“Our Revels Are Now Ended”: Closing Ceremony, Part One

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GWYN HERVOCHON

Hi everyone. Welcome. Welcome to Our Revels Now Are Ended As we bid farewell to our First Folio. Thank you so much for coming. I'm a little dazed and confused, I have to admit -- I just can't -- what happened this past month? It's a blur. It's a whirlwind. For those of you who don't know me, I should probably introduce myself. My name is Gwyn Hervochon. I am a librarian and archivist at Albertsons Library here at Boise State. And I am, or I have been, I was the project director for Boise State's installation of First Folio: The Book that Gave Us Shakespeare.

(applause)

Thanks. You may have gotten word that there was going to be a panel discussion. It's going to be a bit more informal because I'm just going to stand here and cry.

(laughter)

But, I'll allow my colleagues to introduce themselves, as well. We'll all just be saying a little bit about how this month went. Thanking you for being here and being a part of it. We've crunched some numbers. It's really exciting how many people have come here and have been apart of this. So we'll just talk to you a little bit. And give you a few minutes if you have any questions about this process. Any part of this process -- any part about this exhibition. We'd love to answer any question you might have. And we'll take about 15 minutes total and then we'll bring on the main event The Idaho Dance Theatre's performance, which is about a 15 minute piece. And then there will be cake.

(laughter)

And we've decide to leave the gallery doors open, as well. When we're serving cake we ask that you don't bring the cake into the gallery. But I feel like -- I guess I can't let it end. I want to keep the doors open, so. We'll take a little more time if you want to go back there and visit
the folio one more time, feel free. And then we'll probably call it by 8:30 or so. That's what's happening.

HEATHER GREVATT
Hi my name's Heather Grevatt. I'm an assistant professor librarian with Boise State, with the Albertsons Library. And I, sort of, morphed into an associate director on the project. Those of you who know the history of how it came here -- they had to have the application in October 2014 -- they found out we got it in February 2015. I didn't come on 'til February 2016 when Gwyn came to me, I was, kind of, newly minted faculty -- I've been with the university a few years but I just, sort of, moved up. And she said, "I need some help with programming logistics." And I said, "Sure, my plate's empty. I'll do that." And as I've told many people if Gwyn asks you for help, you ask her to clarify.

(laughter)

GWYN HERVOCHON
It'll be fun.

HEATHER GREVATT
It'll be fun. But no, so it has been quite the ride. And I would say probably the big things I really took on was coordinating the volunteers. So I've got some great numbers for those. I kind of feel like I sort of took the lead on the school groups as well. Our K through 12's were kind of my big areas. So I'll be talking a little bit about those. But I will let Stephanie do her thing first.

STEPHANIE BACON
My name is Stephanie Bacon and I'm a professor in the Art Department here at Boise State. I'm also Director of Idaho Center for the Book. Which we had the honor of publishing the commemorative program that you may have seen. Or you can still pick one up in the galleries. I'm also the Co-Director of the Arts and Humanities Institute. Which programs this beautiful gallery space here in the Yanke Center. I've been programming this gallery space for three or four years now and it's a lovely space to work with and we've done some great things in the past. But we certainly never dreamed of anything on this scale or scope or ambition of bringing the folio here. So we've all been working together on that project these last two years. And I've been primarily involved in the exhibition planning and design. And the collateral exhibits that you've seen in the space -- in addition to the material that came from The Folger and the folio itself. I just wanted to say that while this might seem like, in some respects, a sad occasion, because our time with the folio is drawing to a close, I want you to know that The Arts and Humanities Institute is still here and our gallery is still here. The Arts and Humanities Institute exists to support research and creative activities in the arts and humanities on campus and
beyond. And to share that great arts and humanities activity with the public and with the students and with the world at large. So you'll hear of us in connection with other programs and we will be bringing you other great programs in this gallery space. The next one will be a beautiful exhibit of Moroccan tribal textiles and handicrafts from the 19th and early 20th centuries, which has been loaned by a local collector. And which we hope to open up sometime this winter. So please stay tuned for that. Thanks.

{inaudible}

GWYN HERVOCHON
We just want to make sure that we recognize a few people. The Dean of the Library Traci Bicknell-Holmes if you could stand up, wave to everyone.

{applause}

GWYN HERVOCHON
And then, a few people who were on out steering committee. Formed almost two years ago. This really has been a process. The application started almost two years ago. More than two years ago.

HEATHER GREVATT
It was due two years ago.

