

**THE RAPE OF THE
LOCK,: AN HEROI-
OMICAL POEM**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649467495

The Rape of the Lock.; An Heroi-omical Poem by A. Pope

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

A. POPE

**THE RAPE OF THE
LOCK, : AN HEROI-
OMICAL POEM**

THE
RAPE OF THE LOCK.

IN FIVE CANTOS.

THE
RAPE OF THE LOCK,

AN
HEROI-COMICAL POEM,

BY
A. POPE.



ADORNED WITH PLATES.

LONDON:

Printed by *C. Bensley;*

FOR *F. J. DU ROVERAY, GREAT ST. HELENS;*

AND SOLD BY *J. AND A. ARCH, GRACECHURCH-*

STREET; AND J. WRIGHT, PICCADILLY.

1798.

280. f. 305.

ADVERTISEMENT.

THE Rape of the Lock was first published in the year 1711, and was written in less than a fortnight. It was occasioned by a frolic, carried rather beyond the bounds of good breeding, in which Lord Petre cut off a lock of Mrs. Arabella Fermor's hair: the poem was undertaken at the request of Mr. Caryl, in order to reconcile the two families, this frolic having occasioned a serious rupture between them.

It was received with such universal applause as to induce Pope to extend it the fol-

lowing year from two Cantos to five, by the addition of the machinery of the Sylphs and Gnomes. This improvement, which may be considered as one of the happiest efforts of art, did not, however, receive the approbation of Addison, who, possibly, might not conceive the propriety with which the introduction of this new machinery could be effected. Addison's opinion in this instance was so far from being confirmed by the voice of his contemporaries, or by the decision of posterity, that it was attributed to jealousy, though it contains no proof of his being actuated by so base a motive: yet, when we consider the imperfections of human nature, and Addison's conduct in regard to Pope and Tickell's trans-

lations of the first book of the Iliad, it must be confessed that the accusation is not entirely devoid of probability.

Before the Rape of the Lock appeared, our writers were distinguished in the eyes of foreigners by vigorous thought, and powerful expression. Mr. Pope has shewn that we were equally qualified to sacrifice at the shrine of the Graces.

It would be unnecessary, and almost impertinent, to point out the particular beauties of a poem so universally read and admired, and upon which so much has been already written. Pope's writings are perhaps a greater accession to our literature than those of any other poet, and, amongst them, the Rape of

the *Lock* stands pre-eminent, at least in that first characteristic of a poet, invention.

It is a curious circumstance that Parnell, hearing Pope repeat the description of Belinda's toilet, immediately translated it into monkish Latin verses, and accused Pope of plagiarism, who did not discover the stratagem till undeceived by Parnell.

Doctor Johnson has made a few observations upon the *Rape of the Lock*, which we shall here transcribe.

“To the praises,” says he, “which have been accumulated on the ‘*Rape of the Lock*’ by readers of every class, from the critic to the waiting-maid, it is difficult to make any addition. Of that which is universally allowed