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A LIST OF DESIDERATA FOR THE
POPE COLLECTION

THE following selected titles would make the collection representative of Pope's entire poetic career. The majority are not expensive. To save minute description each item is identified by the number in Griffith's bibliography of Pope.*

2. *An Essay on Criticism*, 1711.
6. Lintot Miscellany, 1712: *The Rape of the Lock*, two-canto version.
29. *The Rape of the Lock*, five-canto version, 1714.
- 151, 155, 159, 166, 170. *The Odyssey*, 1725, 1726. 5 vols.
370. *Works*, 1735. Quarto.
- 454, 529. *Letters*, 1737, 1741. Quartos.
643. *Works*, edited by Warburton, 1751. 9 vols.
Works, Twickenham Edition, 1939- .



EARLY MAINE IMPRINTS OF POPE

BY CARL J. WEBER

DOROTHY CANFIELD FISHER, writing in the March, 1944, issue of *The American Scholar*, remarked: "I knew in my childhood a very old great-uncle, so venerable when I knew him, that his literary tastes were of the pre-Romantic school. To have come under the influence of someone who enormously admired ALEXANDER POPE seems almost as strange an experience as if I had known someone who still believed in the Ptolemaic theory of the universe."

* In making this list I have been greatly helped by Professor Maynard Mack, editor of the *Essay on Man* in the Twickenham Edition.—F. A. P.

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That being the case, it is extremely unlikely that the two hundredth anniversary of Pope's death will be observed in many places in Maine (or elsewhere, for that matter), but there is little doubt that the name of Alexander Pope was known one hundred years ago to a great many besides Mrs. Fisher's great-uncle. In a period of thirty-five years just before the first centenary of Pope's death, his *Essay on Man* was issued under Maine imprints no less than eight different times. (How many more than eight there may have been, I do not know.) I have been able to locate copies of the following:

1. *An Essay on Man* (the same title for each of the following seven items): Portland, Maine, Thomas Clark & Isaac Adams, 1806. There is a copy in the Massachusetts Historical Society Library in Boston.
2. Hallowell, Maine: Ezekiel Goodale, 1811. The Boston Athenaeum Library has a copy.
3. Hallowell, Maine: N. Cheever, 1811. There is a copy in the library of the American Antiquarian Society, Worcester, Mass. (See R. Webb Noyes' *Bibliography of Maine Imprints to 1820*: Stonington, Maine, 1930.)
4. Hallowell, Maine: S. K. Gilman, 1819. "*The Universal Prayer* By Alexander Pope, Esq." is printed with the *Essay on Man*. There is a copy in the New York Historical Society Library.
5. Gardiner, Maine: P. Sheldon, 1824. This also includes *The Universal Prayer*. There is a copy in the Huntington Library, California.
6. Portland, Maine: Shirley & Hyde, 1828. The Huntington Library has a copy.
7. Portland: William Hyde, 1837. This book contains twice the number of pages found in the Gardiner edition (No. 5 above), and the explanation of this fact doubtless also accounts for the apparent wide-spread interest in Pope in Maine a hundred years ago. The poem is here equipped "with notes illustrative of the grammatical construction,

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designed as a text-book for parsing, by Daniel Clarke" (!). There is a copy in the Huntington Library.

8. Portland: William Hyde, 1841. The Huntington Library has a copy. (See *The Poetical Career of Alexander Pope*, by Robert Kilburn Root, Princeton University Press, 1938.)

Even this plentiful supply of Maine imprints did not meet the demand for Pope within the State. Four editions which have long been in the college library all bear witness on this point. When Charles E. Hamlin (who entered Colby in 1843, graduated in 1847, and for twenty years, 1853 to 1873, was Professor of Chemistry and Natural History) bought his copy of Pope's *Essay on Man* in Augusta, Maine, on May 1, 1840, he purchased a little 32mo. book published in New York by G. F. Hopkins in 1825. After Professor Hamlin's death Mrs. Hamlin gave the book to the library of "Colby University," as the college was then called. Meanwhile the Colby Library had wanted its own copy and had accordingly purchased a 16mo. edition of *An Essay on Man* as published by H. Benton in Hartford, Connecticut, in 1835.

Nor was interest in Pope confined to the *Essay on Man*. The Erosophian Adelphi of Waterville College—the same literary society that invited Ralph Waldo Emerson to be its orator in 1841—wanted Pope's *Works* in the society's library; hence, in 1845, they purchased from Phelan's Book Store in New York three volumes of Pope as published in 1828 in Princeton, New Jersey, by D. A. Borrenstein. After these books had served the society for thirty years they were turned over to the library of "Colby University." Similarly, the Literary Fraternity of Waterville College bought *The Rape of the Lock* in 1840. They obtained the edition put out by George Dearborn in New York in 1836. Forty-five years after its purchase by the Literary Fraternity, this book too found its way into the college library.

There is little room for doubting that in 1844 the name of Alexander Pope was as widely known in Maine as it was in London in 1744.