- AHST 2331-001 (20045) Understanding Art Dr. Charissa N. Terranova Tuesdays and Thursdays 11:30-12:45 ATC 1.102
 - Thursday February 23

Discussion of Optics, Lenses, and Prosthetic Vision

Extensions of the Senses and/or Prosthetic Extensions

Optics: the scientific study of sight and the behavior of light, or the properties of transmission and deflection of other forms of radiation. Here we see figures from Leonardo da Vinci's surviving notebooks showing his interest in the optical properties of concave mirrors as well as in ways to use machines to replace skilled manual labor for their manufacture.



Leonardo da Vinci, ca. 1510-15

Left: Reflection of light in spherical concave mirror - Cod. Arund., fol. 87 r

Right: Paths of light rays in parabolic mirror - Cod. Atl., fol. 248 v-a



Leonardo da Vinci ca. 1510–15



Potter's wheel for making mirrors with large focal length - Cod. Arund., fol. 84 v



Machine for grinding concave mirrors with large radius of curvature - Cod. Atl., fol. 396 v-f



Machine for grinding mirrors - Cod. Atl., fol. 396 v-f



Leonardo da Vinci, The Last Supper, 1520



Nimrud/Layard Lens, 750-710 BCE, Assyrian palace of Nimrud, modern Iraq



Reading Stones

A **reading stone** was an approximately hemispherical lens that was placed on top of text to magnify the letters so that people with presbyopia could read it more easily. Reading stones were among the earliest common uses of lenses.





The use of a convex lens to create a magnified image is discussed in the Muslim scholar Alhazen's [Ibn al-Hatham in Egypt] 11th century *Book of Optics* (below), a seven-volume treatise translated from Arabic into Latin in the 12th century. On the left we see the visual system according to Ibn al-Hatham. The diagram shows two human eyes seen from above, the principal humors and the optic nerves connecting the eyeballs to the brain.

المولي اللبيد باكيت الاجارة فتتول الكى ان كيت الاجار لابعوان مكن معانه العبند لانها متعودة للوان لوحدت اليها عرثها وقلك التمدد الارترا والاوان جرمها نزد الجالعبر وتكافأ بل البر إلوتس فالرعنا لمصر جمارت كلى تخادر الاران والارتواجته وبيها مرت مستيتو يخر متلعد كمنت فورون من هاجدا الحاليد تركن سوالم خسا حاسلة المعدد وتد واستجعل ذالم ومدد شرمه مالكان فالمد وامتراكالك دان اسراليه والسورد المزجره فلماجه والون ومنولا المحتلامها ولاجوانتك البسان سنودتوان احد بواستكنا متطلمك دون النافذاوان أنجر براجل خالاعس بلى مطالف جدية معيا ويمكارون واستادان المبدال اجديد وكرن ومالوان تعليه فلخل وترب ونيدد المنو والانتخ بمع احرار والموظم تعم القابهم الايدوعا والحلمة المفقر ومال ويدع سودها المجمع الوالعبرة المسريعا دركما مذرجه فيرتغن الالان والوسشعان الموف شامقا فلاجس بعادان الدكم مستادون وصف والترسية ت بار مع والجع خلدة والأقل كذك قلبت الاسارامان كمن يستدلمن عمطاوب بدائله بعد المتثل أنحل وكران شاط في حله العقم شيط وشيط فزيها الران البسراع ومترب تعاا جادها عدالمعس فأجت والتدالوم والتقول ال البه الكال عيدامان مست مدد فامه تودين كالمطعنة اليجري في المعرقان احد بتلك المعودة وتصفحه لاستجالتوز كالرادان احس شأرمت من ملحدون سارالتقالون المالاجراد بزك الالران والفطيقات رذاك ايرا والدي موره متك المطلعميتهن سطيه والدك معدد متله اخركا الحك وعلى فلك الحان فيك سوجيع متالا السمات العالم الم من جمع متالم علمه الانبوال المتعلاة والكان منا المر ومعد وانتده الحجك إن الاصليان كما لجلد يوكن الاساريد و سيالاتها أويقي يمجر يكن الابدار بلدته فرما وإفاسا واللبقات الآت الماؤذك لاندات المطلعيد أدرس سلار الغبتان بالملاهمار مان لمق بتر المغناك

