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 on LibraryThing indicates as much, adding "Numerous nine-volume editions in octavo were published, the first at London in 1751." The Brown Bibliography 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. View the record for this book in William & Mary's online catalog.
Alexander Pope. 18th-Century Literature. | Alexander Pope. | Quotes. | Biography. | Works. | Essays. | Resources. Of the Characters of Women (1735) [Later published in Works as Epistle II: To a Lady] Complete - Google Books Complete - UToronto. Letters of Mr. Pope and Several Eminent Persons (1735-37) Complete - Google Books. Memoirs of Martinus Scriblerus (1741) Complete (1886 ed.) - Google Books. Miscellaneous Poems Impromptu to Lady Winchilsea. Alexander Pope: Alexander Pope, poet and satirist of the English Augustan period, best known for his poems An Essay on Criticism (1711), The Rape of the Lock (1712–14), The Dunciad (1728), and An Essay on Man (1733–34). He is one of the most epigrammatic of all English authors. Pope's father, a wholesale linen. The Iliad was completed in six volumes in 1720. The work of translating the Odyssey (vol. i–iii, 1725; vol. iv and v, 1726) was shared with William Broome, who had contributed notes to the Iliad, and Elijah Fenton. The labour had been great, but so were the rewards. By the two translations Pope cleared about £10,000 and was able to claim that, thanks to Homer, he could “…live and thrive / Indebted to no Prince or Peer alive.” Alexander Pope was the most influential poet and critic of the 18th century or the neoclassical period of English literature. He is the first professional poet of English literature also. Because the Catholics were not allowed to live within ten miles of London, his family had to move to a village. Alexander Pope (1688-1744). Pope's last major works was The Dunciad (1728-1743), an attack on dunces. The poem ridicules dull writers, biased critics, overly scholarly professors, and stupid scientists. Pope particularly ridiculed the critic Lewis Theobald and the writer Colley Cibber. Pope was born in London and at age of 12, he suffered a tubercular spinal infection. As a result, he grew to an adult height of only 4 feet 6 inches (137 centimeters) and developed a hunchback.