

THE MILLIONAIRE AND THE BARD

HENRY FOLGER'S
OBSESSIVE HUNT FOR
SHAKESPEARE'S FIRST FOLIO

A lecture by author Andrea Mays

First Folio at FIU

Andrea Mays

Author, *The Millionaire And The Bard: Henry Folger's Obsessive Hunt For Shakespeare's First Folio*



When Shakespeare died in 1616 half of his plays died with him. His plays were rarely performed, 18 of them had never been published, and the rest existed only in bastardized forms that did not stay true to his original language. Seven years later, Shakespeare's business partners, companions, and fellow actors, John Heminges and Henry Condell, gathered copies of the plays and manuscripts, edited and published 36 of them. This massive book, the First Folio, was intended as a memorial to their deceased friend. They could not have known that it would become one of the most important books ever published in the English language, nor that it would become a fetish object for collectors.

The Millionaire and the Bard is a literary detective story, the tale of two mysterious men — a brilliant author and his obsessive collector — separated by space and time. It is a tale of two cities — Elizabethan and Jacobean London and Gilded Age New York. It is a chronicle of two worlds — of art and commerce — that unfolded an ocean and three centuries apart. And it is the thrilling tale of the luminous book that saved the name of William Shakespeare “to the last syllable of recorded time.”

Wed., Feb. 24
4 p.m.

Hubert Library (HL) 175
Biscayne Bay Campus
3000 N.E. 151st Street
North Miami, FL 33181

Thurs., Feb. 25
4 p.m.

Patricia & Phillip Frost Art Museum
Room 107
Modesto A. Maidique Campus
11200 S.W. 8th Street
Miami, FL 33199

This event is part of FIU programming scheduled around the Folger Shakespeare Library's national traveling exhibition *First Folio! The Book that Gave Us Shakespeare*. First Folio at FIU is presented by the College of Arts, Sciences & Education, the Patricia & Phillip Frost Art Museum, and FIU Libraries. First Folio at FIU sponsors include the College of Architecture + The Arts, FIU Foundation, Inc., Steven J. Green School of International and Public Affairs, Office of the President, Office of the Provost, Margarita P. Muiña, J.D., L.L.M., The Betsy-South Beach, Blue Martini, British American Business Council Miami, Dranoff 2 Piano Foundation, and Miami City Social. Sponsorship opportunities are available to support this exhibit's only appearance in Florida. Learn more at folio.fiu.edu.

FIU Libraries

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