لا ان العمر معامد مواسوس واكند العائم معدون من ٢ عدو غام ان القالعينا التحد و الكرامية ما لما كان ال المدينة الاطراق المول المدينة عالم من المال مدينة المداخل ان من الترابا مارم ما ما عالى مرابعا ان مورة المن العربة الواردة منا مرام ما ما عالى مرابعا ان مورة المن العربة الواردة منا مرام ما من عالي من المراب المر المن الورية الواردة منا مرام ما من عالي من المراب المرابطة المنوالان مرابع مرابطة الموالي من من المتوالان من معانة المنوالان مرابع مرابطة الما من من المتوالان من مع المنوالان من علمه المن من المنا من من المتوالان من من المنوالان من علمه المن من المنا من من علما المرابطة المن المنوالان من المن المن من المنا من من المتوالان من من الما الي عالما في المرابع من المن ما المن الذي من المن المن من من المردة المرتبع الحالي المرابع من المن والات المن ين من المن المن من المن Early frames for glasses consisted of two magnifying glasses riveted together by the handles so that they could grip the nose. These are referred to as "rivet spectacles."





Above: rivet spectacles

Bottom Left: corbel displayed high up in the church of St Martin, Salisbury in Wiltshire, England, 1430-1440



Tommaso da Modena, Portrait of Cardinal Hugh de Provence Reading in a Scriptorium, 1352





Left and Above: Conrad von Soest, Virgin Enthroned with bespectacled Apostle, 1403, in the Altarpiece of the church of Bad Wildungen, Germany

Movable print and the mechanized Gutenberg printing press 1450



Early wooden printing press, depicted in 1568. Such presses could produce up to 240 impressions per hour.



Johannes Gutenberg [1398-1468] An artist's visualization of Johannes Gutenberg in his workshop, showing his first proof sheet. Gutenberg conceptualized and then built the first print with movable type in 1450.



Dante Alighieri, detail from Luca Signorelli's fresco, Chapel of San Brizio, Orvieto Cathedral, 1500-1503; he was influential in establishing their Tuscan dialect as the most prominent literary language in all of Italy





LENSES

The first telescope, designed and built by Galileo, used lenses to focus light from faraway objects, into Galileo's eye. His telescope consisted of a concave lens and a convex lens.



Galileo Galilei [1564-1642] did not invent the telescope. The Dutch, notably Christiaan Huygens, were the first to invent and experiment with lenses (to improve eye sight). But Galileo was the first to use the telescope to study the heavens systematically. His little telescope was poorer than even a cheap modern amateur telescope, but what he observed in the heavens rocked the very foundations of Aristotle's universe and the theological-philosophical worldview that it supported. It is said that what Galileo saw was so disturbing for some officials of the Church that they refused to even look through his telescope; they reasoned that the Devil was capable of making anything appear in the telescope, so it was best not to look through it. That is, the telescope was an instrument of the Devil. That such was so could be no clearer than the image of the moon as it appeared through Galileo's telescope.

http://homework.uoregon.edu/pub/class/301/galileo.html



Galileo's drawing of the optical path of his telescope



Galileo made his first telescope in 1609, modeled after telescopes produced in other parts of Europe that could magnify objects three times. He created a telescope later that same year that could magnify objects twenty times. With this telescope, he was able to look at the moon, discover the four satellites of Jupiter, observe a supernova, verify the phases of Venus, and discover sunspots. His discoveries proved the Copernican system which states that the earth and other planets revolve around the sun. Prior to the Copernican system, it was held that the universe was geocentric, meaning the sun revolved around the earth.

"The telescope was one of the central instruments of what has been called the Scientific Revolution of the seventeenth century. It revealed hitherto unsuspected phenomena in the heavens and had a profound influence on the controversy between followers of the traditional geocentric astronomy and cosmology and those who favored the heliocentric system of Copernicus. It was the first extension of one of man's senses, and demonstrated that ordinary observers could see things that the great Aristotle had not dreamed of. It therefore helped shift authority in the observation of nature from men to instruments."

Nicolaus Copernicus [1473-1543] Royal Prussia, Kingdom of Poland: mathematician and astronomer who formulated a model of the universe that placed the Sun rather than the Earth at the center of the universe.

• What are the repercussions of shifting "the authority in the observation of nature from men to instruments"?



Cujus phaseos vera proinde forma, fecundum ea quæ fupra circa annulum definivimus, ejusímodi erit qualis hîc delineata cernitur, majori ellipsi diametro ad minorem se habente fere ut 5 ad 2.



