

IV. *A Letter from Samuel Dale, M. L. to Sir Hans Sloane, Bart. President of the Royal Society, containing the Descriptions of the Moose-Deer of New-England, and a sort of Stag in Virginia; with some Remarks relating to Mr. Ray's Description of the flying Squirrel of America.*

Worthy SIR,

THE Present which I herewith make you, is the Head, or rather the *Attire* (as it is called in *Heraldry*) of the *Moose-Deer*, sent me some Years since from *New-England* by the Honourable *Samuel Shute*, Esq; then Governor of that Colony. This Animal hath been mention'd by several Authors, but their Accounts have generally been so very imperfect, that little Satisfaction hath thereby been given to the curious Inquirers after Natural History. The first Mention that I find of this *Moose-Deer* is by Mr. *Josselyn*, in a little Tract called *New-England Rarities*, where, Page the 19th, that Author writes, *That it's a goodly Creature, some of which being 12 Foot high, their Horns exceeding fair, with broad Palms, some being two Fathoms from the Tip of one Horn to the other.* Much to the same purpose is the Account he gives of this Animal in another Book of his called *Two Voyages to New-England*, p. 88. in which he saith, that *The Moose, or Elke, is a Creature or rather a Monster of Superfluity, when full grown, being many times bigger than an English Ox.* What Neal
in

in his *History of New England*, Vol. II. p. 573. hath of this Animal, called by him the *Mose*, is copied from the aforefaid *Josselyn*. The best and fullest Account of this Animal was sent by the Honourable *Paul Dudley*, Esq; Fellow of the *Royal Society*: This is published in the *Philosophical Transactions* of the *Royal Society*, N^o 368. p. 165. where he makes them to be of two Sorts, *viz.* *The common light-grey Moose*, called by the *Indians*, *Wampoose*; and *the large or black Moose*, which is the Beast whose Horns I herewith present *. As to the *grey Moose*, I take it to be no other than what Mr. *John Clayton*, in his Account of the *Virginian Quadrupedes*, published in the aforefaid *Transactions*, N^o 210. p. 122. calls the *Elke*; which Beast by the *Parisians*, in their *Memoirs for a Natural History of Animals*, Englished by Mr. *Pitfield*, Page 167. is called by the Name of the *Stag of Canada*, of which I have seen a single Horn, sent by Mr. *Mark Catesby* from *Virginia*, by the Name of an *Elks-horn*, and was in all respects like those of our *red Deer* or *Stags*, only larger, weighing about 12 Pounds *Haverdupoiz*, and from the Burr to the Tip, measured by a String, about six Foot high. Mr. *Dudley* writes, that his *grey*

* The Dimensions of these Horns, see Fig. 2. are as follow.

		Inches.			Inches.
A	B	56	a	b	11
C	A	34	a	cb	20
C	E	31	a	d	12 $\frac{1}{2}$
C	D	34	d	f	12 $\frac{1}{2}$
D	H	30	d	e	11
F	G	9 $\frac{1}{2}$	g	b	2 $\frac{3}{4}$
F	I	14			
K	L	7			

D d d

Moose

Moose is most like to the ordinary *Deer*; that they spring like them, and herd together sometimes to 30 in a Company: But whether he means by that Term the *Red*, the *Virginian*, or the *Fallow-Deer*, is uncertain, he having said nothing of their *Horns*, which was needful to distinguish them. The *black Moose* is (by all that have hitherto writ of it) accounted a very large Creature. Mr. *Josselyn* (as I before mentioned) makes it many times bigger than an *Ox*; and Mr. *Dudley* writes, that the Hunters have found a *Buck* or *Stag-Moose* 14 Spans in Height from the Withers, which at nine Inches to the Span, is ten Feet and a half; and that a *Doe* or *Hind* of the fourth Year, killed by a Gentleman near *Boston*, wanted but one Inch of seven Feet in Height. The *Stag*, *Buck*, or *Male* of this kind hath a *palmed Horn*, not like that of our common or *Fallow-Deer*, but the Palm is much longer, and more like to that of the *German Elke*, from which it differs, in that the *Moose* hath a branched Brow-Antler between the Burr and the Palm, which the *German Elke* hath not.

