



FROM THE DIRECTOR



The entire institution embarked on strategic planning this year, a process that is both timely and apt for an institution like ours. The Folger approaches strategic planning from a position of strength, and I believe the results of the plan, which will be completed next year and carried out over the next decade, will affirm that we have the right mission, the right collection, and the right building for what we want to do. Indeed, perhaps the most striking finding I have made in this process is that the Folgers themselves—in crafting this Library for the nation’s capitol—were inclined to think big. Our beautiful

building could have been placed in New York, but it wasn’t: in creating a space that is designed to gain national attention, and thus a national audience, around the interpretation and performance of early modern materials, they committed the Folger to a unique set of challenges. How do we meet the public, create the next generation of audiences and scholars, while advancing scholarly inquiry? This challenge is built into the fabric of the Paul Cret building we occupy, and it is one that our plan is going to embrace.

We are already well on our way toward meeting some of these challenges, even if there is more work ahead. Just looking at the Folger’s activities this year, I think we see some of these commitments and priorities being realized. Three events during the last year were exemplary of this dynamic relationship between scholarship and public engagement. Our production of Susanne Centlivre’s Restoration comedy, *The Gaming Table*, was a great success: what other institution could reach into the haystack of the past and show off this little known gem in such a warm, appealing way? Alongside the production was a beautiful exhibition, *Shakespeare’s Sisters*, which showed the astonishing riches in our collection furnished by women writers from across early modern Europe. A companion volume of writings by contemporary female writers, all engaged with writers from this earlier tradition, cemented the link between past and present. And during our last year, Folger Education, in partnership with Alabama Public Television, invited young people to make an even more meaningful connection to our Library: a “virtual field trip” brought 320,000 students into the Folger, allowing them to interact with us in real time on the web.

There is a classical rhetorical technique called “praeteritio,” in which the speaker says that he or she cannot possibly say all that can be said on a given topic, but then goes on to say a few things anyway. As the Director of the Folger, I am constantly employing this technique, trying to capture—in as few words as I am able—the real depth and breadth of what we do. The Folger is an extraordinary place, and I have only pointed at three among a multitude of the events that have advanced our mission. We will continue to live up to the “big idea” embodied in this Library by its founders, and I will still struggle to keep up with the great work undertaken by our staff. It is a happy fate and one that, with your help, we will continue to embrace in the coming years.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Witmore". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

Michael Witmore

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Institutions are living organisms more than we often recognize. They keep moving to thrive. Even as vital and dynamic a place as Folger must never be content to be at rest. Complacency would inevitably become decline. So, with great enthusiasm, the Board has welcomed the energetic arrival of our new Director, Mike Witmore, and with his enthusiastic support, has embarked on a strategic planning process which has been, under the superb leadership of Lou Cohen and his committee, examining both where we are and where we ought to be going. One part of the answer to the latter question we have agreed on in advance. That is the Folger's unquestioned commitment to excellence in everything we do, to the continuation of the application of the utmost rigor to every aspect of the realization of Folger's mission. As all of us know, circumstances of our times make even more important promulgation of the lessons of the humanities. How Folger can best contribute, within its spheres of influences, to this larger endeavor is what our strategic plan will address.



As in any year, the Board itself this year has also been constant motion. With regret we said goodbye, with gratitude, to Lady Julia Sheinwald, as she and her husband moved on to new postings. And with mixed feelings of pride and regret we accepted the resignation of Cullen Murphy, who has contributed so much to our deliberations over the past six years with his thoughtful judgment, common sense, and historically informed perspective. We celebrate, however, the reason for his departure as he assumes the chair of the Board of Trustees of Amherst College, our sister institution, and welcome the enhanced opportunities it brings. We have now a perfect storm of confluence of the arrival of Mike Witmore at Folger, Biddy Martin as President of Amherst, and Cullen Murphy as Amherst Chair, raising great hope for increased interaction and the sharing of our vast resources with each other. Such combined efforts will benefit not only the immediate constituencies of each institution, but also that larger cause of spreading the messages the humanities offer to other audiences.

With enthusiasm too we welcome new members to our Board of Governors. Andrew Oliver comes to us from a distinguished career in the worlds of scholarship and museums, Roger Millay from ones in finance and accounting, Andrew Nussbaum, an Amherst Trustee with legal and financial expertise, and Lady Westmacott, wife of the new British Ambassador, with her own record of accomplishments in international and cultural affairs. Each will have much to contribute going forward through the strategic planning process and implementation of the ultimate plan.

Best of all (if there can be a "best" among equals) is our joy in welcoming back to the Board our own Gail Kern Paster, former Board member, past Director, distinguished scholar, and, most wonderful of all, dear friend to each of us and to Folger itself.