Huygens' explanation for the aspects of Saturn, Systema Saturnium, 1659

In 1655, the Dutchman Christiaan Huygens proposed that Saturn was surrounded by a solid ring, "a thin, flat ring, nowhere touching, and inclined to the ecliptic." Using a 50 power refracting telescope that he designed himself, Huygens also discovered the first of Saturn's moons, Titan. In the same year he observed and sketched the Orion Nebula. His drawing, the first such known of the Orion nebula, was published in Systema Saturnium in 1659. Using his modern telescope he succeeded in subdividing the nebula into different stars. The brighter interior now bears the name of the Huygenian region in his honor. He also discovered several interstellar nebulae and some double stars. Shortly before his death in 1695, Huygens completed Cosmotheoros, published posthumously in 1698. In it he speculated on the existence of extraterrestrial life, on other planets, which he imagined was similar to that on Earth.



Christiaan Huygens [1629-1695]. Cut from the engraving following the painting of Caspart Netscher by G. Edelinck, between 1684 and 1687.





Above: Spring driven pendulum clock, designed by Huygens, built by instrument maker Salomon Coster (1657), and copy of the *Horologium Oscillatorium*

Left: An engraving of Christiaan Huygens's 210-foot aerial telescope showing the eyepiece and objective mounts and connecting string. The aerial telescope is a type of very long focal length refracting telescope, built in the second half of the 17th century, that did not use a tube. Instead, the objective* was mounted on a pole, tree, tower, building or other structure on a swivel ball-joint. The observer stood on the ground and held the eyepiece, which was connected to the objective by a string or connecting rod. By holding the string tight and maneuvering the eyepiece, the observer could aim the telescope at objects in the sky. the **objective** is the optical element that gathers light from the object being observed and focuses the light rays to produce a real image. Objectives can be a single lens or mirror, or combinations of several optical elements.



This is the earliest portrait of Sir Isaac Newton [1642-1727] to survive. It was painted in 1689 when Newton was in London as a member of the Convention Parliament, following the "Glorious Revolution" of 1688. The artist was Godfrey Kneller, perhaps the greatest portrait painter of his day.

Newton was 46 years old and *Principia*, or *Mathematical Principles of Natural Philosophy*, had been published two years previously. It represents Newton "at the height of his powers."

Reflecting Telescope

- **Reflecting Telescopes** use a large concave mirror to gather light
 - The mirror collects light from distant objects and focuses the rays to form a *real* image
 - A *small* mirror inside the telescope reflects the image to the **eyepiece**
 - The images you see are upside down





Replica of Newton's second Reflecting Telescope that he presented to the Royal Society in 1672



Leeuwenhoek made more than 500 optical lenses. He also created at least 25 single-lens microscopes, of differing types, of which only nine have survived. These microscopes were made of silver or copper frames, holding hand-made lenses. Those that have survived are capable of magnification up to 275 times.



Anton van Leeuwenhoek [1632-1723]

Cell Theory

Anton van Leeuwenhoek (1632-1723) Dutch microscopist



AKA: Antony van Leeuwenhoek was an unlikely scientist. Yet with skill, diligence, an endless curiosity, Leeuwenhoek succeeded in making some of the most important discoveries in the history of biology. *It was he who discovered bacteria in 1676*, his observations on the plaque between his own teeth, "a little white matter, which is as thick as if 'twere batter." He repeated these observations on two ladies (probably his own wife and daughter), and on two old men who had never cleaned their teeth in their lives. Leeuwenhoek found "an unbelievably great company of living *animalcules*, These were among the first observations on living bacteria ever recorded. *He observed and recorded living cells for the first time.*



Drawings by van Leeuwenhoek in 1719, showing a longitudinal and a cross section of a nerve.



Red Blood Cells drawn by Leeuwenhoek in 1719



On September 17, 1683, Leeuwenhoek wrote to the Royal Society about his observations on the plaque between his own teeth, "a little white matter, which is as thick as if 'twere batter." He repeated these observations on two ladies (probably his own wife and daughter), and on two old men who had never cleaned their teeth in their lives. Looking at these samples with his microscope, Leeuwenhoek reported how in his own mouth: "I then most always saw, with great wonder, that in the said matter **there were many** very little living animalcules, very prettily a**moving**. The biggest sort. . . had a very strong and swift motion, and shot through the water (or spittle) like a pike does through the water. The second sort. . . oft-times spun round like a top. . . and these were far more in number." In the mouth of one of the old men, Leeuwenhoek found "an unbelievably great company of living animalcules, a-swimming more nimbly than any I had ever seen up to this time. The biggest sort... bent their body into curves in going forwards... Moreover, the other animalcules were in such enormous numbers, that all the water. . . seemed to be alive."