Nor doth the *Horn* of this *New-England black Moose* agree in Figure with either of those mentioned in the *Philosophical Transactions*, N^o 227. p. 489. and N^o 394. p. 123. to be found *Fossil* in *Ireland*, the last of which, Mr. *Kelly*, writes, that for want of another Name they called them *Elks-Horns*. I suspect that those *Horns* which the late Reverend and Learned Mr. *Ray* mentions in his *Synopsis Methodica Animalium Quadrupedum* to have seen with one Mr. *Holney*, an Apothecary of *Lewis* in *Suffex*, as likewise in divers *Museums*, were not the Horns of this *black* or *American Moose*, but of the *German Elke*,
because

because that inquisitive Gentleman takes no Notice of any *Brow-Antlers* that they had; which, I think, was too notorious to have escaped his Observation, had had there been any such.

Concerning the Number of young-ones, or *Calves*, which the *Moose* brings forth at a time, Authors vary; for Mr. *Dudley* saith, that they bring forth but two; but *Josselyn* in his *Two Voyages*, p. 89. and from him *Neal*, that they are three, and that they do not go so long pregnant as our *Hinds* by two Months. What these two last-mentioned Authors write concerning their casting their *Calves* a Mile distant from each other, doth not seem to me probable. Nor do I find that *Neal*, in his Description of this Beast, makes any mention of their having a long Tail, tho' so charged to do by Mr. *Dudley*, who likewise omits the *Brow-Antlers* in his Description of their *Horns*.

There is another Beast of the *Deer-kind*, which, tho' very common in *Virginia*, and without Doubt in other of the Northern Provinces of *America*, yet I think it is not described by any Author; (but it is expected that it will not escape being taken Notice of by Mr. *Catesby* in his *Natural History of Florida, &c.*) Mr. *Beverly*, in his *Present State of Virginia*, mentions both *Elke* and *Deer* in that Country, but doth not describe either: But by what I have received from Mr. *Catesby*, the first should be the *Canada-Stag*, and the other the *Deer* I have here mentioned. Mr. *Clayton* likewise mentions the *Elke*, which he saith are beyond the inhabited Parts, and are the same with Mr. *Beverly's*; as also the *Deer*, of which he saith there are Abundance, yet doth not describe them, but calls them *Red-Deer*, tho' they are not the

same as we here call by that Name, but of those which follow. Mr. *Neal* likewise mentions *Deer* in *New-England*, but gives only the Name, which being general, nothing can be inferred from it.

That which I take for the undescribed *Deer*, is a Beast of the *Stag-kind*, having round Horns like them, not spreading out as in the *Stag* or *Red-Deer*, but meeting nearer together at their Tips, and bending forward over the Face of the *Animal*; the *Brow-Antlers* likewise are not crooked and standing forward, but strait and upright (*see Fig. 3.*). The Skin of this *Deer* is of an *arenaceous* or sandy Colour, with some black Hairs intermix'd, and spotted all over, while young, with white Spots, like some sorts of our *Fallow-Deer*, being also about the Bigness of them when fully grown. The *Dama Virginiana Raii Synop. Animal. Quad.* p. 86. which was formerly in *St. James's-Park*, seems to be different from this, if Mr. *Willoughby* was not led into a Mistake in taking it to be of the *Palmate-kind*, by only seeing it when the *Horns* were shed. Perhaps this last of Mr. *Ray* may be the *Maurouse* of *Josselyn's Voyages*, p. 91. which, he saith, is like the *Moose*, but his Horns are but small, and the Beast about the Size of a *Stag*; but his Description is too short to be satisfactory.

There are other sorts of *Deer* mention'd by Mr. *Josselyn* in his last-quoted Book, p. 87. as Inhabitants of that Country, as the *Buck*, *Stag*, and *Rain-Deer*; but whether they are the same with those called by the same Names in *Europe*, I cannot determine, the Descriptions of them being omitted. He mentions likewise, for another sort of *American-Deer*,

Deer, an Animal called a *Maccarib*, *Caribo* or *Pobano*; but by the Account he gives, it seems to be a Fiction, no such *Animal* being, I believe, in *Re-rum natura*.

I find that Mr. *Ray* in his *Synop. Quad.* p. 215. rather refers the *Sciurus Americanus volans*, to the *Mouse* than to the *Squirrel-kind*; because their Tails are broad and plain, and not turn'd over their Backs when they sit; which Mistake may perhaps arise from only seeing the Skin of one dead, when the Hair of the Tail had been eaten off by *Mites*; for in one that I did see alive, which was brought over from *Virginia* by Madam *Cock*, Sister to Mr. *Catesby*, the Tail was hairy, as in others of the *Squirrel-kind*, tho' rather more thin, and did turn over the Back as other *Squirrels* do.

