

# EXPLORE THE EXHIBITION

Read the panels and look at the First Folio and discover (answers below):

- 1 Shakespeare had four jobs in his lifetime. What were they?
- 2 Who is the first actor known to have played Hamlet?
- 3 Henry Clay Folger, along with his wife Emily, purchased many copies of the First Folio. How many does the Folger Shakespeare Library own today?
- 4 About how many pages are in a complete First Folio?
- 5 About how much (in today's dollars) was the cost of a First Folio in 1623?

Answers: 1. (playwright, poet, actor, part-owner); 2. (Richard Burbage); 3. (82); 4. (900); 5. (\$250)

## KEEP LEARNING

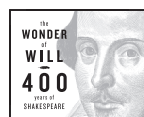
Explore these great books and continue having fun with Shakespeare:

- *DK Eyewitness: Shakespeare*. London, UK: DK Children, 2011.
- LoMonico, Michael. *That Shakespeare Kid*. CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform, 2013.
- Nesbit, E. Green *Tiger's Illustrated Stories from William Shakespeare*. Seattle, WA: Green Tiger Press, 2011.

## KEEP IN TOUCH

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f t i p #SHX400



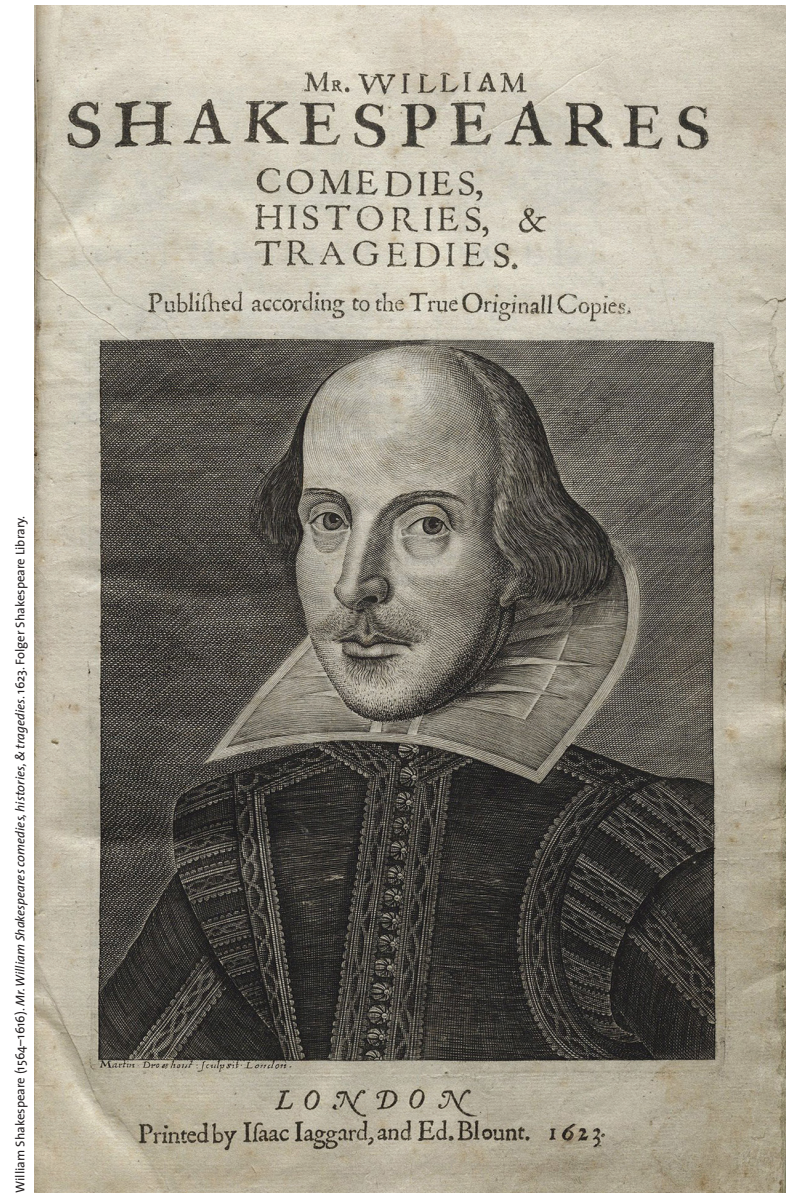
*First Folio! The Book that Gave Us Shakespeare*, on tour from the Folger Shakespeare Library, is a national traveling exhibition organized by the Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington, DC, to commemorate the 400th anniversary in 2016 of Shakespeare's death. It is produced in association with the American Library Association and the Cincinnati Museum Center, and made possible in part by a major grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities: Exploring the human endeavor, and by the support of Google.org, Vinton and Sigrid Cerf, and other generous donors.



**FIRST FOLIO!**

the book that gave us  
**SHAKESPEARE**  
on tour from the  
Folger SHAKESPEARE LIBRARY

