

A BRIEF HISTORY OF WOMEN'S EYEGLASSES

*for Costume College 2025
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trystancraft.com/costume*

WHY EYEGLASSES? WHY FOR WOMEN?

- 63% of U.S. adults wear corrective eyeglasses.
- Nearsightedness is very old and has increased in the past 300 years.
- Eyeglasses had a stigma as a disability aid for much of history.
- Wearing eyeglasses has been a gendered accessory over history.
- A majority of historical costumers are women, especially at Costume College.

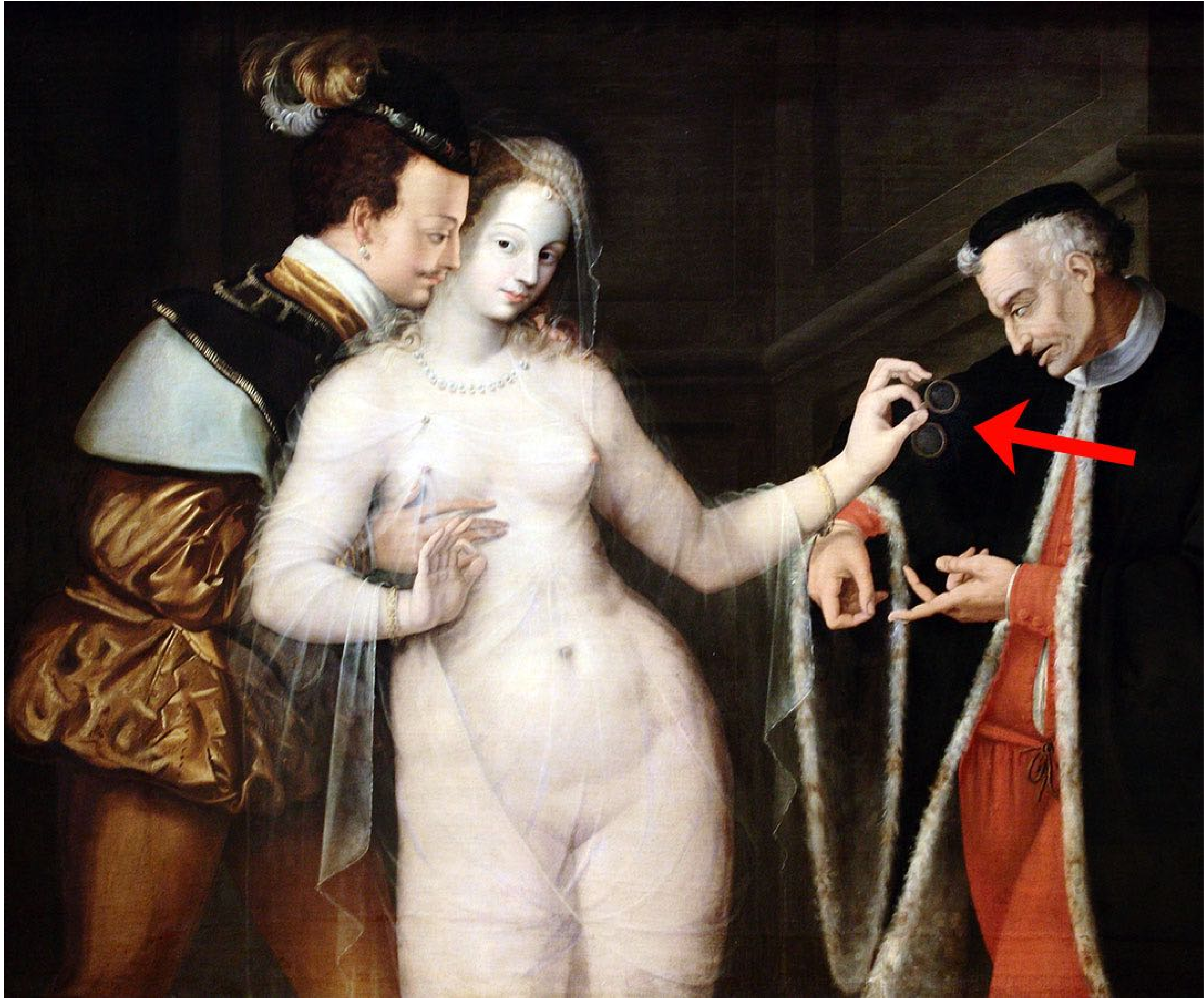


CONFLICTING MEANINGS OF EYEGLASSES IN HISTORY

- ▶ Intelligence, wisdom, learning - scholars & religious figures with eyeglasses
- ▶ Age, infirmity - old people with eyeglasses



1352 - Hugh of Saint-Cher
by Tommaso da Modena



1575 - La Femme
entre les deux âges
from the School of
Fontainebleau

CONFLICTING MEANINGS OF EYEGASSES IN HISTORY

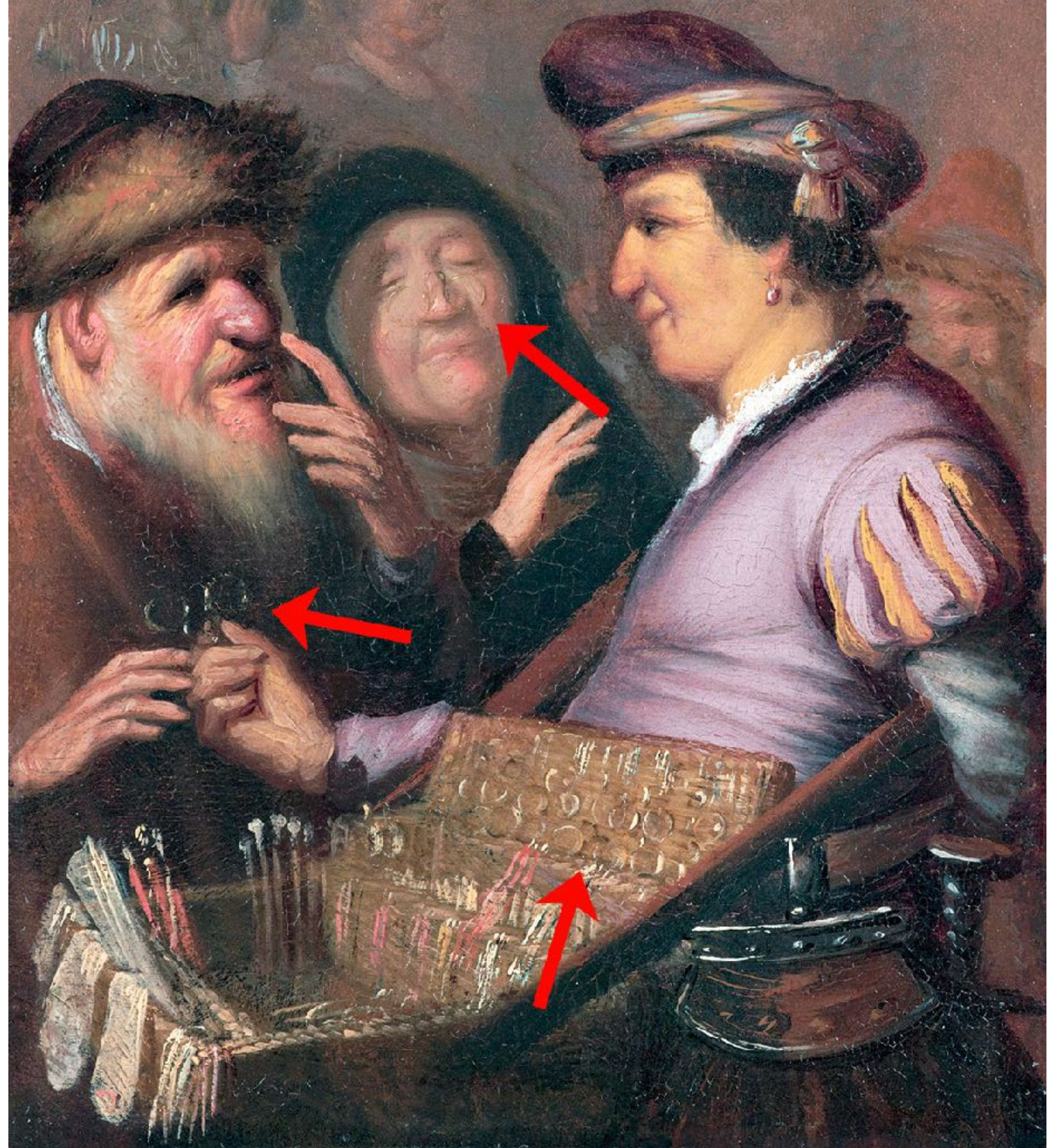
- Wealth, luxury - an expensive item for people with money
- Common, practical tool - a cheap item sold to the masses



17th century - The Misers, in the style of David Ryckaert III



1627 - *The Money Changer* by Rembrandt



c. 1624 - *A Peddler Selling Spectacles (Allegory of Sight)* by Rembrandt

THE FIRST EYEGLASSES

- Recorded in 13th c. northern Italy.
- More like magnifying glasses or “readers.”
- Held to the face — not fitted, no temples (side arms).
- Intended to help people read & perform fine tasks like needlework.

