

## WELCOME TO

# THE SHAKESPEARE COLLECTION TRAIL

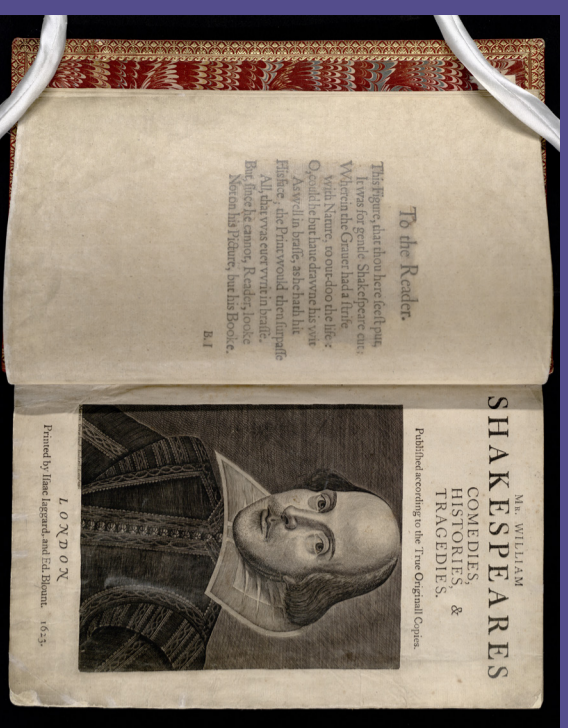
THIS TRAIL TELLS THE STORY OF THE LIBRARY OF BIRMINGHAM'S SHAKESPEARE COLLECTION — THE FIRST GREAT SHAKESPEARE LIBRARY IN THE WORLD — AND THE PEOPLE AND CITY THAT MADE IT.

USE THE QUESTIONS WITHIN THIS GUIDE AND ON THE PANELS LOCATED AROUND THE LIBRARY TO HELP YOU FIND OUT ABOUT SOME OF THE 100,000 ITEMS THAT ARE IN THE COLLECTION.

Starting in the Children's and Music Libraries on the lower ground floor, can you find all the panels (there are 12 in total) and reach the Shakespeare Memorial Room at the top of this building?

The images on the reverse of this guide match the panels so you can tick them off as you go along.

Once you have completed the trail then return to the Children's Library to collect your prize.



## CHILDREN'S LIBRARY

Family friendly editions of Shakespeare's plays have been produced for the last 300 years. The Shakespeare Collection has many of these editions, as well as modern retellings written and illustrated by young writers, along with graphic novels.

**What's your favourite children's book?**

## MUSIC LIBRARY

The Shakespeare Collection includes at least 2,000 musical scores. One of the treasures is the score for the music that was performed at the first great Shakespeare celebration which took place in Stratford-upon-Avon in 1769.

**Did you know that The Lion King musical was inspired by Shakespeare's Hamlet?**

## BOOK BROWSE

Shakespeare's First Folio is over 400 years old! Published in 1623, the Folio features many of his best known plays including *Macbeth*, *Twelfth Night* and *The Tempest*. Our copy is unique as it was bought for Birmingham's public library as part of a vision of culture for all.

**What book, film or other piece of art would you want Birmingham to own and why?**

## FLOOR 2

There are around 100 different languages included in the Shakespeare Collection, including Arabic, Urdu, German, Yiddish, Xhosa, Spanish and more, as well as Braille. There is even a copy of *Hamlet* translated into the fictional language of Klingon.

**Have you ever read or heard Shakespeare in a language that wasn't English?**

## FLOOR 3

The Shakespeare Collection includes thousands of photographs and posters, capturing theatre, film, and television performances from around the world. There are also 10,000 playbills dating from the late 18th century onwards, including some advertising performances by Ira Aldridge, an African American actor who played the lead role in *Othello*. He was often called the 'African Roscius'. This was a theatrical name that signified great dramatic ability.

**Would you like to act on stage or in a film?**

## FLOOR 4

George Dawson was a lecturer, preacher and activist who felt that a library for all was a better way of celebrating Shakespeare than a statue. He helped establish the Shakespeare Memorial Library (now the Shakespeare Collection was first referred to), which opened in 1864.

Many of Dawson's speeches would have been lost were it not for his colleague and friend Marie Beaucier. She used shorthand to document Dawson's lectures.

**Is there anyone doing good things in Birmingham that you think should be remembered? It could be someone famous, or someone you know.**

## FLOOR 7

Over the centuries, many artists have responded in different ways to Shakespeare's plays. In the Shakespeare Collection there are copies of beautifully illustrated editions produced by the Birmingham School of Printing including *Hamlet*.

