Alfen and “A History of American Eye Baths” by Dr. John Tull. Adjacent to our meeting room were display cases featuring some of the best examples of eye-related coins, medals, and tokens from the collection of Dr. Jay Galst. He and Peter van Alfen are writing what will surely be the definitive book on this subject. As usual, the camaraderie was a very important part of the get-together.

Charles Letocha

THE NEXT MEETING will be in Boston April 6th-9th 2011 visiting six prominent collections, Southbridge, home of American Optical, and Sturbridge Old Village. See issue 110. David & Jacqueline extend a warm welcome to any OAICC member who would like to join them. Email DFlash50@comcast.net
The Madame Alfred Haymann Collection

By David Fleishman

Over the past seven years OAICC club members have played a strong role in the ever-expanding research that has been the foundation of antiquespectacles.com. In certain instances members like Chuck Letocha, Werner Weismuller and Roberto Vascellari have even travelled to museums in my place to obtain images and associated materials for this unique website.

The incredible Madame Heymann Collection has now re-surfaced and this amazing discovery could not have occurred without the devotion of my good friends Jean-Marie Devriendt and Alexis Vanlathem. I encourage everyone to read their personal experiences of visiting some of the Paris museums where Heymann objects have just been sitting in storage undiscovered for nearly 85 years. Jean-Marie met with curator Michèle Bimbénet-Privat at the Château in Ecouen and Alexis met with Roselyne Hurel at the Musée Carnavalet. These curators were extremely cooperative and many of the finest Heymann objects have now been digitized for all of us to appreciate. Curator Alain Pougetoux of the Château de Malmaison also deserves our special thanks for using his own camera to take quality photos of a unique Napoleon related optical fan. The list of museums which have Heymann objects now stands at ten and others may eventually be added because some great objects are still missing.

In my opinion Heymann’s rare 1911 book should someday be translated into English and I also expect our club will tour a group of these Paris institutions in a few years. Just as important I can imagine a prominent public exhibition at a museum such as the Louvre which already has thirty-seven wonderful Heymann objects, some of which never even appeared in her book. Perhaps a profusely illustrated coffee table book would be associated with that exhibition?

Historic optical treasures from all over the world (and especially now around Paris where Heymann lived) are receiving greater attention. Obviously these discoveries have all been exciting for me but there remains more research work to be done. Thank you everyone for your kind support. We are already making a difference. I hope you enjoy these pages.

David Fleishman

Born Alice Babette Schloss on August 15, 1844 Madame Alfred Heymann lived at 20, Avenue de L’Opera with her husband Abraham (Alfred), a fruit trader who often brought home exotic fruits. Their friends around Paris were mostly aristocrats, musicians and writers. By the turn of the 19th-20th C. she was devoting much of her time to the task of searching for unusual eyeglasses and cases. She travelled and studied extensively and became a truly passionate collector who organized a sizeable group of the most attractive objects she could find. She believed that the artisan who first created eyeglasses around the year 1286 was as important as Christopher Columbus. Some of her wonderful objects became part of the exhibition, Les Lorgnettes, associated with the Carnavalet Museum, itself part of the much larger 1900 Universal and International Exhibition of Paris. In 1911 Madame Alfred Heymann published Lunettes et Lorgnettes de Jadis. This rare book was based on many of the great objects in her own collection. www.antiquespectacles.com
A DAY AT THE CHATEAU D'ECOUIEN

Jean-Marie Devriendt makes the first detailed investigation.

If you do not know who David Fleishman is you will get to know him in the next couple of lines. An American collector whom during the last couple of years invented, organized, and presented the world renowned website called www.antiquespectacles.com. His search and his striving for making this website better, larger and more and more specialised and specific is phenomenal. I must confess I look up to that kind of collector, who with a never ending enthusiasm, tries to find out as much as possible about one certain item he is interested in.

