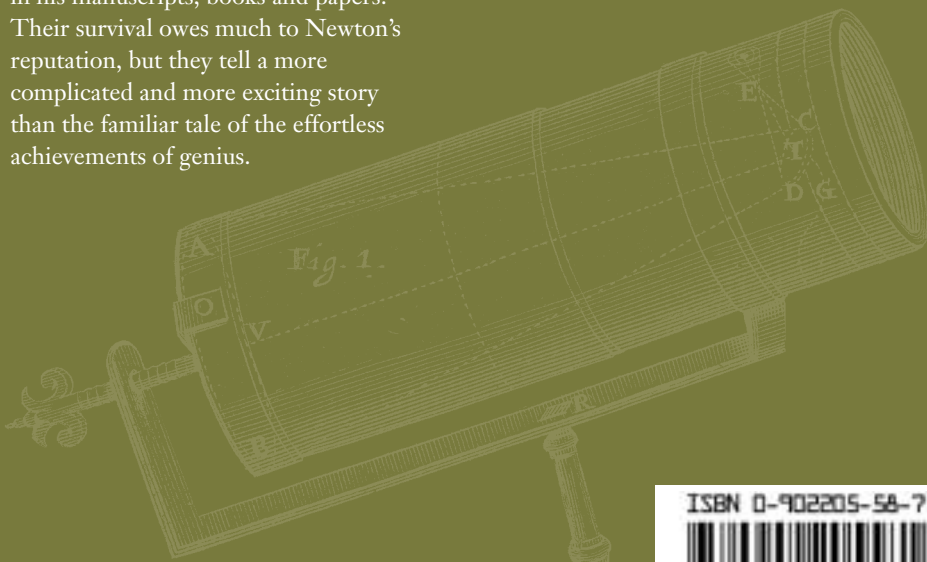


The fame of Isaac Newton (1642–1727) derives from the scientific achievement of his two great books, the *Principia* (1687) and the *Opticks* (1704). Newton's works and reputation are held to exemplify a particular form of scientific reasoning and of experimental method that has transcended individual discoveries.

This exhibition looks behind the façade of Newton's publications to examine the way in which he worked. It illustrates the complete range of his intellectual activities in mathematics, natural philosophy, theology, and alchemy, and draws on material from the Macclesfield Collection that has never been displayed before. To his contemporaries, Newton's methods were so startlingly original that on their own they were enough to identify him, 'as a lion can be recognised from his footprint'. The most concrete traces of Newton at work, however, can be found in his manuscripts, books and papers. Their survival owes much to Newton's reputation, but they tell a more complicated and more exciting story than the familiar tale of the effortless achievements of genius.



front cover image  
isaac newton by sir godfrey kneller (1689)



Footprints of the lion: isaac newton at work

# Footprints of the lion: isaac newton at work

Scott Mandelbrote

catalogue