**What book, music, film, or play inspires you?**

## FLOOR 9

Congratulations, you've made it to the Shakespeare Memorial Room, the final stop on the trail.

This was the original home of the Shakespeare Collection but it isn't stored in this room anymore. It is kept in a special area in the library where it can be protected from light and heat.

This is the second Shakespeare Memorial Room, the first opened in 1868 but was destroyed by a fire in 1879. John Henry Chamberlain, who designed the room, believed that beautiful buildings could inspire Birmingham's citizens.

**Note the natural features around the room. How many different flowers can you count? Does the room make you feel inspired?**



REWRITING THE BOOK  
THE LIBRARY OF BIRMINGHAM



# TRAIL JEWELS

Discover more about the Shakespeare Collection at the Library of Birmingham

Please visit our website [www.birmingham.gov.uk/ShakespeareCollection](http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/ShakespeareCollection)

The Shakespeare Collection is part of Birmingham Archives and Collections at the Library of Birmingham, to find out more

[birmingham.gov.uk/archives](http://birmingham.gov.uk/archives)

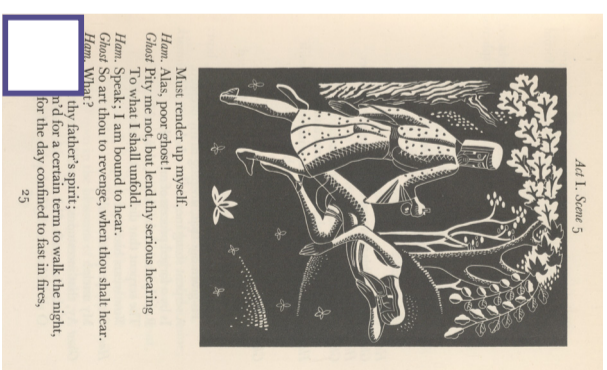
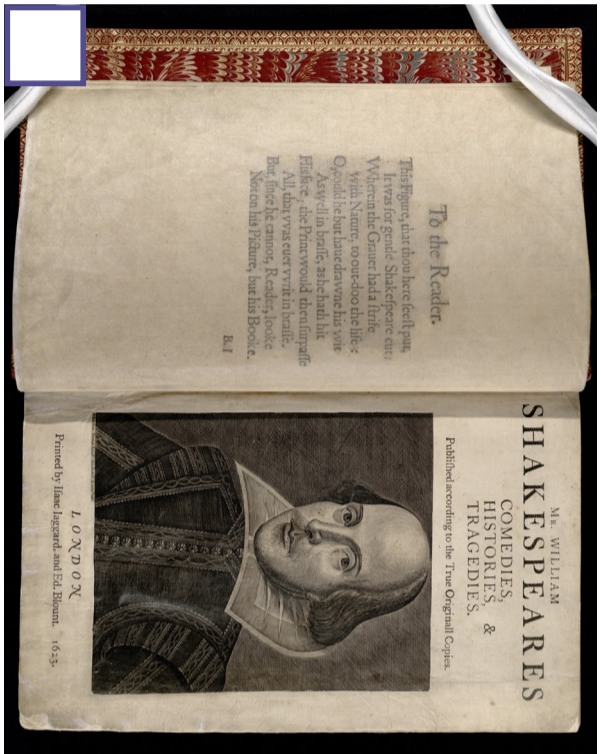
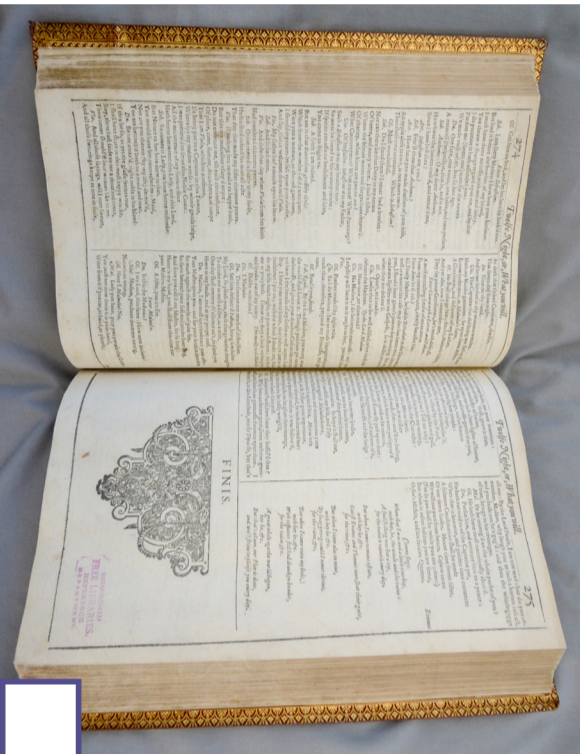
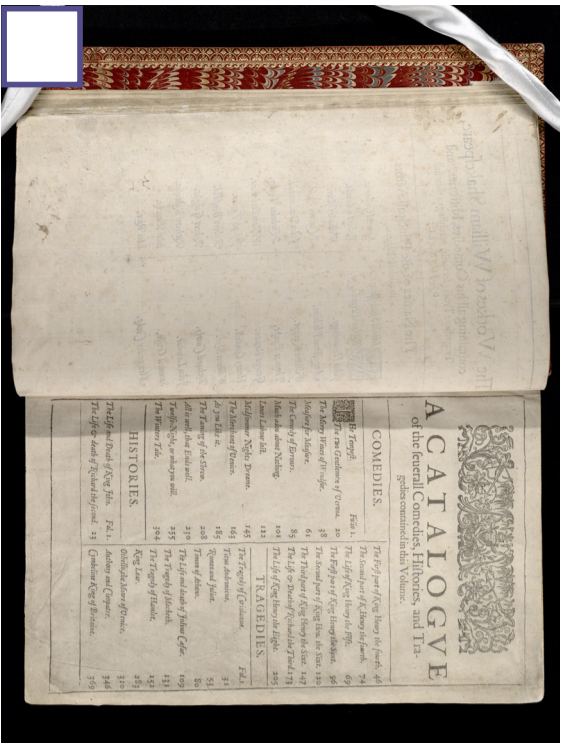
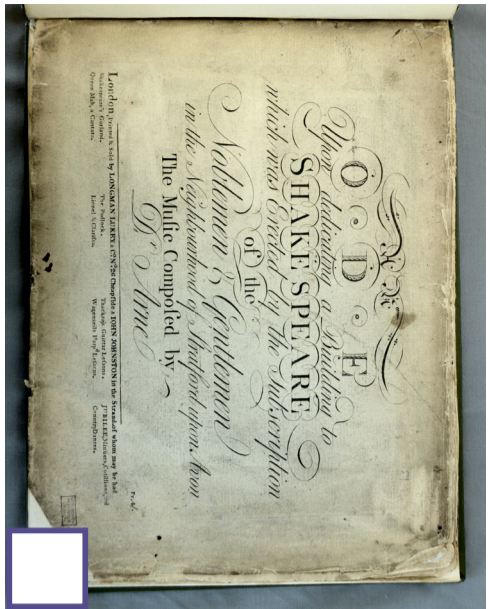
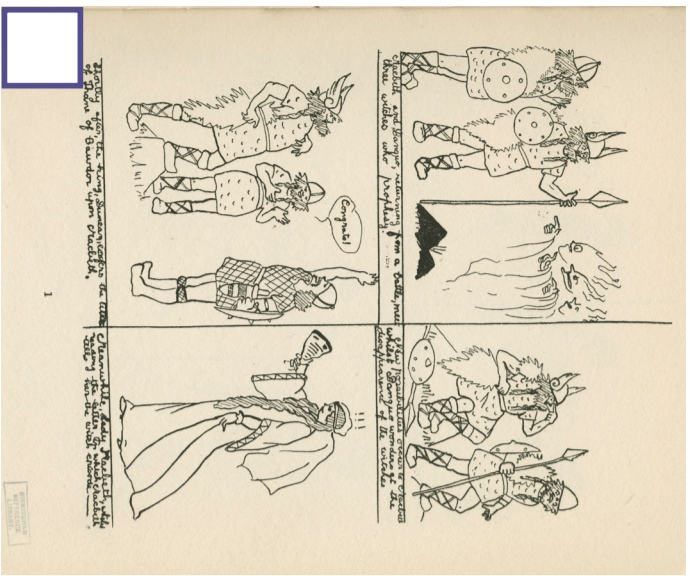
[@TheIronRoom](https://twitter.com/TheIronRoom)

[@birtingham\\_archives](https://twitter.com/@birtingham_archives)

[birmingham.gov.uk/libraries](http://birmingham.gov.uk/libraries)

[@LibrarYoBham](https://twitter.com/LibrarYoBham)

[@the\\_library\\_of\\_birmingham](https://www.instagram.com/the_library_of_birmingham)



**SHAKESPEARE COLLECTION TRAIL**  
Tick off every image you can find