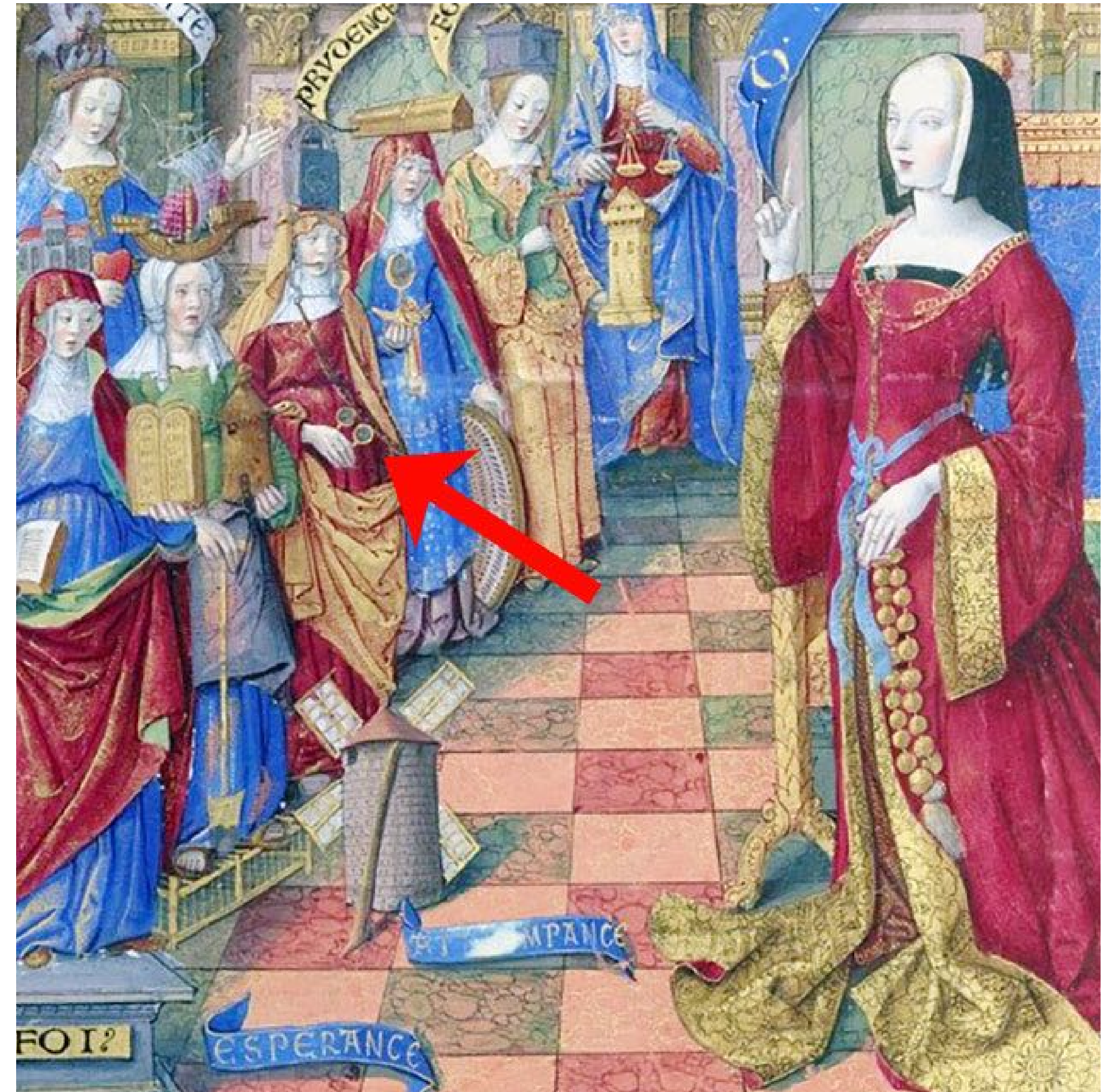


1400s - Bone spectacles at the London Museum

ALLEGORICAL WOMEN WITH EYEGLASSES



1450 - Temperance, Continen[n]ce, Clemency, & Moderation in *Livres des Quatre Vertus*



c. 1500 - Patroness & Virtues in *La Toison d'Or*

MEDIEVAL & RENAISSANCE EYEGLASSES

- 1300 early eyeglass makers guild in Venice
- German metalworkers specialized in making frames for Venetian glass lenses
- 1384 July & September 8 gross of eyeglasses imported into London
- 1457 German merchants imported 20 gross of eyeglasses
- 1402 convent school ordered spectacles & replacement lenses over several years.



1575-1600 - French eyeglasses & case at the Kunsthistorisches Museum

WOMEN BUYING EYEGASSES

- ▶ Typical of how eyeglasses were sold until 19th century:
 - ▶ Made in bulk
 - ▶ Only a few magnification levels available
 - ▶ Sold in shops & by peddlers



c. 1472 - The Ill-Matched Lovers from the Studio of Jacob Cornelisz. van Oostsanen