GWYN HERVOCHON
Right. We've had incredible letters of support from scholars from Boise State. Some of them are here tonight who actually served on the steering committee and helped plan the programming. Matt Hansen of the English Department.

{applause}

GWYN HERVOCHON
And Leslie Durham.

{applause}

GWYN HERVOCHON
There are so many thank you's I could go on and on and on. How about, though, first of all, people who volunteered. A lot of you are wearing your First Folio t-shirts and can't be missed. But I still would love it if you would stand up and wave to everyone.

{applause}

HEATHER GREVATT
So to give you guys an idea, since we're doing the volunteers right now, I've got some of the
numbers on that. And if I totally lose it please excuse me, I have a jelly bean excuse. The
hormones are runnin' high. But we ended up having 45 total volunteers, not including staff
people. About 13 of those were our library staff. But when they were here they were just, kind
of, giving their time. Totaling -- we'll and actually -- so I was talking -- Traci didn't write hers
down so I think it's closer to to 773 volunteer hours.

[applause]

And then I wanted to recognize I called it my 'Over 40 Club.' Marcia Beckwith, P.J. Horton,
Chris Large, and Jodi Brown. And then no surprise to anyone our big winner was Bae Emilson,
had over 60 hours.

[applause]

HEATHER GREVATT
I don't think she made it back tonight. She worked today, but she's not here now. My amazing
volunteers. And that doesn't even include -- I didn't write down -- they all did at least an hour
of training. Many of them came to an hour info session before that. Any of them who did school
visits -- was 18 of those volunteers and staff -- did an additional hour of training. So these are
the people, if you need to know anything Shakespeare related, just find someone in the blue
shirts.

GWYN HERVOCHON
It's just been incredible day after day. I've been spending a lot of time sitting in the office and
just hearing the volunteers doing their spiels and just taking on such a leadership role. And just
have such a stake in this project and really they're passionate and just so welcoming. It's
incredible. And volunteers were undergrad students, they were community members, they were
faculty, and emeriti faculty. So it was just a mix of people all just bringing so much love and
dedication to this project. And I can't thank you enough. It was amazing. Do you want to say
more about the school visits and what that was about?

HEATHER GREVATT
Sure let's do school visits. Like I said we had 18 volunteers and staff who handled those. We
ended up -- we had quite a few cancellations especially the first week -- we ended up with 32
sessions. Ranging from 5th through 12th grade students from as far away as Pocatello,
American Falls, and even one group from Moscow. Totaling 1850 kids.

[applause]

I told you, hormones. Hormones.
GWYN HERVOCHON
I don't have that excuse. And then we can add on to that amazing number of 1850 students. Before today we had 4,647 visitors come through here in the past four weeks.

[applause]

How many can we add to the door total today, so far?

AUDIENCE MEMBER
380

GWYN HERVOCHON
380 just today. Who does math?

STEPHANIE BACON
Close to 7000 people.

GWYN HERVOCHON
Total, yeah. It's incredible. Thank you so much. And then we've had these special events throughout. That was a part of the application process and something that we committed to The Folger Shakespeare Library that we would do -- as Idaho's host site -- as the selected host site for this exhibition, is to put on a variety of programs for all ages throughout the month. And we took that promise very seriously. About 18 events, both here -- some at Boise Public Library -- we had puppet shows, we had films, we had lectures, presentations and over 1200 people attended these isolated individual events over the course of the month. So it's really been a fantastic experience and I dare say a success. I'm very proud and grateful to have been a part of it. What else do we need to say. I don't know either. Does anyone have any questions about this month and about -- yeah sure.

AUDIENCE MEMBER 2
So I've come to some of the presentations and they were really interesting. But I couldn't come to all of them and I know you were video taping them. Is there going to be a way to maybe view some of the ones that I missed?

GWYN HERVOCHON
Great question. There is going to be a way that you will be able to view some of the presentations and lectures that you may have missed. All of them are going to be available on the library's website through ScholarWorks -- that's Albertsons Library here at Boise State. I can't say when. As soon as possible. There was one presentation we weren't able to record. But everything else -- we're really making an effort to collect all the materials and videos -- photographs. All the materials that were created as a result of this project will be available on ScholarWorks. Through the library.
AUDIENCE MEMBER 3
Does this go back to The Folger Library. Do they send it out again because they're going to all the states and Puerto Rico and all that? Or is this this the end of the cycle?

