



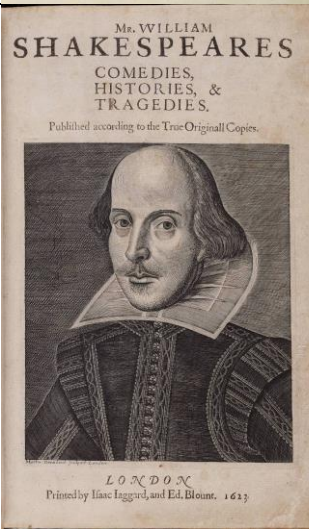
# Inside Shakespeare: 400 Years of the First Folio Carol Ann Lloyd for Smithsonian Associates, January 2023

The First Folio, printed in 1623, was the first printed collection of “all” the plays of Shakespeare. The First Folio grouped the plays as comedies, histories, and tragedies. The Catalogue of the First Folio, which includes 35 plays (*Troilus and Cressida* was added later and is not included in this list).

**A C A T A L O G V E**  
of the severall Comedies, Histories, and Tragedies contained in this Volume.

<b>COMEDIES.</b>		
<i>The Tempt.</i> Fol. 1.	<i>The Eighth part of King Henry the first.</i> 46	
<i>The two Gentlemen of Verona.</i> 30	<i>The Second part of King Henry the fourth.</i> 74	
<i>The Merry Wives of Windsor.</i> 38	<i>The Life of King Henry the fifth.</i> 69	
<i>Much adoe about Nothing.</i> 61	<i>The First part of King Henry the sixth.</i> 94	
<i>The Comedy of Errors.</i> 85	<i>The Third part of King Henry the sixth.</i> 120	
<i>Much adoe about Nothing.</i> 101	<i>The Tragedie of King Henry the sixth.</i> 147	
<i>Love's Labour's lost.</i> 123	<i>The Life or Death of Richard the third.</i> 172	
<i>Missumers Night's Dream.</i> 145	<i>The Life of King Henry the eighth.</i> 205	
<i>The Merchant of Venice.</i> 161	<b>T R A G E D I E S.</b>	
<i>As you Like it.</i> 185	<i>The Tragedie of Coriolanus.</i> Fol. 1.	
<i>The Taming of the Shrew.</i> 208	<i>Titus Andronicus.</i> 81	
<i>All's well, that ends well.</i> 230	<i>Romeo and Juliet.</i> 83	
<i>Twelfth Night, or what you will.</i> 255	<i>Timon of Athens.</i> 80	
<i>The Winter's Tale.</i> 294	<i>The Life and death of Julius Caesar.</i> 109	
<b>HISTORIES.</b>		
	<i>The Tragedie of Hamlet.</i> 131	
	<i>King Lear.</i> 183	
	<i>Shew the Mores of Venice.</i> 191	
	<i>The Life and Death of King John.</i> Fol. 1.	
	<i>Anthony and Cleopatra.</i> 148	
	<i>The Life or death of Richard the second.</i> 21	
	<i>Constantine King of Britain.</i> 169	

The Droeshout portrait is one of the few (2 or 3) portraits that is “definitely” Shakespeare and one that was commissioned and approved by people who knew him.



The Globe Theatre was built in 1599. Shakespeare became a shareholder as part of the building project, which means he began receiving a “cut” of ticket sales. The Globe was only one of the theatres where Shakespeare’s plays were performed, but it’s the one most associated with him and his plays.



English History	Year	Shakespeare and Theatre History
Elizabeth I becomes Queen	1558	
	1564	William Shakespeare born
Pope excommunicates Elizabeth	1570	Catholic plots against Elizabeth I increase
	1576	John Shakespeare's fortunes decline; Theatre built
	1577	The Curtain built in London
	1582	Shakespeare (18) marries Anne Hathaway (26)
Tydney and Walsingham form Queen Elizabeth's Men acting company	1583	Susannah Shakespeare born (6 months after wedding)
	1585	Judith and Hamnet Shakespeare born
Mary Queen of Scots executed	1587	The Rose built in London
England defeats Spanish Armada	1588	
	1590-3	<i>Two Gentlemen of Verona; The Taming of the Shrew; Henry VI parts 1, 2, 3; Titus Andronicus</i>
	1592	Robert Greene's <i>Groats-Worth of Wit</i> published
Plague hits London	1592-4	Theatres closed
	1593	<i>Venus and Adonis</i> published
	1594	<i>Rape of Lucrece</i> published; Theatres reopen; <i>Richard III</i> performed (written earlier?)
	1595	The Swan built in London
	1595-6	<i>Love's Labours Lost, Midsummer Night's Dream, Romeo and Juliet, Richard II, King John</i>
	1596-7	<i>Merchant of Venice, Henry IV part 1</i>
	1597-8	<i>Henry IV part 2, Merry Wives of Windsor (?)</i>
	1598	Lord Admiral's and Lord Chamberlain's Men licensed to play in London; <i>Much Ado about Nothing</i>
Earl of Essex arrested for defying orders in Irish campaign	1599	The Globe built in London; <i>Julius Caesar, Henry V, As You Like It</i>
	1600	The Fortune built in London; <i>Hamlet</i>
Essex rebellion fails;	1601	<i>Twelfth Night</i> ; Essex supporters commission <i>Richard II</i>
	1601-2	<i>Troilus and Cressida</i>
Queen Elizabeth I dies; James I takes throne	1603	Lord Chamberlain's Men become King's Men and participate in coronation of James I
	1604	<i>Measure for Measure</i>
	1604-6	<i>Timon of Athens, All's Well that Ends Well</i>
Gunpowder Plot prevented	1605	
	1606	<i>King Lear, Macbeth</i>
	1606-7	<i>Antony and Cleopatra</i>
	1608	<i>Coriolanus; Pericles</i>
	1610	<i>Cymbeline</i>
King James Bible published	1611	First performances in Blackfriars Theatre; <i>The Tempest, The Winter's Tale</i>
	1613	<i>Henry VIII</i> ; Globe burns down
	1613-4	<i>Two Noble Kinsman</i>
	1616	Shakespeare dies
	1623	"First Folio" printed

# Shakespeare Select Bibliography (a place to start)

## **Websites**

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\*\*\*Folger editions, paperback or online at [www.folgerdigitaltexts.org](http://www.folgerdigitaltexts.org)

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Podcast: British History: Royals, Rebels, and Romantics  
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