

establiſhing the *Longitudes* over all the Earth. For, beſides that theſe *Eclipſes* are very frequent, the Emerſion and Immerſion of theſe *Satellites*, eſpecially in the ſhadow of *Jupiter*, is ſo momentary and ſo ſenſible, that they may be obſerved with the greateſt exactneſs, being altogether exempt from thoſe eſſential inconveniencies that accompany the *Eclipſes* of the Sun and Moon, which alſo are rare, and whoſe beginning and end are alwaies doubtful by reaſon of a certain ambiguous light.

The *Longitudes* of places at Sea, Capes, Promontories, and divers Iſlands being once exactly known by this means, would doubtleſs be of great help and conſiderable uſefulneſs to Navigation.

Since *Monſieur Borelli* hath found this way of working Glaſſes, he entrusted the ſecret of it to a perſon of the Academy above-mentioned; and he purpoſeth to publiſh the ſame hereafter, with ſome other conſiderable Obſervations touching the ſame Glaſſes.

A Letter from Liege concerning Mr. Newton's Experiment of the coloured Spectrum; together with ſome Exceptions againſt his Theory of Light and Colours.

Honrd Sir,

MR *Gascoigne* having received your obliging Letter of *Jan. 18*, with freſh directions from *Mr. Newton*; but wanting convenience to make the Experiment according to the ſaid inſtructions, he has requeſted me to ſupply his want. In compliance with his requeſt I have made many Trials; the iſſue whereof I here acquaint you with: next, with ſome exceptions, grounded on Experiments, againſt *Mr. Newton's* new Theory of *Light and Colours*.

The vertical angle of my Priſm was 60 *deg*; the diſtance of the Wall, whereon the coloured *Spectrum* appeared, from the Window, about 18 foot: The diameter of the Hole in the Window-ſhuts in length the line *a*, which upon occaſions I contracted to half the ſaid diameter; but ſtill with equal ſucceſs as to the main of the Experiment. The refractions on both ſides the Priſm, were as near as I could make them, equal,

equal, and consequently about 48 deg. 40', the refractive power of Glafs being computed according to the *Ratio* of the *Sines* 2 to 3. The distance of the Prism from the hole in the Shuts was about 2 inches: The Room darkned to that degree as to equal the darkeſt night, while the hole in the Shuts was covered.

Now as to the iſſue of my Trials; I conſtantly found the length of the coloured image (tranſverſe to the axis of the Prism) conſiderably greater than its breadth, as of en as the Experiment was made on a clear day; but if a bright Cloud were near the Sun, I found it ſometimes exactly as Mr. *Line* wrote you, namely broader than long, eſpecially while the Prism was placed at a great diſtance from the hole. Which Experiment will not, I conceive, be queſtioned by Mr. *Newton*, it being ſo agreeable to the received laws of Refractions. And indeed the Obſervations of theſe two Learned perſons, as to this particular, are eaſily reconcileable to each other, and both to truth; Mr. *Newton* (as appears by his Letter of Nov. laſt, wherein more fully he delivers his mind) contending only for the length of the Image (tranſverſe to the axis of the Prism) in a very clear day; whereas Mr. *Line* only maintain'd the exceſs of breadth, parallel to the ſame axis, while the Sun is in a bright cloud. Though as to what is further delivered by Mr. *Newton* (*Phil. Tranſact. N. 80. p. 3077*; and opposed by Mr. *Line, N. 129. p. 501.*) namely that the length of the coloured Image was five times the diameter of its breadth; I never yet have found the exceſs above thrice the diameter, or at moſt 3½, while the refractions on both ſides the Prism were equal. So much as to the matter of fact.

Now as to Mr. *Newton's* Theory of *Light* and *Colours*, I confeſs, his neat Sett of very ingenious and natural inferences, was to me upon the firſt peruſal a ſtrong conjecture in favour of his new doctrine; I having formerly obſerv'd the like chain of Inferences upon ſearch into Natural truths. But ſince ſeveral experiments of Refractions remain ſtill untouch'd by him, I conceived, a further ſearch into them would be very proper in order to a further diſcovery of the truth of his Aſſertion. For, accordingly as they are found either agreeing with, or diſagreeing from, his new Theory, they muſt needs much ſtrengthen

then, or wholly overthrow the same. The Experiments I pitched upon for this purpose, are as follow :

1. Having frequently observed , that the form of Objects viewed in the Microscope (or rather of the Microscope it self) consists almost in an indivisible point, I concluded , two very small pieces of Silk , the one scarlet, the other violet colour, placed near together, should, according to Mr. *Newton's* Theory, appear in the Microscope in a very different degree of clarity, in regard their unequal refrangibility must cause the scarlet rays or species to over-reach the *Retina*, while placed in the due focus of the violet ones, and consequently must occasion a sensible confusion in the vision of the former , one and the same point of the Scarlet object affecting several nerves in the *Retina*. Yet upon frequent trials I have not been able to perceive any inequality in this point.