GWYN HERVOCHON
I think this is not the end of the cycle for our particular folio. It will be moving on to another location. We haven't been told where it's going. That's all part of the secrecy and security that surrounds the folio. So we don't know where it's going. But, for those of you who don't know, The Folger Shakespeare Library owns 82 copies of the First Folio. Which is the highest concentration in one place of first folio. We know of 285 in the world 82 of them are in D.C. at The Folger Shakespeare Library. 18 of those copies have been on a national tour throughout 2016. So each book goes to -- roughly again, I don't do math -- four or five sites before it goes back to The Folger Shakespeare Library. So no one book is out all year long. They wouldn't want to do that. Each book gets a little tour. Of four or five sites.

AUDIENCE MEMBER 4
Could you talk a little bit about the exhibit that The Folger Library is going to have in November?

GWYN HERVOCHON
Right, yeah. That's a great idea. So exciting. 'Cause we really just found out about this a few months ago. But The Folger Shakespeare Library came up with this genius idea, after sending out all of these books on tour, that they are going to put together an exhibition -- once all of the books return, safe and sound, at The Folger they are going to do an interactive exhibit that tells the story of where each of these books has been. And all of the activities that have gone on surrounding it. So they have asked us to supply them with videos of any productions, presentations, photographs. Our programs that we have from Idaho Cener for the Book. All of these materials will be part of an exhibit there. So people in our nation's capital will get to come and see all the things that Idaho did.

AUDIENCE MEMBER 5
Two questions. One impolite and one quirky. Quirky one first. The people signing the books. Did anyone note farthest traveled? And also the impolite one. How much did it cost to do all this?

GWYN HERVOCHON
Fair enough.

HEATHER GREVATT
Marcel's a journalism professor.
GWYN HERVOCHON
What was the first one?

AUDIENCE MEMBER 5
Furthest traveled.

GWYN HERVOCHON
Furthest traveled. Volunteers do you have a story about that?

AUDIENCE MEMBER 6
I feel like we had a couple drive from Albuquerque, New Mexico because they heard about this on KBSX. So they made a little journey up to Boise, to see the First Folio. We've had couples drive in from Portland, actually all over the place. It's pretty remarkable.

AUDIENCE MEMBER 7
We had a family from Portland who drove 7 hours specifically for the folio. They had missed the one in Eugene, they missed the one in Seattle. They went on an Alaskan cruise that stopped in Juneau and went to see it there and they were closed.

[laughter]

So Saturday, on Family Day, they made the 7 hour drive specifically for the folio.

HEATHER GREVATT
I want to say I've seen New Jersey and Ontario, Canada even.

GWYN HERVOCHON
Do my Mom and Dad count? Maine? That's kind of cheating.

AUDIENCE MEMBER 8
You had schools come from a distance. You had two come from the Pocatello area on buses. And you had one from Moscow.

GWYN HERVOCHON
And did an overnight trip. The impolite question.

HEATHER GREVATT
You want to take that one Margaret?

AUDIENCE MEMBER 9
We don't know yet.

HEATHER GREVATT
Kind of the answer is we don't really have it totaled, yet. The tour itself costs you nothing. It's an in-kind grant from The Folger, which comes with the book, the case, and the panels. So that element was free.
STEPHANIE BACON
But I don't think it can really be tallied. Because so many university departments came together and contributed time and energy and expertise. I would just mention security and facilities in particular that just did an incredible job. And it was a treat to work with them.

AUDIENCE MEMBER 10
Parking free for the month.

AUDIENCE MEMBER 11
Always the bane of any university event.

HEATHER GREVATT
Yeah, we mentioned some of the members of the steering committee that was sort of the small steering committee. And then we, sort of, reached a point where the university said, "What are you doing?" And gave us the amazing assistance of Margaret Satterlee and Heather Calkins and they put together a steering committee of I think, like 35 people from 20 different university departments. Who were like, "Have you thought of this; Have you thought of that?" No, of course we haven't. We didn't know we had to do that. So that was really amazing at that point. To, kind of, solidify.

AUDIENCE MEMBER 12
You had mentioned that it was two years ago that you put in the application. What was the whole process of putting the application together to get this here?

GWYN HERVOCHON
Well, first things first, we needed to have somewhere to do it. And I work at the library, I knew the library didn't have a physical space that could satisfy the requirements that they ask for to accommodate the kinds of audiences that we were hoping for. And got. And then, on top of that, the space had security requirements. There were temperature and humidity requirements -- different climate restrictions that need to be in place in order to keep the folio safe. Lighting. So the first place that came to mind -- I had come to some exhibitions before in the Arts and Humanities Institute gallery. So I went right to Stephanie Bacon and Nick Miller -- who was the director of the Institute at the time -- and asked if they would want to partner with us in this crazy endeavor. And they were game.

