

**Collection on microscopes and other  
optical instruments, 1588-1935**

**1588-1935**

**Mss.509.078.M582**

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## Table of Contents

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Summary Information .....	3
Background note .....	4
Administrative Information .....	5
Indexing Terms .....	5
Other Descriptive Information .....	5

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository</b>	American Philosophical Society
<b>Creator</b>	Court, Thomas H.
<b>Title</b>	Collection on microscopes and other optical instruments, 1588-1935
<b>Date [inclusive]</b>	1588-1935
<b>Call number</b>	Mss.509.078.M582
<b>Extent</b>	5.0 Linear feet
<b>Extent</b>	5 linear ft.
<b>Location</b>	LH-B-31-2; LH-SB-XOS Case 1-4 (XOS)
<b>Language</b>	English
<b>Container</b>	1-10
<b>Abstract</b>	<p>This collection was assembled by Court and was partly used in the book, "The History of the Microscope" (with Reginald S. Clay, London, 1932). There is historical correspondence (including some by Court), documents, broadsides, and photographs, concerning microscopes and instruments. This includes material on Joseph Bonomi, James Epps, John Lee, Edward Nairne, and others. There is significant material on Cornelius Varley: account book, autobiographical sketch, watercolors and sketches, etc. This collection also contains a large number of deeds pertaining to the property of John Lee (1783-1866), Fellow of the Royal Society and an amateur astronomer. In addition, there are about 300 pamphlets, including early trade and auction catalogs, used by Court for his research.</p>

## **Background note**

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Thomas H. Court was a historian.

## Administrative Information

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### Publication Information

American Philosophical Society

## Provenance

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### Acquisition Information

Purchased from Wreden (\$2,255.90) and accessioned, 12/04/1969 (1969 1779ms).

## Indexing Terms

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### Genre(s)

- Account books.
- Autobiographies.
- Broadsides.
- Deeds.
- Microfilm Collection
- Photoprints.
- Sketches.

### Subject(s)

- Astronomy.
- Medicine -- History.
- Microscopy -- History.
- Scientific apparatus and instruments -- History.

## Other Descriptive Information

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This manuscript collection falls outside the geographic scope of the Early American guide (British North America and the United States before 1840). It may be of interest to scholars interested in global history, international relations, imperialism, or the U.S. in the world.