Illustrating Shakespeare

January 20-March 16, 2003

Special Collections Library
University of Michigan Library
Ann Arbor, Michigan
Welcome to this exhibit tracing the course of printed illustrations of Shakespeare’s works over the last 300 years. Through this exhibit we are celebrating both the March 2003 return visit of the Royal Shakespeare Company to the University of Michigan and the expansive collection of Shakespearean materials housed in the Special Collections Library.

The McMillan Shakespeare Collection in the University of Michigan Library was founded in the 1880s with some 1200 items acquired from the private collections of two noted Shakespeare collectors: Edward H. Thomson, of Flint, Michigan, and Joseph Crosby, of Zanesville, Ohio. Senator James A. McMillan, the collection’s namesake, and his family generously provided the funds both for the acquisition of these two initial collections and for further additions made over the next twenty-five years under the direction of University of Michigan English Professor Isaac Demmon.

The McMillan Collection now numbers approximately 6,000 volumes, providing a rich and varied resource for documenting the history of how Shakespeare’s works were both presented and received. With thousands of different English and American editions ranging from the Second Folio of 1632 to popular editions of the 1910s, as well as scholarly and popular analyses of the works, the collection traces Shakespeare’s influence on Anglo-American culture from many different angles. There are also editions in some 20 languages other than English and books and pamphlets about every imaginable aspect of Shakespeare’s life and his works, ranging from the debate over who wrote the works said to be by Shakespeare, to the role of such things as music, flowers, and women in his works.

Shakespeare’s rich textures of plot and character are mirrored in the rich variety of images they have inspired. Curator Nancy S. Reinhardt here presents a guided tour through the historical process of printed illustrations, showing how paintings, set and costume design, and actors themselves all influenced that history. The items in the exhibit vividly show how the vital emotions that Shakespeare’s words stirred in a multitude of artists were then translated into illustrations that in turn evoke those same emotions in others.

I would like to thank and recognize Nancy S. Reinhardt, Curator of Theatre, Film, and Television Collections in the Special Collections Library, who served as Curator of this exhibit. She was ably assisted in the exhibit’s preparation by the Library’s Conservation Staff, including Shannon Zachary, Leyda Lou Lamb, and Thomas Hogarth, and in mounting the exhibit by staff of the Special Collections Library, including Kathleen Dow and Franki Hand. Sandy Ackerman of the Library’s Public Relations Office designed the catalogue cover and publicity materials for this exhibit, and Franki Hand of the Special Collections Library laid out the remainder of the catalogue.
Illustrating Shakespeare ....

.... There are so many ways of representing the words of the Bard - on and off stage, in paintings, film and television, and of course in a wide variety of illustrated books. The subject is so complex that no exhibit can do full justice to its range and variety. In museums, art galleries and the collections of great libraries there are thousands of images from Shakespeare ... paintings, drawings, woodcuts, engravings, lithographs, photographs, even sculptures survive of characters seen on stage or imagined off stage. This exhibit makes no attempt to provide a full display of these complexities. Rather, it celebrates the University Library's rich holdings in Shakespeare. Examples are drawn from the multiple editions of his works, as well as from his predecessors and contemporaries, to trace the emerging tradition of the illustrated text. The different interpretations of Shakespeare's characters shown here provide a context for the modern interpretations of the Royal Shakespeare Company in residence at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, in March 2003.
Self-Guided Tour of the Exhibit ....

The exhibit is organized in seven clusters of floor cases, with corresponding wall cases offering expanded interpretations of the items in the floor cases. Unless otherwise indicated, all the items in the floor cases are original books or prints from the Special Collections Library of the University of Michigan Library. While many of the images in the wall cases are copies of pages from the collections, several are original items. Each item is numbered with a brief bibliographical citation, and whenever possible the artist associated with the example is identified. The following outline is a brief guide to the central themes of each cluster.

I CASES 1, 2, 3

Early Book Illustration in England, Documentary Images from Shakespeare's World, and the First Illustrated Editions of His Plays

In the first case (CASE 1) early examples of book illustration in England are on display. The oldest book in the exhibit, *Expositio Hymnorum*, was printed by Richard Pynson in 1497, 67 years before the birth of Shakespeare. Except for a few classics such as Aesop's *Fables*, chronicles and texts used for religious or political propaganda were more likely to be illustrated than contemporary works of literature. CASE 1 provides several examples of chronicles, a major source for Shakespeare's history plays. Other examples have been selected because the illustrations are by artists associated with Shakespeare (for example, Martin Droeshout who created the portrait for the First Folio, discussed in CASE 3).

In CASE 2, the adjacent wall case, there is an image (reduced in scale by about 50%) from a 1964 facsimile of the first illustrated book published in England, William Caxton's *The Myrrourofthe World* (1481). Also on display are two facsimiles representing the earliest known attempts to illustrate Shakespeare, along with an assortment of documentary images from Shakespeare's world. The first known illustration of Shakespeare is a rough drawing in manuscript, not intended for publication – a sketch of an early production of *Timon of Athens* (ca. 1595). The second is the first published illustration of a work by Shakespeare – an engraved frontispiece illustrating the suicide of Lucrece in *The Rape of Lucrece* and published in 1655, a full thirty-nine years after Shakespeare's death.

CASE 3 displays the second edition of the First Folio, the first collected edition of Shakespeare's plays, with the famous Martin Droeshout portrait of Shakespeare and Ben Jonson's poem, "To the Reader." CASE 3 also features *Hamlet* from several of the earliest illustrated editions of the plays. The first illustrated edition (1709) depicts a scene from *Hamlet* with the famous Restoration actor Thomas Betterton in the title role. The acting edition, adapted by Sir William Davenant, for Betterton's *Hamlet* is also on display.

