CROWN & CURIOSITY

AMERICAN OPTICAL CO.

An Optometrist's Trial Lens Set

Southbridge, Massachusetts · Fitted case · Adjustable trial frame

Before a pair of glasses could be made, the eye had to be asked a series of careful questions. A trial lens set was how that work was done: lens after lens, held in a frame, until the world came into focus.

This set was manufactured by the American Optical Company of Southbridge, Massachusetts. A plaque inside the fitted case still names the company and the town. Rows of marked lenses sit in a burgundy velvet lining, with an adjustable metal trial frame.

It might have stood on a consulting-room table, opened at the start of an examination, a new lens tried until the world came into focus.

A toolkit of sight, kept in its case — a little history of how we learned to see, now yours to preserve.

~ A curiosity, chosen for you ~

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