

***Micrographia: Or, Some Physiological Descriptions of Minute Bodies Made by Magnifying Glasses*** by Robert Hooke  
London: J. Allestry, 1667

Robert Hooke was an English scientist who worked on a variety of subjects, including geometry and mechanics. Largely self-taught, he was acquainted with many of the prominent scientists of his day. Hooke disagreed bitterly with Isaac Newton over his theories on light and color, but he remained on good terms with the scientist Robert Boyle and the architect Christopher Wren throughout his life. Hooke was a prolific thinker, and his discoveries and inventions include the concept of capillary action, the modern air pump, the spring-driven clock, and various astronomical instruments.

In 1665, Hooke first published his *Micrographia*, a treatise on the results of experiments with an improved compound microscope, which he made himself. This landmark work documents the first experiments with this type of magnification, and it also contains the first picture and description of tissue and cells. The minutely detailed plates, prepared after Hooke's own drawings, had a profound effect on contemporary perceptions of the everyday world. For the first time, readers were able to see and understand the tiniest components of everyday life, discovering a new world within their own.

Hooke's interests were wide-ranging, and he also touched on theories about the surface of the moon, the origins of fossils, and the life cycles of insects in the *Micrographia*. The Libraries' copy is a second edition of this important work.