

Of The Cells and Pores of Frothy Bodies

Robert Hooke, Micrographia 1665

Obſerv. XVIII. *Of the Schematisme or Texture of Cork, and of the Cells and Pores of ſome other ſuch frothy Bodies.*

I Took a good clear piece of Cork, and with a Pen-knife sharpen'd as keen as a Razor, I cut a piece of it off, and thereby left the ſurface of it exceeding ſmooth, then examining it very diligently with a *Microſcope*, me thought I could perceive it to appear a little porous; but I could not ſo plainly diſtinguiſh them, as to be ſure that they were pores, much leſs what Figure they were of: But judging from the lightneſs and yielding quality of the Cork, that certainly the texture could not be ſo curious,

Adapted from the original

I took a piece of Cork and with a Pen-knife as sharp as a Razor, cut a piece of it off, and left it ſmooth. Then examining it very carefully with a *Microſcope*, me thought it looked a little **porous**; but I could not be ſure. Judging from the lightneſs and yielding quality of the Cork, possibly I might discern the texture with a *Microſcope*.

With the ſame sharp Penknife, I cut an exceeding thin piece of it and with a stronger lens, I could plainly ſee it was full of holes, like a Honey-comb.

First it was mostly empty ſpace compared to the thickness of the walls, which were nearly as thin as the wax walls in Honey-comb. Next, these holes, or cells, were not very deep, but conſtituted of a great many little Boxes.

As ſoon as I ſaw these (which were indeed the first *microſcopical* holes I ever ſaw, and perhaps, that were ever ſeen) I thought I had the discovery of them. They hinted to me the true and understandable reaſon of all the *Phænomena of Cork*.