c. 1600 - The
Invention of
Eyeglasses by
Jan Collaert





*1610-85 - Eyeglass Merchant,
drawn after Adriaen van Ostade*



1704-29 - Seller of Spectacles by Krzysztof Lubieniecki



c. 1741 - Seller at Old Woman's Farm, attributed to Franz Josef Textor

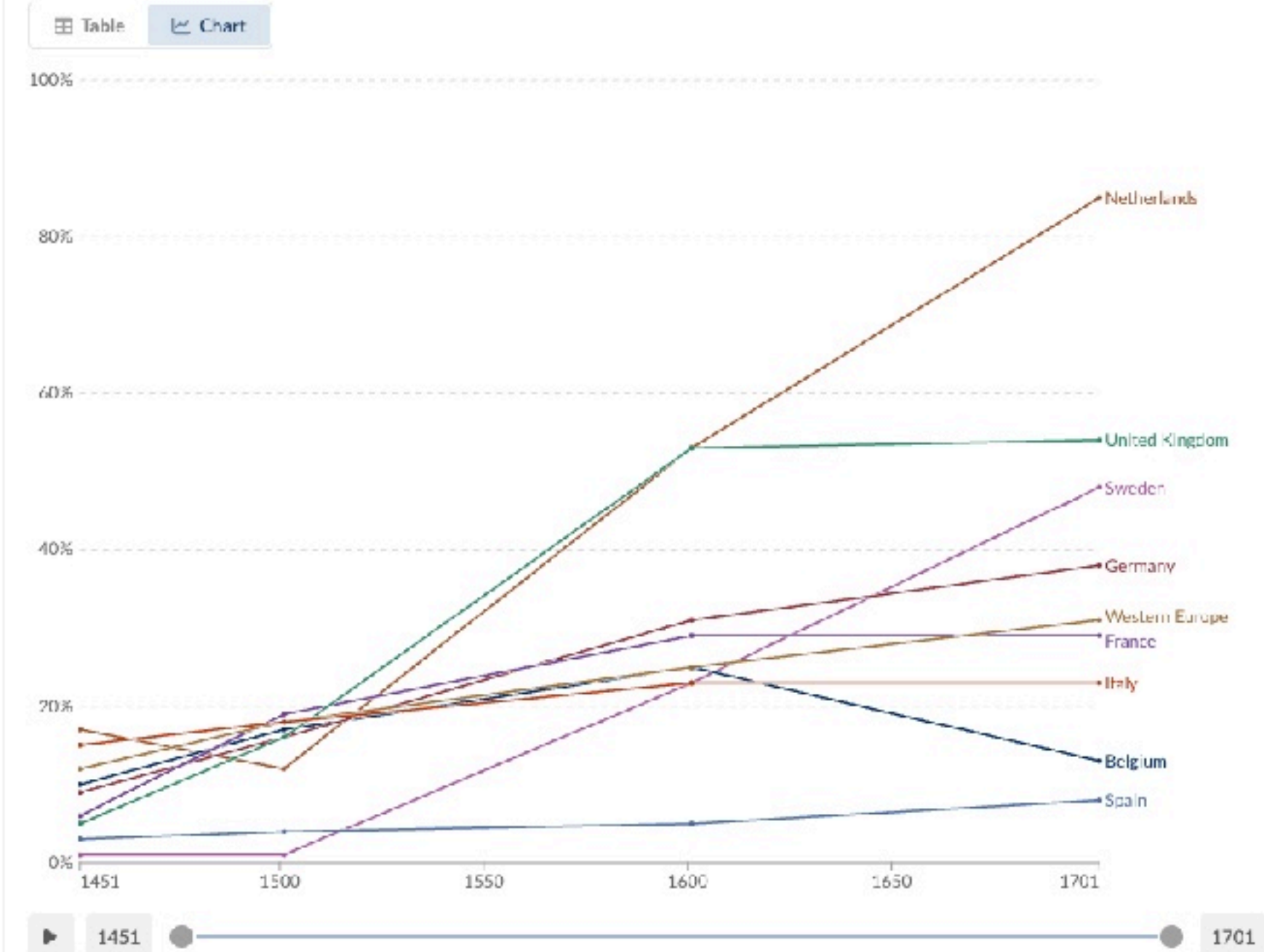


16TH & 17TH-CENTURY EYEGLASSES

- ▶ Wood or metal frames
- ▶ No temples (side arms)
- ▶ More common because the printing press & Protestant Reformation raised literacy rates

Estimated historical literacy rates, 1451 to 1701

Figure illustrates the proportion of people who are deemed literate. The year 1451 refers to the period 1451-1500, while the years 1501, 1601, and 1701 represent the century.



1637 - *Old Lady With a Book* by Rembrandt



1575 - *Christian Deeds of Mercy (Matthew 25:35-36)* by Pieter Aertsen



1655-60 - *Four Figures on a Step* by Bartolomé Esteban Murillo



1600-55 - Old Woman Reading a Book by Gerrit Dou



1622 - Old Woman Reading by Jan Lievens



1686 - Costumes Romain engraving by Nicolas François Bocquet



c. 1697 - Watching a Paper-Cut Wind Toy (Memento Mori) by anonymous

18TH-CENTURY EYEGLASSES

- In the 1720s, London optician Edward Scarlett Sr. first advertised eyeglasses with temples (side arms).
- Temples were straight & did not adjust, but they might be hinged to fold for storage.
- Pince-nez (armless) eyeglasses still common though early 20th century.



1786 - Catherine II's eyeglasses, case, & seal at the State Historical Museum



*1756 - Female Eyeglass Maker
engraving by Martin Engelbrecht*



1744-47 - *The Sense of Hearing* by Philippe Mercier



c. 1741 - Madame Crozat by Jacques Aved



1754 - Mary Adam by Allan Ramsay



1763 - High Life Below Stairs by John Collet



1788 - Jane Strachey portrait from the English School



1792 - Mrs. Joseph Wright by Ralph Earl



1799 - Margaret Baker Briscoe by Charles Peale Polk



1797 - Catherine Wister Miles by Gilbert Stuart



1795 - Mrs. David Hubbell (Sarah Perry Hubbell) by Ralph Earl



1795 - Maternal Advice
printed by Haines & Son



*1800 - Lady Banker at
Campion's Bank in Whitby*



QUIZZING GLASSES

- Used for close vision
- A single lens on a small handle
- Sometimes worn on a ribbon/chain
- Used by scholars & clerks since the middle ages, but became a fashionable accessory for men & women in the late 18th century.



1808 - The Ainslie Sisters (Agnes and Margaret) by Thomas Stewardson



1807 - Journal des Dames et des Modes, Costume Parisien



1801 - *Gallery of Fashion*, vol. VIII



1813 - *The Lady's Monthly Museum*, Evening Dress



1807 - *Elegantia, or Magazine of Fashion, Luxury & Taste for Ladies*



1817 - *Lady's Magazine, Walking Dress*



1807 - *Elegantia Magazine*



1817 - *Parisian Carriage Costume*



1819 - *Journal des Dames et des Modes*



1812 - *Journal des Dames et des Modes, Costume Parisien*



1815 - *Ackermann's Repository, Promenade Dress*



1825 - Duchess of Berry by Thomas Lawrence



1825 - Ackermann's Repository

*1826 - Madame Marcotte de
Sainte Marie by Jean Auguste
Dominique Ingres*





1840 - Portrait of a Free Woman of Color by François Fleischbein



1845 - A Lady With a Reading Glass by Jean Francois Antoine Claudet

LORNGETTES

- Popularized in the 1770s, especially as an optical aid for women.
- Could be used for distance or near vision
- Usually two connected lenses, sometimes scissor style or on a long handle
- Could be worn on a ribbon/chain
- Might used at the theater & opera to see the stage (but “opera glasses” are more like binoculars)
- Very fashionable for women around the 1820s-40s.



1798 - *Journal des Dames et des Modes, Costume Parisien*



1813 - Félicité Louise Julie Constance de Durfort by Merry-Joseph Blondel



1815 - The New Fashion, or The Scotsman in Paris



1824 - *Journal des Dames et des Modes, Costume Parisien*



1824 - *Paris Fashions by Georges-Jacques Gatine*



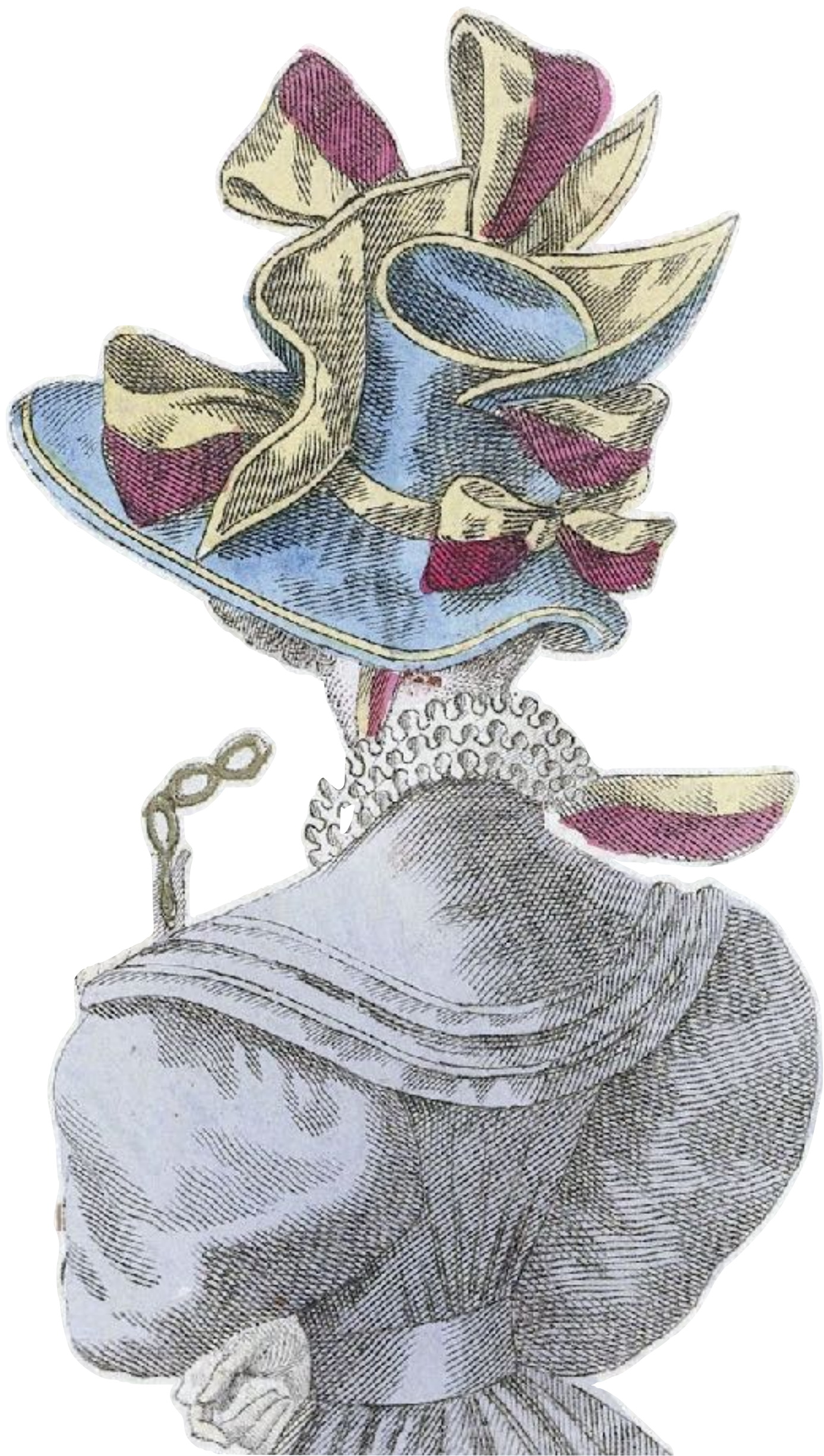
1822 - Countess Cecilia d'Auersperg
by Giuseppe Tominz



