

THE LIMNER COMPANY



ENGLISH SCHOOL

Quizzing glass

Circa: 18th/19th century

18th/19th century

12K gold and enamel

Oval, 38mm (1 ½ in) high

Quizzing Glasses, a name given to the accessories in the late eighteenth century, were worn on the end of long ribbons and used to scrutinise or 'quiz' those nearby. Unlike glasses or monocles, which held prescriptive glass, these items only magnified the owner's vision. A wearer would attach the glass to a chain or ribbon, which could then be worn around the neck or attached to one's person in some way.

As with other accessories, like fans, quizzing glasses were often used symbolically rather than for any practical purpose. Looking at someone through the glass could be a joke or a way to signal interest in the subject of their gaze. Furthermore, they were fashionable and decorative items; hence the enamelled decoration.