Shakespeare & the Players

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"Shakespeare & the Players" is an online exhibition of nearly 1,000 postcards featuring many famous English and American actors who performed Shakespeare's plays for late Victorian and Edwardian audiences. The postcards date from around 1880 to 1914, encapsulating an important era in not just postcard history, but Shakespeare history and world history as well. The site showcases postcards featuring the dominating actors of the time in roles from some of the more popular and oft-performed plays, like *Hamlet* and *Romeo & Juliet*, as well as those from plays not often performed, like *Cymbeline* and *The Merry Wives of Windsor*. This project coincides with the celebrations of the 400th anniversary of William Shakespeare's death. The new site builds on the original work of Dr. Harry Rusche and now uses dynamic portfolios and galleries to emphasize bold and beautiful images of the fronts and backs of the postcards. Reimagined by English PhD Student Justin Shaw with accessibility and modern users in mind, the site dynamically employs a mobile-friendly responsive layout. The experience of the new site engages a multitude of reading and browsing styles and borrows its categorization system from the 1623 First Folio. Brand new to the site is a selection of historical audio and video clips featuring actors who appear in the collection as well as an entire page dedicated to opportunities for teaching and research with the website and the postcard collection.