

Hooke Discovers Cells

Robert Hooke, curator of instruments at the Royal Society of London, has made a groundbreaking discovery in the field of biology. Hooke has been following new scientific developments and improvements of the microscope, the newest instrument of scientific research. Up until now the science community had been fairly sure living organisms were made up of sub particles – Hooke’s results have shed light upon what living things are made up of.

“I have always been interested in the study of life.” says an exuberant Hooke from his lab at the Royal Society of London. “I’ve thought living things were made up of sub components, but I wanted a way to test that theory.” This progressive thinking directed Hooke toward making observations of a variety of living things.

His ingenuity lead him to an amazing discovery. Utilizing a simple lens magnifier Hooke examined thin slices of cork from corks which were lying on his work bench. Hooke knew that cork is dead plant tissue, so it was once from

living material. He made several observations but the most memorable observation was seeing “walls surround empty spaces” through the simple lens. Hooke has coined the term “cell” for those empty spaces with walls because “they reminded me of the rooms in a monastery which are called cells”

His observations have lead Hooke to conclude that all living things are made up of ‘cells’ and has published his findings in his book *Micrographia*. When asked what does the future hold for his discovery and this ‘cell theory’ Hooke responded “I would like to see someone examine living tissues rather than dead ones like cork and it would even be better if they could examine these living things with higher magnifications rather than a single lens.”

Hooke has made an important and historic discovery and has put the Royal Society of London in the forefront scientific research.