Above: One of Leeukenhoek's actual microscopes.

Left: Author Alan Gillen's personal replica of Leeuwenhoek's microscope in Leiden. It has a 100X objective.





Although van Leeuwenhoek's microscopes were diverse, they all had a similar construction design: their ground lenses were sandwiched between two metal (silver, brass, or gold) plates that were tightly riveted at their corners. A long screw passed up from the microscope bottom and supported a stage block, into which a focusing screw was set. This screw projected through the block and pushed against the plate when screwed in, moving the stage block slowly away from the lens. By turning the screw carefully, the object could be brought into focus. On the top of the stage lock was a third screw terminating in a blunt point. This was the place where the specimen was set, either by being pierced or stuck in position with glue. Into the side of this was a little handle that enabled the specimen-holder to be turned around, so the object could be examined from all sides.



Robert Hooke's drawings of the cellular structure of cork and a sprig of sensitive plant

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.

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

Robert Hooke (1635–1703)

Hooke coined the term *cell* for describing biological organisms, the term being suggested by the resemblance of plant cells to cells of a honeycomb.

In "Observation XVIII" of the *Micrographia*, Hooke wrote:

... I could exceedingly plainly perceive it to be all perforated and porous, much like a Honey-comb, but that the pores of it were not regular... these pores, or cells, ... were indeed the first microscopical pores I ever saw, and perhaps, that were ever seen, for I had not met with any Writer or Person, that had made any mention of them before this...

Hooke had discovered plant cells -- more precisely, what Hooke saw were the cell walls in cork tissue. In fact, it was Hooke who coined the term "cells": the boxlike cells of cork reminded him of the cells of a monastery. Hooke also reported seeing similar structures in wood and in other plants. In 1678, after Leeuwenhoek had written to the Royal Society with a report of discovering "little animals" -- bacteria and protozoa -- Hooke was asked by the Society to confirm Leeuwenhoek's findings. He successfully did so, thus paving the way for the wide acceptance of Leeuwenhoek's discoveries. Hooke noted that Leeuwenhoek's simple microscopes gave clearer images than his compound microscope, but found simple microscopes difficult to use: he called them "offensive to my eye" and complained that they "much strained and weakened the sight."

BIOLOGY IN ART and BIOART MODERN AND CONTEMPORARY ART

Above: Wassily Kandinsky, Réciproque, 1942-44 Left: Wassily Kandinsky, Variegated Black, 1935

Photomicrograph of a cross section of a twig, from *Structures in Art and in Science* in the *Vision + Value Series*, ed. by György Kepes (1965)

Bacterial Sublime

Cellular Sublime

Scientific Sublime

Anna Dumitriu, "Engineered Antibody," 21 amino acids, polymer clay, Coomassie Brilliant Blue dye, jewellery wire, cotton calico, vintage tatted linen lace, silk, and embroidery, Based on research by Liu Lab member Xiang Li. 2015-2016

The shapes and forms of Dumitriu's work elicit meaning within and beyond gender. The artist-scientist collaboration at work in all three pieces embodies an equally if not more powerful meaning-maker than sexual categories, even while the presence of Dumitriu – a woman *and* artist – in the lab is a resounding, even revolutionary, symbol of open frontiers and progressive thinking. A result of her residency working with researchers in the Liu Lab for Synthetic Evolution at the University of California Irvine, Dumitriu's "Engineered Antibody" plays on the metaphor that amino acids are the "beads of life:" the idea that scientists enlist to describe structures of proteins constructed from chains of amino acids. The work is a necklace made up of 452 handmade beads containing the actual 21 amino acids of an antibody purified from the blood of an HIV positive patient.

Robert Hooke (1635-1703) English natural philosopher, architect and polymath. English natural philosopher, architect and polymath, Surveyor for the City of London after the fire of 1666

Christopher Wren (1632-1723) English polymath, architect, King's Surveyor for the City of London after the fire of 1666 What is Matthew F. Walker's basic thesis in "The Limits of Collaboration: Robert Hooke, Christopher Wren, and the Designing of the Monument to the Great Fire of London"?