CASE 1

1 RANULF HIGDEN, d. 1364

*Polycrorycon*

Southwark, for John Reynes, [1527]

Note the dynamic design by an anonymous artist for this woodcut depicting clashing armies.
2 THE VENERABLE BEDE, 673-735
The History of the Church of England
Antwerp, Joannes de Laet, 1565

This unsigned woodcut illustrates the defeat in 633 of the Anglians by King Oswald of Northumbria, who had recently converted to Christianity.

3 EXPOSITIO HYMNORUM
London, Richard Pynson, [1497]

This modest book, a school hymnal for choir boys, is the oldest in the exhibit. The opening page is decorated with a simple woodcut that the printer Richard Pynson may have imported from the Continent, as he did for many of his illustrated texts. At the end of the 15th century and well into Shakespeare's time, boys from choir schools often acted in a variety of theatricals. It was probably from among their ranks that some of the first boy actors were selected for women's roles in Shakespeare's plays.

4 JOHN MILTON, 1608-1674
Paradise Lost
Illustration for Book I by John Baptist Medina
London, for R. Bentley and J. Tonson, 1688

With its subtle chiaroscuro this dramatic engraving marks a turning point in literary book illustration in England.

5 THOMAS CRANMER, 1489-1556
Answer unto a Crafty and Sophistical Cavillation
London, John Day, 1580

This woodcut illustrating the martyrdom of Thomas Cranmer, Archbishop of Canterbury, appeared originally in John Foxe's Book of Martyrs, also printed by John Day (first English version 1563, expanded and revised 1576). These woodcuts, which would have seemed quite horrifying at the time, were useful political propaganda for the Church of England.

6 SIR HENRY SPELMAN, 1564?-1641
Aspilgia
In: [Nicolaus Upton De Studio Militari ...]
Edited by Sir Edward Byshe, 1615?-1679
Illustration by Pierre Lombart, 1612-1632
London, for J. Martyn and J. Allestrye, 1634

The engravings on display in this folio are part of a two-page visual narrative depicting the life of a knight. The artist was one of many French engravers working in London during the 17th century. This book also includes engravings by a native artist William Faithorne, 1616-1691, and foreigner, Wenceslaus Hollar, 1607-1677. Hollar is the same artist who engraved the plates for the costume book, previously owned by Cruikshank, and featured in CASE 5.

7 THOMAS HEYWOOD, d. 1641
Englands Elisabeth, Her Life and Troubles
Frontispiece by Martin Droeshout, b. 1601
Cambridge, for Ph. Waterhouse, 1632

Heywood like Shakespeare worked as a poet, playwright and actor on the English stage. His play of the same title, written almost 30 years earlier, is perhaps the inspiration for this chronicle. During their reigns Queen Elizabeth and her father King Henry VIII were popular subjects for portraits, chronicles and laudatory plays.

8 THOMAS HEYWOOD, d. 1641
The Hierarchie of the Blessed Angellic
Illustration by Martin Droeshout, b. 1601
London, Adam Islip, 1635

This book is of particular interest to Shakespeare scholars because of Heywood's use of the Macbeth legend and his reference on p.206 to "mellifluous Shakespeare."

CASE 2 left panel

1 Woodcut of the Red Cross Knight
From The Faire Queene by Edmund Spenser, 1552?-1599
London, 1596

Spenser, a contemporary of Shakespeare, was honored during his lifetime by a few illustrations. Poetry was held in higher esteem culturally than plays and among works of literature was more likely to be illustrated than texts for the theatre.

2 Woodcut of Abraham and Isaac
From A Chronicl of the Large ... by Richard Grafton, d.1572
London, 1569

Grafton was a prolific editor of early chronicles; this is one of his several publications.
3 Woodcut from a facsimile of
*The Mirror of the World*
Printed originally by William Caxton in 1481
Now printed by hand at the Allen Press
[Kentfield, Calif.], 1964

Caxton’s *Myrrour* is cited as the first illustrated book in England. His *Canterbury Tales* is the first illustrated Chaucer, printed in 1484.

4 Engraved portrait of Sir Henry Spelman
by William Faithorne, 1616-1691
From *Aspilogia, in Nicolas Uptoni De Studio Militari ...*
London, 1654

Faithorne was a skilled engraver of portraits.

5 Engraved frontispiece to
*The Rape of Lucrece* by William Shakespeare, 1564-1616
London, 1655

The first known publication of any illustration of Shakespeare’s writings, traditionally attributed to William Faithorne. In contrast to the sophisticated portraits known to be by Faithorne, this unsigned design seems unskilled.

6 Sketch of an early production of
*Titus Andronicus* by William Shakespeare, 1564-1616
Attributed to Henry Peacham, ca.1595
Private collection, England

CASE 2 right panel

1 Early 17th-century view of London
With exterior of Swan Theatre, Globe Theatre...
From *Londinopolis* by James Howell, 1594?-1666
London, 1657

2 Sketch of Swan Theatre interior by the
Dutch traveler Johannes de Witt, ca.1596
University Library, Utrecht

3 Close-up of Globe Theatre exterior
From Visscher’s *View of London*, 1606-1614 by
Claes Jansz. Visscher, 1586/7-1652
British Museum, London

4 Early 17th-century view of an outdoor stage
For a commedia dell’ arte performance
From *Batti di Sfessania*
Etching by Jacques Callot, 1592-1635

5 Illustration of a theatre interior, with an image of Falstaff
From the Commonwealth period (?)
Reprinted in *Wits or Sport upon Sport*
By Francis Kirkman, 1632-ca.1680
London, 1662

