



**An Accompt of a New Catadioptrical Telescope Invented by Mr. Newoon,
Fellow of the R. Society, and Professor of the Mathematiques in the
University of Cambridge**

Mr. Newoon

Philosophical Transactions (1665-1678), Volume 7 (1672), 4004-4010.

Stable URL:

<http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0370-2316%281672%297%3C4004%3AAAOANC%3E2.0.CO%3B2-R>

Your use of the JSTOR archive indicates your acceptance of JSTOR's Terms and Conditions of Use, available at <http://www.jstor.org/about/terms.html>. JSTOR's Terms and Conditions of Use provides, in part, that unless you have obtained prior permission, you may not download an entire issue of a journal or multiple copies of articles, and you may use content in the JSTOR archive only for your personal, non-commercial use.

Each copy of any part of a JSTOR transmission must contain the same copyright notice that appears on the screen or printed page of such transmission.

Philosophical Transactions (1665-1678) is published by The Royal Society. Please contact the publisher for further permissions regarding the use of this work. Publisher contact information may be obtained at <http://www.jstor.org/journals/rsl.html>.

Philosophical Transactions (1665-1678)
©1672 The Royal Society

JSTOR and the JSTOR logo are trademarks of JSTOR, and are Registered in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. For more information on JSTOR contact jstor-info@umich.edu.

©2002 JSTOR

<http://www.jstor.org/>
Wed Apr 3 15:39:18 2002

An Account of a New Catadioptrical Telescope invented by Mr. Newton, Fellow of the R. Society, and Professor of the Mathematics in the University of Cambridge.

THIS Excellent Mathematician having given us, in the Transactions of *February* last, an account of the cause, which induced him to think upon *Reflecting* Telescopes, instead of *Refracting* ones, hath thereupon presented the Curious World with an *Essay* of what may be performed by such Telescopes; by which it is found, that Telescopical Tubes may be considerably shortned without prejudice to their magnifying effect.

This new instrument is composed of two Metallin *speculum's*, the one Concave, (instead of an Object-glass) the other Plain; and also of a small plano-convex Eye-Glass.

By *Figure I. of Tab. I.* the structure of it may be easily imagined; viz. *That* the Tube of this Telescope is open at the end which respects the object; *that* the other end is close, where the said Concave is laid, and *that* near the open end there is a flat oval *speculum*, made as small as may be, the less to obstruct the entrance of the rays of Light, and inclined towards the upper part of the Tube, where is a little hole furnish't with the said Eye-glass. So that the rays coming from the object, do first fall on the Concave placed at the bottom of the Tube; and are thence reflected toward the other end of it, where they meet with the flat *speculum*, obliquity posited, by the reflection of which they are directed to the little plano-convex Glass, and so to the spectators Eye, who looking downwards sees the Object, which the Telescope is turned to.

To understand this more distinctly and fully, the Reader may please to look upon the said *Figure*, in which

AB is the Concave *speculum*, of which the *radius* or semi-diameter is $12\frac{2}{3}$ or 13 inches.

CD another metalline *speculum*, whose surface is flat, and the circumference oval.

GD

GD an Iron wire, holding a ring of brass, in which the *speculum CD* is fixed.

F, a small Eye-glass flat above, and convex below, of the twelfth part of an inch *radius*, if not less; forasmuch as the metal collects the Sun's rays at $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches distance, and the Eye-glass at less than $\frac{1}{2}$ of an inch distance from its vertex: Besides that the Author (as he informs us) knew their dimensions by the tools to which they were ground, and particularly measuring the diameter of the hemi-spherical Concave, in which the Eye-glass was wrought, found it the *sixth* part of an inch.

GGG, the fore-part of the Tube fastn'd to a brass-ring *HI*, to keep it immoveable.

PQL, the hind-part of the Tube, fastn'd to another brass-ring *PQ*.

O, an Iron hook fastn'd to the Ring *PQ*, and furnish'd with a screw *N*, thereby to advance or draw back the hind-part of the Tube, and so by that means to put the *specula* in their due distance.

MQL a crooked Iron sustaining the Tube, and fastened by the nail *R* to the Ball and Socket *S*, whereby the Tube may be turned every way.

The Center of the flat *speculum CD*, must be placed in the same point of the Tube's Axe, where falls the perpendicular to this Axe, drawn to the same from the center of the little Eye-glass: which point is here marked at *T*.

And to give the Reader some satisfaction to understand, in what degree it represents things distinct, and free from colours, and to know the aperture by which it admits light: he may compare the distances of the *focus E* from the *vertex's* of the little Eye-glass and the Concave *speculum*, that is, *EF*, $\frac{1}{2}$ of an inch, and *ETV*, $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches: and the *ratio* will be found as 1 to 38; whereby it appears, that the Objects will be magnified about 38 times. To which proportion is very consentaneous, an Observation of the Crown on the weather-cock, about 300 feet distant. For the scheme *X* fig. 2. represents it bigger by $2\frac{1}{2}$ times in diameter, when seen through

through this, than through an ordinary Telescope of about 2 foot long. And so supposing this ordinary one to magnifie 13 or 14 times, as by the description it should, this new one by the Experiment must magnifie near as much as hath been assigned.

