

SA754594

Victorian Celluloid Desk Magnifying Glass in Case by CW Dixey London

Price

GBP 695

| USD \$940 | EUR 813

Item Reference: SA754594

Date of manufacture: 1870

Dimensions

Height = 19 cm (7.5")

Width = 12.5 cm (4.9")

Depth = 2 cm (0.8")

Description

For sale, a Victorian Parkesine celluloid rectangular desk magnifying glass in original leather case by CW Dixey of Bond Street, London. Exquisitely moulded with a looped handle and rectangular mount for the magnifying lens, the material is reminiscent of horn but is actually a fine example of the early use of the celluloid plastic invented by the British inventor Alexander Parkes who was awarded a patent for his invention in 1856. Its properties were shown off with great success at the London 1862 International Exhibition where the Dixey family are likely to have been introduced to the possibilities of this new product. The lens measures 4 inches wide 2 and a half inches high with the overall height being 7 and a quarter inches (or 18.5 cms). It comes complete with its original morocco leather slip case which is impressed with the Royal Warrant crest over the company details, "CW Dixey Optician to The Queen, 3 New Bond Street, London". Charles Wastell Dixey or CW Dixey still trades today as a manufacturer and retailer of high end spectacles. The story of the dynasty however, is comprised of two strands of history. The present company's history on its website is told in r...

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