6 Woodcut illustration for the title page of
*The Roaring Girl* by Thomas Middleton, d.1627 and
Thomas Dekker, ca.1572-1632
London, 1611

7 Engraving by Wenceslaus Hollar, 1607-1677 of a
London merchant daughter’s costume
From a reprint of the 1643 *Theatrum Mundi Guess ...*
London, 1790
Previously owned by George Cruikshank
(See original item in CASE 5, no.9)

8 Engraved title page for a costume book
*The English Gentlewoman ...* by Richard Brathwait, 1588?-1673
London, 1631

CASE 3

1 WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE, 1564-1616
Mr. William Shakespeare’s Comedies, Histories, and Tragedies
Second impression
Portrait by Martin Droeshout, b. 1601
London, for Robert Allot, 1632

This is the “Second Folio” or the second impression of the “First Folio” (1623). The title leaf is wanting, supplied in 19th-century facsimile. The 17th-century green morocco binding, gold-stamped with the arms of the House of Stuart, is also of interest. Facing the title page, note the poem by Ben Jonson (signed “B.I.”) praising Shakespeare, whose wit surpasses all artists’ attempts to depict his likeness “in Brasse.”
an important turning point in the history of Shakespearean illustration. During the last
decade of the 18th century several series of new paintings based on scenes from Shakespeare's
plays were exhibited in London by the leading painters of the day at the Boydell Gallery
of paintings. This series was so influential that one could say we possess "pre-Boydell"
Shakespearean illustrations and "post-Boydell" illustrations.

The idea for the Boydell Gallery was first discussed over dinner in 1786 by John Boydell,
a publisher and dealer in prints, his nephew Josiah Boydell, and several leading artists
including Benjamin West and George Romney. With capital from his successful business,
John Boydell commissioned well over 150 new paintings of scenes from Shakespeare.
Thirty-four of these were first exhibited in 1789 in a large gallery on the Pall Mall.
Numerous engravings of these scenes were made from the Boydell paintings and several
are on display in this exhibit. Because of their size, only one can fit easily in CASE 4 (see
Robert Smirke's illustrations in The Merry Wives of Windsor), but two other
original Boydell engravings based on A Midsummer Night's Dream are mounted on the
wall in CASE 7 (two versions of Puck – one by Sir Joshua Reynolds and one by Henry
Fuseli).

CASE 5 continues the display of "post Boydell illustrations" of the two featured plays,
The Merry Wives of Windsor and Coriolanus. Examples are primarily from 19th-century
ditions, including two from the European Continent. In the 19th century, not only
artists from the British Isles but also many from the Continent and North America were
enthusiastic about illustrating Shakespeare.

At the right side of CASE 5 is the volume The Life of Sir John Falstaff by Robert Barnabas
Brough illustrated by George Cruikshank. Below this book is a 1790 reprint of the 1643
dition of a costume book illustrating the dress of women in England and in several
other European countries. The engravings are by Wenceslaus Hollar and right next to a
few of Hollar's designs are pencil sketches of Hollar's figures. Inside the front cover, a
bibliographer has noted that this copy is from the library of George Cruikshank. It
therefore may be assumed that these are Cruikshank's sketches of 17th-century costumes
based on Hollar's engravings. Some of the costumes represented in Hollar's book are
not unlike the costumes Cruikshank etched in his illustrations of scenes from Falstaff's
life. Victorians often imagined biographies of characters beyond their written lives. In
Brough's Falstaff we have a fully imagined life of a fictional character. Further evidence
of the Victorian fascination with "realism" and archeological explorations of legendary
settings and characters is the popular Pictorial Edition of the Works of Shakespeare, edited by
Charles Knight. The Knight edition is replete with "historically accurate" descriptions
and wood engravings illustrating the settings for the plays.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Case</th>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Edition Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>William Shakespeare</td>
<td>1564-1616</td>
<td>Coriolanus</td>
<td>Illustration after François Boitard, The Works of Mr. William Shakspeare, in six volumes, v.4, London, for Jacob Tonson, 1709</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
This Boydell catalogue is open to the entry (No. LXVI, 1792) for Smirke's original painting of Falstaff (see above no.7).

The publisher, E. Harding, had his shop on the Pall Mall, not far from the Boydell Gallery of Shakespeare paintings. His new illustrated edition is one of many that reflect the influence of Boydell.

CASE 5

1 WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE, 1564-1616
   The Merry Wives of Windsor
   The Comedies, Histories, Tragedies, and Poems of Shakespeare, v.3
   The second edition
   London, Charles Knight and Co., 1842-1844

During the mid- and late-19th century, the editor and publisher, Charles Knight, issued editions of Shakespeare that specialized in archeological research, with hundreds of small wood engravings illustrating the historical background to each of the plays.

2 AMÉDÉE PICHOT, 1795-1877
   Les Joyeuses femmes de Windsor. The Merry Wives of Windsor
   Galerie des Personnages de Shakespeare
   Paris, Baudry, Librairie Européenne, 1844

The frontispiece to this section of Pichot's commentary is decorated with what is apparently a pirated version of the design engraved for Knight's 1839-1843 Pictorial Edition. For many decades, Knight's editions of Shakespeare were imitated at home and abroad.

3 WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE, 1564-1616
   Coriolanus
   The Pictorial Edition of the Works of Shakespeare, v.7
   London, Charles Knight and Co., [1839]-1843

4 EDWARD DOWDEN, 1843-1913
   Shakespeare Scenes and Characters
   Illustration by Max Adamo, 1837-1901
   London, Macmillan and Co., 1876

In the 19th century, interest in Shakespeare was widespread. Among the many foreigners illustrating Shakespeare is Max Adamo, the German artist who designed this sensitive portrait of Coriolanus with his family.