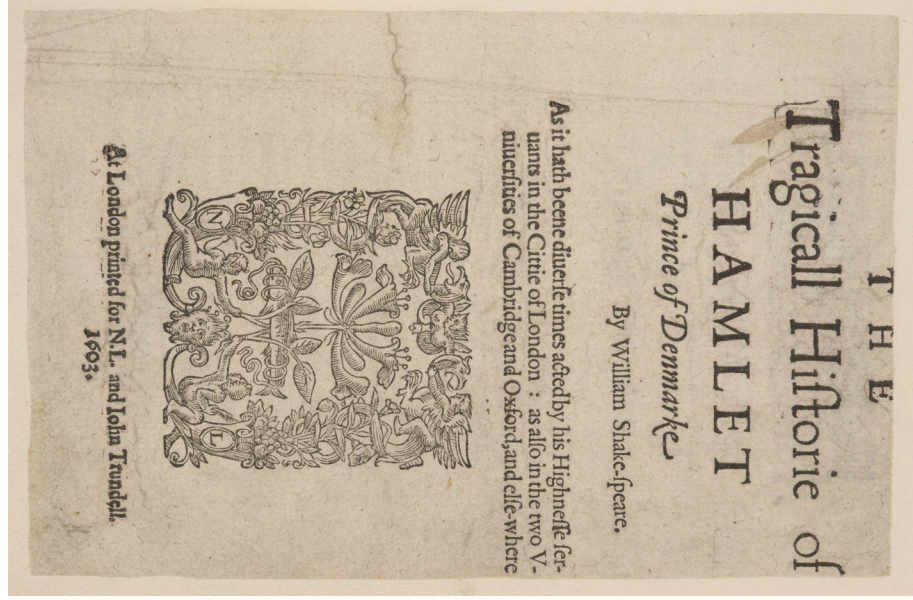
**FAMILY GUIDE**



William Shakespeare (1564–1616). *Mr. William Shakespeares comedies, histories, & tragedies*. 1633. Folger Shakespeare Library.

Inside you'll find directions on how to turn your folio into a quarto. What's a quarto? Keep reading...

This is the title page of the 1603 quarto edition of *Hamlet*.



William Shakespeare. The Tragicall Historie of Hamlet Prince of Denmarke. 1603. Huntington Library, Shakespeare Quarto Archive.

**STEP 1 ►** Fold this guide along the solid line so you can see the word **FOLIO**

**STEP 2 ►** Fold again along the dotted line so you can see the word **QUARTO**

*“If music be the food of love, play on.”* —TWELFTH NIGHT

*“By the pricking of my thumbs,  
Something wicked this way comes.”* —MACBETH

*“Friends, Romans, countrymen,  
lend me your ears.”* —JULIUS CAESAR

*“O brave new world,  
that has such people in ‘t.”* —THE TEMPEST

*“Screw your courage to the sticking place.”* —MACBETH

*“Fire burn and cauldron bubble.”* —MACBETH

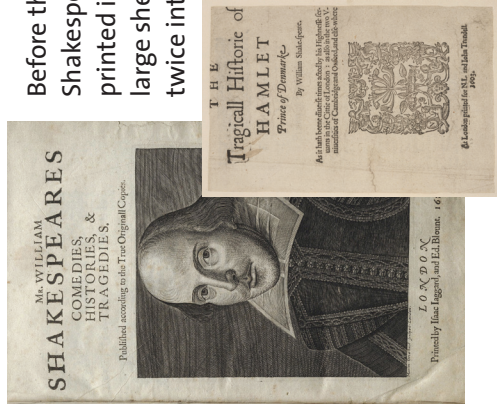
*“Double, double, toil and trouble*

Only about half of Shakespeare’s plays were printed in quarto. That means the First Folio is the only copy we have of many of his most famous plays, including favorites like *Macbeth*, *King Lear*, *Antony and Cleopatra*, and *Twelfth Night*. The First Folio was like a lifeboat for these plays. Without it, we could have lost many stories and phrases we use commonly today. Imagine never saying or even hearing these popular sayings:

## SAY IT LIKE SHAKESPEARE, THANKS TO THE FIRST FOLIO

## QUARTOS AND FOLIOS

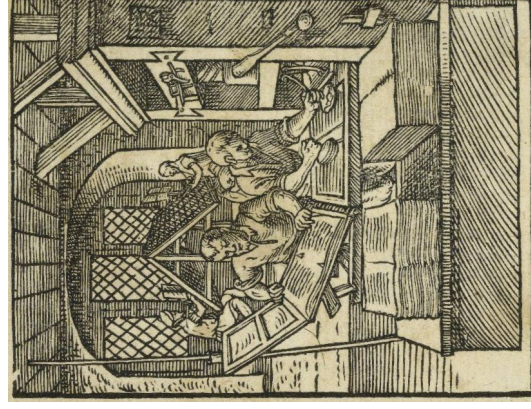
During Shakespeare’s time, plays were not considered literature and were generally not preserved. Two members of Shakespeare’s acting company, John Heminge and Henry Condell, felt differently. They collected the manuscripts of Shakespeare’s plays and arranged for them to be printed in a large book or folio format. Folios were printed on a large sheet of paper folded in half. The folio format was usually reserved for royal, religious, or reference documents. The First Folio was the first time the folio format was used to publish a book containing only plays.



Before the First Folio, 19 of Shakespeare’s plays were printed in quarto format—a large sheet of paper folded twice into quarters, and printed on both sides. Quartos were a common format for publishing plays. They were small, cheap books meant to be used and often discarded.

## PRINTING AND PRINT HOUSES

Printing in Shakespeare’s time was a complicated process. First, the compositor had to look at the hand-written manuscript and



estimate how much text should be set on each page. The pages were not set in order; in the First Folio, the printing was done in batches of 12 pages called a “quire,” with pages 6 and 7 set first, then 5 and 8 and so on. Each letter, then word, then line was set by hand. Ink was applied to the set type using ink-balls pictured here, and a clean sheet of

paper was positioned on the press. Errors occurred at every step along the way. They were corrected when possible, but the pages with errors were still used.

It’s no wonder that no two First Folios are exactly alike!

Jost Amman. “Typographus. Der Buchdrucker.” Eigentliche Beschreibung aller Stände auff Erden. 1568. Wikimedia Commons.