

translation which I give below. A.G.B.

**AERIAL LOCOMOTION DISCUSSED BY THE ROYAL SOCIETY, GREAT
BRITAIN IN THE 17TH CENTURY (1661-1679).**

No work relating to the history of Aerial Locomotion so far as I know, makes reference to the fact that the art of flying was discussed by the early members of the Royal Society and that aeroplane experiments were made by them in the 17th Century. It is true they were not called 'aeroplane' experiments but they were really the same thing. For example:- Dr. Wrenn (Sir Christopher Wrenn), the designer of St. Paul's Cathedral, made experiments with several round pasteboards to test their velocity in falling; Dr. Hooke proposed experiments to ascertain the strength requisite to make a wing, or expanded area sustain a determinate bulk in the air, and suggested "that it was not sufficient to have a theory for the descent of an expanded area perpendicularly downward, because the descent of an expanded area, moved edgewise horizontally in the air, was extremely different; in which way, however, all motion of flying must be performed".

I give below quotations from the "History of the Royal Society" by Thomas Birch referring to experiments and discussions having a bearing upon Aerial Locomotion between the years 1661 and 1679, and a few biographical notes concerning Hooke, Petty and Wrenn. A.G.B.