5 EDUARD VON GRÜTZNER, 1846-1925
   Ed. Grützners Falstaff-Bilder
   Berlin, Photographische Gesellschaft, [1893]

6 WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE, 1564-1616
   The Library Shakespeare, v.1
   Illustration for The Merry Wives of Windsor (III.3) by Robert Dudley, fl. 1858-1893
   London, Edinburgh, Glasgow, William Mackenstie, [1873-1875]

7 WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE, 1564-1616
   The Merry Wives of Windsor
   The Irving Shakespeare, v.6
   Illustration by Charles Robert Leslie, 1794-1859
   London, Henry Irving, 1906

This is a late reproduction of a painting by the quintessentially Victorian painter, Charles Robert Leslie, who places Falstaff in a comfortable contemporary setting, dining with his friends.

8 ROBERT BARNABAS BROUGH, 1828-1860
   The Life of Sir John Falstaff
   Illustration by George Cruikshank, 1792-1878
   London, Longman, Brown, Green, Longmans, and Roberts, 1858

9 THEATRUM MUNIFICUM, sive, VARIETAS ATQVE DIFFERENTIA
   Illustrations engraved by Wenceslaus Hollar, 1607-1677
   London, Laurie & Whittle, [1790]

According to a bibliographer's entry at the front, this is from the library of the Victorian artist, George Cruikshank, with his pencil sketches. Apparently Cruikshank used costume
books such as this, engraved by Hollar, to study period dress for characters in illustrations, such as his Falstaff plates (see above, no.8).

III

CASES 6 and 7

Ghosts, Fairies, Elves, Visions, Dreams, Nightmares.

Artists or editions represented in these cases are from the 18th, 19th and early 20th centuries.

CASE 6, the large case in the corner of the room near CASE 5, begins with two small books in the center. These two illustrations represent Richard III on the battlefield, the night before his final struggle. He is haunted by the ghosts of the many people he has murdered.

From these two small books, proceed to the largest book in the case, in the corner to your upper left. Here is Shakespeare's most famous ghost – Hamlet's murdered father appearing on the platform of the castle walls, in a lithograph by the great French artist, Eugène Delacroix. The platform scene in Hamlet is a favorite subject for artists who often quote each other. Hamlet in a dynamic pose bending forward, with one arm outstretched toward the ghost, can be seen in several variations that echo both theatrical and artistic traditions. Delacroix surely was familiar with Henry Fuseli's interpretation of this scene (see a copy of this engraving in the adjacent wall case, CASE 7).

The Hamlets of two other artists, Robert Dudley and William Blake, are also represented in CASE 7. But featured prominently on the left in CASE 7 are two original prints from paintings in the Boydell Gallery – two very different images of Puck. Sir Joshua Reynolds, founder of the Royal Academy of Art in England and conservator of traditions inherited from France and Italy, has painted a beautiful but relatively traditional cherubic Puck. Fuseli had a very different vision of Shakespeare's Puck.

The 19th century is clearly the great period of Shakespearean illustration. The Victorians in particular were lovers of Shakespeare's fairies, elves and gothic creations. Plays such as A Midsummer Night's Dream and The Tempest provided compelling supernatural material for their artists. Several examples are represented in CASES 6 and 7, including the fanciful illustrations of Kenny Meadows and J. Mohr Smith in CASE 6 and of Sir John Everett Millais and Sir Joseph Noël Paton in CASE 7.

In this exhibit there is space for only a very few examples of the many foreign illustrations of Shakespeare in the University Library's Special Collections. French and Italian influence tended to dominate 17th and 18th century engraving in England, but in the early 19th century German influence was becoming more pronounced. The multilingual edition of The Tempest, with outline illustrations by Henry Courtney Selous, perhaps reflects this German influence.

CASE 6

1 WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE, 1564-1616
Richard III
The Works of Shakespeare, in eight volumes, v.5
Illustration after François Bocart, by Pierre Poirrier, fl. 1720-1760
London, for J. Tonson and the rest of the proprietors, 1735

Many of the engravings for the 1709 first illustrated edition of Shakespeare suggest scenic elements of an actual Restoration stage production. This 1735 edition, with plates pirated from the original 1709 edition, shows Richard confronted by the ghosts of his past. On the left a ghost seems to be rising from the floor. Perhaps this is the designer's rather crude representation of an actor rising through a trap door in the stage floor.

2 WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE, 1564-1616
Richard III
The Plays of William Shakespeare, in twelve volumes, v.8
Illustration by John Thurstton, 1774-1822
London, for E. Harding, 1800

This illustration of the same scene was engraved almost a century after the original illustrated edition in 1709 and a decade after the first exhibition of the Boydell Gallery. While the design reflects 18th-century painterly traditions, the artist may have been influenced by famous 18th-century performances, such as that of David Garrick (see Case 10).

3 WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE, 1564-1616
Hamlet, Prinz Von Daenemark
Illustrated by Eugène Delacroix, 1798-1863
Leipzig, Inselverlag, 1913

French artists were also influenced by a growing appreciation of the English Bard. Delacroix created his Hamlet lithographs in 1835, and the first published edition was
issued in Paris in 1843 and reprinted in 1863. This rare copy of a later German reprint of the Paris edition is one of only 100 copies.

