

TRA18 75-mm Merz und Sohn Refractor: Repair and Restoration

Issues:

1. Broken, open and badly twisted storage case barely held the telescope. The case was so badly twisted that one corner of case sat 3/4-inch off flat surface. Both of the sides and ends of the case were broken off below the grooves for retaining the sliding lid, and the lid was also missing. The old German pine case was in very bad shape and did not function as a case that would protect the telescope.
2. Telescope came with no mount or tripod.

Action taken:

- 1) The twist in the case was removed over a few weeks, by wetting and over twisting the case in the opposite direction. The case was extended upward about two inches with new pine and with side and end grooves for guiding the sliding lid into position. This was done after the side and end boards were planed down to be smooth and flat. Inside the case, the two missing top keeper boards were replaced. The new wood was stained and both old and new wood was refinished to match as nearly as possible. Re-felted storage case.
- 2) Located a same period, brass tabletop tripod suitable for handling this large tube tabletop refracting telescope. Custom mounted telescope to tripod.



Before restoration, as received, missing lid and keeper rails for the lid, and no tripod



After restoration

TRA18 Merz und Sohn Refractor: Repair and Restoration



As received; no lid, no rails, and top half of retainer board pairs missing.



Replaced missing lid, rails, and refinished.



New lid - left end view



Relocated solar filter and cleaned up lens storage.



New lid - right end view



Remounted the solar filter and created new top-half retainer boards that were missing.



After restoration

TRA18 Merz und Sohn Refracting Telescope: Repair and Restoration



Another important telescope raised from the 'dead' (floor) and returned to operational mode.
Reconstructed old Austrian pine storage case will provide safe storage for years to come.