

prior to the establishment of the press, the brothers changed the spelling of their name to the more aristocratic looking Foulis. Robert Foulis had served an apprenticeship as a barber and followed this trade for several years. However, enrolling in Francis Hutcheson's classes at the University in 1730, he soon earned a reputation as a scholar. Andrew Foulis, unlike his elder brother, had an academic education from the start. On graduating from the University of Glasgow, he became a teacher of Greek, Latin and French. It was this scholarly interest, maintained by both men throughout their lives, that ensured the accuracy of the Press's classical texts, for which it was renowned throughout Europe.

Robert and Andrew began selling books after two book buying trips to the continent in 1738 and 1739. In 1741 Robert was appointed University Bookseller, and was joined later by Andrew as his partner. They never abandoned the retail side of their business, and their shop was a popular meeting place for students, teachers and book lovers. From 1740 to 1742 Robert published several titles that were printed by Robert Urie, among others. Frustrated by the inadequate supply of books to meet the needs of the University, he set up his own printing press in 1742. He was appointed University Printer in the following year.

Even the early products of the Foulis Press indicate the advances in typography that it was to continue to develop. The standard of the books was due in part to the high quality of type that had recently become available from the Glasgow type foundry of Alexander Wilson. Apart from two early titles, Robert Foulis used Wilson's type exclusively and the Foulis Press books were a good advertisement for these outstanding founts. Wilson was a Scot who had learned his trade in London, but had chosen Glasgow for his business in order to take advantage of the market it offered in trade with Ireland and America. He was a scholar in his own right, and in 1760 was appointed Professor of Astronomy at the University of Glasgow.

The output of the Foulis Press falls into three main categories: philosophy; classical literature, especially Greek, on which the reputation of the Press was built; and miscellaneous books in English, mainly reprints. There were also a number of religious tracts published between 1741 and 1743. The second edition of Philip Gaskell's *Bibliography of the Foulis Press* (London, 1986) lists seven hundred and six editions, of which thirteen were printed by Robert Foulis between 1740 and 1742, five hundred and eighty-nine printed by Robert and by Robert and Andrew Foulis between 1742 and 1776, and one hundred and three printed by Andrew Foulis the younger from 1776 to 1800. Apart from a marked peak in the early 1750s the Press averaged fifteen editions a year, but showed a noticeable drop when Andrew the younger took over.