





1-foot Cassegrain Reflecting Telescope

James Short, London, England, ca. 1758

CHSI Inventory Number: 0053

On display at the Collection of Historical Scientific Instruments

[Putnam Gallery](#)

Acquired by Harvard in 1765, after the devastating fire of 1764 that destroyed most of Harvard's scientific apparatus, this telescope was made by James Short of London around 1758. It was purchased with an object glass micrometer, an instrument that is fitted to the end of the telescope to measure the angular separation between two celestial objects. John Winthrop, Hollis Professor of Mathematics and Natural Philosophy at Harvard College, used the pair to observe the Transit of Venus in 1769 from Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Harvard Museums of Science & Culture (HMSC) is a partnership of four Harvard museums that present captivating programming for all ages and a dynamic array of permanent and changing exhibits. HMSC invites you to connect with Harvard University's distinctive collections and vital research on human civilizations, biodiversity, and the history of Earth and science.

Share your creations with us on social media **#ColorOurCollections** and **#HMSCconnects**

Continue exploring our museums:

[HMSC connects!](#)

[Collection of Historical Scientific Instruments](#)

[Harvard Museum of the Ancient Near East](#)

[Harvard Museum of Natural History](#)

[Peabody Museum of Archaeology & Ethnology](#)