We face an exciting year. Join us, in person at the Library, for a play, a concert, a reading, a lecture—or join us online. Either way you, and Folger, will be enriched.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "P. T. Ruxin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Paul T. Ruxin

The mission of the Folger Shakespeare Library is to preserve and enhance its **collections**;



Major New Acquisitions

Nine previously lost drawings by Wyndham Lewis illustrating a never-produced edition of *Timon of Athens* are identified.

The Folger acquires the theatrical archive of the late actress and playwright Lynn Redgrave, who served on the library's Board of Governors and debuted two of her plays here: *Shakespeare for My Father* and *Rachel and Juliet*.

Collection Care

The Library embarks on phase 2 of the Folger Sustainable Preservation Environment Project to make capital improvements to ensure long-term preservation and storage of the collection of Shakespeare and early modern European resources.

to render the collections, in appropriate formats, **accessible** to scholars;

Access Initiatives

The National Endowment for the Humanities awards the Folger two major grants: *British Book Illustration: Extending Access to Seventeenth-Century Visual Culture* to index and digitize 10,000 woodcuts in books, and a 2013 summer institute titled *Early Modern Digital Agendas*.

The Folger's digital image database hits a milestone of 50,000 images, including books, theatrical memorabilia, letters, diaries, manuscripts, photographs, art, and maps.

[More at www.folger.edu/digitalcollection](http://www.folger.edu/digitalcollection)

Reader/Reference Services

Library staff welcome 775 on-site readers, 36% of whom were using the Folger collection for the first time, and answer 1,230 reference questions.

A study reveals that research topics for Folger readers include not only Shakespeare and English and European literature, but also art, music, printing, science, medicine, theater history, philosophy, religion, and American history.

The Folger's Hamnet database now holds more than 200,000 individual records of books, manuscripts, and other items in the collection.

To view complete lists of donors, committee members, volunteers, and staff members, as well as the FY12 audited financial reports, go to www.folger.edu/annualreport.

and to advance **understanding and appreciation** of Shakespeare's writing and of Early Modern Europe more generally...



Folger Institute

Sarah Beckwith of Duke University delivers the Shakespeare's Birthday lecture on *What Mamillius Knew: Ceremonies of Initiation in The Winter's Tale*.

A fall conference in conjunction with the *Manifold Greatness* exhibition explores *An Anglo-American History of the KJV*. Other seminars focus on the law, epistemology, American political thought, editing, and sacraments in sixteenth-century England.

[More at www.folger.edu/institute](http://www.folger.edu/institute)

Fellowship Program

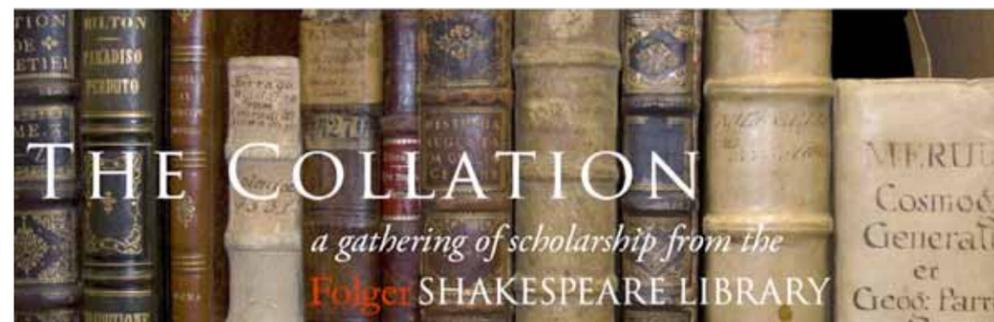
Five long-term and 47 short-term fellows are selected for residencies in the 2012-13 academic year.

Thirty-three fellows present their research at the Works-in-Progress series of lunchtime talks for readers and staff.

[More at www.folger.edu/fellows](http://www.folger.edu/fellows)

(from top) Folger Fellows Danny Scheie, Anne Coldiron, Jean-Christophe Mayer, William Sherman.

TOP PHOTO BY CHRIS HARTLOVE.
BOTTOM THREE PHOTOS BY JULIE AINSWORTH



Shakespeare Quarterly

2012 marks the 40th anniversary of *Shakespeare Quarterly's* move to the Folger from the Shakespeare Association of America, which founded the publication in 1950.

SQ publishes special issues on Shakespeare and Performance and

Hamlet, and initiates an online forum, "After SAA," to discuss papers presented at the annual meeting of the Shakespeare Association of America.

[More at www.folger.edu/sqforum](http://www.folger.edu/sqforum)

Folger Shakespeare Editions

All 40 of the Folger Edition editions become available as PDFs and the most popular five plays are produced as ePub texts for the iPad, with conversions of an additional ten plays in the offing.