2. The second Experiment I made in Water. I took a brass Ruler, and fastening thereunto several pieces of Silk, red, yellow, green, blew and violet, I placed it at the bottom of a square vessel of Water : then I retired from the Vessel so far as not to be able to see the aforefaid Ruler and coloured Silks otherwise than by help of the refracted Ray. Now, did Mr. *Newton's* doctrine hold, I conceiv'd, I should not see all the mentioned Colours in a streight line with the Ruler , in regard the unequal refrangibility of different Rays must needs displace some more than others. Yet in effect, upon many Trials, I constantly found them in as streight a line as the bare Ruler had appeared in.

3. To advance this Experiment, I adjoynd a second refraction to the former of the Water, by placing my Prism so as to receive *perpendicularly* the refracted *species* of the Silk and Ruler ; whereby only the emergent *species* suffered a second refraction. But still with equal success, as to their appearing in a straight line, to the eye placed behind the Prism.

4. To these two Refractions I further added a third, by receiving the coloured *species obliquely* upon the Prism, whereby both incident and emergent *species* suffered their respective refractions. But still with the same success as formerly, as to the straight line they appeared in.

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For further assurance in this Experiment, lest prepossession, occasioned from previous knowledge of the Silks situation in a streight line, might possibly prejudice the judgment of the eye (as sometimes I have observed to happen to the judgment the Eye passeth upon the distance of Objects) I called into the room some unconcerned persons, wholly ignorant what the Experiment aimed at; and demanding whether they saw not the coloured Silks and Ruler in a crooked line? they answered in the negative.

5. The next Experiment I made in uncompounded Colours (as Mr. *Newton* terms them, *Prop.* 5 & 13.) as follows. Having cast two coloured Images upon the Wall, so as the Scarlet colour of the one did fall in a streight line (parallel to the Horizon) with the Violet of the other: I then looked upon both through another Prism, and found them still appear in a streight line parallel to the Horizon, as they had formerly done to the naked eye. Now according to Mr. *Newton's* Assertion of different refrangibility in different Rays, I conceive the Violet rays should suffer a greater refraction in the Prism at the eye, than the Scarlet ones, and consequently both colours should not appear in a streight line parallel to the Horizon.

6. Another Experiment I made in order to some further discovery of that surprizing *Phænomenon* of the coloured Image, which occasioned Mr. *Newtons* ingenious Theory of *Light* and *Colours*, as also his excellent invention of the reflecting *Telescope* and *Microscope*. Having then sometimes suspected, that not only the direct Sun-beams, but also other extraneous light might possibly influence the coloured *Spectrum*, I hoped to discover the truth of this suspicion by means of the Sun-spots, made to appear in the coloured Image by placing a Telescope behind the Prism. But my endeavours proving ineffectual herein by reason of some intervening difficulties, I thought at length of a more feasible method in order to the designed discovery, as in the following Experiment.

I fastened a very white Paper-circle (about an inch in diameter) upon my Window-shuts; and beholding it through my Prism, I found a Coloured image painted thereby upon my *Retina*, answerable in almost all respects to the former of the

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Sun

Sun-beams upon the Wall, especially when the Paper-circle was indifferently well illuminated. This Image indeed appeared contrary to the former as to the scituation of Colours, that is, the Scarlet appearing above, the Violet below, though but faint. But this I was not surprized at, having observ'd upon dissecting the eye, that objects are painted on the *Retina* after a contrary posture to what they appear to Sight. Having thus rendred the Coloured image much more tractable than formerly it was, I conceived good hopes of some further discovery in the point mentioned.

In pursuance then of my former suspicion, having fixed my Prism in a steady posture, I caused the paper *C* to be applied close up to the Paper-circle *abd*: whereupon the former Violet *d*, and Scarlet colour of *C* vanished into whiteness. Next, I removed the mentioned Circle from the Shuts, and placed it in the open window, supported only by the edge *d*: whereupon, to my astonishment, all the former Colours exchanged postures in the *Retina*, the Scarlet now appearing below, the Violet above; the intermediate Colours scarce discernible. And here, on the by, 'tis very remarkable, that, during this Observation, I clearly perceived both Blew- and Scarlet-light to be transparent, I being able to discern several objects through both, namely Steeples opposit to my window. Whence it follows, that these Colours do in great part arise from the neighbouring light. Lastly, I placed the Paper-circle anew, so as the one half *b* was fastened to the Shuts, the other semicircle *a* being exposed to the open Air. Whereupon the semicircle *a* became bordered with Violet above, Scarlet below; but the other semicircle *b* quite contrary. Hence I make the following Inferences.

