

# *F*irst View: Two Principals

## *Newton's Hooke* by David Pinner

(Time: 1665–1703. Cambridge and London,  
mostly in Newton and Hooke's rooms)

### CAST IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE

*Sir Isaac Newton* (1642–1727), England's greatest mathematician and natural philosopher, also immersed for decades in alchemy and heretical theology. Enunciated the laws of motion and gravitation and their application to celestial mechanics. Made fundamental contributions to light and color as well as inventing a form of the calculus (termed by him "Method of Fluxions"). Author of two of the most important books in science: the *Philosophiae naturalis principia mathematica* (*Principia*) and *Opticks*. Fellow of the Royal Society in 1672, president of the Royal Society from 1703 to 1727. In 1669 elected Lucasian Professor of Mathematics at Cambridge University. Appointed Master of the Royal Mint in 1699 and knighted in 1705 by Queen Anne. Notorious for ferocious priority struggles with scientists (e.g., Flamsteed), but none greater than the ones with Hooke and Leibniz. Buried in Westminster Abbey, where his monument was unveiled in 1731.

*John Wickins* (1640–1727), Trinity fellow and Newton's assistant for 20 years. Left Newton in 1683, married, and became a clergyman in Stoke Edith, Monmouth. (*This role can be played by the same actor as Fatjo and Montagu.*)

*Catherine Bakon* (1643–?), stepdaughter of the apothecary Clark and Newton's childhood sweetheart. Later became Catherine Vincent by her

second marriage. (*This role can be played by the same actor as Catherine Barton.*)

*Robert Hooke* (1635–1703), dubbed as “the Leonardo of London” by his contemporaries; theorist on mechanics, gravity and optics; developed hypotheses on geology, botany, cartography, anatomy, telescopes, microscopes, and workings of engines, plus designs for flying machines. Also a painter and architect. Appointed the Royal Society’s curator of experiments 1662, nominated for an M.A., Christ Church College, Oxford, in 1663, when he also became the editor of the Royal Society’s *Transactions*. Published his masterwork on the microscope, *The Micrographia*, in 1665 and was appointed the Secretary of the Royal Society in 1677. Was the bitter enemy of Newton until Hooke’s death in 1703.

*Grace Hooke* (1650–?), Hooke’s niece, lover, and housekeeper. She left Hooke for a younger man in 1688. (*This role can be played by the same actor as Annie Limlet.*)

*Nicolas Fatio de Duillier* (1664–1753), Basel-born Swiss mathematician with Geneva family connections, had met Leibniz in Hanover, the Bernoullis in Basel, and other mathematicians before coming to London in 1687. Became known as “Newton’s Ape” (between 1689 and 1693). (*This role can be played by the same actor as Wickins and Montagu.*)

*Charles Montagu* (1642–1715), like Newton, entered Cambridge as a fellow-commoner in 1678. He was made a Fellow of Trinity and wrote the best-selling satire *The Country Mouse and the City Mouse*. Appointed as Chancellor of the Exchequer in 1694, and in turn he appointed his life-long friend Newton as Warden of the Royal Mint in 1695. Was President of the Royal Society (1695-98). Was made first Earl of Halifax during the same ceremony at which Newton was knighted in 1705. (*This role can be played by the same actor as Wickins and Fatio.*)

*Annie Limlet*, a fictitious composite of Hooke’s numerous mistresses-cum-housekeepers. (*This role can be played by the same actor as Grace Hooke.*)

*Catherine Barton* (1679–?), a great beauty of the age. Eulogized by Jonathan Swift, and was Newton’s niece and housekeeper. Was the

mistress of Montagu while he was Chancellor of the Exchequer until Montagu's death in 1715. In 1717 married John Conduitt, who became Newton's biographer. (*This role can be played by the same actor as Catherine Bakon.*)