

9-4-2016

# First Folio Dives into the Printing of Shakespeare's Work

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*The Arbiter*

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Posted on Sep 4, 2016 by [Arbiter Staff](#) in [Culture](#) // 2 Comments



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400 years ago, Poet, Playwright, Actor, William Shakespeare passed away. The First Folio event is currently on exhibit on campus to feature Shakespeare's work.

Boise State held a seminar called "Mind Your F's and Q's" on Aug. 26 where Jessica Winston, English professor at Idaho State University, discussed the importance of quartos in creating the First Folio. According to her, the play found its way from the playhouse to the printing house with an emphasis on Shakespeare's "Romeo and Juliet."

Winston pointed out that early editions—especially when placed side by side—are quite different even if they were only published a few years apart. The play was published four times in things called quartos before it was published in the First Folio.

Winston said, a folio is defined as a paper folded four times in order to get a small book. A quarto is a smaller version of a folio that is folded a few more time. These were typically cheaper and provided easier access to literature for low income individuals.

The first quarto is about 700 lines shorter than that of the second quarto, Winston said.

For instance, Quarto one said, "what's a Montague? It is nor hand, nor foot, nor arm, nor face, nor any other part." where the second quarto said "What's Montague? It is not hand, nor foot, nor arm, nor face. O be some other name belonging to a man".

According to English professor Matt Hansen, 50 states were sent a first folio. The book are priced at around \$10 million per book.

To find our First Folio events, students can [visit its website](#) or check out any of the events below:

Friday, Sept. 9, 7 p.m. “The Economy of Nature: Human and Non-Human Forces in Shakespeare’s *King Lear* and *Timon of Athens*” by Dr. Peter Remien at the Yanke Research Family Park

Wednesday, Sept. 14, 6 to 8:30 p.m. *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* the film

Friday, Sept. 16, 7 p.m. “Shakespeare’s Typeface” by Dr. Curtis Whitaker at the Yanke Research Family Park

Wednesday, Sept. 21, 7 p.m. “Our Revels Now Are Ended” at the Yanke Research Family Park

**Accessed from <https://arbiteronline.com/2016/09/04/first-folio-dives-into-the-printing-of-shakespeares-work/>**