



**More Hume Autograph Marginalia in the First Edition of
the *Treatise***

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More Hume autograph marginalia
in a first edition of the "Treatise".

Two sets of marginalia by Hume in copies of the first edition of A Treatise of Human Nature have been published. One is a copy in the British Library. This has been described by Connon¹ and Nidditch² and was, no doubt, one, at least, of the copies which Hume kept for himself. The marginalia are so extensive as to suggest that, at the time he made them, he may have been hoping for an opportunity to publish a second edition of the Treatise. The other copy with marginalia, a presentation copy to his kinsman, Henry Home, Lord Kames, has been described by Wallace Nethery, Librarian of the Hoose Library of Philosophy and by Nidditch.³ There is a third copy of the Treatise with marginalia in Hume's hand which was a presentation copy to Pope.⁴

The Pope copy is inscribed on the flyleaf of Volume I in Hume's handwriting, "To Alexander Pope Esq at Twickenham". There are 18 corrections in Volume I and 5 in Volume II. They are as follows⁵, the first word or phrase being the error, the second the correction. The first word is usually scratched out in the text and the correction inserted in the margin but sometimes insertions are simply made within the text.

1st Edition	Selby-Bigge	
I.12.25	2.8	'the' 'our'
I.35.23	16.1	'of' 'or'
I.57.4	28.18	'these' 'those'
I.58.8	29.6	'part' 'parts'
I.111.28	60.27	'defection' 'dissection'
I.126.5	69.14	'it' deleted
I.154.4	86.1	'worn out' 'worn it out'
I.240.7	136.9	'as' 'when'
I.256.21	145.28	'evidence' 'testimony'

I.273.20	155.24	'instance' 'instances'
I.280.16	159.33	'gave it's' 'gave it its'
I.286.25	163.22-23	'upon observation' 'upon the observation'
I.287.16	164.2	'cause' 'case'
I.288.5	164.15	'results' 'result'
I.293.10	167.14	'exists' 'exist'
I.343.17	196.22	'opening I' 'opening it I'
I.402.16	231.6	'presses' 'press'
I.453.1	260.34	'what the' 'what is the'
II.108.10	336.24	'affections wheel' 'affect- ions to wheel'
II.120.4	343.19	'cause' 'causes'
II.228.23	404.15	'One' 'Our'
II.229.19	404.32	'and proceed' 'and practice proceed'
II.271.24	428.20	'considerably' 'sensibly'

In addition, someone, perhaps Hume, has marked a printer's error where a letter has slipped. (Vol. I, p.466.3).

It is not possible to find out the date upon which Hume gave this copy to Pope from the published correspondence of either party. Pope died in 1744 and Hume may have sent him a copy of the Treatise because of the former's literary renown and because the publishers had a large number of unsold copies on their hands. From the fact, among others, that the footnote on Volume II, p.168 (Selby-Bigge, p.371) is missing from both the Pope and the Kames copies, it is clear that Volumes I and II were, as one might expect of presentations, in each case early issues or states.

It is more than likely that Hume made other presents of the Treatise to friends and people he admired such as Francis Hutcheson and Bishop Butler, and these

would probably have included marginalia along the same lines as the Kames and Pope copies. For what Hume substantially did in giving these copies was to perform an act of courtesy; i.e., to incorporate items from the errata tables into the text.⁶

The Pope copy is the least important and interesting of those noticed so far, for it contains only one correction which is not included in the errata tables - the second item listed above in Volume I - and not all of them. The percentage of the changes called for in the errata tables which are made by Hume in the text diminishes markedly as between Volumes I and II. Moreover, there are no marginalia in the third volume, 'Of Morals', and this is perhaps to be explained by Hume's becoming bored with this somewhat superfluous task, even if it was a politeness and the fact that the third book was printed a year later than volumes I and II and by a different publisher.

In conclusion, it seems entirely possible that other copies of the first edition with marginalia by Hume will be found, but, unhappily, it seems most improbable that any more of the original manuscript has survived than the concluding Section of Volume III.⁷ How one laments that we can never hope to see the version of the Treatise before Hume, in his own words, was "...castrating my work, that is, cutting off its nobler parts..."⁸ before submitting it for perusal by Bishop Butler!

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1. R. W. Connon, The Times Literary Supplement, 4 April 1975, and in the Long Room, XI, 1975.
2. P. H. Nidditch, An apparatus of variant readings for Hume's "Treatise of Human Nature", University of Sheffield, 1976.
3. Wallace Nethery, Proceedings of the Bibliographical Society of America, LXVII (1963). Nidditch, ibid.

4. This is in the possession of Mrs. Donald F. Hyde of New York, who most kindly permitted me to see it and to publish the marginalia. The location of the copy is:- Hyde Collection, Somerville, New Jersey.
5. In the first column are the references to the volume number, the page and the line in the first edition. The second column gives the page and line of the Selby-Bigge edition, Oxford.
6. The errata tables were evidently printed in haste and contain errors. This may have been an added incentive to Hume to incorporate some of the changes in the copies he gave away.
7. This MSS in the Royal Society of Edinburgh Library seems to have been first correctly identified in print by Laird in Hume's Philosophy of Human Nature (1932) p.8.n; it was mis-calendared by Greig and Benyon in the same year in Proc. of the R.S.E., vol. lii, as part of the Enquiry: a page was reproduced in facsimile in Hume: Theory of Knowledge, ed. D. C. Yalden-Thomson (1951): and has been reprinted in entirety by Nidditch ibid., p. 50.
8. The Letters of David Hume, ed. J. Y. T. Greig, Vol. I, p.25.