4 WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE, 1564-1616
Scenes from "The Winter's Tale"
Illuminators Owen Jones, 1809-1874, Henry Warren, 1794-1879
On stone by A. Warren
London, Day and Son, [1865]

The Victorian designer, Owen Jones, was among the early English book illustrators experimenting with color lithography. This plate depicting Hermione's miraculous "resurrection" from stone, reflects Jones' highly decorative style, with Arabic and Egyptian influences.

5 WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE, 1564-1616
A Midsummer Night's Dream
Illustrated by John Moyr Smith. 1839-1912
London, Bernard Quaritch, 1892

J. Moir Smith is one of many Victorian artists fascinated with the world of the supernatural. *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *The Tempest* not surprisingly are featured plays for illustrations of the world of fairies, magic and dreams.

6 WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE, 1564-1616
Outlines to Shakespeare's "Tempest"
Series of twelve plates by Henry Courtney Selous, 1803-1890
With the text in English, German, French, and Italian
London, A. Schloss, [1836]

7 WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE, 1564-1616
A Midsummer Night's Dream
Illustrated by William Heath Robinson, 1872-1944
London, Constable & Co., 1914

8 WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE, 1564-1616
Etchings to the Illustrated Shakespeare
Designed by Kenny Meadows, 1790-1874
London, Wm. S. Orr and Co., [1845]

9 WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE, 1564-1616
Ein Sommernachtstraum
Illustrated by Julius Hoppner, 1839-
Munich, Theo. Stroer's Kunstverlag, [1888]
Watercolor by William Blake, 1757-1827
Brutus and Caesar's Ghost, 1806
*Julius Caesar*
British Museum, London

Watercolor by William Blake, 1757-1827
Richard III and the Ghosts, 1806
*Richard III*
British Museum, London

Watercolor by William Blake, 1757-1827
Vision of Queen Katherine, 1825
*Henry VIII*
National Gallery of Art, Washington, DC

Etching by Robert Dudley, fl. 1858-1893
Hamlet and His Father's Ghost, *Hamlet*
From *The Library Shakespeare* v.7
London, 1875

IV   CASES 8, 9 and 10

Actors, Interpretations of the Role, and Illustrations of Specific Characters.
Most of the books and images in these cases are from the 18th and 19th centuries, the
great period of the actor/manager in the English theatre.

These three cases illustrate ways in which painters quote actors and designers, who in turn quote famous paintings.
New productions of Shakespeare are often influenced by
earlier productions and also by the iconographic traditions in painting. These visual cross-references flattered
audiences at the theatres and galleries. They also helped to create and sustain an educated audience who enjoyed
recognizing variations on familiar theatrical scenes or paintings. To this day, painters, set designers and actors
consciously allude to or comment on previous interpretations of Shakespeare's best-known characters.
For example, CASE 9 shows different interpretations of Romeo and Juliet in the two balcony scenes. The images
reflect the changing taste, cultural mores, and artistic traditions of the periods represented.

CASE 8

1 WILLIAM WINTER, 1836-1917
James Hackett, 1800-1871, in his famous role of Falstaff
*Shakespeare of the Stage*, second series
Boston, Joseph Knight Company, 1893

Compare this portrait of Hackett as Falstaff in *The Merry Wives of Windsor* with earlier
images of Falstaff in CASES 4 and 5.

2 JOHN PHILIP KEMBLE, 1757-1823
*Memoirs of John Philip Kemble*
Extra-illustrated; frontispiece by H. Melvill
London, for J.B. Wood, 1817

This engraving depicts John Philip Kemble as Coriolanus, perhaps his most famous role.

3 WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE, 1564-1616
*The Works of William Shakespeare*, v.8
The Garrick Shakespeare
London, William Heinemann, 1905

The frontispiece to this volume is from one of many paintings of John Philip Kemble as
Coriolanus. Kemble's proud posture in Roman dress has been quoted many times by
artists and actors alike.

4 THEATRE ROYAL, DRURY LANE
[Playbill for] King Lear
Starring Edmund Kean, 1787-1833
London, June 3, 1820

5 FREDERICK WILLIAM HAWKINS, 1849-1900
*The Life of Edmund Kean*
London, Tinsley Brothers, 1869

Hand-colored illustration of Edmund Kean as King Lear. See the playbill for Kean's Lear
above (no.4).

6 MACREADY, WILLIAM CHARLES, 1793-1873
Mr. Macready as King Lear  (V.3)
In: *Dramatic Album, Mayall, etc., etc.*

A collection of steel engravings for Tallis's drawing room table book of theatrical portraits
from original drawings and daguerreotypes by Beard, Mayall, etc., etc. [London, New
York, J. Tallis & Co., 18—]
A similar portfolio of actors in famous roles in the University Library's Special Collections was previously owned by the influential 19th-century English actor and theatre manager, Sir Henry Irving. Irving in turn has been engraved in his famous role of Hamlet. See CASE 10.

7  G. W. THORNE
   [Copy of a photograph of] Edwin Booth as Hamlet
   New York, J. Gurney, 1870

As is obvious from the printed signatures and the photographer's backdrop, this is a studio portrait of Edwin Booth as Hamlet. Nevertheless, for this studio “sitting,” Booth apparently wore his famous costume and brought with him some of his props, including his sword.

8  EDWARD ROBINS, 1862-1943
   Twelve Great Actors
   Engraving from a photograph of Edwin Booth as Hamlet
   New York and London, G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1900

This engraving is based on the studio pose shown in no.7 above.

9  WILLIAM WINTER, 1836-1917
   Mr. Edwin Booth in His Various Dramatic Characters
   Portraits by William John Hennessy, 1839-1917
   Engravings by William James Linton, 1812-1897
   Boston, Jas. R. Osgood & Co., 1872

One of many artists' renditions of Booth as Hamlet. Here, with the same costume, Booth is shown in the graveyard scene.

