

The Shakespeare Documents

Convened by Hannah Leah Crummé and Heather Wolfe
Shakespeare Association of America
3:30-5:30, Friday, 25 March 2016

Robert Bearman, Shakespeare Birthplace Trust

“William Shakespeare and the Replingham Agreement”

The agreement between William Replingham and William Shakespeare concerning the enclosure of open fields at Welcombe survives today as a partial copy of a lost original. This copying process obscures the reason why this new, altered version was made, but this paper will explore the extent to which it reflected Thomas Greene's interests more than Shakespeare's. Rather than seeking to establish that his actions can be linked to Shakespeare's wider view of social issues, this paper will argue that his actions simply reflect his growing awareness that his investment income might be insufficient to support his family should incapacity undermine his earned income.

Eric M. Johnson, Folger Shakespeare Library

“The Blackfriars Deed and the Dawning Golden Age of Accessible Documents”

My paper begins with the buyer's copy of the Blackfriars Deed, which seems appropriate because of its relationship (both physical and notional) to Shakespeare's personal life and his work. I use this document as a departure point to explore what the future of an expanded Shakespeare archive might be, in the form of an expanded version of Shakespeare Documented (www.shakespearedocumented.org). This could be extended outward in scope to include primary sources related to the English theatre industry such as relevant laws, official decrees, tax receipts, etc., with temporal boundaries extending from about 1550 to 1642.

Katy Mair, The National Archives of the United Kingdom

“An Archival and Material Approach to Shakespeare's Will”

Recent research into Shakespeare's original will cuts across archival, legal and heritage science fields of research. This paper will bring together some of the recent discoveries and consider how interdisciplinary research can inform our understanding of the will. Specifically it will look at the composition of the different types of ink used in the document and the characteristics of the paper, in conjunction with an analysis of the manuscript features, in order to

inform our understanding of the timeframe within which the document was produced.

Alan H. Nelson, University of California Berkeley

“Review of Chris Laoutaris, *Shakespeare and the Countess: The Battle that Gave Birth to the Globe*”

The well-known 1596 petition of neighbours within the parish of St Anne, Blackfriars against a playhouse there has recently been attributed to Elizabeth Russell, Dowager Countess of Bedford, because her name occurs first among thirty or thirty-one signatories. Analysis of the petition, its signatories, and its archival contexts suggests that the instigator was Stephen Egerton, puritan minister of the parish. Furthermore, the promoter of the playhouse, and thus the target of the petition, was not William Shakespeare but Richard Burbage. Overall this paper demonstrates that close attention to physical details and prevailing customs is required for the correct understanding of a document from Shakespeare's lifetime.

Vimala C. Pasupathi, Hofstra University

“Shakespeare's Muster Rolls”

This paper considers the interconnectedness of drama and what we find in state and county records, particularly those related to the administration of the militia. My archive, then, includes muster rolls, certificates, and letters to and from commissioners among other documents that circulated more widely in print. Perhaps the most intriguing document is one that has already been dismissed as irrelevant by literature scholars, biographers, and historians: a Warwickshire muster roll bearing Shakespeare's from 1605. I argue that it may not be 'our' Shakespeare, but that this roll and other records like it are nonetheless significant for understanding English culture and therein English drama as well.

Emily Elizabeth Rendek, University of South Carolina

“Edward Pudsey's Commonplace Book”

Edward Pudsey's commonplace book, compiled in the early 1600s, contains some of the earliest known excerpts of Shakespeare's plays. This commonplace book, however, no longer exists as one complete text; it lives in two physical spaces as well as two digital spaces. My exploration of Pudsey's commonplace book grapples with the problems of definition, particularly with that of commonplace book and archive. The complicated history and circulation of Pudsey's commonplace book—itsself a piecemeal

artifact torn between various archives—serves to illustrate this problem of definition. How might we benefit from asking how a commonplace book is like an archive? Or perhaps how an archive is like a commonplace book?

Mary Erica Zimmer, Boston University

“A Tale of Four Har[r]isons?: Navigating the Stationers' Company Archive”

How might the opportunities provided by digitization mobilize the insights of prior scholarship? The announced digitization of the full Stationers' Company archive by 2018 raises questions as to how navigation of these records will be managed, both to enable access and to support new and enduring forms of use. Working backwards from a single Shakespearean entry in *Liber B*, as transcribed by Edward Arber, this paper will examine possibilities and pitfalls, with an eye to potential recommendations. Here, the edition may serve as argument in a new key.