THE WREN-HOOKE RELATIONSHIP RE-EXAMINED

That Wren and Hooke were friends is undeniable, but the recent tendency to portray. Hooke first and foremost as 'Sir Christopher Wren's close friend' is perhaps unhelpful. Notably, it has led to the portrayal of Wren as Isaac Newton's antithesis in terms of influence on Hooke's career; the great friend and ally in contrast to the bitter enemy and rival. Indeed, a recent monograph on Hooke presented portraits of Wren and Newton as the first images in the book, side by side, in a Manichaean diptych of best friend and bitter enemy. Yet whereas Hooke and Newton were clearly intellectual rivals, such unequivocally positive summaries of Wren and Hooke's relationship fail to realize that seventeenthcentury friendships, intellectual or otherwise, were socially constructed and socially constrained in a way that is unfamiliar today. Instead, Wren and Hooke's friendship was, in the socio-scientific domain, a more formalized union, typical among Royal Society philosophers and by no means the dominant masculine relationship in either of their lives.

What does this tell us?

- Politics of Royal Science in the early years of the Scientific Revolution
- Hooke was the primary architect of the Monument to the Great Fire of London, according to Walker.

Johannes Kepler

Albert Einstein

Comparable contributions to physics by establishing theories to explain motion of the world.

Leonardo da Vinci

Both are great polymaths who are prolific in many science fields.

Isaac Newton

Both invented (one type

of) telescopes.

War of gravitation.

Robert Hooke

London Bridge 1554-57



William Morgan Map of London 1682



A panorama of London by Claes Visscher, 1616; The tenement housing on London Bridge (detail at right) was a notorious death-trap in case of fire, although much would be destroyed in an earlier fire in 1632.







The Great Fire of London which happened in 1666, here painted later by an unknown painter. The painter depicts the fire as it would have appeared on the evening of Tuesday, 4 September 1666 from a boat in the vicinity of Tower Wharf. The Tower of London is on the right and London Bridge on the left, with St. Paul's Cathedral in the distance, surrounded by the tallest flames.



Matteus Merian, London on the left in 1650 and on the right during the fire of 1666



Wenceslaus Hollar, Before and After the Great Fire



London in 1666, with the burnt area shown in pink

The fire raged for four days in the late hot, dry summer of early September. It began in a bakery in Pudding Lane.





Samuel Rolle's book about the Great Fire; information about the emotional and financial toll on Londoners



17th-century glass found beneath burnt debris in the Great Fire



Left: Detail from anti-Jesuit book: *Pyrotechnica loyolana, ignatian fire-works; or, the fiery Jesuits temper and behaviour,* 1667

Most of the blame for the Great Fire was put onto Catholics. London was a Protestant city and many people feared that Catholics in England would help foreign armies invade the country and force the population to convert to Catholicism. They saw the fire as a Catholic plot. Anti-Catholic books were written for many years, even though the fire was declared an accident in January 1667. This book, 'Pyrotechnica loyolana, ignatian fire-works; or, the fiery jesuits temper and behaviour', printed in 1667, claims to be written by a 'Catholick-Christian' and blames the fire on Jesuits (a Catholic religious order). The first illustration in the book shows the Pope fanning the flames of London with a pair of bellows, and various scenes of conspirators with fire balls, including Robert Hubert (the innocent Frenchman hung for starting the fire).

Other immigrant and minority groups blamed, some lynched: Catholics, Dutch, and French

Scapegoat: A person or group that is made to bear blame for others. According to the Old Testament, on the Day of Atonement, a priest would confess all the sins of the Israelites over the head of a goat and then drive it into the wilderness, symbolically bearing their sins away.









TENEMENT HOUSING





In 17th-century London, the human habitations were crowded to bursting point, intermingled with sources of heat, sparks, and pollution, and their construction increased the fire risk. The typical sixor seven-story timbered London tenement houses had "jetties" (projecting upper floors). They had a narrow footprint at ground level, but maximized their use of land by "encroaching" on the street, as a contemporary observer put it, with the gradually increasing size of their upper stories. The fire hazard was well perceived when the top jetties all but met across the narrow alleys; "as it does facilitate a conflagration, so does it also hinder the remedy", wrote one observer —but "the covetousness of the citizens and connivancy [corruption] of Magistrates" worked in favor of jetties.





Sugraced for Harrison's Abistory of London .



