

# Comparisons

Makers and Progression of Signatures

*Ramsden London*



*Secretan  
à Paris.*

*Utzschneider Reichenbach und  
Fraunkofer in Benedictbeurn*



*Dollond LONDON.*

Important Makers and their Signatures within the Collection

## Makers and Progression of Signatures within the Wolf Telescopes Collection

A short discussion on the Dollond Company ownership/directorship precedes my listing of the number of telescope makers. Initially I grouped each telescope under the general umbrella of the flagship company name, but knowing that some of these companies created in the mid-1700s still exist today, soon rendered that grouping to be of little value when trying to define the diversity of makers. This issue is brought to best focus by following the Dollond ownership down through the years (see below). There are seven distinct eras of ownership with at least eleven different signatures used over that same period of time. I could have used Fraunhofer, Bardou or Secretan to illustrate the same issue. The succession of company ownership even within the family sometimes changed the design and type of telescopes offered by the company. To complicate things we know that in some instances such as the Dollonds' the same makers signed their telescopes differently with time. Therefore, while I have listed the number of makers as 70, the number of telescopes with different or no signatures is 81.

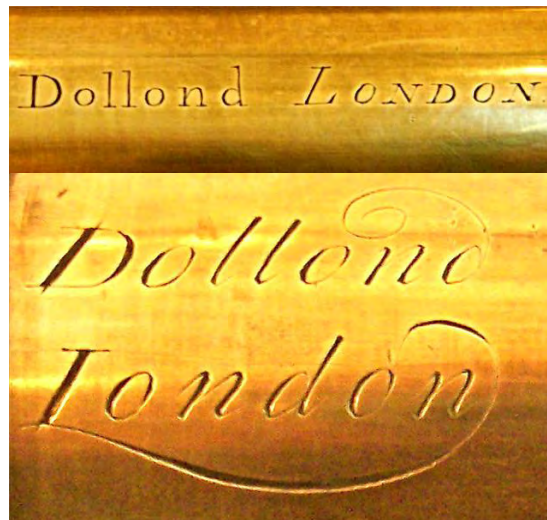
### Dollond Company Ownership\*

<u>Years of Company Leadership</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Comments</u>
1750-1819	Peter Dollond (1730-1820) John Dollond Sr. (1706-1762)	1st Son of John starts optical business Joined Peter after Peter started optical business John Dollond, Jr., Peter's younger brother joins in 1766 dies in 1804 Company moves to Strand Street
1819-1852	George Dollond (1774-1852)	Nephew of Peter joins company in 1805 and changes name from George Huggins
1852-1866	George Dollond Jr (?-1866)	Son of George; Also changed name from Huggins
1866-1871	William Dollond (1834-1893)	Son of second George; dies 5 years later
1871-1903	J. R. Chant	Former employee
1903-1927	Norman and Harold Parsons	Company retained the Dollond name
1927-present	Bought by James Aitchison	Company became Dollond & Aitchison

\*The principal source of information for constructing this table is Gene Rudd's article, "The Dollond Family", 1998 Antique Telescope Society Journal (Vol. 15), p. 4-10.

Please see a pictorial journey or progression of the Dollond "Company's" signage from the 1760s to the 1920s as well as other important makers' signatures following the four-page compilation of makers within this collection.

1760s



1920s



Dolland  
London  
Day or Night

HRA20 40-mm Dolland Refracting Telescope, c. 1760?  
Unknown maker benefitting from Dollond name.

# *Makers and Signatures*

WITHIN THE WOLF TELESCOPE COLLECTION

- 111 Telescopes
- 103 Signed telescopes (35 duplicate makers)
- 1 Signed telescope by unknown maker (Dolland)
- 8 Unsigned telescopes
- 4 Unsigned telescopes with probable known makers
- 5 Unknown makers
- 70 Different makers

#	Name of Maker	Type	#	Wolf Collection ID#
1	Adams, Dudley		2	
		FRA	1	FRA10
		TRE	1	TRE3
2	Adams, George Jr.		2	
		TRE	1	TRE6
		FSRA	1	FSRA1
3	Armstong & Bro.		1	
		FRA	1	FRA30
4	Baader, Michael		1	
		HRA	1	HRA19
5,6	Bardou; & Fils; and Son		6	
		FRA	3	FRA2, FRA3, and FRA12 (unsigned but is Bardou)
		HRA	3	HRA7, HRA18, and HRA31 (unsigned, prob. Bardou)
7	Bennett, John (1)		1	
		TRE	1	TRE2
8	Berge, John		1	
		HRA	1	HRA22
9	Bloore, John		1	
		FRA	1	FRA18
10	Bracher, George		1	
		HRA	1	HRA26
11	van der Bildt, Lubertous		1	
		TRE	1	TRE5
12	Brashear, John P.		1	
		FRA	1	FRA13
13	Cary, William		3	
		HRA	3	HRA5, HRA12 and HRA32
14	L'INGR CHAVALLIER OPTICIEN		1	
	DU ROI A. PARIS	TRA	1	TRA14
15	Clark, Alvan and Sons		1	
		FRA	1	FRA14
16	Clarkson, Alexander		1	
		FRA	1	FRA22
17	Cole, Benjamin		1	
		TRE	1	TRE4 (unsigned, but in a mahogany fitted Cole case)
18	Dancer, J. B.		1	
		TRE	1	TRA4
19	Dolland		1	
		HRA	1	HRA20
19	Makers		27	Telescopes