First, That not only the Light reflected from the Paper-circle, but also from the ambient Air, hath great influence upon the Coloured image, especially as to the Violet and Scarlet colours. Whence perchance it will not hereafter seem strange, that the coloured *Spectrum* on the Wall is so long, but only that the breadth is not greater. *Secondly*, Were there a more luminous body behind the Sun, we should in all likelihood have the colours of the *Spectrum* in a contrary scituation to what they appear in at present: Whence (*thirdly*) it seems to follow, that the

the present scituation and order of Colours, ariseth not from any intrinfecal property of refrangibility (as maintained by Mr. *Newton*) but from contingent and extrinfecal circumstances of neighbouring objects. For accordingly as the body behind the Paper-circle was more or less illuminated than the Circle it self, all the severall Colours changed their scituation.

8. The next Experiment was made in order to Mr. *Newtons* doctrine of primary Colours, as *Prop. 5.* Having covered the Hole in the Window-shuts with a thin slice of *Ivory*, the transmitted light appeared yellow; but upon adding three, four, and more slices, it became red. Whence it seems to follow, that Yellowness of light is not a primary colour, but a compound of Red, &c.

9. The last Experiment was made in reference to Mr. *Newton's* 12 *Prop.* where from his own principles he renders a very plausible Reason of a surprizing *Phænomenon*, related by Mr. *Hooke*; namely of two liquors, the one Blew, the other Red, both severally transparent, yet both, if placed together, became opaque. The reason whereof, saith Mr. *Newton*, is, because if one liquor transmitted only Red, the other only Blew, no rays could pass through both.

In reference then to this point, I filled two small Glasses with flat polished bottoms, the one with *Aqua fortis*, deeply died Blew; the other with Oyl of *Turpentine*, died Red; both to that degree, as to represent all objects through them respectively Blew or Red. Then placing the one upon the other, I was able to discern severall bodies through both: whereas according to Mr. *Newtons* Theory, no object should appear through both Liquors; because if one transmit only Red, the other only Blew, no rays can pass through both.

These Experimental Exceptions will not, I hope, be unwelcome to Mr. *Newton*, his only aim being the improvement of Natural knowledge, as it is also of,

Sir,
Your humble Servant,
Anthony Lucas.

Postscript.

Just upon the close of the adjoynd Letter, I received from Mr. Gascoine, yours of May the fourth; wherein you are pleased to favour us with an exact account of the famous Experiment of the coloured Spectrum, lately exhibited before the Royal Society. I was much rejoiced to see the Trials of that Illustrious Company, agree so exactly with ours here, though in somewhat ours disagree from Mr. Newton, as you will understand by the inclosed impartial account from,

Sir, &c.

Mr. Newton's Answer to the precedent Letter, sent to the Publisher.

Sir,

THe things opposed by Mr. *Line* being upon Trials found true and granted me; I begin with the new question about the proportion of the length of the Image to its breadth. This I call a *new one*; for, though Mr. *Line* in his last Letter spake against so great a length as I assign, yet, as it seems to me, it was not to grant any transverse length shorter than that assigned by me, (for in his first Letter he absolutely denied that there would be any such length;) but to lay the greater emphasis upon his discourse whilst in defence of common Optiques he was disputing in general against a transverse Image: And therefore in my Answer I did not prescribe the just quantity of the refracting Angle with which I would have the Experiment repeated: which would have been a necessary circumstance, had the dispute been about the just proportion of the length to the breadth. Yet I added,* this Note, that the bigger the angle of the Prism is, the greater will be the length in proportion to the breadth; not imagining but that when he had found many Prism the length of the Image transverse to the axis he would easily thence conclude, that a Prism with a greater angle would make the Image longer, and consequently that by using an angle great enough he might bring it to equal or exceed the length assigned by me; as indeed he might: for by taking an Angle of 70 or 75 degrees, or a little greater.

* In my first Letter
in Phil. Trans. N.
1231 B 5099. 10 d

Fig. III.
14 Augusti



Tab. II.
PhTr N° 128.

Fig. I.