Members of the Ophthalmic Antiques International Collectors' Club, who took part in the club outings to Hannover and Italy, or who attended the 25th anniversary of the Club, have seen how passionate he is. How he, again and again, asked and wondered where the cases in the Heymann Collection have gone to, as they seemed to have vanished into thin air. David carried with him large copies of photos from a book about an exhibition in Paris some years before Madame Heymann died, just to show what the cases look like. Well, he did it! He found them! On his own? With the help of someone? Sheer luck? He did not tell me. All I know is that one evening, somewhere in February, I received a phone call, asking me to guess who was on the line, and also asking if I was free to talk with him for a couple of minutes. He explained what he had found out and also that he would send me some blurry pictures taken at the National Museum of Renaissance in Ecouen, near Paris.

And YES, from then on, I was in on it! He asked me to be his eyes and to have a look at spectacle cases which he strongly believed were part of the Heymann Collection, that so many people thought had disappeared. Mme Michètele Bimbenet-Privat, the curator, after a couple of emails, was kind enough to invite me into her beautiful chateau, and let me have closer look at those cases.

Tuesday 15th April 2008 was THE day. Leaving Oostende at 05.30am I arrived at the chateau at 09.00am. It was a sunny day and the chateau on top of the hill looked a fantastic picture. Getting nearer and nearer, the chateau went out of sight, and arriving in the centre of Ecouen, the chateau was almost unfindable. After one tour of the village and following the signs I arrived at the chateau. On arrival, Mme Bimbenet-Privat showed me to a room where I was allowed to work freely, examining what I came for and making photos of something I dared not dream of.

This lady was of great help to me. She received me as if I were family. No ‘stiff upper lip’, high heels nor posh talk. A sympathetic lady, a real pleasure to work with. Although I brought my own, I was presented with white gloves to handle the cases. I felt like a king almost alone in that fantastic castle as it was not open to the public on a Tuesday, only surrounded by silence, and the occasional staff entering and leaving the room where I worked. In fact Mme Bimbenet-Privat had organised a small box containing some 20 or more spectacle cases, to start the day, and after that box another one was shown. In the afternoon, two more boxes were taken from the reserves where I was allowed entry.

Being a collector of opera glasses, I thought to clear that visit in a couple of hours, and be on my way back to Oostende by noon. I had prepared a stand to make life easy for me, and display one item at a time. I immediately started to take photos and found out that most of the cases also housed spectacles. Proof was given to me that all of these case belonged to the
Heymann collection, and I gradually became more and more excited. I felt over the moon by seeing and being able to handle these cases. I had never handled Whalebone or Leather spectacles before, let alone some Masterpieces. Oh how I would have loved to polish the silver case, number 21.073, and the spectacles in it!

In total I handled 73 cases taking over 500 photos of each case, spectacles in the cases and the little notes, probably written by Mme. Heymann herself, packed into those cases. What I thought to be able to manage in a couple of hours, took me all day. I left the chateau overexcited at about 5.00pm to get back in Oostende at 8.00pm. No time to eat but immediately onto the computer downloading photos from my camera. I sent a couple to David and by 10.00 pm I had a very excited David on the phone. Take my word for it; the cases ARE from the Heymann collection. I have seen the register with the explanation and description of each case, also where it came from and sometimes even out of which collection it originated before it arrived into the Heymann collection. Almost one hundred years after being donated to a museum the cases had an interested visitor. Oh lucky me!

Jean-Marie Devriendt

1. The Chateau D'ecouen. Photo Devriendt.
2. French jeton, originally used for accounting purposes on a board, front and back views show the Seal of the eyeglass craftsmen. Copper alloy, 26 mm diameter, Musée National du Moyen Age - Thermes de Cluny, Paris. Photo Jean-Gilles Berizzi.
3. Sculpted wooden case telling the story of St Hubert (656-728). Front: Hubert went on a hunt and as he was kneeling the stag turned showing a crucifix on the top of its head. For not killing the stag Hubert first became a priest and later a saint which is depicted on the reverse. Made for hallmarked heavy silver-framed spectacles. Musée National de la Renaissance. Photo Devriendt.
Plate 4 from *Lunettes et Lorgnettes de Jadis* 1911 Madame Alfred Heymann
1. LORNETTE en porcelaine de Sévres, pâte tendre 1763-1765.
2. LORNETTES en émail de Saxe.
3. LORNETTE ayant appartenu à l'Impératrice Joséphine, Sévres imitation de Wedgwood.
4. LORNETTE de Jabouillet, émail de Saxe.
5. LORNETTE en émail.
6. LORNETTE en porcelaine de Sévres, pâte tendre ép. de la Pompadour.

