In the 1700s, mystery and fascination surrounded reflective devices like this multiplying mirror, also known as a *miroir de sorcière* (sorceress’s mirror). This mirror and others like it became fashionable and were prized by collectors as both an interior design element and as an object that would inspire awe in viewers. Mirrors that enlarged, diminished, and distorted the world also played a role in the teaching of science.

*Miroide sorcière*
(Sorceress’s mirror)
France, 1700s
Mercury-coated glass in oak frame
7 5/8 in. diam.
The Getty Research Institute
96.R.67