1827 - Portrait of a Marett Lady by French School



1828 - Princess Henrietta of Nassau-Weilburg by Carl von Sales



1827 - *Journal des Dames et des Modes*

1829 - *Journal des Dames et des Modes*

1830 - *Journal des Dames et des Modes*



1830 - Portrait of a Lady by anonymous



1831 - Portrait of a Lady by Miklós Barabás



*c. 1835 - Marie J. Lafont-Porcher
by François Joseph Kinson*



1841 - Agatha Petronella Hartsen in bridal attire by Jan Willem Pieneman



1845 - Louise von Wertheimstein (born Biedermann) by Anton Einsle



1853 - Portrait of a Lady by Carl von Saar



1854 - Johanna Bujatti by Johann Christian Mayer



1856 - Lady With a Lorgnette by Jozsef Borsos



1860s - Photo by Ralf de Jonge



1892 - Olga of the Hellenes by C. Merlin



1896 - Anna Petrovna Ostroumova-Lebedeva by Filipp Malyavin



1905 - Annmary Brown Hawkins by Seymour Joseph Guy



1905 - Portrait of Lady by Moritz Stifter

19TH-CENTURY EYEGLASSES

- ▶ In Jane Austen's *Emma* (1815), Mr. Frank Churchill fixes Mrs. Bates' spectacles when the rivet comes out.
- ▶ In 1843, the first elastic-steel eyeglasses frames were made in the United States. This meant that temples could be adjustable & bend to fit.
- ▶ With more access to education, 19th-c. women were more likely to be seen wearing eyeglasses of all styles.

1812 - Mrs. Boulton by George Engleheart





c. 1820 - English portrait of a lady



c. 1825 - Margaret Hammer Alexander likely painted by Frances Alexander



c. 1835 - American portrait of a lady



1838 - Mrs. John Schley (Mary Anne Montford) & her Grandson



1839 - The Children of Comte Louis Amedie de Barjerac by François Fleischbein



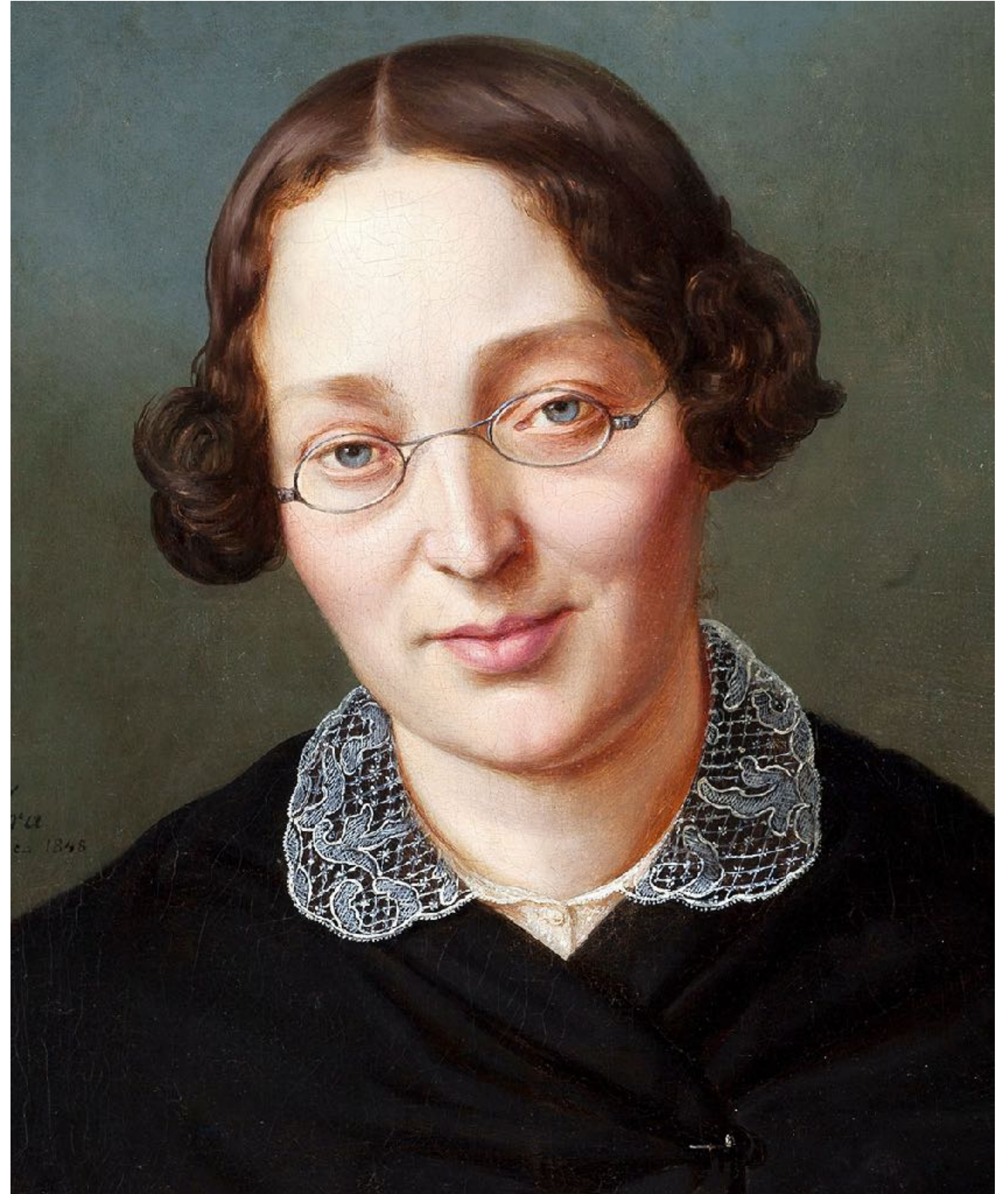
1839 - Mrs. Antoine Julien Meffre-Rouzan by Jean Joseph Vaudechamp



