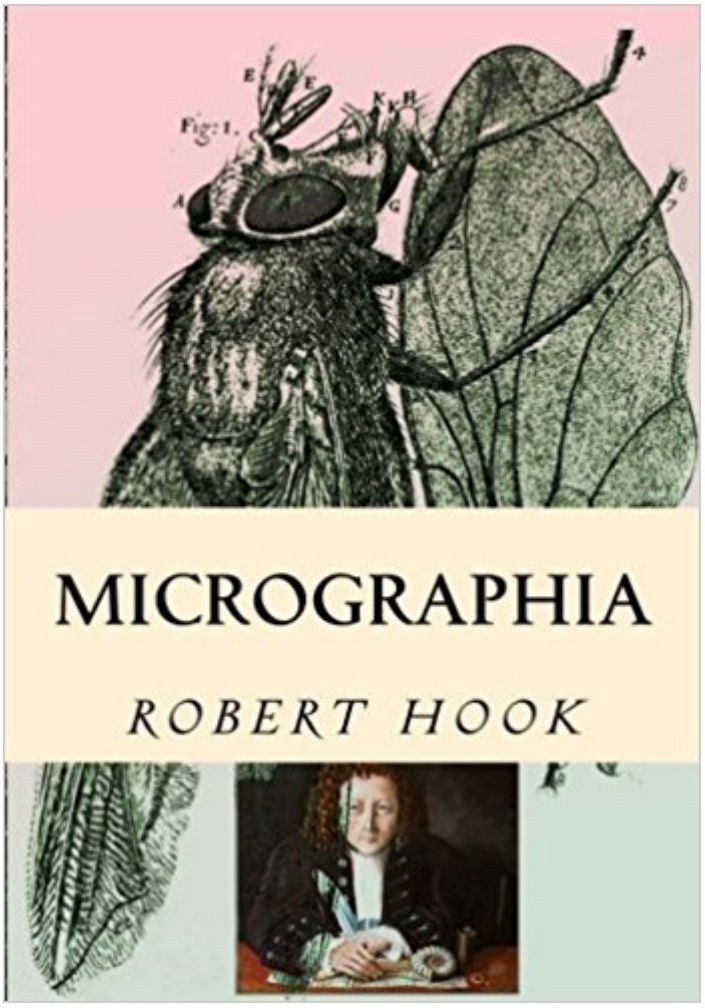
Micrographia: Tabled & Illustrated



Synopsis

Micrographia is a historic book by Robert Hooke, detailing the then thirty-year-old Hooke's observations through various lenses. Published in September 1665, the first major publication of the Royal Society, it was the first scientific best-seller, inspiring a wide public interest in the new science of microscopy. It is also notable for coining the biological term cell. Observations: Hooke most famously describes a fly's eye and a plant cell (where he coined that term because plant cells, which are walled, reminded him of a monk's quarters). Known for its spectacular copperplate engravings of the miniature world, particularly its fold-out plates of insects, the text itself reinforces the tremendous power of the new microscope. The plates of insects fold out to be larger than the large folio itself, the engraving of the louse in particular folding out to four times the size of the book. Although the book is best known for demonstrating the power of the microscope, Micrographia also describes distant planetary bodies, the wave theory of light, the organic origin of fossils, and various other philosophical and scientific interests of its author. Publication: Published under the aegis of The Royal Society, the popularity of the book helped further the society's image and mission of being "the" scientifically progressive organization of London. Micrographia also focused attention on the miniature world, capturing the public's imagination in a radically new way. This impact is illustrated by Samuel Pepys' reaction upon completing the tome: "the most ingenious book that I ever read in my life." Hooke also selected several objects of human origin; among these objects were the jagged edge of a honed razor and the point of a needle, seeming blunt under the microscope. His goal may well have been as a way to contrast the flawed products of mankind with the perfection of nature (and hence, in the spirit of the times, of biblical creation).