STEPHANIE BACON
We were like, "Sure, that could be fun."

HEATHER GREVATT
How little you knew.

GWYN HERVOCHON
From there it was a matter of then getting support from throughout the university from scholars in relevant fields, who wrote their own letters of support saying that we would be the ideal Idaho host site for this project. And that they would work with us to create the programming. And then, of course, we had to reach out to members of the community and different organizations throughout the community saying that we had their support as well. And that they would work with us. So we went to Idaho Shakespeare Festival, first and foremost -- no brainer. I also knew that as this tour was celebrating the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's death, so we, too, were celebrating our own Shakespearean anniversary right here in Idaho with this being the 40th anniversary of the Idaho Shakespeare Festival. I work in Special Collections and Archives at the library here and we have the historical collection of the Idaho Shakespeare Festival. So I knew we had that. That that could be a companion display that would demonstrate -- physically alongside the folio -- this Idaho Shakespeare Festival exists because of this book, essentially. And this is how this book continues to be relevant in our lives today, 400 years later. And thousands and thousands of miles away from where that book was published. And worked with Boise Public Library and all the members of the community. So it was just a matter of getting everybody on board and getting letters of support and submitting those to The Folger Shakespeare Library. Does that answer? Yes, Matt?

AUDIENCE MEMBER 13
A question out of vanity. Do we know who, if anyone, we beat out?

[laughter]

STEPHANIE BACON
I have a suspicion or two.

GWYN HERVOCHON
I know. Marcel was asking me about that and I referred him to The Folger Shakespeare Library, because they know who applied. I really don't -- I've heard that other people did apply -- but I cannot speak on who that might have been.

HEATHER GREVATT
They didn't tell us and we didn't ask.

GWYN HERVOCHON
But you're free to.

HEATHER GREVATT
We know of, across the country, I think they were saying there were about 150 applicants for the 52 location. It's all 50 states Puerto Rico and D.C.
Maybe we'll take one more and then, despair not, if you have more questions and you want to chat. We can definitely chat after the performance, over cake -- did I mention there was cake? So we can continue the conversation and I welcome questions at any time. But one more, I know you've had your hand up.

**AUDIENCE MEMBER 14**
I know you don't know where it's going next, but where did it come from do you know where it came from before it came here. The folio that lives here?

**GWYN HERVOCHON**
No we don't. That's part of the excitement about the exhibition that's happening at The Folger in November is that the copy -- we will find out which copy we have had this whole month. Because we don't have that information at this time. So I'll do my best and Marcel and any media people help me spread the word about what copy we've had this whole time. And what the story is, the history, of this actual book that we've had this whole month.

**AUDIENCE MEMBER 15**
I've been looking at the book to answer the 'longest' question. I know we've had some international students because we had Australia, Switzerland, London, and Japan.

**GWYN HERVOCHON**
Nice, I'll take that.

**AUDIENCE MEMBER 15**
Traverse City, Michigan -- Vancouver. So people are from all over the place.

**STEPHANIE BACON**
And that's, like, guest book volume 2.

**GWYN HERVOCHON**
Three -- three point five.

**STEPHANIE BACON**
There's a whole other guest book before that.

**GWYN HERVOCHON**
We've burned through the guest books. But unless there's something really huge and obvious that I'm forgetting. Should we move on?

**AUDIENCE MEMBER 16**
I was curious because of all the secrecy -- how we're you able to advertise it in advance. Or what were the restrictions on that?

**GWYN HERVOCHON**
Well we knew the timing -- we knew the four-and-a-half weeks that we would have the book.
It was really just the logistics.

AUDIENCE MEMBER 16
But I mean, you were advertising in advance that it was coming -- so therefore there's other locations that must be advertising that they're getting it. So it couldn't be too secretive.

GWYN HERVOCHON
There are multiple locations that open around this same time.

AUDIENCE MEMBER 17
It's just the specifics of which book of the 82 copies that The Folger owns have gone to which specific sites. So The University of Colorardo in Boulder, for example, had their exhibition, which, kind of, dove tailed with ours. I think theirs ended sometime in mid-August. And so clearly that copy did not come here, but it may have gone home or it may have gone somewhere else. But that's where just because -- individual copies of these books that are all extremely valuable but some are more valuable than others.

[laughter]

GWYN HERVOCHON
Right...right...

HEATHER GREVATT
Exactly.

END OF TRANSCRIPT.