c. 1838 - Woman With Spectacles by William Matthew Prior



1846 - Luise Pfeiffer-Nathusius by Friedrich von Amerling



1848 - Anonymous portrait from Poland



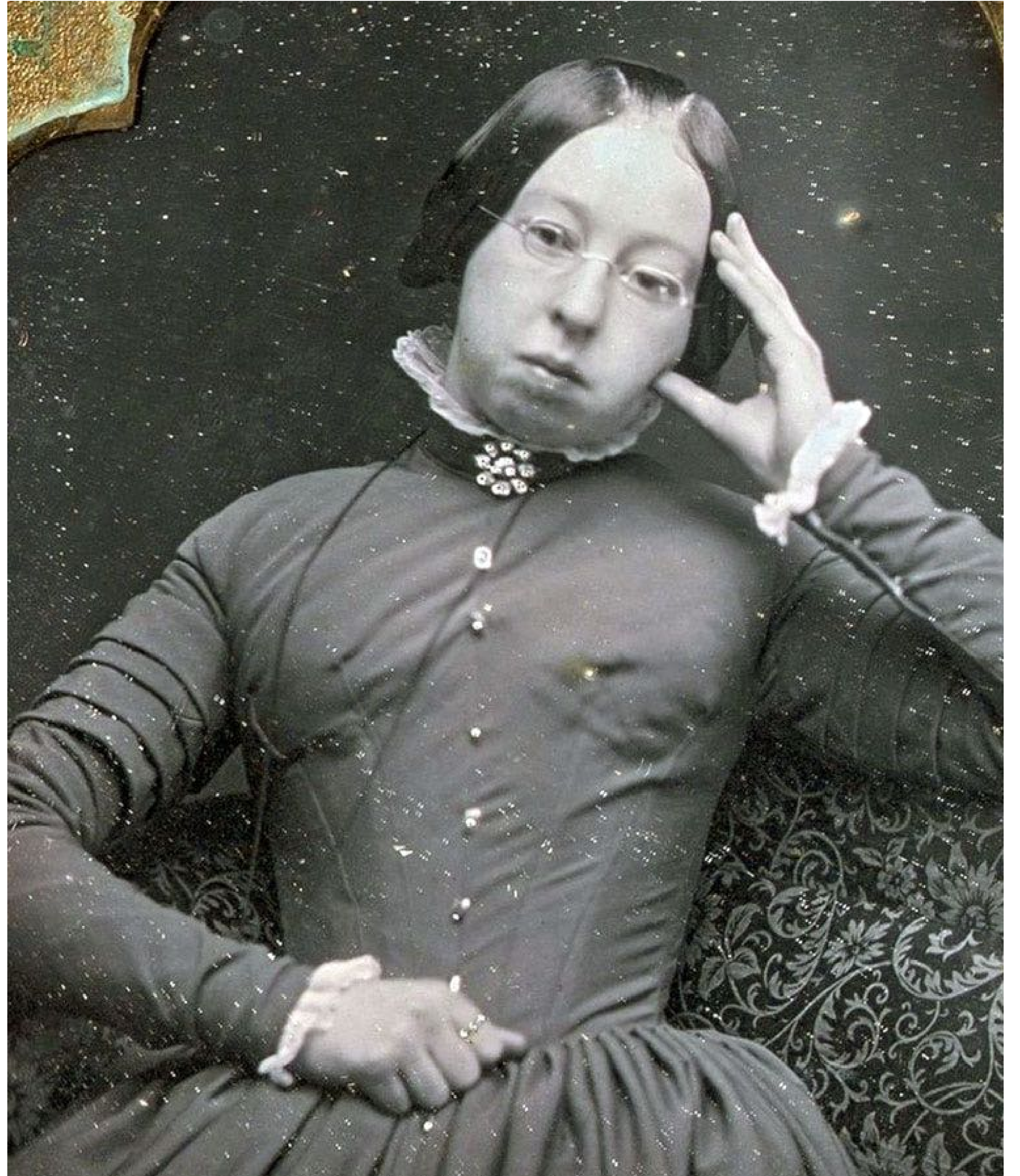
1840s - Anonymous daguerreotype



1849 - Daguerreotype by Jesse H. Whitehurst



1840s - Anonymous daguerreotype



1840s-50s - Anonymous daguerreotype



1840s-50s - Anonymous daguerreotype



1840s-50s - Anonymous daguerreotype



1840s-50s - Anonymous daguerreotype



1850s-60s - Photo by W. Fred Carpenter in Foxboro, Massachusetts



1850s - Anonymous daguerreotype



1850s - Anonymous daguerreotype



1850s-60s - Anonymous daguerreotype



1851- Anonymous daguerreotype



1850s-60s - Anonymous photo



1850s-60s - Anonymous photo



1860s - Sarah Childs



1860s - Photo by T.R. Gettys in Bedford, Pennsylvania



1864 - Sojourner Truth from the National Portrait Gallery, Smithsonian



1860s-70s- Rafalina Wisznicka by Kazimierz Górnicki



1870s - Carte de visite



1881 - Photo by the studio of Julius Gertinger in Vienna



*1880s - Photo by DeYoungs'
Studio, New York, NY*



1880s-90s - Wakamatsu Shizuko



1897 - Woman With Glasses in the True Beauties Series by Toyohara (Yōshū) Chikanobu



1890s - Cabinet card from Lancaster, Pennsylvania



1890s-1900s - Anonymous photo



c. 1890 - Photo from the Northumberland Archives



1890s - Anonymous photo



1890s - Anonymous photo



1890s - Photo from Nashville, Tennessee



1890s-1900s - Cabinet card by T. Tafnell Thompson in South Beach, Blackpool



1890s-1900s - Anonymous photo



1894-1901 - Miss H.M Craig



1890s-1900s - Photo by J.E. Williams in New Athens, Ohio



1894 - Miss L. League photo by C.M. Bell from the Library of Congress



1890-1900s - Photo by John Johnson in Centerville, South Dakota



1890s - E.Price in Jamesville, New York



1890s - Cabinet card from Brooklyn, New York



c. 1897 - Clara Stephens, photo from the Library of Congress



c. 1897 - Mary Bambrick, photo from the Library of Congress



1890s - Cabinet card



1894 - Photo by Gibbon Bros. in Utica, New York



c. 1896 - Miss Edith L. Chambers, photo from the Library of Congress



1899 - Photo by the Gerrity Studio in Bangor, Maine



1899 - Dr. Lillian Alexia Maclean in New South Wales, Australia



1899 - Elizabeth (Betsy) Fisher by William Merritt Chase



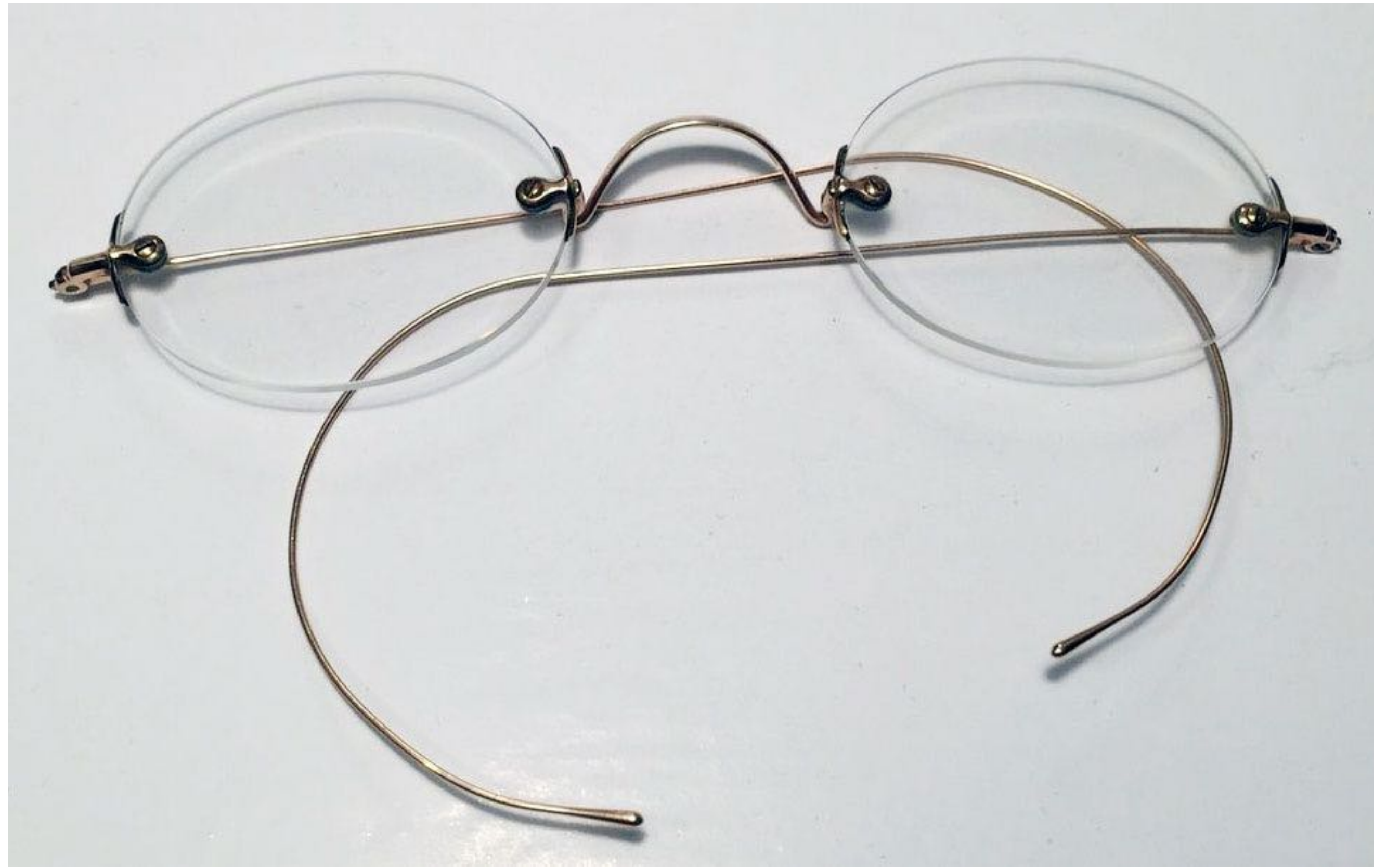
19th-century - Anonymous photo



1890s - Anonymous photo

RIMLESS EYEGLASSES

- First made in the 1820s & popular as a pince-nez style.
- Worn in the 1880s in the “three-piece” or “riding” style with curved temples.
- Popular as a way to make eyeglasses more inconspicuous.