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Robert Hooke (1635 Ã¢â ¬â œ 1703) was an English natural philosopher, architect and polymath. His adult life comprised three distinct periods: as a scientific inquirer lacking money; achieving great wealth and standing through his reputation for hard work and scrupulous honesty following the great fire of 1666, but eventually becoming ill and party to jealous intellectual disputes. These issues may have contributed to his relative historical obscurity. He was at one time simultaneously the curator of experiments of the Royal Society and a member of its council, Gresham Professor of Geometry and a Surveyor to the City of London after the Great Fire of London, in which capacity he appears to have performed more than half of all the surveys after the fire. He was also an important architect of his time Ã¢â ¬â œ though few of his buildings now survive and some of those are generally misattributed Ã¢â ¬â œ and was instrumental in devising a set of planning controls for London whose influence remains today. Allan Chapman has characterised him as "England's Leonardo". Robert Gunther's Early Science in Oxford, a history of science in Oxford during the Protectorate, Restoration and Age of Enlightenment, devotes five of its fourteen volumes to Hooke. Hooke studied at Wadham College during the Protectorate where he became one of a tightly knit group of ardent Royalists led by John Wilkins. Here he was employed as an assistant to Thomas Willis and to Robert Boyle, for whom he built the vacuum pumps used in Boyle's gas law experiments. He built some of the earliest Gregorian telescopes and observed the rotations of Mars and Jupiter. In 1665 he inspired the use of microscopes for scientific exploration with his book, Micrographia. Based on his microscopic observations of fossils, Hooke was an early proponent of biological evolution. He investigated the phenomenon of refraction, deducing the wave theory of light, and was the first to suggest that matter expands when heated and that air is made of small particles separated by relatively large distances. He performed pioneering work in the field of surveying and map-making and was involved in the work, though his plan for London on a grid system was rejected in favour of rebuilding along the existing routes. He also came near to an experimental proof that gravity follows an inverse square law, and hypothesised that such a relation governs the motions of the planets, an idea which was subsequently developed by Newton.

Having purchased a number of scientific books, the common thread is that the diagrams and drawings do not reproduce very well...viewing them on Kindle is substandard, viewing on a laptop is

just OK

Micrographia: Tabled & Illustrated Micrographia: Historic Microscope Images Coloring Book (Historic Images) (Volume 1) Illustrated Thesaurus (Usborne Illustrated Dictionaries) (Usborne Illustrated Dictionaries) Illustrated Ford and Fordson Tractor Buyer's Guide (Motorbooks International Illustrated Buyer's Guide) Illustrated Ford Model T & Model A Buyer's Guide (Illustrated Buyer's Guide) Illustrated Duesenberg Buyer's Guide (Illustrated Buyer's Guide) Illustrated Piper Buyers Guide (Illustrated Buyer's Guide) Illustrated Sail & Rig Tuning (Illustrated Nautical Manuals) U.S. Submarines Through 1945: An Illustrated Design History (Illustrated Design Histories) Illustrated Directory of Submarines of the World (Illustrated Directory) The Cambridge Illustrated History of the Islamic World (Cambridge Illustrated Histories) Lippincott Illustrated Reviews: Pharmacology 6th edition (Lippincott Illustrated Reviews Series) Basic Illustrated Cross-Country Skiing (Basic Illustrated Series) Basic Illustrated Alpine Ski Touring (Basic Illustrated Series) National Geographic, Trails Illustrated, Rocky Mountain National Park, Colorado, USA (Trails Illustrated - Topo Maps USA) Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them: The Illustrated Edition (Harry Potter Illustrated Editions) The Wind in the Willows: Candlewick Illustrated Classic (Candlewick Illustrated Classics) Classic Poetry: Candlewick Illustrated Classic (Candlewick Illustrated Classics) How The Other Half Lives Special Illustrated Edition Including the AuthorÃ¢â ¬â„¢s Photographs [Illustrated] The Complete Illustrated Children's Bible (The Complete Illustrated Children's Bible Library)