Plate 5 from *Lunettes et Lorgnettes de Jadis* 1911 Madame Alfred Heymann
1.2.3.4.5. Lorgnettes décorées au vernis
6. Lorgnette en forme de montre, or et perles 1821
7.8. Lorgnettes décorées de miniatures à la gouache, représentant
les poètes du XVIIe siècle et des figures de femmes
9. Lorgnette en porcelaine de Paris, pâte dure de Locre

Lunettes et Lorgnettes de Jadis
1911 Madame Alfred Heymann

Solid silver eyeglass case, possibly Dutch, for heavy silver nose spectacles with an unusual vertically wide nose bridge. Musée National de la Renaissance. Photo Devriendt.

Solid silver eyeglass case, decorated with scrolls and flowers are made of inlaid mother of pearl, for silver nose spectacles with a very high and wide arch. Musée National de la Renaissance. Photo Devriendt.

Small gilded metal case for nose spectacles with a fancy bridge, decorated with cherubs and harpist. Musée National de la Renaissance. Photo Devriendt.
Lunettes et Lorgnettes de Jadis 1911 Madame Alfred Heymann

by Paul & Carla Aengenendt

Until about 60 years ago the oldest pair of eyeglasses, the rivet glasses, was only known to us by frescos, paintings and engravings but from which material these kinds of spectacles were made, we didn't know. Judging from the representations, we mostly thought it must have been leather or bone. In 1953 that all changed. It must have been a huge happening in Wienhausen, when the wooden floor of the choir of the Cistercian convent was renewed. From under this old floor was revealed a marvellous find! Under the dust from ages, they found very many personal objects dropped by the nuns. For us, the several pairs of wooden rivet spectacles became the most important. This came into my mind, when several months ago, the collection of Madame Alfred Heymann from Paris was rediscovered.

We only knew this collection from a very rare book, Lunettes et Lorgnettes de Jadis, published in 1911. This was a relic of a different age when an authoress would describe herself by her husband’s name, leaving us to uncover she was born Alice Babette Schloss. Only 300 copies had been printed, and we were moved to try to trace how many copies still existed. After considerable searching we have only been able to trace 51 so it is indeed very rare. If anyone else has a copy please email us on fond.ca@wxs.nl.

You can compare the rediscovery of this superb collection of Mme Heymann with the very rare find of the rivet glasses in Wienhausen. Both are highlights in optical history. We have to be very, very obliged to Dr. David Fleishman who gave much of his strength and never gave up hope to reveal this sublime and rare collection. Fortunately we have been able to make a small contribution to this discovery.

Now we are able to have a look at all the photos of the collection of Mme Heymann it is incomprehensible that only one person could have built up such an extended collection at such a high standard with everything in such good condition, at the end of the 19th century or beginning of the 20th century. In other collections, for instance the collection of Zeiss, you won't find so many rare items as the one from Mme Heymann. Would it be possible that Mme Heymann could have bought an already existing collection, brought together in the 19th century before extending it in Paris? Unfortunately we can't ask her or her family how it was possible that she managed to bring the collection together. Now, as most of the collection has been located, our last hope and wish must be that the collection could be reunited in a huge exhibition in Paris before it is locked away in a depot. David would be the right person to open this exhibition!

