Compound Microscope with Case

Luxurious microscopes like this one were made for wealthy Europeans, who maintained collections of natural specimens in the manner of Renaissance Wunderkabinette (cabinets of wonder). This compound microscope possesses a micrometric stage and an ocular micrometer devised to allow measurement of specimens.

The microscope—with its interchangeable lens mount and adjustable, substage concave mirror to control illumination—can be focused quickly using a rack-and-pinion adjustment or slowly using a vertical screw.

Compound Microscope with Case
French (Paris), about 1751
Microscope: gilt bronze, glass and mirror
glass, enamel, and shagreen
18 7/8 x 11 x 8 1/8 in.
Case: wood, tooled leather, brass, velvet,
and silver, and lace
26 x 13 ¾ x 10 5/8 in.
The J. Paul Getty Museum
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