

THOMAS GRAY

LIFE (1716 - 1771)

Thomas Gray was born in London in 1716. He was educated at Eton, where he made his first friends: Richard West, the promoter of Gothic taste in architecture, and Horace Walpole, the promoter of the Gothic novel. After four years at Cambridge Gray left without a degree. After he returned to Cambridge where he spent most of the rest of his life there. He died in 1771.

ACHIEVEMENT

The death of Gray's close friend Richard West depressed him and it was to West that Gray dedicated his *Elegy written in a Country Churchyard*. This is the most famous and significant of Gray's works. The poem took Gray nine years to complete and secured the author's place in literary history. The *Elegy* is mostly in the classical tradition for its perfection of style however it anticipate the poetry of the Romantics.