Paul & Carla
Two Magical Days with Heymann Objects
by Alexis Vanlathem

At the beginning of 2008, I found an article concerning the collection of Mme. Heymann in the French newspaper “Le patriote illustré” dated December 6, 1931. It said “The collection of glasses and cases of Mme. Heymann was bequeathed to the Museum of Cluny in Paris”. During this same period, I was looking again at the photographs which I had made during the OAIICC trip to Italy in September 2006. At the Safilo Museum in Padua, there was a small booklet “Les Lorgnettes” written in 1900 by J. Robiquet from the Musée Carnavalet in Paris which mentioned items in Mme Heymann’s collection.

I contacted the Museum Carnavalet and they assured me that there were some spyglasses and a few other objects of Mme. Heymann at the museum. Shortly afterwards, I contacted the Museum of Cluny and was told, “You are not the first person to contact me about this collection!” They explained that all of the collection was currently at a museum in a castle in Ecouen, just north of Paris.

A few days later, I went onto David Fleishman’s website www.antiquespectacles.com under the heading: Collections in France. I noted that the museum at the chateau in Ecouen was already referenced so I immediately contacted David. Very quickly I understood that David had already found everything and that our good friend Jean-Marie Devriendt was already his contact-man with the chateau.

David told me that it was not yet finished as there was another great part of the collection, including spyglasses, at the Musée des Arts Décoratifs, close to the Louvre in Paris. Could I be his contact-man for the two museums? On 16th July 2008 I received a very warm welcome from Mme. Roselyne Hurel (conservateur du Musée) at the Musée Carnavalet. On 21st July 2008, National Feast Day of Belgium, I received an excellent reception from Mme. Anne Forray-Carlier (conservateur en chef département 17ème et 18ème Siècle) at the Musée des Arts Décoratifs.

My experience of visiting those two museums in Paris was so intense and extraordinary. Even now I still don’t believe it happened. It was so magical. There I was in front of all these splendid objects on my knees in order to appreciate and photograph them. At the same time I began thinking about Mme. Heymann herself who had actively collected these nice objects one at a time. She actually held these in her own hands, and she gave all her heart to gaining knowledge about each of these incredibly beautiful things. On my knees in front of her collection, I felt I was there in front of God, and thanked Mme. Heymann for leaving the world such a wonderful inheritance of optical antiques. We had thought everything had disappeared. Yes, everything in front of me was thought to be totally erased from the world. But like magic these little things had reappeared again and were there right in front of my own camera’s eye. Never to be forgotten or go missing again. It’s something that you can’t describe. It is like a first meeting with someone or something special, like the very first time you meet your future wife! It is so difficult to put into words. Beautiful, exceptional, memorable, forever. Truly wonderful, like a heavenly dream. I felt also a very great sadness as I was leaving the two museums. Why? Because the objects are preserved in the reserves and are not instead presented to the general public. One day perhaps everything can be made visible, at least once more for the members of the OAIICC. I also felt an interior joy and joy for Mme. Heymann too, since her objects are now preserved for all eternity thanks to these museums.

Alexis Vanlathem
1. Exquisitely carved wooden case for one pair of baleen spectacles. Front: a large crown with several bird-like animals and a face below. Back: crossed arms with a large crown above and several faces and animal like forms. Musée National de la Renaissance. Photo Devriendt.

2. Carved wood case with brass hinges. The frame looks like silver in an unusual form with lateral slots for lens insertion. The spectacles may not be original; instead with soldering and also what looks like screws, the glasses may be from the early 1700s. Two people are depicted on the front while on the back a man is holding open the mouth of a lion. The symbols (weapons) of a Cardinal are shown so this requires further study. It is dated 1558 which makes it the oldest case in the world that has an actual date on it. Musée National de la Renaissance. Photo Devriendt.

3. In the form of a valance, a carved wooden case for a pair of baleen spectacles with a wooden slide block opening. Front: a woman appears to hold a cross and a book. Back: the same woman is now holding an anchor and a large bird, and two shells are seen on the carved top. Musée National de la Renaissance. Photo Devriendt.