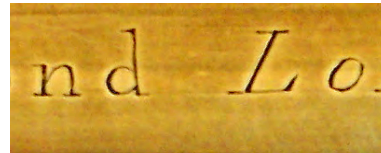
20-24	Dollond, Peter, George Jr., William	15	
	and J.R. Chant >1871	FRA 6	FRA7, FRA11, FRA15, FRA24, FRA25, and FRA29
		TRA 4	TRA1, TRA10, TRA11, and TRA13
		TRE 1	TRE15
		HRA 4	HRA4, HRA8, HRA25, and HRA27
25	Gilbert, John(II)	1	
		HRA 1	HRA23
26	Gregory Gilbert & Co.	1	
		TRA 1	TRA7
27	Grubb-Parsons	1	
		FRA 1	FRA8
28	Gurley, W. and L.E.	1	
		FSRA 1	FSRA3
29	Harris	1	
		TRA 1	TRA2
30	Howell, James Paris	1	
		TBRA 1	TBRA1
31	H. Hughes and Son	1	
		HRA 1	HRA16
32	Irrgang	1	
		FRA 1	FRA5
33	Jones, David	1	
		TRE 1	TRE9
34	Jones, W. & S.	2	
		TRA 1	TRA17
		HRA 1	HRA34
35	Lemaire	1	
		HBRA 1	HBRA1
36	N. M. Lerebours & Marc Secretan	2	
		FRA 1	FRA9
		HRA 1	HRA30
37	Mailhat	1	
		FBRA 1	FBRA3
38	Merz Utz. & Fraunhofer	2	
		HRA 2	HRA10 and HRA33
39	Merz und Sohn	1	
		TRA 1	TRA18
40	G.&S. Merz, vorm Utz./Fraunhofer	1	
		FRA 1	FRA28
41	Nairne	2	
		FRA 1	FRA26
		TRE 1	TRE8
21	Makers	36	Telescopes

42	Nairne & Blunt	1	
	HRA	1	HRA9
43	Negretti & Zambra	1	
	TRA	1	TRA3
44	Mori Niazaemon Masatomi	1	
	HRA	1	HRA28
45	Parks, James and Son	1	
	FRA	1	FRA16
46	Passemant, Claude-Simon	1	
	TRE	1	TRE11
47	Potts, James	1	
	TRE	1	TRE13
48	Plossl, Simon	2	
	TRA	2	TRA5 and TRA16
49	QUESTAR	1	
	TRE	1	TRE1
50	Ramsden, Jesse	7	
	TRA	1	TRA12
	TRE	1	TRE18
	HRA	5	HRA1, HRA2, HRA3, HRA6, and HRA11
51	Ross, Andrew	3	
	TRA	1	TRA15
	HRA	1	HRA29
	FBRA	1	FBRA2
52	Secretan, Marc F. L.	4	
	FRA	1	FRA23 (Has J.B. Dancer on faceplate)
	Endorsed by Leon Foucault	TRE	1
		TRE	1
		HRA	1
			HRA24
53	Secretan, Geo. Emmanuel	4	
	FRA	2	FRA4 and FRA6
	FRA	1	FRA21(unsigned,but has Secretan machining marks)
	FRE	1	FRE1
54	Secretan, Marc son of Marc F.L.	1	
	FRA	1	FRA19
55	Short, James	1	
	TRE	1	TRE12
56	Simms, William (I)	1	
	FSRA	1	FSRA2
57	Spencer, Browning, and Rust	1	
	HRA	1	HRA17
16	Makers	31	Telescopes



58	Steinheil	1	
	TRA	1	TRA9
59	Steward, J. H.	1	
	TRA	1	TRA8
60	Troughton & Simms	2	
	TRA	1	TRA6
	TRE	1	TRE10
61-64	Unsigned	4	
	HRE	1	HRE1
	TRE	1	TRE14
	HBRA	2	HBRA2 and HBRA3
65	Utzschneider und Fraunhofer	1	
	HRA	1	HRA15
66	Utzschneider u. Fraunhofer	2	
	FRA	1	FRA17
	HRA	1	HRA14
67	Utz.,Reichenbach und Fraunhofer	1	
	in Benedictburn HRA	1	HRA13
68	Watson	1	
	TRE	1	TRE7
69	Zeiss, Carl Jena	3	
	FRA	2	FRA20 AND FRA27
	HRA	1	HRA21
70	Zeiss/Kuhne Optical	1	
	FBRA	1	FBRA1
13	Makers	17	Telescopes
70	Total - Different Makers	111	Total - Number of Telescopes

## Progression of Dollond Signatures



FRA29, TRA13: c. 1761-1768? (Peter Dollond, immediately after John Sr. death?)