N. B. The same Species of flying *Squirrels* hath been found in *Poland*; a Description of which, with an accurate Figure, is given by the Learned Mr. *Klein*, F. R. S. in N^o 427. of these *Transactions*.

As to the large *Horns* found *Fossil* in *Ireland*, I have taken particular Notice, (in several I have seen) beside the main Horns being palmated, that the Brow-Antlers are likewise palmated; which is a Circumstance peculiar to the *Rein-Deer Species*, being of great Service to them in removing the Snow, in order to get at the Grass or Moss underneath, which is their chief Subsistence in *Lapland*. C. M.

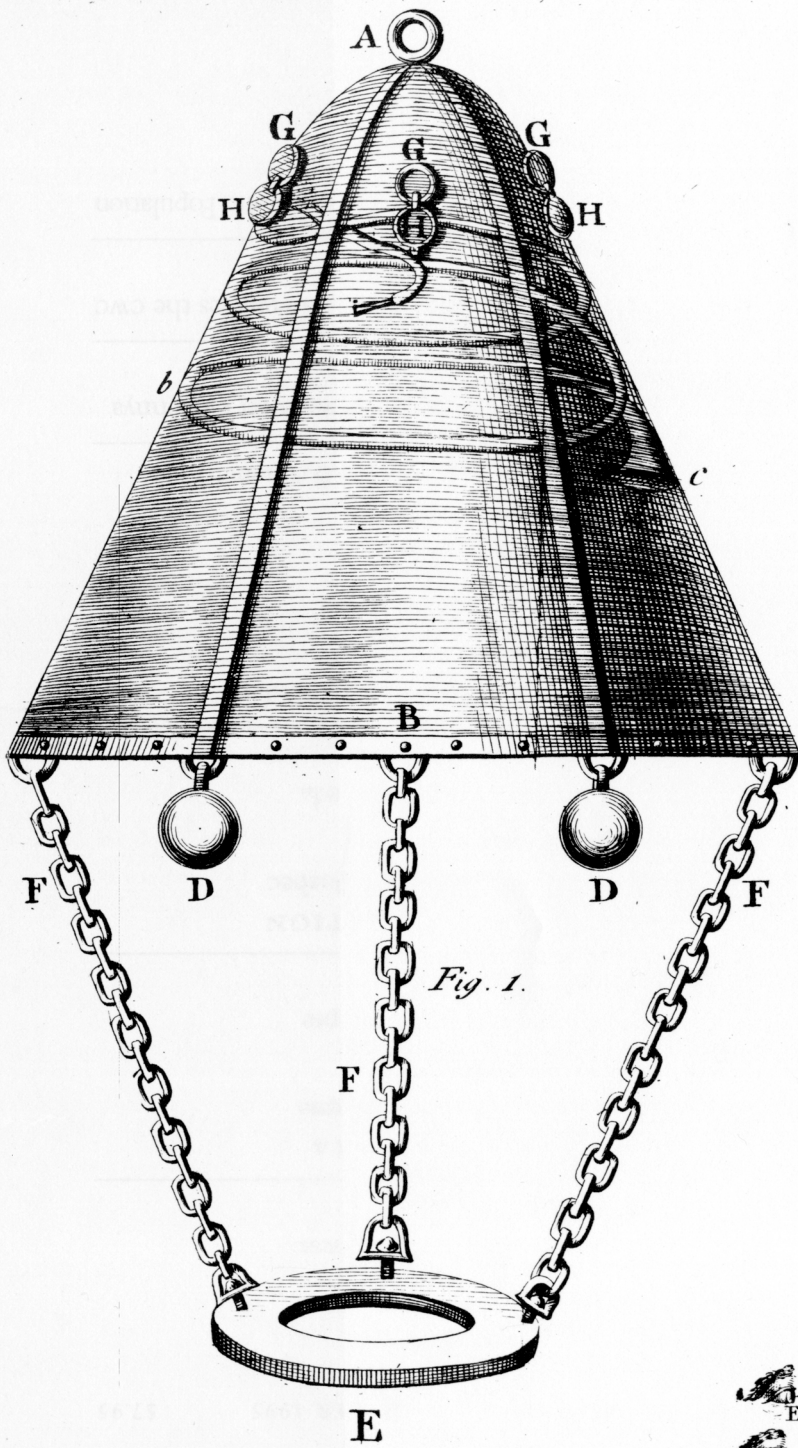


Fig. 1.

