

The Penitent · V 7 D O H R U  
1 H Z & R O O H J H Copy of *The Works of Mr. Alexander Pope* (1717)

New College Library, Oxford, NB.91.18, frontispiece

MaryC. ) O D Q Q e d p t i v e Article in this issue of



Mary C. Flannery in her article concentrates on the longest non-Chaucerian textual addition to the manuscript DQ DGGLWLRQDO HLJKW OLQHV RI YHUVH WR WKH pear W U H H L Q ¶ 7 K H , which Edmunds: V 7 D O H .

A greet tente . a thrifty and a long  
She saide it was þe meriest fit  
That ever in her lif she was at yet



New College Library, Oxford, MS 3145v [detail]

2 X U V F U L E H . V F R S \ F R Q W S X Q V R X W B W D O V R U Q I W M U S V R I O D W H  
7 D O H  
A s Carissa M. Harris notes, ten of these also appear in an earlier manuscript (ms. 1425, fol. 475)  
E X W 1 H Z & R O O H J H . V 0 6 L V W K H H D U O L H V W W R L Q F O X G

Chaucer has been much translated, notably by John Dryden, Alexander Pope (1704-1760), William Lipscomb (1754-1842) and William Wordsworth. Alexander Pope composed a version of the poem in 1708, and it was published on 2 May 1708. It is a 20-line poem, reduced from the 173 lines that make up the original. Pope worked at his translation using copies of Thomas The Works of the Antient and Learned English Poet, Geoffrey Chaucer, newly Printed, where spurious lines also appear.

Now, to our related literary text New College Library holds a edition of 1717 of Alexander Pope's Rape of the Lock. It nicely illustrates a modern take on the poem. A reader in our library purloined c. 1980 a 5-line engraved frontispiece portrait of George Vertue (1684-1756) of the poet, only to return it anonymously on 18 October 2011 along with a note in which they confessed. P W K R U R X J K O \ D V K D P H G R I P \ V H O I  
apologies Our copy is in a binding of partly mottled calf over pasteboard whose upper board

<sup>5</sup> Princeton University Library, MS 100s manuscript (has been variously dated) V H H + D U U L V ¶ , Q V H U W L Q J  
<sup>6</sup> The Works of our Antient and Learned English Poet, Geoffrey Chaucer, (London: Printed by Adam Islip, at the charges of Thomas Wight, Anno 1598), ff. 328-2v.  
<sup>7</sup> The Works of Mr. Alexander Pope (London: Printed by W. Bowyer, for Bernard Lintot, between the Temple Gates. 1717), New College Library, Oxford, NB.91.18.

