

A Week in the Life of a Work Experience Student at E2E by Monica Puri

After volunteering for the 'Everything to Everybody' Project during FOLIO's Shakespeare in Sutton Festival, it was great to have the opportunity to learn how an event, like the one I volunteered at, was put together. During the week, I got involved in the different events that take place at the library, learned about the role of the archivists, and helped out at the First Folio tour at Sense Touchbase Pears.



THE TRAGEDIE OF KING LEAR
BY WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE.



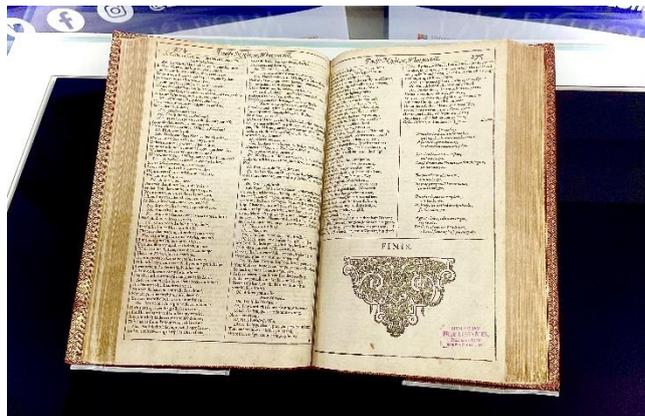
WITH WOODCUTS BY MARY GRABHORN.

On Monday, we did a workshop with Selly Manor which involved looking at different items. These included posters of *Romeo and Juliet* from Poland, retellings of Shakespeare's plays by Charles Lamb and Thomas Bowdler, as well as woodcuts from *King Lear*. It was amazing to learn about how different countries adapted Shakespeare's plays and translated it into their native languages. The Library of Birmingham holds Shakespearean artefacts in over 94 different languages.

On my second day, I helped to install an incredible exhibition, 'To still my beating mind', in the Shakespeare Memorial Library with the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust. It included 90 wonderful clay heads of Shakespeare and characters from his plays, created by different primary schools in Birmingham. The exhibition was a fantastic presentation of *The Tempest* through creative scrapbooks and artwork.



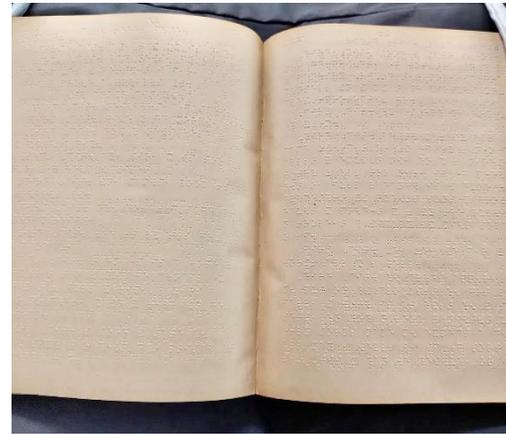
On Wednesday, we welcomed Chilwell Academy to the library for an education workshop. The students were learning about *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, so they had the opportunity to make the play their own by changing the target audience, language spoken, costumes



worn and settings to something personal to them. This was an engaging and interactive session which showed how Shakespeare's plays are for everyone, of any age and background, as they can be reimagined and interpreted in a multitude of ways.

At the end of the week, we took the People's First Folio to Sense Touchbase

Pears. It was incredible to see how Shakespeare can be made accessible to all through audio descriptions of Shakespeare's plays, objects that represent different plays, 3D tactile posters and 19th century braille, embossed and moon type texts. I really enjoyed taking part in the event as it adapted Shakespeare in ways that I hadn't thought of before; creating an inclusive, creative space for everyone to join in.



Another part of my work experience involved learning about the role of the archivists. I found this very intriguing since this was the first time I had been in the archives. I practiced putting data about different Shakespearean programmes and photographs from plays into spreadsheets to be entered into databases. I particularly enjoyed learning how to digitise items from the archives using Photoshop as it was interesting to use modern technology and software to better understand how Shakespearean plays had been interpreted by directors in past productions.



Seeing the 'stacks' at the top of the library, was one of my favourite parts of the week. It was fascinating to see the vast array of items that have been collected by the library. I thought it was amazing how the library has conserved the objects of our past, which demonstrates the importance of protecting our history.

I have truly had an incredible time completing my work experience and appreciate the vital work of the 'Everything to Everybody' project, in preserving our local history and promoting it to the wider community.