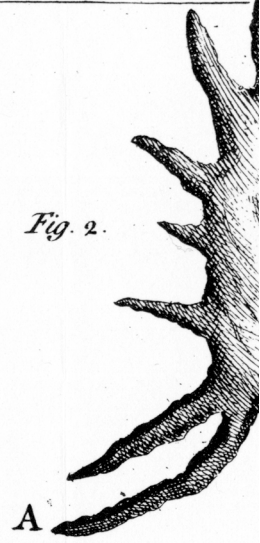


Fig. 2.

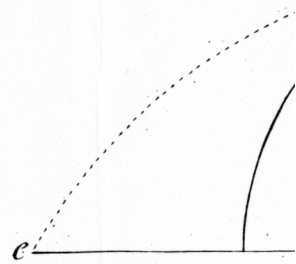


Fig. 3.

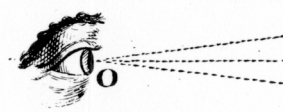
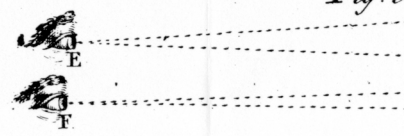


Fig. 4.



Scale of 4 English feet.

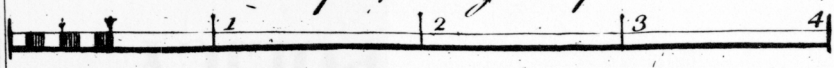


Fig. 2.

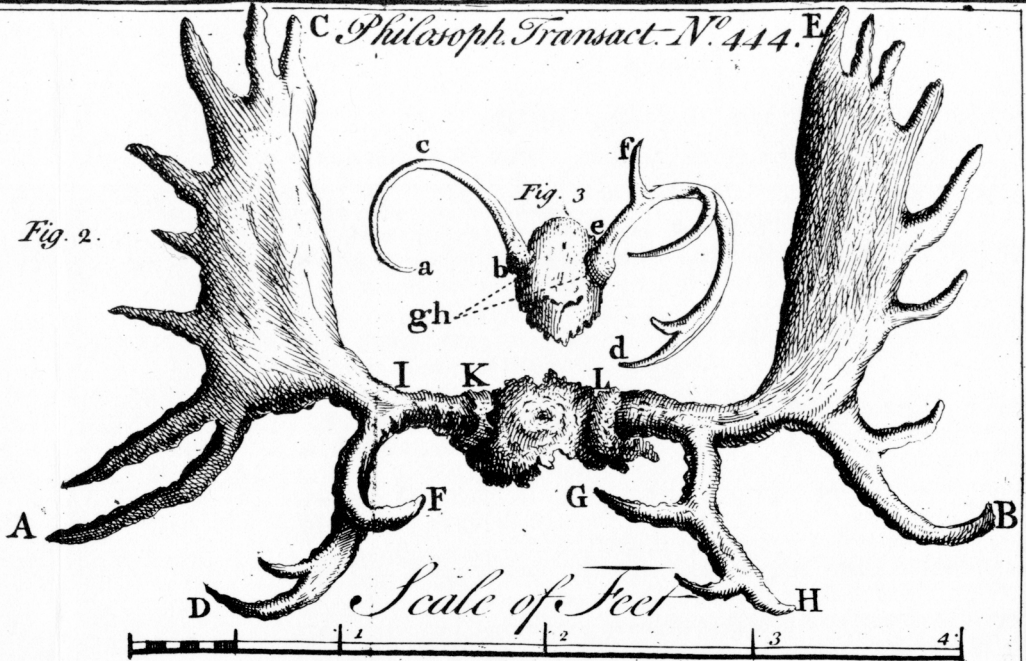


Fig. 4.

