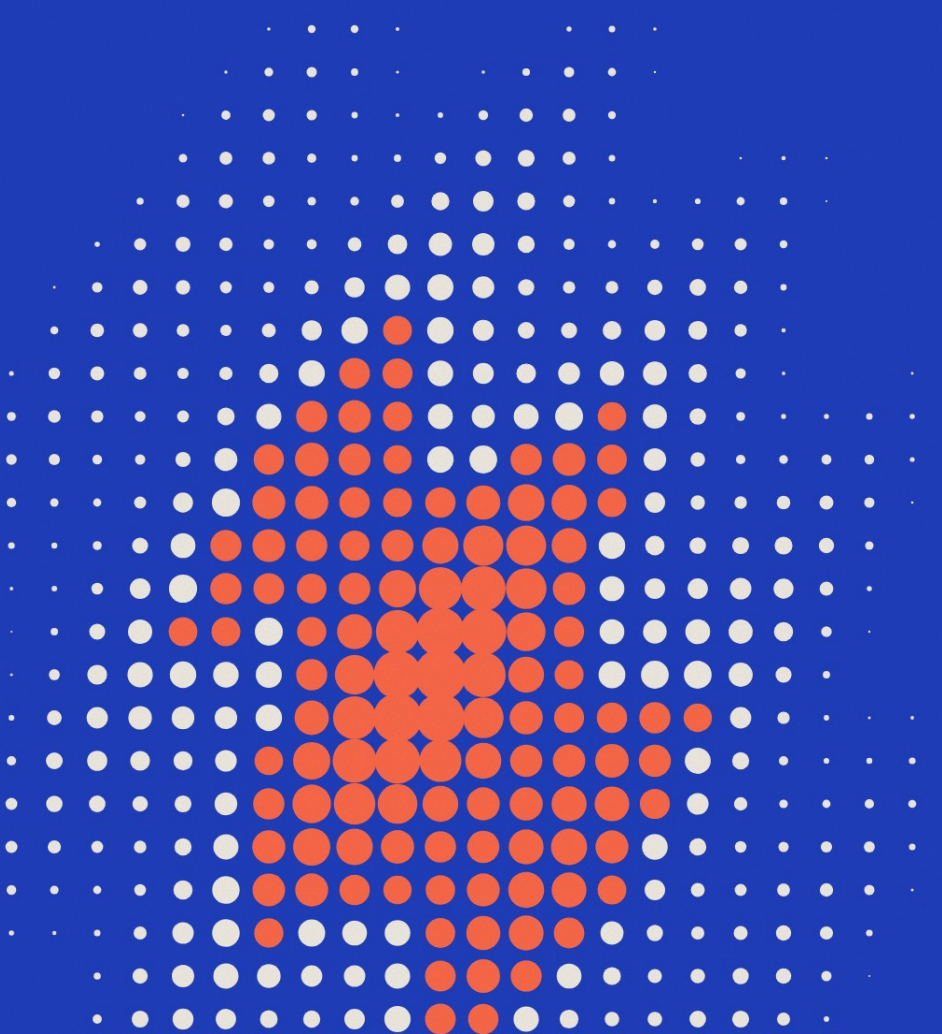




Micrographia

ROBERT HOOKE

JVA EDITORA



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Micrographia

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**By the Council of the ROYAL SOCIETY
of London
for Improving of Natural Knowledge.**

Ordered, That the Book written by Robert Hooke, M.A. Fellow of this Society, Entituled, Micrographia, or some Physiological Descriptions of Minute Bodies, made by Magnifying Glasses, with Observations and Inquiries thereupon, Be printed by John Martyn, and James Allestry, Printers to the said Society.

Novem. 23. 1664.

BROUNCKER. P.R.S.

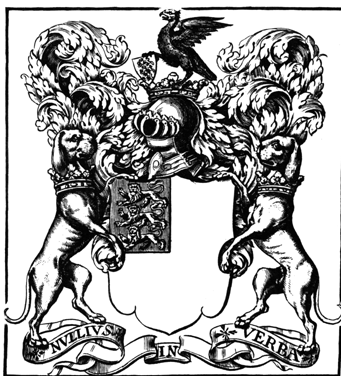


**MICROGRAPHIA:
OR SOME
Physiological Descriptions
OF
MINUTE BODIES**

MADE BY
MAGNIFYING GLASSES
WITH
OBSERVATIONS and INQUIRIES thereupon.