Thus far as to the structure of this Telescope. Concerning the Metalline matter, fit for these reflecting *Speculums*, the Inventor hath also considered the same, as may be seen by two of his Letters, written to the Publisher from Cambridge Jan. 18. and 29. 16⁷⁷/₇₂. to this effect, *viz.*

1. That for a fit metalline substance, he would give this Caution, that whilst men seek for a white, hard and durable metallin composition, they resolve not upon such an one, as is full of small pores, only discoverable by a Microscope. For though such an one may to appearance take a good polish, yet the edges of those small pores will wear away faster in the polishing than the other parts of the metal; and so, however the Metal seem polite, yet it shall not reflect with such an accurate regularity as it ought to do. Thus Tin-glass mixt with ordinary Bell-metall makes it more white and apt to reflect a greater quantity of light; but withall its fumes, raised in the fusion, like so many aerial bubbles, fill the metall full of those Microscopical pores. But white Arsenick both blanches the Metall and leaves it solid without any such pores, especially if the fusion hath not been too violent. What the *Stellate Regulus* of Mars (which I have sometimes used) or other such like substance will do, deserves particular examination.

To this he adds this further intimation, that *Putty* or other such like powder, with which 'tis polished, by the sharp angles of its particles fretteth the metall, if it be not very fine, and fills it full of such small holes, as he speaketh of. Wherefore care must be taken of that, before judgment be given, whether the metall be throughout the body of it porous or not.

2. He not having tried, as he saith, many proportions of the Arsenick and Metall, does not affirm, which is absolutely best, but thinks, there may conveniently be used
any

any quantity of Arsenick equalling in weight between a fixt and eight part of the Copper, a greater proportion making the Metal brittle.

The way, which he used, was this. He first melted the Copper alone, then put in the Arsenick, which being melted, he stirred them a little together, bewaring in the mean time, not to draw in breath near the pernicious fumes. After this, he put in Tin, and again so soon as that was melted (which was very suddenly) he stirred them well together , and immediately powdered them off.

He saith, he knows not, whether by letting them stand longer on the fire after the Tin was melted, a higher degree of fusion would have made the metall porous ; but he thought that way he proceeded to be safest.

He adds, that in that metall, which he sent to *London*, there was no Arsenick, but a small proportion of Silver ; as he remembers, one shilling in three ounces of metall. But he thought withall, that the Silver did as much harm in making the metall soft, and so less fit to be polish't, as good in rendring it white and luminous.

At another time he mixed Arsenick one ounce, Copper six ounces, and Tin two ounces : And this an Acquaintance of his hath, as he intimates, polish't better, than he did the other.

As to the *objection*, that with this kind of Perspectives, objects are difficultly found, he answers in another letter of his to the Publisher, of Jan. 6. 16⁷². that that is the inconvenience of all Tubes that magnifie much ; and that after a little use the inconvenience will grow less, seeing that himself could readily enough find any day-Objects, by knowing which way they were posited from other objects that he accidentally saw in it ; but in the night to find Stars, he acknowledges it to be more troublesome ; which yet may, in his opinion, be easily remedied by two sights affixed to the Iron rod, by which the Tube is sustained ; or by an ordinary perspective glass fastn'd to the same frame with the Tube, and directed towards the same object, as *Des-Cartes* in his Dioptricks hath described for remedying the same inconvenience of his best Telescopes.

So far the Inventors Letters touching this Instrument : of which having communicated the description to Monsieur *Christian Hugen de Zúrichem*, we received from him an Answer to this effect, in his Letter of Febr. 13. 1672. ft.n.

I see by the Description, you have sent me of Mr. *Newtons* admirable Telescope, that he hath well considered the advantage, which a *Concave speculum* hath above *Convex glasses* in collecting the parallel rays, which certainly according to the calculation, I have made thereof, is very great. Hence it is, that he can give a far greater aperture to that *speculum*, than to an Object-glass of the same distance of the *focus*, and consequently that he can much more magnifie objects this way, than by an ordinary Telescope. Besides, by it he avoids an inconvenience, which is inseparable from convex Object-Glasses, which is the Obliquity of both their surfaces, which vitiath the refraction of the rays that pass towards the sides of the glass, and does more hurt than men are aware of. Again, by the meer reflection of the metallin *speculum* there are not so many rays lost, as in Glasses, which reflect a considerable quantity by each of their surfaces, and besides intercept many of them by the obscurity of their matter.