FRA25: c. 1761-1780s? (Peter Dollond, immediately following John Sr. death)



HRA4



HRA25

HRA20  
Dollond Signature

HRA27

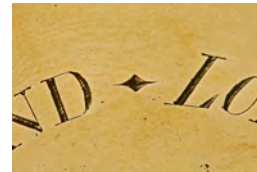


TRA1 Kitchiner Eye Tube - Accessory eyepiece



TRA10: c. 1780s-1800? (Peter and John Jr.?) Kitchiner Eye Tube Integral component, telescope eyepiece

## Progression of Dollond Signatures



TRE15: c. 1800? Engraved on a 100-mm Reflecting Telescope



TRA1: c. 1813-1825s? George Dollond label in case (I have only seen this symbol once between Dollond and London.)



FRA11: c. 1775? (milk paint; taper mahogany with eyepiece lens unmounted)



FRA7: c. 1830s?



FRA15: 1866-1871 (William Dollond).



HRA8: c. 1900s (J. R. Chant from ~1871 until 1927 when James Aitchinson bought "Dollond").

## Progression of Secretan/Lerebours Signatures



FRA9, Telescope, c. 1845-1854; Secretan tripod, c. 1920s



FRA23, Lerebours et Secretan masquerading as a J. B. Dancer Manchester, c. 1851-1853  
Tripod shown in Lerebours et Secretan 1853 trade catalog



TRE16, Foucault Secretan, c. 1858, no Secretan signature, just Leon Foucault's signature endorsement and approval medallion.



HRA30, c. 1855-1860 Telescope is unsigned; case has Secretan trade card



HRA24, c. 1862?





## Progression of Secretan/Lerebours Signatures



TRE17, 1866



FRA19, c. 1870



FRA6, c. 1875



FRE1, c. 1885



FRA4, c. 1915-1920



## Progression of Utzschneider et al to Merz Signatures



HRA13, c. 1814-1816

*Utzschneider Reichenbach und  
Fraunhofer in Benedictbeurn*



FRA17, c. 1819-1826

*Utzschneider u. Fraunhofer  
in München*



HRA15, c. 1834

*Utzschneider und Fraunhofer  
in München*



HRA14, c. 1835

*Utzschneider u. Fraunhofer  
in München*

## Progression of Utzschneider et al to Merz Signatures



TRA18, c. 1846

*Merz und Sohn  
in München*



HRA10, c. 1850

*Merz, Utzschneider und  
Fraunhofer in München.*



HRA33, c. 1850

*Merz  
Utzschneider u. Fraunhofer  
in München*



FRA28, c. 1885

*G. & S. Merz  
vorm. Utzschneider & Fraunhofer  
in München.*



## Progression of Ramsden Signatures

1762



Ramsden  
LONDON

HRA11



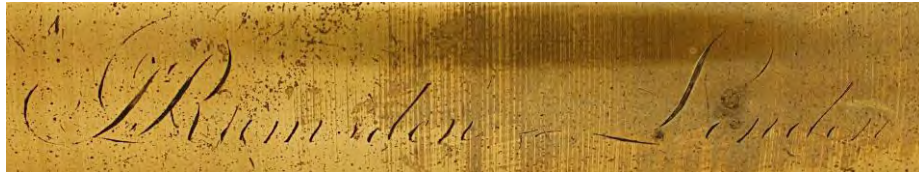
Ramsden London.

TRE19



Ramsden London

HRA1



Ramsden London

TRA12



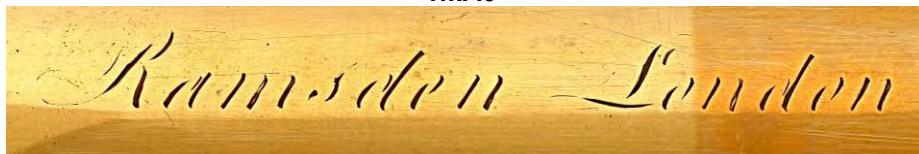
Ramsden London

HRA3



J. Ramsden London

HRA6



Ramsden London

1800

HRA2



## Progression of Adams Signatures



**FSRA1 Floor Standing Surveyor's Level**



**TRE6 Tabletop Reflecting Telescope**



**FRA10 Floor Standing Refracting Telescope**



**TRE3 Tabletop Reflecting Telescope**

## Progression of Bardou Signatures



FRA3



HRA18



FRA2



HRA7

