Complete

by Alexander Pope

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.\[5\]

*The Works of Alexander Pope Esq. In Nine Volumes Complete* was published in 1751, and became the primary edition of Pope's works.\[6\]

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. View the record for this book in William & Mary's online catalog.
Alexander Pope was born to Alexander Pope and Edith nee Turner in London, England. His father worked as a linen merchant. He had a Catholic upbringing. While at the countryside, he dedicated much of time to reading the works of classical literary figures, such as satirists Horace and Juvenal, poets Homer and Virgil, and authors, William Shakespeare, Geoffrey Chaucer and John Dryden. Additionally, he equipped himself with studying various languages. It was with the know-how of the language that he read works of various poets as such English, French, Italian, Latin and Greek. While at Binfield, he befriended John Caryll who later served as an inspiration for his work, 'The Rape of the Lock'. 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. The Works of Alexander Pope Esq. In Nine Volumes Complete. With His Last Corrections, Additions, And Improvements; As they were delivered to the Editor a little before his Death; Together With the Commentaries and Notes of Mr. Warburton (London: Printed for J. & P. Knapton, 1751). Editions and Collections. The Works of Alexander Pope, edited by Whitwell Elwin and W. J. Courthope, 10 volumes (London: Murray, 1871-1889). The Prose Works of Alexander Pope: The Earlier Works, 1711-1720, edited by Norman Ault (Oxford: Blackwell, 1936). The Works of Shakespear, edited by Pope (London: Printed for Jacob Tonson, 1725). "Peri Bathous, Or The Art of Sinking in Poetry" and other poems, in Miscellanies. The Last Volume (London: Printed for B. Motte, 1727).