

Alexander Pope; Eliza Haywood
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British Literature I
ENGL 2323

Alexander Pope (1688-1744)

- Father was a linen merchant; mother was the daughter of a lawyer in York
- Catholic family – under the Test Act, could not teach, go to university, vote, or hold public office
- Educated at Twyford School and at two private Catholic schools in London (illegal at the time)
- Forced to move to Popeswood in Berkshire, to avoid decree banning Catholics from living within ten miles of London or Westminster
- Continued by reading the classics – satirists Horace and Juvenal especially, Homer, Virgil (standard for educated people at the time)
- Also read Chaucer, Shakespeare, and Dryden
- Part of a broad literary circle
- Severe health issues, including Pott's disease – stunted his spinal growth and gave him a hunched back
- Never married, but had many female acquaintances

Major Works of Alexander Pope

- Satirical poems in heroic couplets – *Rape of the Lock* (1712), three versions of *The Dunciad* (1729, 1742, 1743), *An Essay on Criticism* (1711)
- Local poems: *Windsor Forest* (1713)
- Love poetry: *Verses to the Memory of an Unfortunate Lady* and *Eloisa to Abelard* (both 1717)
- *Essay on Man* (1732-4) – order of the universe
- Knew Addison and Steele – *The Spectator* newspaper
- Knew Jonathan Swift, Thomas Parnell, and John Arbuthnot – The Scriblerus Club
- Translated *The Iliad* (1713) and *The Odyssey* (1726)
- Edited Shakespeare's works (1725); controversial emendations

Elizabeth (Fowler) Haywood (1693?-1756?)

- Personal life not known in much detail; she kept things private to avoid having her life misrepresented
- Possibly born near Shropshire or London
- Appeared in Dublin as an actress, 1715; listed as widow, but no marriage records seem to have been found
- Two children – some scandalous suggestions about her sex life, and Pope even fed into these
- Twenty-year open relationship with William Hatchett
- Began writing novels in 1719
- Active as actress through 1737; wrote a two-volume *Companion to the Theatre* (1735, 1747)

Haywood's works

- Had authored or co-authored approximately 70 works

- *Love in Excess* (1720); *Idalia, or the Unfortunate Mistress* (1723); *Fantomina* (1724); *The Mercenary Lover* (1726); *The Distressed Orphan* (1726); *Adventures of Eovaii* (1736); *The Anti-Pamela* (1741); *The Fortunate Foundlings* (1744); *The History of Miss Betsy Thoughtless* (1751) as her major novels
- Amatory fiction and social commentary on gender roles
- Wrote for several periodicals, most notably *The Female Spectator*
- Marriage advice books; political and social commentary
- Translated Continental romance novels
- Published under her own imprint