10 PERY HETHERINGTON FITZGERALD, 1834-1925
    The Kembles, an Account of the Kemble Family, v.1
    London, Tinley Brothers, [1871]

This engraving shows the famous sister of John Philip Kemble, Sarah Siddons (1755-1831), as Lady Macbeth. Although this scene is apparently Lady Macbeth sleepwalking (note the lamp in her hand), the dramatic posture of Siddons in the role suggests the famous painting and engraving by Henry Fuseli of the earlier actress Hannah Pritchard (1711-1768) playing Lady Macbeth opposite David Garrick's Macbeth. See CASE 10.

11  LYCEUM THEATRE
    Souvenir of "Macbeth"
    Produced at the Lyceum Theatre, 29th December, 1888
    By Sir Henry Irving, 1838-1905
    London, Cassell & Company, [1888]

Irving was featured with Ellen Terry in this famous production of Macbeth, directed by Irving.

12  CHARLES HIATT, 1869-1898
    Ellen Terry and Her Impersonations
    From a photograph of Ellen Terry as Lady Macbeth
    London, George Bell, 1898

This photograph shows Terry in the sleepwalking scene, raising the lamp above her head. Although this image is from a studio photograph, not a stage-production photograph, Terry is probably quoting her own interpretation of the scene on the stage.

13  WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE, 1564-1616
    The Works of William Shakespeare, v.13
    From a painting by John Singer Sargent, 1856-1925
    The Garrick Shakespeare
    London, William Heinemann, 1905

Art historians have noted that it was Sargent's decision to have Ellen Terry as Lady Macbeth raise the crown above her head. Apparently Terry did not make this gesture during the scene in which Lady Macbeth imagines the glories of her future reign. But Sargent may have been quoting Terry's ironic use of the lifted lamp in the sleepwalking scene (see above, no.12).

CASE 9

1  WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE, 1564-1616
   Romeo and Juliet
   The Plays of William Shakespeare, v.8
   Illustration by Edward Francis Burney, 1760-1848
   London, for Bellamy and Robarts, 1791

This engraving has Romeo in the traditional dramatic posture of an early 18th-century actor, in period dress with a sword at his side, pointing melodramatically to an unseen moon. Juliet is high above on a distant balcony, also in a traditional pose.
In this "post-Boydell" illustration of the same balcony scene from Act II as depicted in the Bellamy illustration above (no.1), Romeo is in the more modest dress of a middle-class gentleman. He is shyly clutching his hat behind his back and has wisely left his sword at home. The balcony is no longer set high above, but seems a more realistic and intimate rendition of a contemporary 18th-century London home. A hazy romantic moon is visible in the background, making the scene quite appealing to contemporaries who preferred a sentimental interpretation of the tragedy.

Here is a depiction of the second balcony scene, labeled on the protective tissue "Romeo leaving his dear wife." Despite the chaste title, the lovers have obviously just gotten out of bed.

In this illustration the lovers are separated by the book-designer’s two-page spread. But they will soon be united, for Romeo’s sword has now morphed into a very phallic dagger.

A collection of steel engravings for Tallis’s drawing room table book of theatrical portraits from original drawings and daguerreotypes by Beard, Mayall, etc., etc. [London, New York, J. Tallis & Co., 18—]
CASE 10  right panel

1 Etching (original print) by “MSR” (?) of
William Charles Macready in Othello
from Dramatic Recollections...
“Drawn and etched from memory by MSR”
London, 1839

The artist “MSR” has not been identified but apparently was quite familiar with
Macready on the stage.

2 Engraving (original print), after a painting by
William Hogarth, 1697-1764
David Garrick in Richard III
From 96 Portraits of Eminent Actors...
London, New York, 18—?

This famous interpretation of Richard III by the 18th-century actor David Garrick (1717-
1779) has been the subject of a number of paintings, including this design by William
Hogarth. Hogarth is quoting Garrick’s famous posture as Richard III in his tent on the
battleground, as he confronts the ghosts of his past, the night before his death.

3 Painting by Henry Fuseli, 1741-1825
David Garrick and Mrs. Pritchard in Macbeth, 1812
Tate Gallery, London

4 Engraving, after a painting by
Henry Fuseli, 1741-1825
David Garrick and Mrs. Pritchard in Macbeth
Printed for James Heath, 1757-1834
London, 1804

This quiet interpretation of Sarah Siddons as Lady Macbeth in the sleepwalking scene
contrasts with the dramatic pose of Siddons as Lady Macbeth depicted in CASE 8,
no.10.

5 Engraving of Sarah Siddons, 1755-1831
Sleepwalking scene in Macbeth
From A Century of Famous Actresses
London, 1913

Ellen Terry was the mother of Edward Gordon Craig, the influential modernist set
designer. For an example from this Book of Portraits, see Craig’s idealized portrait of
his mother as Ophelia, reproduced in CASE 12.

6 Engraving of Sir Henry Irving, 1838-1905
In the title role of Hamlet
From 96 Portraits of Eminent Actors...
London, New York, 18—?

7 Front cover to Henry Irving, Ellen Terry: A Book of Portraits by
Edward Gordon Craig, 1872-1966
Chicago, c1899

This sketch by Craig is apparently based on Terry in the role of Lady Macbeth.

8 Lithograph by Edward Gordon Craig, 1872-1966
Sleepwalking scene in Macbeth
From The Players’ Shakespeare, v.21
London, 1923

See also CASE 8.

9 Painting by John Singer Sargent, 1856-1925
Ellen Terry as Lady Macbeth, 1889
Tate Gallery, London

See also CASE 8.

