

# TREASURY OF OPTICS: THE COLLECTIONS OF THE OPTISCHES MUSEUM JENA

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### ***Treasury of Optics: The Collections of the Optisches Museum Jena.***

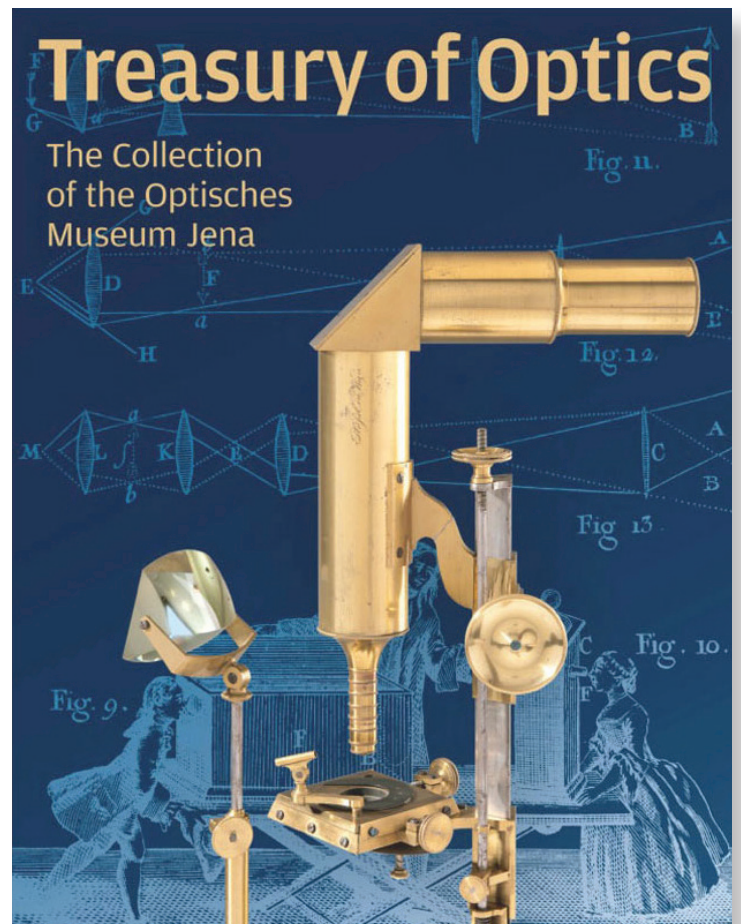
*Edited by R.F. Schmalbrock, Karin Gjudjenow, and Hans Meinl. Jena, Germany: Ernst-Abbe-Stiftung, 2013. 303 pages.*

As can be discerned from the title, this book celebrates the collections of the Optisches Museum Jena in Jena, Germany. The book contains sixteen essays with accompanying images, the topics of which include the history of the museum and its intertwined history with the Carl Zeiss Jena Company, aspects of the museum's collection of visual aids and optical instruments, development of refractive procedures, Nuremberg Masterpiece spectacles, contact lens history, history of the microscope and important persons in its development, optical technology, and graphic art related to optics. The Optisches Museum Jena was formed in 1922, but some collecting by the Carl Zeiss company in Jena was started before that, and the museum acquired some personal collections dating from before 1900.

The book is lavishly illustrated with both color and monochrome photographs, portraits, drawings, paintings, reproductions of advertisements, and other images. Some of the pictures that particularly caught my eye were those of a Davidson Double Optometer from about 1900, Nuremberg Masterpiece spectacles from the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, and an early trial lens set. There are numerous photographs of microscopes, telescopes, and binoculars.

Three of the essays document the history of the museum. The history of microscopes is given particular attention, being the subject of six of the sixteen essays. Simple and compound microscopes, important microscope makers,

binocular microscopes, microscope projectors, and microphotography are among the topics examined on microscopy. The contributions of individuals such as Carl Zeiss (1816-1888), Ernst Abbe (1840-1905), Friedrich Nobert (1806-1881), and others to the development of optical instruments and technology are discussed. This book is a fitting tribute to a museum with thousands of items of historical interest.



*Treasury of Optics: The Collections of the Optisches Museum Jena.* Edited by R.F. Schmalbrock, Karin Gjudjenow, and Hans Meinl. Translated from German by Janet Mayer and Steven W. Sidore. Jena, Germany: Ernst-Abbe-Stiftung, 2013. ISBN 978-3-9811120-5-4. 303 pages. Hardcover.