c.1885 - Photo from Michigan



1890s-1900 - Cabinet card by E.D. Evans, Ithica, New York



c. 1900 - Photo from Waynesboro, Pennsylvania



c. 1900 - Photo by William J.E. Collins in Waynesboro, Pennsylvania



c. 1900 - Photo from Waynesboro, Pennsylvania



c. 1900 - Photo from Waynesboro, Pennsylvania



c. 1904 - Anna Ingraham, photo by Floyd Ingraham



1905 - Emily Green Balch, photo from Library of Congress



1900s - Anonymous photo



1900s - Anonymous photo



*1900-10 - Philadelphia
wedding photo*



1900s - Anonymous photo



1909-14 - Anonymous photo



1910s-20s - Photo from Japan

PINCE-NEZ EYEGLASSES

- ▶ Similar to earlier eyeglasses styles, but revived in 1820s with newer technology.
- ▶ Fashionable for women & men in the 1880s to 1910s.
- ▶ Could be rimless.
- ▶ Could be attached to a cord/chain worn around the neck or attached to a hairpin.
- ▶ The “bar-spring” construction could be used for astigmatism, first worn in the 1890s.

c. 1900s - eBay photo





1870s - Fraulein Nolleby by Carl Suck of Berlin



1870s - Anonymous photo



1870s - Photo by Tuttle Studio in Belfast, Maine



1870s-80s - Photo from Newburyport, Massachusetts



1886 - Mrs. Guilford Wiley Well by Albert Jenks



1880s - Photo from Krakow, Poland



1880s - Photo by Alvan S. Harper in Tallahassee, Florida



1880-90s - Katharine Lee Bates



1880s - Anonymous photo



1892 - Princess Kaiulani in London



*1895-1900 - Self portrait by
Louise Abbéma*



c. 1900 - Photo from Kentucky



c. 1900 - Miss Enid Draper by Stephens Studio in Urbana, Illinois



c. 1900 - Anonymous photo



c. 1900 - Anonymous photo



1905 - Miriam Michelson



1905 - Self portrait by Ida Gerhardi



1906 - Adjutant Jackson, Lieutenant Samton, Captain Ashton, & Lena-Jackson of the Salvation Army



1910s - Family of Charles S.L Bakerin in Missouri



1910s - Dr. Anna Mae Lowman Pankey in Virginia City, Montana



1914 - Photo from Argentina



c. 1919 - Anonymous photo



1917 - Self portrait by Thérèse Schwartz



1918 - Johanna Eugenia Theadora Van Hoorn Schouwe by Thérèse Schwartz

EARLY 20TH-CENTURY EYEGLASSES

- Eyeglass frames could be made of celluloid or Bakelite as well as metal.
- In the 1910s, U.S. President Theodore Roosevelt helped normalize wearing eyeglasses.
- In the 1920s, silent film star Harold Lloyd's horn-rimmed eyeglasses became trendy when he wore them in his comedies.



The elite style for strictly formal wear is reflected in these Shur-on rimless eye-glasses mounted with white gold. Ask for Style No. 507.

Correct dress demands appropriate glasses

AT a formal dinner, theatre party or dance, Shur-on rimless eye-glasses, with white-gold mounting, add the last touch of refinement to a modish appearance. They would, however, be a little ultra fine for an afternoon club meeting or shopping trip, and certainly most inappropriate for sport! Shelltex Shur-on rimmed eye-glasses are just the thing for semi-dress or business, while All-Shelltex Shur-on spectacles have that swagger outdoor "atmosphere" that seems to go with tennis, golf or driving.

When you order the different kinds of glasses you need be sure your optical specialist fits you with Shur-ons. Make certain your glasses are Shur-ons. Then you know the style is correct.

SHUR-ON OPTICAL CO., Inc. Rochester, N.Y.
Established 1864

**Shur-on
Glasses**

Dainty and informal are Shelltex Shur-on rimmed eye-glasses. Ask for Style No. 0345.

The ideal out-of-doors glasses are All-Shelltex Shur-on Spectacles. Ask for Style No. 2381.



1900s - Photo by William J.E. Collins in Waynesboro, Pennsylvania



1900s - Photo from Waynesboro, Pennsylvania



1900s - Photo from Crookston, Minnesota



1900s - Possibly Elsie Martha Ruddle, photo from the State Library of Queensland



1900s - Photo by Theo Elite Studio in Sac City, Iowa



1900s - Anonymous photo



*c. 1903 - Photo by Nathan C. White
in Gainesville, Georgia*



1904-18 - Anonymous photo



c. 1905 - Doreen Murtagh, photo from the State Library of Queensland



1900-19 - Anonymous photo



1900s - Photo from Anoka, Minnesota



c. 1907 - Mrs. M.K. McCulloch photo by C.M. Bell from the Library of Congress



1907 - Anonymous photo



1910s - Photo from Tyne & Wear Archives & Museums



1910s-20s - Mildred Barber from Marathon, Wisconsin

Wellsworth

Published by the American Optical Company
at Southbridge Massachusetts U S A

Vol. VI

No. 9



WINDSOR
The Vogue in Spectacleware
®



c. 1920 - Agnes Macphail from the Grey Roots Archival Collection



1926 - E.S. Pitts-Bilibina by Konstantin Somov



1920s - Alma & Rita Johnson



c. 1923 - Photo by the Central Studio in Dublin



1920s - Anonymous photo



1920s - Anonymous photo


THE SATURDAY EVENING POST



In nothing else that you do to secure vision so important as in driving. Accurate judgment of time and distance is vital. Tillyer Lenses are especially accurate. They help you by helping your eyes.

Help your eyes do the *harder work* they have to do TODAY

HOW much more comfortably, how much more easily, you drive your car and do a hundred other things that today's ways of living demand, with the help of these new, modern, wide-angle lenses. The more accurate vision made possible by Tillyer Lenses helps you all day, all evening, whenever you use your eyes. Tillyer Lenses are accurate to the very edge.



The development of Tillyer Lenses has been recognized as an important contribution to optical science, for it has given to the millions of men and women who wear glasses the opportunity to enjoy greater comfort and better vision than earlier types of lenses offered. Tillyer Lenses are new. They are modern.

If you want to take the best of care of the only eyes you'll ever have (and who doesn't?) have them examined at least once a year. That is the only way to be sure you are giving them all the help you can.

And find out all about these new lenses. Wear them for a month. Then when you try to go back to your old lenses you will realize that Tillyers have made a real difference.

For a booklet describing Tillyer Lenses, write Dept. 6, American Optical Co., Southbridge, Mass.

TILLYER LENSES
An AMERICAN OPTICAL COMPANY product

1920s - advertisement in the Saturday Evening Post

WELLSWORTH MERCHANDISER

MARCH, 1927



TORTOISE-SHELL GLASSES PASSE
Metal-Rimmed and Rimless Types
Now in Vogue---Adopted by Girls
Because of Their Hats

From leading Boston opticians comes the news that lensed glasses for many years; the wifeline ballroom of the student and the neighborhood being favorably regarded with those who formerly preferred them that they are in some degree worn for the sake of fashion, which, by the way, were never considered as contributing to the social beauty of the wearer.

HAT STYLES RESPONSIBLE

Women's clothing styles blamed for many things, are held responsible for the change by the experts. The new jewelry being sold at present are worn down on the face, leading, reaching the eyebrows and also the top of the ears. This style makes heavy, round glasses unpractical for feminine wear, as the form of the models has pushed against them to such extent as to force them out of shape or at least makes them uncomfortable for the wearer.

The lens could be mounted in many ways, however, and there was just in getting new about with of these styles, but apparently the public was ready for the change and they are being made in popularity.

MEN ACCEPT THEM WITHOUT QUESTION

The girls had to adopt them, on account of their hats, and the men have accepted them without question. This applies to the same change. Generally the metal frame is preferred by the younger set. A special style has been evolved and is now being made all over the world. A special style has been evolved and is now being made all over the world. A special style has been evolved and is now being made all over the world.

Published by
American Optical Company Southbridge, Massachusetts, U.S.A.