CLUB VISITS Bookings are now required if you would like to attend the club visit to Holland in 2010. Further details are on the enclosed flier. Alternatively contact Graeme Holland direct.

EARLY WARNING The OAIICC trip in 2011 will take place 9th - 11th September. The Club is again fortunate enough to be invited to Udo’s private museum to see his fantastic collection. If you have been before this is your chance to view the new additions. If you have not seen it you have not lived! Be prepared to be bowled over. Graeme guarantees you will not be disappointed. Places are limited so it will be a strictly first come first serve basis—register your interest NOW to reserve your place. Email graeme@sladefirs.co.uk or post to Graeme Holland, Slade Firs, Drake Street, Welland, Worcestershire, WR13 6LN

DALLOS AND NISSEL On the 23rd June it is expected that London will be enhanced by two more commemorative Green Plaques. These plaques are raised by Westminster City Council to honour some of the great and the good of the capital city. The plaque for Josef Dallos, sponsored by The Royal College of Ophthalmologists, is to be unveiled by Vera Dallos-Pinter at 18 Cavendish Square, site of the first UK contact lens only practice. The plaque for George Nissel, sponsored by Cantor & Nissel Ltd, is to be unveiled by Roslinde Haw (daughter of Nissel), at the end of Siddons Lane where Nissel founded the first independent UK contact lens laboratory in 1946.

VALUATIONS Margaret Josefson has raised the issue of valuations following her experience with the Antiques Roadshow in the US where she possibly knew more about ophthalmic antiques than the “experts” did. In a future issue we will be looking at this issue more closely and would be very interested to hear from you about your feelings. Do you offer valuations on optical collectables? How do you do it? Where do you go to for a valuation? How accurate can valuations ever be? How do you keep up to date? Would a list of optical valuers be helpful? The list of questions goes on.....! Please email the editor on timbowden@talk21.com

