Alexander Pope (1688 – 1744) was a poet famous for his moral satires and mock epics, as well as his use of the heroic couplet.[1] Pope's professional opportunities were limited because of his Catholic faith and poor health throughout his life.[2]

Pope began his foray into pastoral poetry with his first major poem, *Pastorals* (1705). He explored the intellectual and emotional reach of poetry within formal composition rules, satirizing the poet’s dedication to these rules in his famous poem *An Essay on Criticism* (1711). In 1712 Pope started to write mock epic poetry with the *Rape of the Lock*, which he followed with a famous verse translation of Homer's *Iliad*, which took six years to complete.

During the 1720s, Pope published multiple versions of a mock heroic the *Dunciads*, cementing his reputation as a satirist. [3] However, his poem *An Essay on Man* (1734-35) marked a move away from satire back to the poetic essay. [4] He continued to write poetic epistles, as well as the *Books of Horace*, until his death in 1744. [5]


**Evidence for Inclusion in Wythe's Library**

Listed in the Jefferson Inventory of Wythe's Library as Pope's works. 9 v. 8vo. and given by Thomas Jefferson to his daughter Martha. The precise edition of the set owned by Wythe is unknown. George Wythe's Library[7] on LibraryThing indicates as much, adding "Numerous nine-volume editions in octavo were published, the first at London in 1751." The Brown Bibliography[8] lists the first edition (1750-1751) published in London, and this was the edition purchased by the Wolf Law Library.

**Description of the Wolf Law Library's copy**

Bound in nineteenth century hard-grained morocco, spines and edges gilt, with silk markers in each volume. Ownership inscription in each volume of J. Barnard; bookplates of Charles and Mary Lacaita on each front pastedown. Purchased from Christopher Edwards.

Images of the library's copy of this book are available on Flickr.[9] View the record for this book in William & Mary's online catalog.[10]
See also

- George Wythe Room
- Jefferson Inventory
- Wythe's Library

References

4. ↑ Ibid, 111.
5. ↑ Ibid, 117-120.

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