1927 - advertisement



1924 - Teenaged women in Minnesota



1930s-40s - Jean Lucey Pratt



1937 - Mrs. Elizabeth Petty by Ernest Townsend



1930 - Photo by Continental Optical Company, Indianapolis, Indiana



1930s - Anonymous photo



1940s - Georgia Frank Farabaugh of Pueblo, Colorado



1940s - Photo from Pittsburgh Studio

"You can protect your eyesight, too . . . with better eyeglasses from Sears. My new glasses are so helpful . . . attractive . . . inconspicuous . . . and cost me very little at Sears low prices. Sears Optical Service is fast and easy to use . . . and accuracy is guaranteed!"



1. Hidden bar strengthens Lenses

2. Single mounting points reduce danger of breakage

"Arcway" Rimless Glasses . . . Reduce lens breakage

Improved, Ful-Vue mounting greatly lessens lens breakage, yet gives face-flattering, inconspicuous, rimless effect. Single lens-mounting points at nose bridge—reduce danger of lens-breaking shocks and jars. Mounting hidden behind top rims of lenses, holds them steady—actually strengthens glasses against undue strain. Flesh-color, 1/10 12K gold imitation pearl nose-pads. State lens

\$10⁹⁸

Single-Vision

1940s - ad for "Archway" Rimless Glasses



1940s - Anonymous photo



*1942 - Woman at North
American Aviation factory,
photo by Alfred T. Palmer
from Library of Congress*



1945 - Photo from Life Magazine



1946 - Student at Howard University, photo by Alfred Eisenstaedt for Life Magazine

UNTIL THE 19TH-CENTURY – SUNGLASSES WERE A SIGN OF INFIRMITY

- From ancient Rome to 18th-c. Venice, green lenses were used to help weak eyes.
- In 12th c. China, smokey amber lenses were used to protect eyes from glare.
- In the 1660s, Samuel Pepys wrote: “My eyes are very bad, and will be worse if not helped, so my Lord Bruncker do advise as a certain cure to use greene spectacles, which I will do.”
- In 1752, optician James Ayscough recommended glasses with blue or green tints to correct vision problems.
- In 1790, A Treatise on One Hundred and Eighteen Principle Diseases of the Eyes recommended “green spectacles, which moderate the light, to strengthen the retina.”
- As of 1806, Thomas Jefferson owned green-tinted glasses to reduce eye strain



1770 - Museum of Science & Industry, Manchester, UK



1770s - Venetian "Goldoni" sunglasses



1800s - Italian sunglasses at the Met Museum



1800-75 - Horn sunglasses at the Museum Rotterdam



1860s - Arlington House



c. 1825 - Mrs. Joseph Rodman Drake (Sarah Eckford) by Henry Inman



1840 - Lady Wearing Spectacles from the American School



1850s - Anonymous daguerreotype



19th-c. - Anonymous photo



*1840s - Anonymous
daguerreotype*



c. 1855 - Laura Bridgman photo by Southworth & Hawes



c. 1889 - Laura Bridgman



c. 1872 - Fanny Crosby



1870s - Photo from Harris County, Texas

LATE 19TH/EARLY 20TH CENTURY – SUNGLASSES FOR PROTECTION & FASHION

- Soldiers during the U.S. Civil War & 1880s British soldiers in Egypt were provided tinted glass "eye protectors" for long marches.
- By the 1890s, advertisements for sunglasses were published in the U.S.
- In 1913, Sir William Crookes invented a tinted lens that blocks UV rays.
- In 1929, the Foster Grant Co. sold inexpensive sunglasses on the Atlantic City, NJ, boardwalk.
- In the 1930s, movie stars made sunglasses fashionable to wear everyday.
- In 1936, Bausch & Lomb introduced the "aviator" style for military pilots, & the style quickly became popular.



1910s-20s - Willson
"Eye Protector" Glasses

Wellsworth

The AMOPTICO MAGAZINE

Published by the American Optical Company
at Southbridge Massachusetts U. S. A.

Vol. V

May, 1916

No. 1

Auto Glasses
\$1.00

Sun Glasses
\$1.00

Shoot Glass
\$1.50

Auto Glasses
\$1.50

Tennis Glasses
\$2.50

Golf Glasses
\$1.50

Sun Glasses
\$1.50

Shooting Glasses
\$2.00

The 14D2 "Selling Price Cards"
When you display AOCO Motor Glasses and Protection Glasses, use these attractive cards. They will attract customers to your shop. Your jobber can supply them, or you can write us direct for them.

Wellsworth
Quality

ENTIRE WORK COPYRIGHTED 1916
by the American Optical Company

1916 - advertisement



1910s-20s - Anonymous photo



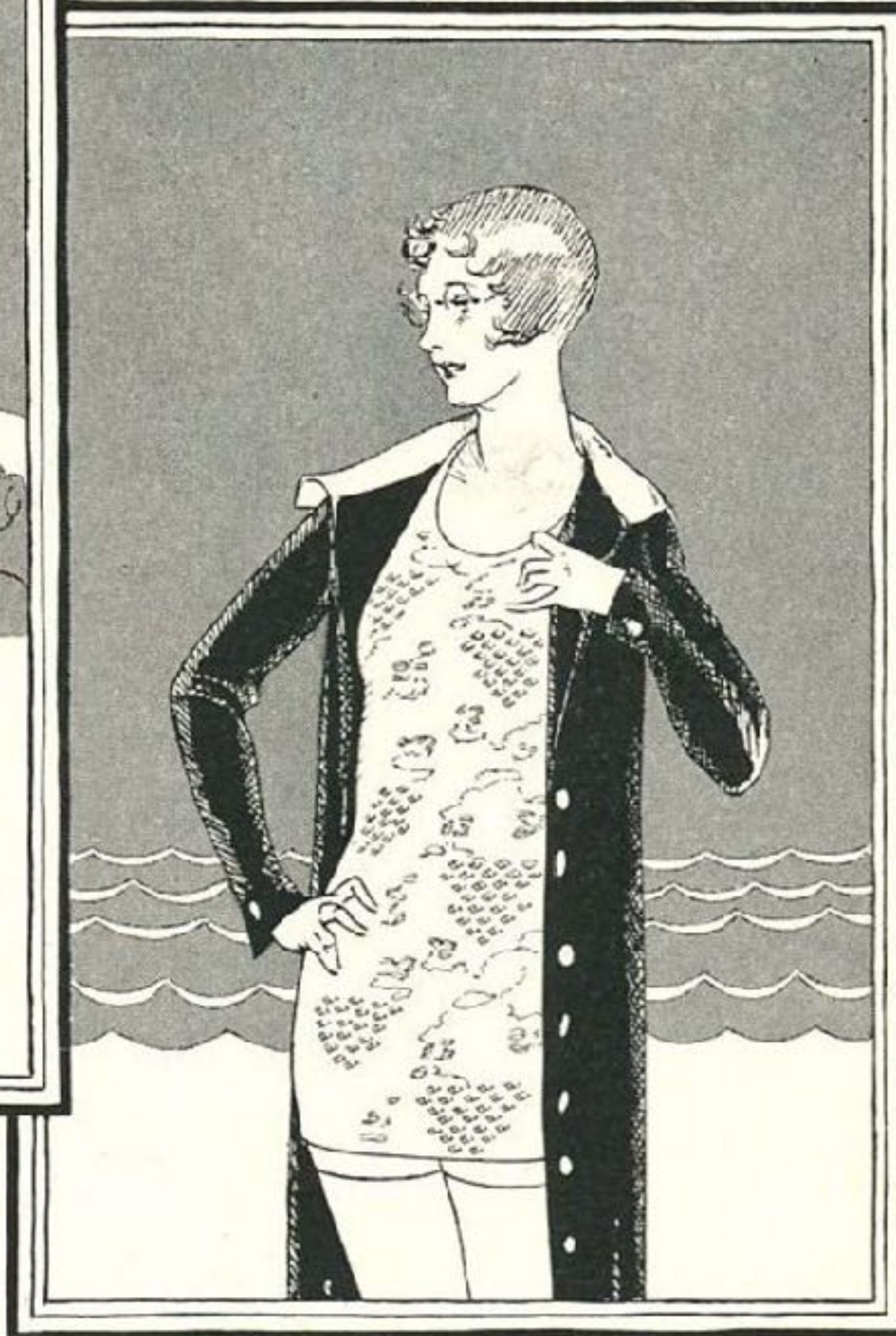
1915 - Hattie Lel Red, Edith Leeseman, & a friend

1927

To take the ULTRA-VIOLET out of
SNOW-GLARE ~ SUN-GLARE

CRUXITE LENSES

Patented



*A \$3.00 charge for Cruxite above
that for regular lenses affords a fair
profit. Cruxite can add materially
to your income.*