By R. HOOKE, Fellow of the ROYAL SOCIETY.

*Non possis oculo quantum contendere
Linceus,
Non tamen idcirco contemnas Lippus
inungi. Horat. Ep. lib. 1.*



LONDON, Printed by Jo. Martyn, and Ja. Allestry, Printers to the
ROYAL SOCIETY, and are to be sold at their Shop at the Bell in S. Paul's
Church-yard. M DC LX V.



TO THE KING.

SIR,



Do here most humbly lay this *small* Present at Your Majesties Royal feet. And though it comes accompany'd with two *disadvantages*, the *meanness* of the *Author*, and of the *Subject*; yet in both I am *incouraged* by the *greatness* of your *Mercy* and your *Knowledge*. By the one I am taught, that you can *forgive* the most *presumptuous* *Offenders*: And by the *other*, that you will not *esteem* the least work of *Nature*, or *Art*, unworthy your *Observation*. Amidst the many *felicities* that have accompani'd your Majesties happy *Restauration* and *Government*, it is none of the least considerable that *Philosophy* and *Experimental Learning* have prosper'd under your *Royal Patronage*. And as the calm prosperity of your *Reign* has given us the

leisure to follow these Studies of quiet and retirement, so it is just, that the Fruits of them should, by way of acknowledgement, be return'd to your Majesty. There are, Sir, several other of your Subjects, of your Royal Society, now busie about Nobler matters: The Improvement of Manufactures and Agriculture, the Increase of Commerce, the Advantage of Navigation: In all which they are assisted by your Majesties Incouragement and Example. Amidst all those greater Designs, I here presume to bring in that which is more proportionable to the smalness of my Abilities, and to offer some of the least of all visible things, to that Mighty King, that has establisht an Empire over the best of all Invisible things of this World, the Minds of Men.

*Your Majesties most humble
and most obedient
Subject and Servant,*

ROBERT HOOKE.



**TO THE
ROYAL SOCIETY.**



fter my *Address* to our *Great Founder* and *Patron*, I could not but think my self oblig'd, in consideration of those *many Ingagements* you have laid upon me, to offer these my *poor Labours* to this MOST ILLUSTRIOUS ASSEMBLY. YOU have been pleas'd formerly to accept of these rude *Draughts*. I have since added to them some *Descriptions*, and some *Conjectures* of my own. And therefore, together with YOUR *Acceptance*, I must also beg YOUR *pardon*. The Rules YOU have prescrib'd YOUR selves in YOUR *Philosophical Progress* do seem the best that have ever yet been practis'd. And particularly that of avoiding *Dogmatizing*, and the espousal of any *Hypothesis* not sufficiently grounded and confirm'd by *Experiments*. This way seems the most excellent, and may preserve both *Philosophy* and *Natural History* from its former *Corruptions*. In saying which, I may seem to condemn my own Course in this Treatise; in which there may perhaps be some *Expressions*, which may seem more *positive* then YOUR *Prescriptions* will permit: And though I desire to have them understood only as *Conjectures* and *Quæries* (which YOUR Method does not altogether disallow) yet if even in those I have exceeded, 'tis fit that I should declare, that it was not done by YOUR *Directions*. For it is most unreasonable, that YOU should undergo the *imputation* of the *faults* of my *Conjectures*, seeing YOU can receive so *small advantage* of reputation by the *sleight Observations* of

YOUR most humble and
most faithful Servant

ROBERT HOOKE.



THE PREFACE.



*I*t is the great prerogative of Mankind above other Creatures, that we are not only able to behold the works of Nature, or barely to sustain our lives by them, but we have also the power of considering, comparing, altering, assisting, and improving them to various uses. And as this is the peculiar privilege of humane Nature in general, so is it capable of being so far advanced by the helps of Art, and Experience, as to make some Men excel others in their Observations, and Deductions, almost as much as they do Beasts. By the addition of such artificial Instruments and methods, there may be, in some manner, a reparation made for the mischiefs, and imperfection, mankind has drawn upon it self, by negligence, and intemperance, and a wilful and superstitious deserting the Prescripts and Rules of Nature, whereby every man, both from a deriv'd corruption, innate and born with him, and from his breeding and converse with men, is very subject to slip into all sorts of errors.

The only way which now remains for us to recover some degree of those former perfections, seems to be, by rectifying the operations of the Sense, the Memory, and Reason, since upon the evidence, the strength, the integrity, and the right correspondence of all these, all the light, by