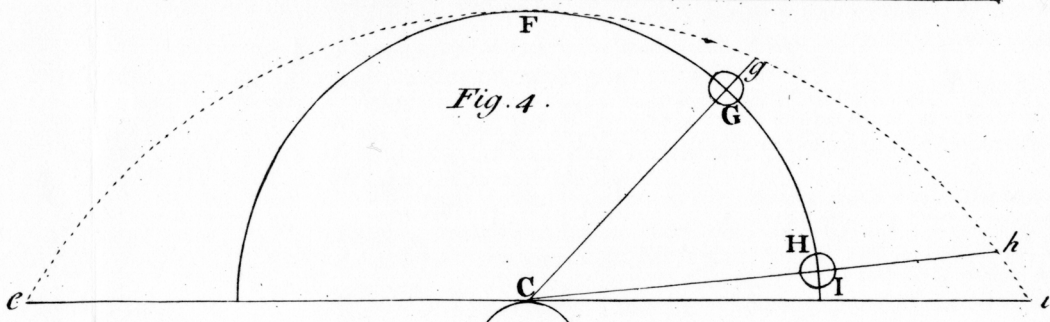


Fig. 5.

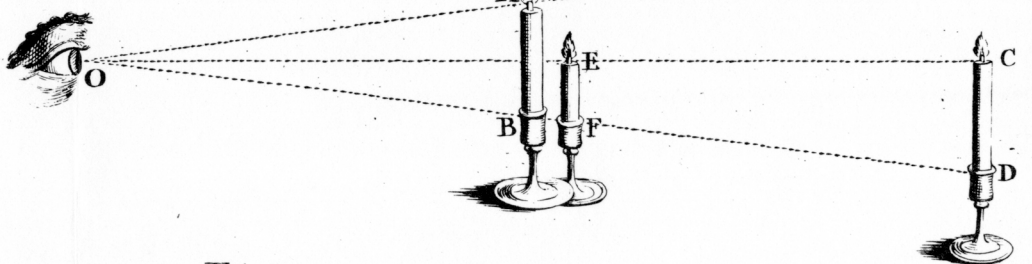
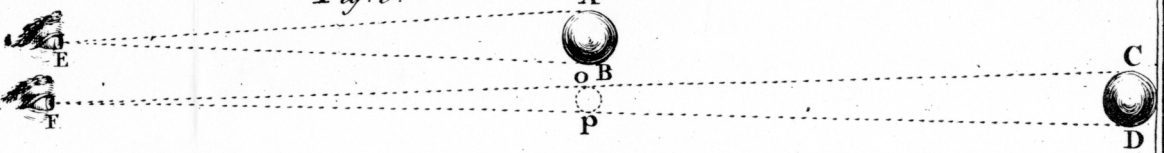


Fig. 6.