1929 - Elsie Luto & Betty Blee from Chicago



1932 - Constance Bennett at the Beverly Hills Tennis Club



1930s - Mary Astor photo by Columbia Studios



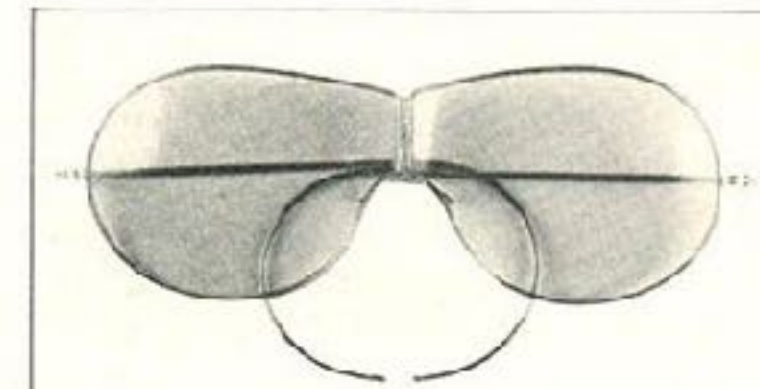
Summertime is



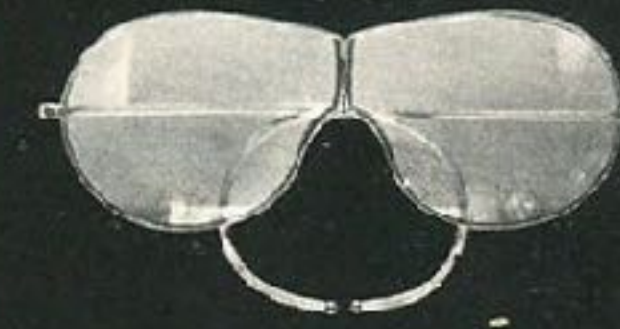
AO GOGGLE Time

Just the mention of spring and summer should suggest to you — AO SUN GOGGLES: popular styles, popular lens tints, popular prices and each goggle supplied with a colorful case.

There's a big opportunity for profit, too. Under the AO Sun Goggle Plan you receive 12 goggles for the price of ten — and you can double your money. Then there are bright-looking displays, too! Let us show this line to you!



SOLARGLAS: Yellow gold filled frame with ground and polished meniscus lenses in Calobar or Craxite. \$6.00 each, lot of 12—\$69.00



AUTOGLAS: Yellow gold filled frame, ground and polished meniscus lenses in light or medium shades of smoke, amber or feuzal. \$3.50 each, lot of 12—\$35.00



GLAREGLAS: White metal frame; micro-quille lenses in light or medium shades of smoke, amber or feuzal. \$1.50 each, lot of 12—\$15.00



1930



SUNGLAS: Note adjustable bridge; micro-quille lenses in light or medium shades of smoke, amber or feuzal. .90c each, lot 12—\$9.00



COVERGLAS: Slips right over regular frames: 40 and 42 mm eye sizes; smoke, amber or feuzal lenses. .90c each, lot of 12—\$9.00

All above prices are net.

All above prices are net.



1930s - Photo by Alfred Eisenstaedt for Life Magazine



1934 - Photo by Jules Richard in the Paris Musée Nicéphore Niépce



1940 - Bette Davis



1930s - Photo by Alfred Eisenstaedt for Life Magazine

WHAT EYEGLASSES SHOULD I WEAR WITH MY HISTORICAL COSTUMES?



BUYING REPRODUCTION & VINTAGE EYEGLOSS FRAMES

- [Zanoza Workshop on Etsy](#) for repro medieval/renaissance frames \$28-\$42
- [Townsend.us](#) for repro 18th-c. & 19th-c. frames \$30-\$78
- [Historic EyeWear Company](#) for repro 19th-c. frames \$140-\$180
- [Focusers.com](#) for repro 18th-c. to early 20th-c. frames \$70-\$235, lenses \$35+
- [Vintage Optical Shop](#) for vintage 18th-c. to 20th-c. frames \$198-\$498, lenses \$99+

ZANOZA WORKSHOP ON ETSY

- Repro c. 1450 wood eyeglass frames



TOWNSENDS.US

- ▶ Repro 1740-1800 metal frames



HISTORIC EYEWEAR COMPANY

- ▶ Rerpo 1835-80 metal eyeglass frames



FOCUSERS.COM

- Repro 18th-c. to early 20th-c. metal eyeglass frames & lenses



VINTAGE OPTICAL SHOP

- ▶ Early 19th-c. eyeglass frames & lenses, late 19th-c. pince-nez eyeglasses & lenses



BUYING QUIZZING GLASSES

- Quizzing glass style necklaces made through the 1990s, search on eBay & Etsy for “magnifying glass pendant/necklace” - \$20-\$80+
- Many 20th-c. quizzing glass styles available, so be careful of over-paying!
- Amazon sells simple repros - \$12-\$16



*Left & center - Amazon; Right - eBay,
1990s Joan Rivers brand*

BUYING LORNGETTES

- ▶ Lorgnettes made through the 1950s, search on eBay & Etsy for both “lorgnettes” & “opera glasses” - \$25-\$150+



Left - eBay 19th-c.; Right - eBay, 1940s

BUYING MODERN EYEGLASSES TO FAKE HISTORICAL STYLES

- ZenniOptical.com style numbers 325812 (rimless), 450011 (round metal), 473511 (oval metal), 366812 (oval metal), 584312 (oval metal with snap-on sunglasses), 830021 (round plastic), 125525 (round tortoiseshell), frames \$7-\$40, lenses \$30+
- Fytoo.com styles Orpheus (round metal), Xuereb (rimless), Sherwyn (round tortoiseshell), frames \$20-\$27, lenses \$35+
- JollyNova.com style Lance Retro (round metal), Jim (round tortoiseshell), frames \$70-\$120, lenses \$20+
- Other places to look: Eyebuydirect, Wherelight, Ublins, Zeelool, Voochic, Muukal

Ask your optometrist for a print-out of your prescription with the pupillary distance (PD).

1600s-1830s

ZENNIPTICAL.COM STYLE 450011



1830s-1910s

ZENNIPTICAL.COM STYLE 473511



1890s-1910s

ZENNIPTICAL.COM STYLE 325812



1920s-30s

ZENNIPTICAL.COM STYLE 830021



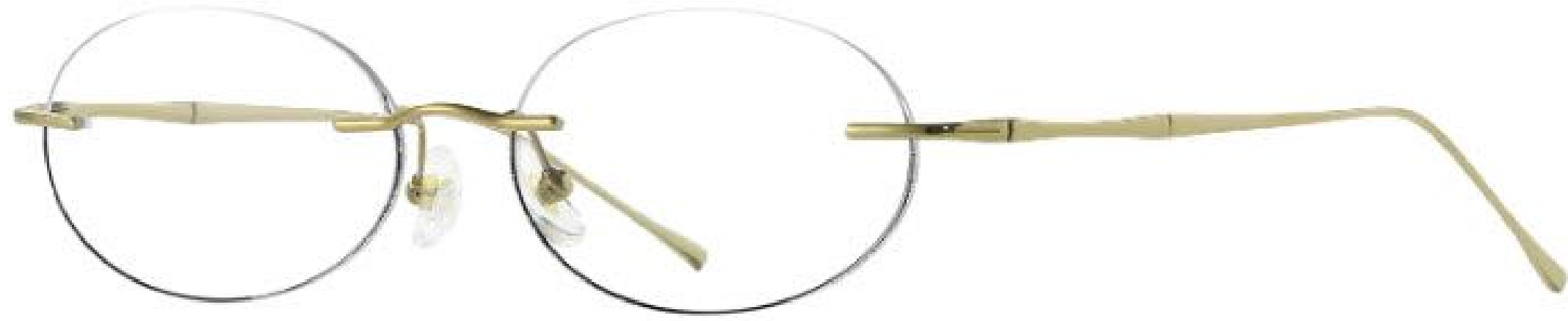
1600s-1830s

FYTOO.COM ORPHEUS STYLE



1890s-1910s

FYTOO.COM XUEREB STYLE



1770s-1930s

JOLLYNOVA.COM JIM STYLE



GOING WITHOUT EYEGLASSES

- ▶ Try it for an hour or two.
- ▶ Practice at events with friends.
- ▶ Take glasses off for photos!
(& try not to squint)



TRYSTANCRAFT.COM/COSTUME



TRYSTANCRAFT.COM/COSTUME