

the proof-reading process. This involved up to five separate checks being made: by the author where appropriate, by Robert or Andrew, or by another highly skilled corrector.

In 1751 Robert Foulis undertook to found a Scottish Academy of Fine Arts under the auspices of the University. Financial responsibility, however, was vested in Robert Foulis himself, and this was to prove a serious drain on the funds of the business. Glasgow was not wealthy enough to support such an ambitious and expensive venture and the debts continued to mount for twenty years. The death of Andrew in 1775 was a serious blow to Robert, who decided to auction the Academy's stock of paintings in London. The sale was a financial disaster and Robert himself died in Edinburgh in 1776 on his return journey to Glasgow. Robert's son, Andrew, inherited the business together with all its financial problems, from which he never succeeded in extricating himself. From this time there was a decline in the number and quality of books printed at the Foulis Press. In 1795 the University terminated Andrew's appointment and took legal action against him for recovery of the premises he occupied. Andrew continued to print in Glasgow for a few years, then moved to Edinburgh, where he died in the poor-house in 1829.

However, the decline of the Press under Andrew the younger does not diminish the achievement of Robert Foulis. His reputation as one of the most skilled and accurate printers of the century was well founded on the correctness of the texts, the beauty of the layouts, the quality of the founts he employed, and the convenience of the range of issues he produced. He avoided ornamentation or illustration to enhance his work, preferring to rely on the proportions of type and page, the beauty of the fount itself, and the employment of impeccable workmanship. The Foulis Press was the product of, and a vehicle for, the tremendous renewal of Scottish creative and intellectual activity that marked the mid eighteenth century. Its output embodies the achievements of that movement.

FOULIS PRESS CHECKLIST

The Turnbull Library has sixteen Foulis Press books, listed below in order of the date of publication. Three were part of Alexander Turnbull's own collection: the quarto and folio editions of *Paradise Lost* (1750 and 1770) and Pope's *The Poetical Works* (1785). The bequest of A. R. Atkinson in 1935 included the 1750 edition of the works of Horace, and the bequest of Robert and Mary Hogg in 1941 included the 1749 edition of William Hamilton's *Poems on Several Occasions*.

Terence, *Publii Terentii Afri Comoediae Sex . . .* Glasgae: Cura & impensis Roberti Foulis, typis Robert Urie & Soc . . . , 1742. Gaskell 13

Cicero. M. Tullii Ciceronis *Tusculanarum Disputationum Libri Quinque . . .* Glasgae: in aedibus academicis excudebat Robertus Foulis . . . , 1744. Gaskell 45.