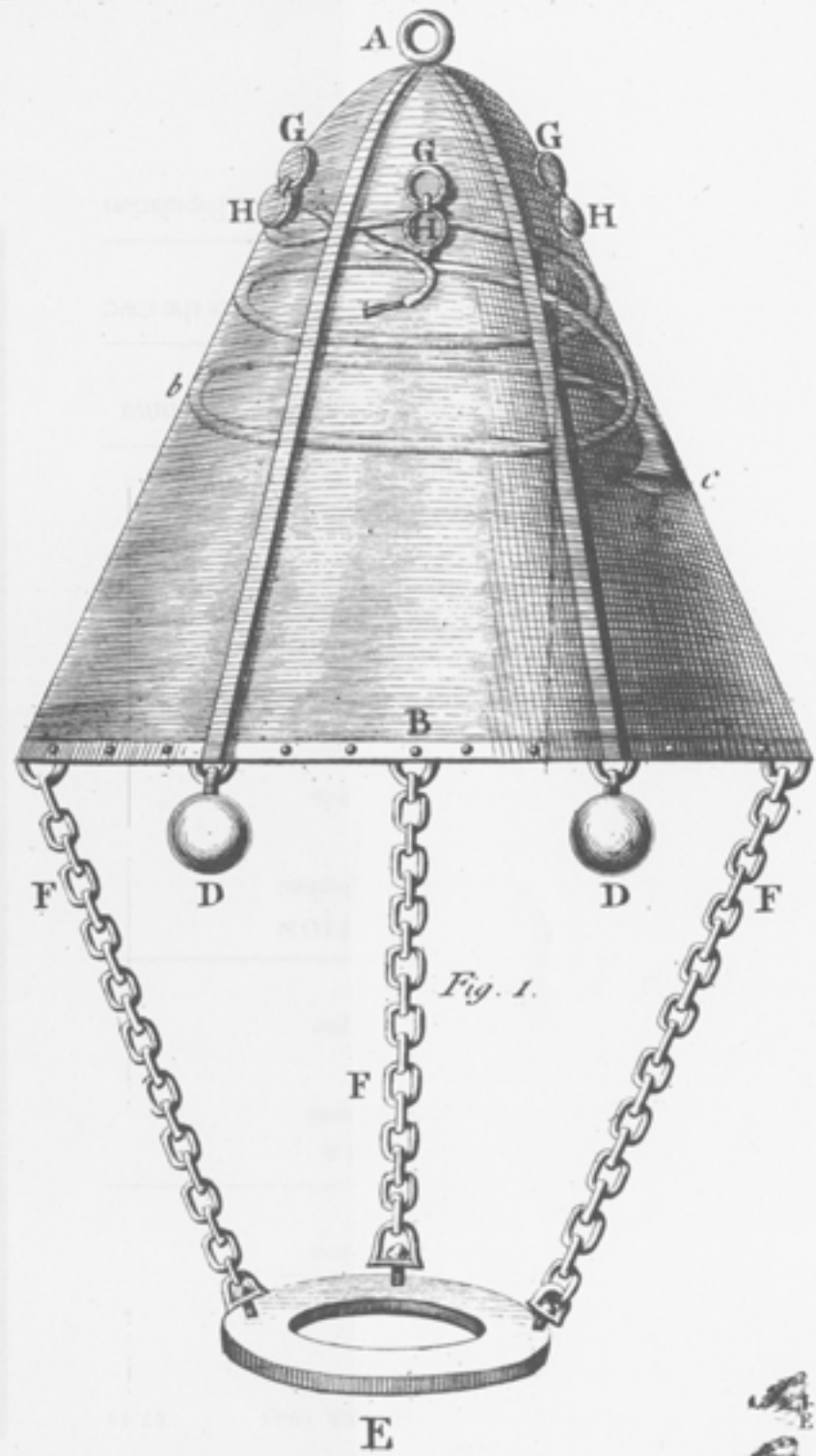


Fig. 1.

Scale of 4 English feet.

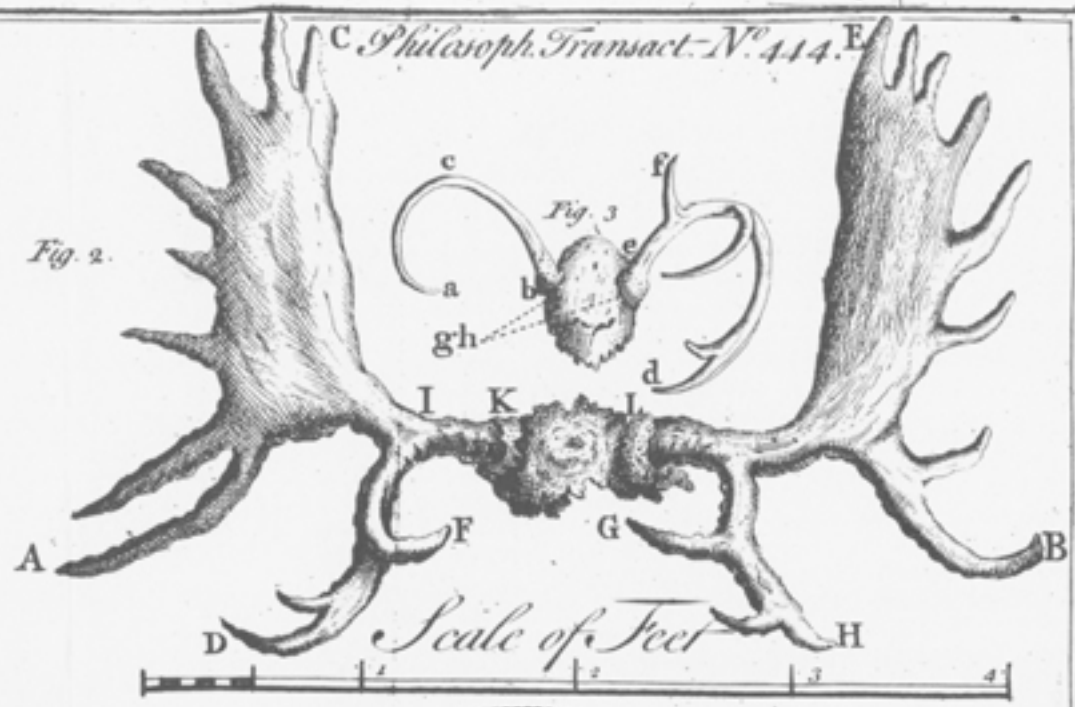
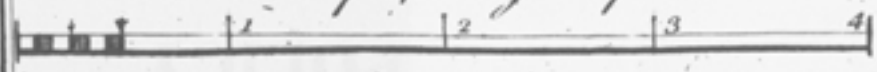


