

FRA24 69-mm Dollond Refractor: Restoration

Issues:

1. Broken and missing slow motion mahogany rods and swivel mechanisms
2. Broken and missing parts for the two stabilizer rods.
3. Storage case lid was broken off and wood panel in shreds in some areas
4. Some time in the past history of this telescope a strong oxidizing solution was applied to all the brass-the result is a mottled patina.

Action Taken: Major restoration

1. Slow motion mahogany rods and brass swivel mechanisms restored
2. Broken and missing stabilizer rods were restored
3. Storage case lid was reattached and repaired and restored
4. The eyepiece tube and two areas on the optical tube were tested for depth of problem patina. It was decided not to restore the brass at this time.

Adaptations:

1. Mounted brass-mahogany slow-motion control rods on bottom of storage case
2. Mounted terrestrial eyepiece on bottom of storage case
3. Mounted a same period McClean/John Browning Star Spectroscope in storage case and adapted to telescope
4. Mounted a same period Kitchiner Eye Tube by Dollond in the storage case and adapted to telescope

Photo Credit:

All "before" photos - Courtesy Kaminski Auctions.



Before



After

FRA24 Restoration/Adaptation



Before



After



Before



After

(tripod leg in center foreground from cropped photo)

Mounted control rod

Mounted control rod



After

Terrestrial eyepiece beneath tabletop tripod

Kitchiner Eye Tube

McClellan/Browning Spectroscope



FRA24 70-mm Dollond Refracting Telescope, c. 1819-1824
Adapted Kitchener Pancratic Eye Tube John Browning Star Spectroscope