



The Major Works of Alexander Pope

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Alexander Pope (1688-1744) was a gifted poet, literary critic and translator of the Augustan Age, whose powerful poetic satire and perfection of the English heroic couplet makes him one of the most famous and respected poets of all time. Pope embodied eighteenth-century neoclassical ideals like order, beauty, sophisticated wit, and refined moral sentiment. Included in this collection is "The Rape of The Lock," a satirical poem that mocks ancient epics, one of Pope's most famous works. Also included is "An Essay on Man," a work that met immediate acclaim throughout Europe upon publication, and is still renowned today. In this work, Pope attempts to "vindicate the ways of God to man" (I. 16). Additionally, "The Major Works of Alexander Pope" also includes "The Dunciad," a work regarded as a literary landmark in satirical writing, personifying Dullness as a goddess and the harm she causes to the kingdom of Great Britain.

The Major Works of Alexander Pope Details

Date : Published (first published 1751)

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Author : Alexander Pope

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From Reader Review The Major Works of Alexander Pope for online ebook

Ben Doeh says

Pope was one of the Enlightenment's geniuses. Few poets since have rivalled him for accuracy and sense.

A few of his phrases that have entered the English idiom:

"Fools rush in where angels fear to tread"

"Damn with faint praise"

"A little learning is a dangerous thing"

G.R. Reader says

There's still no one who's really managed to improve on Pope. For example:

*Now Wits gain praise by copying other Wits
As one Hog lives on what another shits.*

It's amazing how often I think of that couplet. Maybe I shouldn't spend so much time on Goodreads.

Pol says

Comprehensive selection, and the biographical sketches are a nice touch. The paperback's quality is a bit rubbish though - the spine creases and curves with the slightest bit of pressure.

'The Rape of the Lock' is a good starting-point for newcomers to Augustan satire. It is quite comical, and those who dislike the rage of Swift's Juvenalian work might find refuge in the urbane language of Pope.

Joanna says

Thoroughly enjoyable.

Hannah says

Pope peak smarmy, to get a balance of smarmy with something interesting see Horatian satires & Epistle to Dr Arbuthnot. Yes, objectively better than Swift but not as cool.

Austin Hoffman says

Good. Especially appreciated his longer, more philosophical poems like his essay on man and essay on criticism.

Douglas Gates says

Beautiful poetry, interesting letters.

P.J. Wetzel says

Who am I to criticize an author who, according to the Oxford Dictionary of Quotations is the third most quoted figure in human history (after Shakespeare and Tennyson)? Who am I but an unappreciative boor? Well, I'm a generally educated reader who invested several weeks of reading time to explore the man and his writing—no more, no less. Judge the merit of my comments for yourself, keeping in mind a rule that I apply to others so must apply to myself here: when you choose to emphasize the negative in another person (particularly if you focus on the person rather than a particular act or product) it reflects more on you than on the person you're criticizing. Yes, I confess: this review is more a reflection on me and certain aspects of my personality than it is about the literature being reviewed.

I had managed to unhappily wade through this 737 page small print tome until I started trying to read the last included work: The Dunciad, which is a satire (I think), and is, more to the point, Pope's attempt to settle the score with every critic and foe he ever encountered. What a sad, pathetic subject for a crowning life work! What a sorry personality he must have been to have chosen such a motive to drive him. I literally could not read more. There is a class of people who I can't stand, and he's a prime example of them — people who seek to entangle themselves with others (get in other people's faces) as if for the purpose of giving their empty lives some desperate sense of meaning. They see no more pressing purpose to life than to derive energy from the process of bickering and quibbling—the ebb and flow of 'reputation' and 'appearance', of 'status' and 'opinion'. This is so alien to my own sensibilities that I simply had to put the book on the shelf without finishing it.

Frankly, it's the first book I ever wanted to burn. I felt like ripping the offending pages out, spitting on them, trampling them under foot, and eviscerating each printed word. Pope attracted me because of a few selected quotes that have become immortal. The quotes are fine, fantastic in fact (and I'll continue to use them). But that's only because they're taken out of context. The mind that produced them is undeserving. I can only imagine that the world in which he lived was so lacking in true talent that his lack of a more useful talent and his ability to find favor in high places vaulted him into that vacuum. And in 54 years of life he managed to accidentally vomit out a few memorable phrases amid volumes of tripe. A monkey at a keyboard could scarcely do worse.

No, I'm being terribly melodramatic. It's my anger at the Dunciad that is driving this. I did enjoy a few selected works—when he chose subjects of a bit more substance (still perilously abstract for modern tastes). I enjoyed his lyrical rendering of a comparison of virtue and vice in his 'Epilogue to the Satires: Dialogue 1' (page 399). But really—to wade through 737 pages to find a few pages worth reading?