Mean time, the main business will be, to find a matter for this *speculum* that will bear so good and even a polish as Glasses, and a way of giving this polish without vitiating the spherical figure. Hitherto I have found no *Specula*, that had near so good a polish as Glass; and if M. *Newton* hath not already found a way to make it better, than ordinarily I apprehend, his Telescopes will not so well distinguish objects, as those with Glasses. But 'tis worth while to search for a remedy to this inconvenience, and I despair not of finding one. I believe, that M. *Newton* hath not been without considering the advantage, which a *Parabolical speculum* would have above a *Spherical* one in this construction; but that he despairs, as well as I do, of working other surfaces than spherical ones with due exactness; though else it be more easie to make a *Parabolical* than *Elliptical* or *Hyperbolical* ones, by reason of a certain propriety of the *Parabolick Conoid*, which
is,

is, that all the Sections parallel to the Axis make the same Parabola.

Thus far M. *Hugenius* his judicious Letter ; to the latter part of which, concerning the grinding *Parabolical Conoids*, Mr. *Newton* saith, in his Letter to the Publisher of Feb. 20. 71. that though he with him despairs of performing that work by Geometrical rules, yet he doubts not but that the thing may in some measure be accomplished by Mechanical devices.

To all which I cannot but subjoyn an Extract of a Letter, received very lately, (March 19th) from the Inventor of this new Telescope, from Cambridge, viz.

IN my last Letter I gave you occasion to suspect, that the Instrument which I sent you, is in some respect or other indisposed, or that the metals are tarnished. And by your Letter of *March 16*. I am fully confirmed in that opinion. For, whilst I had it, it represented the Moon in some parts of it as distinctly, as other Telescopes usually do which magnifie as much as that. Yet I very well know, that that Instrument hath its imperfections both in the composition of the metall, and in its being badly cast, as you may perceive by a scabrous place near the middle of the metall of it on the polished side, and also in the figure of that metall near that scabrous place. And in all those respects that instrument is capable of further improvement.

You seem to intimate, that the proportion of 38 to 1 holds only for its magnifying Objects at small distances. But if for such distances, suppose 500 feet, it magnifie at that rate, by the rules of Opticks it must for the greatest distance imaginable magnifie more than $37\frac{3}{4}$ to 1 ; which is so considerable a diminishing, that it may be even then as 38 to 1.

Here is made another Instrument like the former, which does very well. Yesterday I compared it with a six foot Telescope, and found it not only to magnifie more, but also more distinctly. And to day I found, that I could read in one of the *Philosophical Transactions*, placed in the Sun's

light, at an hundred foot distance, and that at an hundred and twenty foot distance I could discern some of the words. When I made this tryal, its Aperture (defined next the Eye) was equivalent to more than an inch and a third part of the Object-metall. This may be of some use to those that shall endeavour any thing in *Reflexions*; for hereby they will in some measure be enabled to judge of the goodness of their Instruments, &c.

N. B. The Reader may expect in the *next Month* another Letter, which came somewhat too late to be here inserted; containing a *Table*, calculated by the same Mr. *Newton*, about the several *Apertures* and *Charges* answering the several *Lengths* of these Telescopes.

E P I T O M E

Binæ Methodi Tangentium Doctoris *Johannis Wallisii* Geom. Prof. Saviliani *Oxonie*; aliàs fusiùs & explicatius ab ipso traditæ, hîc verò ob angustiam loci compendiatæ: In quarum Schematîsmis si forsan literæ quædam redundaverint, illæ ad ea pertinere censendæ sunt, quæ in ampliori ejusdem Scripto continentur, hîc vero dictâ de causa omitantur.

HAbes hic (*Clarissime vir*) eorum summam (*strictim traditam*) quæ fusiùs scripseram, meas de Tangentibus Methodos spectantia; duas potissimum quibus præsertim utor; alteram in Speciebus, alteram in Lineis; utramque generali formâ facîle explicabilem.

Priorem adhibeo *Con. Sect. prop. 23, 30, 36, 46, 49. & passim alibi. Quæ hæc est.*

Expositâ Curvâ *Aa*, (putâ Parabola, fig. 4.) quam in *a* tangat *aF*, diametro *VD A* occurrens in *F*; ordinatim applicentur *aV*, & *DOT* curvæ in *O* & tangenti in *T* occurrens. Ponatur autem *Va = b*, *VA = v*, *VF = f*, *VD = a*, adeoque *DA = v ± a*, *DF = f ± a*;

Est (propter similia triangula) $VF, DF :: Va, DT = \frac{f \pm a}{f} b$.

Item, si tangens sit ultra curvam, $DT > DO$; si citra, $DT < DO$: Nempe, $DT = DO$ si intelligatur *D* in *V*; sed, si extra *V*, *DT* vel *DO* major prout tangens est ultra citrave curvam.

Tum,