Fig. 2.

Scale of Feet

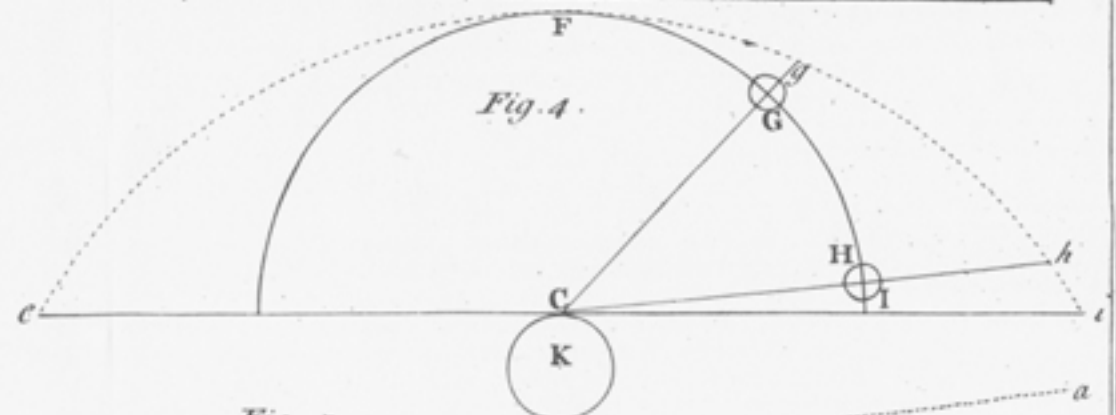


Fig. 4.

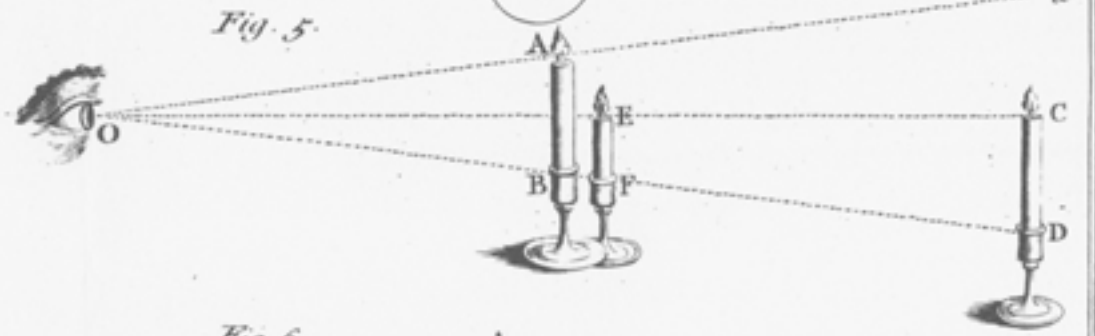


Fig. 5.

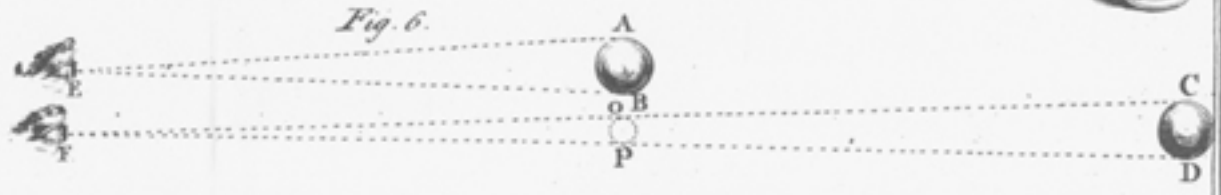


Fig. 6.