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The deadline for articles and news items for the October issue is 20th August 2010.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Price £</th>
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<tr>
<td>20/110</td>
<td>1800 Silver oval Specs with sliding sides. London marks.</td>
<td>168</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20/110</td>
<td>1836 Silver &quot;D&quot; Specs with side visors &amp; 4 blue lenses.</td>
<td>184</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20/110</td>
<td>1870 Leather slip-in case for &quot;Brahms&quot; 1861 Patent Pince-nez but with the wrong type of pince-nez.</td>
<td>357</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27/110</td>
<td>1814 Silver round Specs. Turnpin sides, green lenses and shagreen case.</td>
<td>144</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31/110</td>
<td>20th C. Porcelain squat Eyebath &quot;Colval&quot; French.</td>
<td>127</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31/110</td>
<td>Metal oval c/s Frame glazed with multiplying-glasses.</td>
<td>372</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/12</td>
<td>Ornate silver-gilt Spring-Lorgnette made in the U.S.A.</td>
<td>190</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/12</td>
<td>1920 Zylo-covered round-eye Pince-nez with ear-chain.</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/12</td>
<td>1800 Metal oval Specs. Richardson's-type, 4 green lenses.</td>
<td>95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/12</td>
<td>20th C. Portable Trial Case, 130 lenses and instruments.</td>
<td>375</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/12</td>
<td>1831 Silver oval Folding Eyeglasses with short handle.</td>
<td>127</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/12</td>
<td>c. 1900 Mother of Pearl Opera Glasses engraved with flowers.</td>
<td>107</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/12</td>
<td>19th C. Laquered paper-maché &quot;Spectacle&quot; cigar-case. Colour print.</td>
<td>69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7/12</td>
<td>1900 Brass Compass &amp; Magnifier &quot;McCullough's Seeds&quot; U.S.A.</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7/12</td>
<td>1900 Brass with rope-twist Telescope by J.H. Steward, London.</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7/12</td>
<td>1850 M.O.P. and Silver, Folding Lorgnette with short handle/case.</td>
<td>103</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/2</td>
<td>1850 Brass Martin-type Drum Microscope in wooden case.</td>
<td>161</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/2</td>
<td>1806 Silver round Specs, with turnpin sides, London marks.</td>
<td>131</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/2</td>
<td>20th C. Prosthetic eye mounted in a tooled-leather bracelet.</td>
<td>240</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15/2</td>
<td>1820 Metal Specs. Richardson's-type, Sliding sides, 4 blue lenses. Horseshoe shape.</td>
<td>103</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23/2</td>
<td>c. 1890. Unusual metal Pince-nez fitted with short temples.</td>
<td>170</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25/2</td>
<td>&quot;c.1850&quot; (should be 1750) Nuremberg Single-wire Reading-glass.</td>
<td>135</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/3</td>
<td>c.1875 Sterling silver American Lorgnette with K-bridge &amp; fancy handle.</td>
<td>137</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/3</td>
<td>c.1870 Bone Spring Lorgnette with short handle showing carved stag.</td>
<td>125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8/3</td>
<td>c. 1900 Chatelaine with Scent, Compact and c. 1930 Lorgnette on chains.</td>
<td>192</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8/3</td>
<td>c. 1920 Trial Set, 131 lenses in wood tray. Leather case poor.</td>
<td>198</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8/3</td>
<td>20th C. Blue glass Eyebath with silver claw-feet.</td>
<td>141</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/3</td>
<td>c. 1910 Sterling silver Spring Lorgnette, Repousse handle, U.S.A.</td>
<td>201</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15/3</td>
<td>c. 1915 Real T/S Lorgnette with plain handle and two frames.</td>
<td>83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17/3</td>
<td>c. 1910 Metal oval specs, with unusual bent-down-in-curve sides.</td>
<td>139</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18/3</td>
<td>1860 Single-wire Toy Pince-nez. Oval shape.</td>
<td>67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21/3</td>
<td>1820 Silver round Specs. Ayscough sides. Green lenses.</td>
<td>134</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21/3</td>
<td>1915 Wooden roll-top Trial Case by Wm. Gowland of Croydon.</td>
<td>310</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8/4</td>
<td>Modern spring Astigmatc Pince-nez. Rectangular shape.</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17/4</td>
<td>c. 1930 Green plastic clip-on sunshade for Windsor type specs.</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19/4</td>
<td>1829 Sterling Silver oval specs, with sliding-sides. Hallmarked.</td>
<td>102</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**AUCTIONEER'S REPORT 2010.** The AGM and Auction were attended by 29 members having the buffet lunch and 36 members the auction. The highlights of the day were the sale of items from the Tony Blackham collection and the guest appearance of professional auctioneer Charles Miller.

The best prices achieved were £380 for a Tortoiseshell spectacle, c.1800, with round green tinted lenses and Japanese ends (offset pressure rings) and £350 for a Tortoiseshell spectacle, c. 1825, with supplementary lenses with all four lenses tinted green. There was strong bidding for two rare blue steel thin wire spectacles with sprung sides which sold for £110 & £120. A blued steel folder with ornate bridge, c.1860, made £75 whilst a delicate blued steel reversible hand frame made £80. There were mixed prices for the silver wire spectacles with some good bargains. On average the prices were very reasonable.

There were 161 lots for auction but 22, mainly ophthalmic equipment, remained unsold. The total raised was £5243.

2. Optical fan with stars around the periphery, horn and silk, bust of Napoleon at the top. Château Malmaison. Photo Alain Pougetoux


5. "Belt-case" in bronze, representing the Judgment of Paris, text "trust in God" and engraved "1580". Reverse engraved with Christ on a cross plus a shield with the letters DF. Dug up from River Seine in 1858 by Arthur Forgeats, given to M. Le Secq des Courcelles (1818-1882), painter printmaker, photographer, and collector, passed to his son Henri le Secq des Courcelles, then Mme Heymann. Musée National de la Renaissance. Photo Devriendt.


7. Seven-draw Spylglass, c.1800, gilt-copper, Mother of Pearl & Silver. Musée Carnavalet. Photo Vanthem.