V CASES 11, 12 and part of 13

Illustrating the “Other” – Orientalism, Dark and Alien Figures, Mad Women ...

A fascinating way to study changing interpretations of Shakespeare is to take the
hundreds of different illustrations of some of his most famous and controversial
characters and investigate how their interpretations reflect the changing mores and
cultural preferences of the times. The images in these three cases display numerous
examples of Caliban, Ophelia, Cleopatra, and Othello. The canonical Shakespeare gave Victorian illustrators an opportunity to present surprisingly sexualized characters and scenes.

CASE 11

1 WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE, 1564-1616
Othello
The Plays of William Shakespeare, in twelve volumes, v.12
Illustration by John Thurstdon, 1774-1822
London, for E. Harding, 1800

Othello in this image seems quite alien and threatening, with the large phallic candle and the vulnerable, sleeping Desdemona, her breasts visible through her diaphanous gown.

2 CHARLES LAMB, 1775-1834, MARY LAMB, 1764-1847
Tales from Shakespeare, Designed for the Use of Young Persons
The fourth edition, v.2
Illustrations by William Mulready, 1786-1863
London, for M. J. Godwin and Co., 1822

In this set of tales for children the illustrator has drawn an evil-looking Othello stalking Desdemona with a drawn dagger.

3 CHARLES LAMB, 1775-1834, MARY LAMB, 1764-1847
Tales from Shakespeare, Stories for the Children
Retold by Edith Roberts

The cover to this edition of Lamb’s Tales from Shakespeare depicts a frail and distracted Ophelia.

4 WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE, 1564-1616
Othello
The Comedies, Histories, & Tragedies of William Shakespeare, v.11
Designed by Bruce Rogers, 1870-1957
Illustrations by Robert Gibbings, 1889-1938
New York, Limited Editions Club, 1939-1940

Othello in this series of woodcuts is drawn in heroic and noble dimensions.

5 WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE, 1564-1616
The Works of Mr. William Shakespeare, in ten volumes, v.7
Illustration, after François Boitard by Pierre Fourdrinier, fl. 1720-1760
London, for J. and J. Knapton, 1728

6 CHARLES HEATH, 1785-1848
The Heroines of Shakespeare,... from Drawings by Eminent Artists
Illustration by John William Wright, 1802-1848
London, David Bogue, 1848

Here Cleopatra is seen as an alien oriental, with a jeweled snake bracelet around her arm; but she is also sentimentalized with a tear.

7 GALÉRIE DES FEMMES DE SHAKESPEARE
Text by George Sand, 1804-1876
Illustration by Kenny Meadows, 1802-1848
Paris, J.-B. Fellens et L.-P. Dufour, [184-?]

Kenny Meadows’ image of Cleopatra is of a large-hipped Victorian woman in vaguely oriental dress. But the sympathetic text by George Sand reflects Sand’s personal philosophy that lovers should not be bound by the conventions of culture and class. Sand’s essay is from her “Les Femmes de Shakespeare,” originally published in 1837.

8 WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE, 1564-1616
Antony and Cleopatra
The Comedies, Histories, & Tragedies of William Shakespeare, v.19
Designed by Bruce Rogers, 1870-1957
Illustrations by Enric Cristòfol Ricart i Nin, 1893-1960
New York, Limited Editions Club, 1939-1940

This delightful illustration shows a sensuous Cleopatra languishing on her barge and surrounded by exotic and voluptuous sea nymphs.
CASE 12  left panel

1  Lithograph, after an etching by John Hamilton Mortimer, 1741-1779
   Caliban, The Tempest
   From Mortimer's Illustrations of Shakespeare
   London, 1838

Although he has claws, Caliban is sympathetically portrayed by Mortimer.

2  Wood engraving by Gustave Doré, 1832-1883
   Caliban, from The Tempest (II.2)
   New York, 1861

Doré's Caliban is drawn with African features, bent over a snake-infested wood pile.

3  Engraving, after a painting by Thomas Stothard, 1755-1834
   Caliban, The Tempest
   From The Plays of William Shakespeare
   London, 1800

This relatively early illustration shows a barbaric Caliban with fangs, claws, and body hair, crouching in a cave in the company of snakes.

4  Illustration from a painting by F. K. Rogers
   Caliban, The Tempest
   From The Ben Greet Shakespeare ...
   Garden City, NY, 1912

This design is for a children's text about the theatre. Here a dangerous-looking Caliban dwells in a hellish setting, tormented by devil-like creatures.

5  Illustration from a painting by Paul Woodroffe
   Caliban, The Tempest
   London, 1908

Here is a more sympathetic Caliban, a burdened old man with pointed ears. Ariel also seems more benign, teasing rather than tormenting.

6  Illustration from a hand-colored line drawing by Arthur Rackham, 1867-1939
   Caliban, The Tempest
   From Charles and Mary Lamb's Tales from Shakespeare
   London, New York, 1909

Rackham’s delightful Caliban is a totally alien creature in a playful world with Ariel sporting butterfly wings.

7  Engraving, after a design by Edward Edwards, 1738-1806
   Caliban, The Tempest, 1773
   From Bell's Edition of Shakespeare's Plays
   London, 1774

Caliban in this image is a hungry savage fed by European explorers.

8  Wood engraving, after a design by Robert Anning Bell, 1863-1933
   Caliban, The Tempest
   From The Tempest ...
   London, 1901

This simian figure seems more sympathetic than most semi-human Calibans. He crouches like a pet monkey within a protective frame of attending mermaids.