Christopher Wren, Plan for Rebuilding of London, 1666







Baroque and Neo-Baroque City Plans



Pope Sixtus V, Plan for Rome, Italy, c. 1590





Paris - Streets and Avenues cut by Haussmann, 1854 -1879

Baron Eugène Haussmann, Prefect of the Seine, under Napoleon III, 1853-1857



Property erased to make way for Avenue de l'Opera

radiating from the Arc De Triomphe



Daniel Burnham, Plan for Chicago, 1909



Centralized Chicago, painted by Jules Guerin, conceptualized by Daniel Burnham, 1909

1909



Civic Center and Plaza, painted by Jules Guerin, conceptualized by Daniel Burnham, 1909



LONDON c. 1666





St. Dunstan in the East.
St. Magnus.
St. Benet, Gracechurch-street.
St. Mary Abchurch.
St. Michael, Cornhill.
St. Lawrence, Jewry.
St. Benet Fink.
St. Bartholomew.
St. Margaret Pattens.
St. Michael, Cornhill.
St. Lawrence, Jewry.
St. Benet Fink.
St. Bartholomew.
St. Michael, Queenhithe.
St. Michael Royal.
St. Matholos.
St. Stephen, Walbrook.
St. Swithen, Cannon-street.
St. Mary-le-Bow.
St. Cole Abbry.
St. Midred, Bread-street.
St. Augustin, Watling-street.
St. Mary Somerset.
St. Martin, Ludgate.
St. Andrew by the Wardrobe,

Eighty-eight parish churches were burned during the Great Fire of London in 1666. The office of Christopher Wren rebuilt 51 parish churches and St. Paul's Cathedral. Many of these churches were demolished as the population of the City of London declined in the 19th century and more were destroyed or damaged during the Blitz.

The scale is expressed by St. Paul's in the background.



Christopher Wren and Robert Hooke, The Monument to the Great Fire of London, 1671-77

The Monument comprises a fluted Doric column built of Portland stone topped with a gilded urn of fire.

Its height marks its distance from the site of the shop of Thomas Farriner (or Farynor), the king's baker, where the Great Fire began.

The top of the Monument is reached by a narrow winding staircase of 311 steps. A mesh cage was added in the mid-19th century at the top to prevent people jumping off, after six people had committed suicide from the structure between 1788 and 1842.













Its 202ft (61m) being the distance from its base to the bakery in Pudding Lane where the fire started...





A **zenith telescope** is designed to point straight up at or near the zenith. They are used for precision measurement of star positions, to simplify telescope construction, or both.

Wren and Hooke built the monument to double-up as a scientific instrument. It has a central shaft meant for use as a zenith telescope and for use in gravity and pendulum experiments that connects to an underground laboratory for observers to work (accessible from the present-day ticket booth). Vibrations from heavy traffic on Fish Street Hill rendered the experimental conditions unsuitable. A hinged lid in the urn covers the opening to the shaft. The steps in the shaft of the tower are all six inches high, allowing them to be used for barometric pressure studies.






Three sides of the base carry inscriptions in Latin. The one on the south side describes actions taken by King Charles II following the fire. The one on the east describes how the Monument was started and brought to perfection, and under which mayors. Inscriptions on the north side describe how the fire started, how much damage it caused, and how it was eventually extinguished. In 1681, the words "but Popish frenzy, which wrought such horrors, is not yet quenched" were added to the end of the inscription. Text on the east side originally falsely blamed Roman Catholics for the fire ("burning of this protestant city, begun and carried on by the treachery and malice of the popish faction"), which prompted Alexander Pope (himself a Catholic) to say of the area:

Where London's column, pointing at the skies,Like a tall bully, lifts the head, and lies.Moral Essays, Epistle iii. line 339 (1733–1734).

SCAPEGOATING

Scapegoat: A person or group that is made to bear blame for others. According to the Old Testament, on the Day of Atonement, a priest would confess all the sins of the Israelites over the head of a goat and then drive it into the wilderness, symbolically bearing their sins away.





Wren's collaborator Robert Hooke (1635-1703) originally designed the interior as a giant telescope, with lenses at the top and bottom giving views from a small laboratory at the base. The flaming urn on top has a small trapdoor that opened to allow a view of the sky. (In fact, he – and not Wren – almost certainly designed the whole structure.) Hooke thus used the column as a zenith telescope.

A number of trap doors in the column were opened and the urn at the top was lifted (it was hinged). Lenses were then placed at various heights which permitted various astronomical observations to be carried out. Wren and Hooke were both surveyors of the city of London after the Great Fire and both member of the Royal Society and a noted experimenter. Besides Hooke's telescope, he used the Monument's 311 steps – all exactly six inches high – to measure the effects of different heights on atmospheric pressure. The experiments were soon discontinued because of the constant vibration of traffic.



The Monument ended up as what has to be London's largest scientific instrument. Hooke and Wren designed its steps to hug the wall so there was a clear view all the way up the middle to the urn, which still conceals a pair of iron doors opening to the heavens.