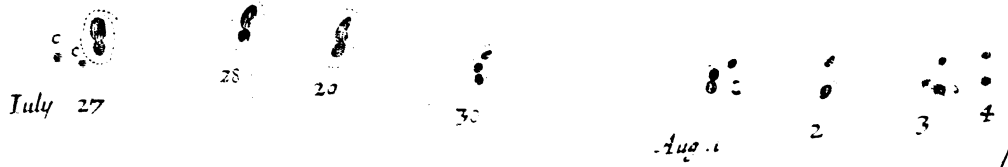
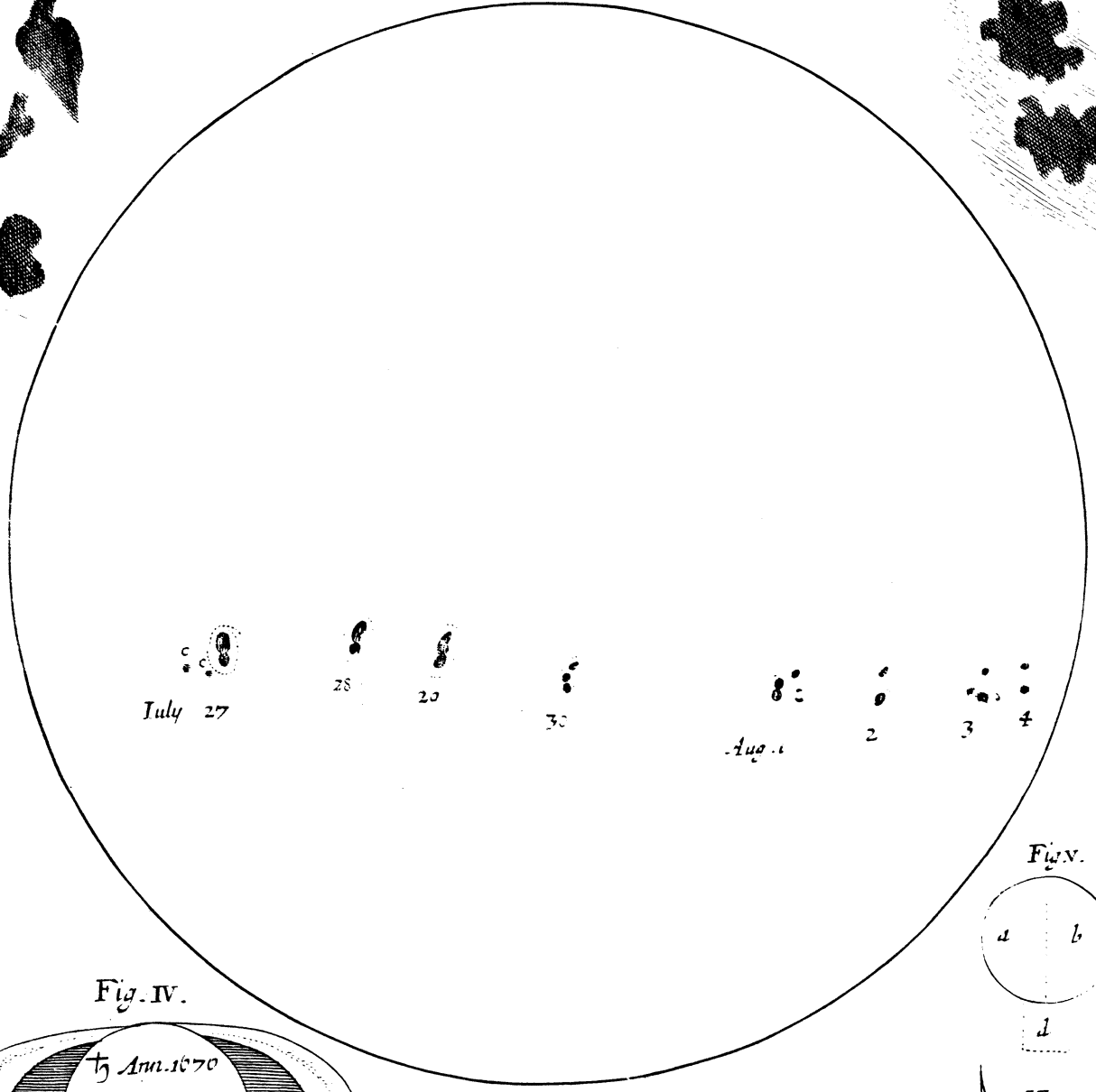


Fig. II.
M. scutum
8 Aug

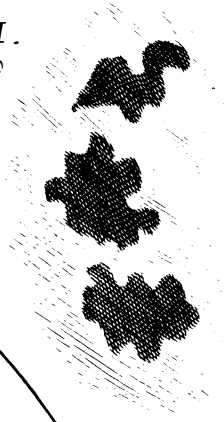


Fig. IV.

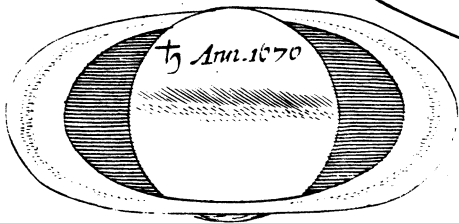


Fig. V.