9  Wood engraving from a pen drawing by Walter Crane, 1845-1915
   Caliban, The Tempest
   From Eight Illustrations to The Tempest ...
   London, 1893

CASE 12  right panel

1  Etching by Richard Redgrave, 1804-1888
   "The Song of Poor Barbara," Othello (IV.3)
   From Songs and Ballads of Shakespeare
   The Etching Club
   London, 1892

This image of Poor Barbara from a song in Othello could easily be confused with typical images of Ophelia wearing a garland of flowers.
Ophelia is sympathetically drawn, but her wide eyes tells the experienced reader of illustrations that she is mad.

Millais' famous painting, reproduced as a frontispiece in this edition of Shakespeare, has been quoted many times in stage productions, paintings and photographs.

Hughes, a contemporary of Millais, also imagines Ophelia as frail and vulnerable.

This idealized portrait of Craig's mother as Ophelia seems far from the role Ellen Terry actually created. Compare this with her Lady Macbeth.

CASE 13  upper left corner (additional examples from Othello and Antony and Cleopatra)

1  Engraving attributed to François Boitard
Othello and Desdemona, Othello
From The Works of Mr. Shakespeare...
London, 1709

2  Engraving, after a design by
Henry Fuseli, 1741-1825
Othello and Desdemona
From The Plays of William Shakespeare
London, 1805

CASE 13 lower left corner  "Who is Silvia?"

1  Etching (original print) by
James Clarke Hook, 1819-1907
"Who is Silvia? What is she? ..." Two Gentlemen of Verona (IV.2)
From Songs and Ballads of Shakespeare
The Etching Club
London, 1852

2  Wood engraving by Joseph Kenny Meadows, 1790-1874
Silvia, Two Gentlemen of Verona
From Characteristics of Women by
Mrs. Anna Jameson, 1794-1860
New York, London, 1848

3  Engraving, after a painting by
Charles Edward Perugini, 1839-1918
Silvia, Two Gentlemen of Verona
From Graphic Gallery of Shakespeare's Heroines
London, 1888
CASE 13 right panel Two sonnets from Shakespeare, and "the whining school boy"

1 Engraving (original print) by Peter Lipman-Wulf, 1905-
"Like as the waves ..., Sonnet 60
From Lipman-Wulf's Images to Shakespeare's Sonnets
Garden City, N.Y., 1964

2 Illustration by Sir John Gilbert, 1875-1913
"As a decrepit father takes delight ...," Sonnet 37
From The Library Shakespeare v.9
London, 1875

3 Hand-colored engraving, after a drawing by
Thomas Stothard, 1755-1834
School Boy, As You Like It (IL7)
From Shakespeare Seven Ages of Man Illustrated
London, 1799

This image is taken from Jaques' famous lines describing "the seven ages of man" in As You Like It. The accompanying text comments on the relationship between the illustration and Shakespeare's verse.

VII CASES 14 and 15

20th-Century Artists – a Few Examples

CASE 14

1 WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE, 1564-1616
Macbeth
Illustrated by Salvador Dali, 1904-1989
Garden City, NY, Doubleday & Co., 1946

2 LUCHEINO VISCONTI, 1906-1976
William Shakespeare, Come Vi Peace (As You Like It)
Scenery and costumes by Salvador Dali, 1904-1989
Rome, C. Bestetti, 1948

3 WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE, 1564-1616
The Tragedy of Hamlet, Prince of Denmark
Designed and illustrated by Eric Gill, 1882-1940
[London], The Limited Editions Club, 1933

4 WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE, 1564-1616
The Tragedie of King Lear
Illustrated by Claire Van Vliet
Bangor [Maine], Theodore Press 1986

5 JEAN COCTEAU, 1889-1963
Oedipe-Roi, Roméo et Juliette
Scenery and costumes by Jean Hugo, 1894-
Paris, Plon, [1928]

6 WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE, 1564-1616
Shakespeare's Macbeth
The Players' Shakespeare, v.2
Introduction by Harley Granville-Barker, 1877-1946
Illustrated by Charles S. Ricketts, 1866-1931
London, Ernest Benn, 1923-1927 (Stratford-upon-Avon,
Shakespeare Head Press)

CASE 15 left panel

1 Mixed media illustration by Jim Dine, 1935-
Puck, 1966
From a series of 26 costume and scene designs
For a production of A Midsummer Night's Dream
at the Theatre de Lys, New York
Museum of Modern Art, New York

2 Painting by Jules Olitski, 1922-
Anthony [sic] and Cleopatra, 1989
André Emmerich Gallery, New York

3 Woodcut by Paul Nash, 1899-1946
From A Midsummer Night's Dream
The Players' Shakespeare, v.4
Introduced by Harley Granville-Barker, 1877-1946
Printed at the Shakespeare Head Press
London, 1924

See CASE 14, no.6 for another example of illustrations for The Players' Shakespeare.
4 Lithograph from a painting by Molnár C. Pál, 1894-
From Coriolanus
The Plays of William Shakespeare ...
The Limited Editions Club
Designed by Bruce Rogers, 1870-1957
New York, 1939-1940

See CASE 11, no. 8 for another example of illustrations for the Bruce Rogers' Shakespeare.

CASE 15 right panel

1 Etching (original print) by Leonard Baskin, 1922-2000
"Roman Caesar," representing corrupt imperial power
From the extra suite of prints issued with
Titus Andronicus, printed by hand at
The Gehenna Press
Northampton, Mass., 1973

2 Wood engraving by Leonard Baskin, 1922-2000
Othello and Desdemona
From Othello, printed by hand at
The Gehenna Press
Northampton, Mass., 1973
UPCOMING EXHIBIT:

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