

# Shakespeare & Ecology in Special Collections

Special Collections \* University of Wisconsin-Madison

- ☛ Guiding Q: How can I convert my ideas into something I can hold in my hands & share with others?
- ☛ Picture-taking is encouraged! (But please turn your flash off.)
- ☛ Posting pics to social media is encouraged: Use #UWMadSpecial and/or #shakesconsin
- ☛ Work in pairs and answer as many questions as you can as you move around the tables. In the last two or three minutes, complete the Conclusions section at the end.
- ☛ Feel free to use an extra sheet of paper for your answers.
- ☛ Write your names here: \_\_\_\_\_

## Shakespeare

1. How do these volumes advertise Shakespeare?
  
2. Who do you think was supposed to read these books?
  
3. Who *did* read these books—do you find any evidence of readers marks, things left in the books, pages turned down, etc.?

## Animals

1. Do you know what kind of animals you are looking at?
  
2. How is reading a scroll different from reading a book? And what might animals sizes and shapes determine the shapes and formats of scrolls and books?
  
3. Can you tell which side of the page was originally inside the animal & which was outside (the hair side)? How?
  
4. How many animals do you think were used to make each book?

## Media

1. Are you looking at plants or animals or both?
  
2. How does the surface of the substrate or medium affect the message?

3. How does the ecosystem of a particular region affect the substrate or medium?

4. It's time to judge a book by its cover: how are these volumes bound? What do they feel like? What do the binding and writing on the cover/spine suggest about presentation, intended audience, and how it was expected to be read?

## *Culture*

1. Who do you think was supposed to read these books?

2. What color is the paper in these books? Is it all the same? What does it smell like?

3. What most surprises you? Another way to ask: what did you find that you wouldn't have expected to find in Early Modern books?

4. Take a selfie with your favorite book! Text it to friends & family (and maybe promise to bring them up here sometime). If you post to social media, use #UWMadSpecial and/or #shakesconsin

## *Conclusions*

1. Think about containers and contents: what makes reading Shakespeare's plays in print different from seeing them on stage?

2. Now that you've thought about physical media, what do you think makes reading print books or scrolls different than reading text on cell phones, laptops, and tablets? What makes it similar? What are a few benefits and disadvantages of both?

3. This worksheet asked you to think about the plants and animals that early books were made from. Take a moment to consider whether your phone is made from plants and animals? How about minerals? Consider researching your phone's materials, and drop by office hours or send me an email to let me know what you learn.

# What We Saw in Special Collections

## English 162: Why Shakespeare?

The following is a list, with hyperlinks to catalog info, for the volumes I typically request when ENGL162 discussion sections visit Special Collections. You are welcome to go back anytime the collection is open (generally M-F, 9-5) to look at these books again.

If you loved hanging out with old books, consider completing the Special Collections Research Bonus sheet that's available on Canvas. If you *really* loved hanging out with old books, chat with Prof. Calhoun about the Holding History program ([www.holdinghistory.org](http://www.holdinghistory.org)).

### SHAKESPEARE

- Shakespeare, Second Folio (1632) [[Flat CA 13552](#)]
- Bob LaFollette's copy of The works of Shakespeare w/ his MS writing on plant leaves (1875) [[933696 Noncurrent, v. 1 & 2](#)]
- Lamb's *Tales from Shakespeare* (1901) [[CA18276](#)]
- Kelmscott Shakespeare (1893) [[Press Kelmscott](#)]

### ANIMALS

- English Manor house rolls (1302-1506) [[flat MS 227](#)]
- Topsell *History of four-footed beasts* (1658) [[T2488](#)]
- Catholic Church, Book of Hours, Autun, France, 1450. vellum [[MS 161](#)]
- Scot, *The Discovery of Witchcraft* [[Thordarson T 2427](#)]

### MEDIA

- Media Box [MS 170a & b]
  - 5 medieval manuscript leaves. Different styles/ palimpsest [MS box 170a] This Box includes, among other items:
  - Palimpsest: 1460 Musical score (Italian) over text from c. 1300AD
  - Tissue-thin parchment page from a 1260AD French Breviary
  - Handmade paper w/ watermark image and date (1820)
  - Greek papyrus. 400 B.C.-800 A.D. (see #53 and WI Papyrii book below)
- Wisconsin Papyrii book [[PA3305 S5](#)]
- Honn, Study Collection of Paper Specimens [[Flat CA 17830](#)]
- Flugschriften, incl. Martin Luther Von den Juden und jren Lügen wood binding, broken [[CA 7738](#)]
- Cao tang shi yu / Yang Sheng'an [Shen] xuan ding. Soochow? 1550? Chinese wood block print book [[CA 12896](#)]
- Koops, M. Historical account ... paper. 1800. Made of straw and suppl. Of wood shavings and corrected proof. [[Ref TS1090 K82](#)]
- El papel indígena mexicano. Lenz, Hans, 1903- [[+ F1219.3 P3 L4](#)]
- Mouly & Spiegelman, RAW vol. 1, no. 2 (beginning of *Maus*) [[Press RAW Books](#)]

### CULTURE

- Bartholomaeus, *De proprietatibus rerum* (1495) [[Thordarson T 230](#)]
- *The English and French cook* (1674) bound w/ *The Accomplish'd lady's delight in preserving, physick, beautifying, and cookery* (1675) [[Thordarson T 1007](#)]
- Coverdale Bible (1535) [[Oversize Thordarson T 278](#)]
- *The whole booke of Psalmes*, Sternhold & Thomas [[CA 8085](#)]

- *Bulleins Bulwarke of defe[n]ce againste all sicknes, sornes, and woundes* (1562) [[Oversize Thordarson T 457](#)]
- Commonplace Book, 17th C [[MS 24](#)]
- *Aristotle's Masterpiece* [[CA 14077](#)]

**CUTS (these *almost* made the roster, but were late cuts from the line-up)**

- Froissart, *Chroniques*. (1525-1545) [[Oversize Thordarson T 1649](#)]
- Donne, *LXXX Sermons* [[Oversize CD D71 S Cutter](#)]
- *The Holy Bible* (1965 facsimile of 1611 KJB) [[CA 2795](#)]
- *Falstaff's Wedding* (1760) [[YK411 F Cutter](#)]
- Spenser, *The Faerie Queene* (1590/96) [[763917 Noncurrent with envelope](#)]
- Shakespeare, *Poems* (1640) printed by John Benson [[Thordarson T 2440](#)]
- Ovid, *Metamorphoses* (Golding trans. (1593) [[Thor T 2257](#)]
- Holinshed, *Chronicles of England, Scotlande, and Irelande* (1587) [[F451 H71 1587 Cutter v. 1-3 in 2 v.](#)]
- Plutarch, *Lives of the Noble Grecians and Romanes* (1579) [[Oversize Thor T2321](#)]