
RESOURCES & ENVIRONMENT

New Zealand and the United States have done on the Ross Ice Shelf.) At its most extreme, this approach would allow the 18 ATG nations to form a monopoly over the entire continent.

Another solution, the so-called International Approach, would place the continent under the jurisdiction of the International Court of Justice or the trusteeship of the United Nations. But any solution rests on resolution of the legal question: Is Antarctica *res nullius*, a "no man's land" subject to national appropriation, or *res communes*, "everyman's land" to be enjoyed by all?

ARTS & LETTERS

A. Pope on *Grub Street*?

"Pope and the *Grub-street Journal*" by Bertrand A. Goldgar, in *Modern Philology* (May 1977), University of Chicago Press, 5801 Ellis Ave., Chicago, Ill. 60637.

Through 250 years of literary history, it has generally been assumed that English poet Alexander Pope (1688–1744) was either the founder or guiding spirit of the *Grub-street Journal*, the most notorious London newspaper of the 1730s. With its taste for scandal and controversy, the *Journal* in its eight-year life attacked many of the same men of letters Pope himself had ridiculed in the heroic couplets of the *Dunciad*. Accusations, current in the mid-1730s, that Pope had founded the newspaper to continue his crusade against the "Dunces" hardened into fact by the 19th century. Even Pope's recent editors have been slow to challenge the tradition.

There is little evidence to settle the issue conclusively, but Goldgar, professor of English at Lawrence University, disputes the conventional assumptions after taking a "fresh look" at historical records, the writings of Pope and his contemporaries, and the *Journal* itself. Recently discovered ledgers of the booksellers and printers who owned the *Journal*, for example, make no mention of Pope, and neither of the newspaper's two strong-willed editors, Richard Russel and John Martyn, can be connected with the poet. The *Journal* printed few of Pope's contributions, though his style was often imitated (after all, observes Goldgar, he was the dominant poet of his age). Pope's own letters and those of his contemporaries are silent on the matter.

Only in 1734–36, when the *Journal* was in decline, were accusations of Pope's editorial influence circulated—the result of an "eccentric" writer's mistaken charge that Pope had libeled him in the *Journal*. Pope's critics quickly picked up the theme, and from this "slender foundation," says Goldgar, a mighty legend grew.