Digital texts of twelve of the most popular plays from the Folger Editions are poised to launch in late 2012.

[More at www.folgerdigitaltexts.org](http://www.folgerdigitaltexts.org)

An audio recording of the Folger Edition of *Othello* is made with the cast of the successful stage production.

The Collation offers informative, witty, and challenging posts on a variety of subjects that help introduce objects from the Folger collection to a general and scholarly audience.

[More at www.folger.edu/collation](http://www.folger.edu/collation)

Undergraduate Programs

In addition to the Amherst Folger Undergraduate Fellowships, the 6th annual Undergraduate Research Seminar introduces students from the George Washington University, the University of Maryland, and American University to research methods.

[More at www.folger.edu/undergraduates](http://www.folger.edu/undergraduates)

...through various programs designed for all **students**...

Education Programs

More than 320,000 students and teachers from all 50 states view the Folger's first electronic field trip, which offers a tour of the rare book vault, a scholarly discussion in the Gail Kern Paster Reading Room, and a session with actors in the Elizabethan Theatre.

More than 2,000 students "make a scene" at performance festivals on the Elizabethan stage, including the Emily Jordan Folger Children's Shakespeare Festival, the Secondary School Shakespeare Festival, and Shakespeare at School: The Folger/George Didden Memorial Project on Capitol Hill.

Funded for a second year through NEA's Shakespeare for a New Generation initiative, the Folger Teaching Artists in the Schools program offers classroom residencies to ten local high schools from teaching artists who prepare students to perform in the Secondary School Shakespeare Festival.



The Teaching Shakespeare website is visited by more than 386,000 visitors from 192 countries; total pages viewed top 1.3 million.

Education staff facilitates two webinars with the New York Institute of Technology, on teaching Shakespeare in elementary schools and on the Common Core Standards and teaching Shakespeare.

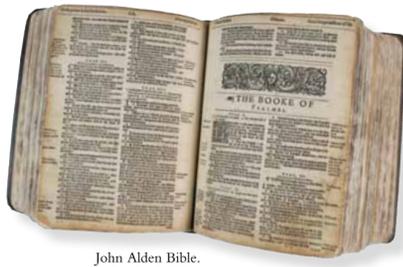


Folger Education's Caitlin Griffin (left) reviews student questions while actor Marcus Kyd and host Casey Kaleba prepare for one of the field trip's live segments.

...and for the general public.

Exhibitions

Manifold Greatness: The Creation and Afterlife of the King James Bible Hannibal Hamlin (The Ohio State University) with Steven Galbraith (Andrew W. Mellon Curator of Rare Books, Folger Shakespeare Library)



John Alden Bible, 1620. © The Pilgrim Society, Pilgrim Hall Museum.



Nicholas Hilliard. Portrait of Mary Sidney, Circa 1590. © National Portrait Gallery, London.

Shakespeare's Sisters: Voices of English and European Women Writers, 1500-1700 Georgianna Ziegler (Louis B. Thalheimer Head of Reference Folger Shakespeare Library)

In conjunction with the *Shakespeare's Sisters* exhibition, Louisa Newlin and Gigi Bradford edit a chapbook of original work by more than a dozen women poets, including Maxine Kumin, Jane Smiley, and Rita Dove.

Manifold Greatness was the most visited Folger exhibition in recent history. Traveling panel exhibitions continue to tour the country, and the associated website is the recipient of the 2012 Leab Award presented by the Rare Book and Manuscripts section of the Association of College and Research Libraries.

More at www.manifoldgreatness.org

Open City: London, 1500-1700 Kathleen Lynch (Executive Director, Folger Institute) and Betsy Walsh (Folger Shakespeare Library)



PHOTO BY LLOYD WOLF

Folger Consort. *A Renaissance Christmas*, The Tallis Scholars

Folger Consort

Revelations: Music of Visions and Visionaries is the theme of the Consort's 2011/12 season, which celebrates the 400th anniversary of the King James Bible, Christmas music from Renaissance Spain, selections from the Medici Court and 15th-century Burgundy, and the music of outstanding female composers such as Hildegard von Bingen.

The Consort releases its first new album in more than a decade, *A New Song*, to coincide with the Folger's celebration of the 400th anniversary of the King James Bible.

In January, the renowned vocal ensemble Anonymous 4 performs with the Folger Consort at the National Cathedral, drawing more than 3,100 people to the two concerts.

Shop online at www.folger.edu/shop

PEN/Faulkner Fiction Series

Julie Otsuka, author of *The Buddha in the Attic*, wins the 2012 PEN/Faulkner Award for Fiction; finalists include Russell Banks, Don DeLillo, Anita Desai, and Steven Milhauser.



PHOTO BY ROBERT BESSOR

Julie Otsuka

The 2011/12 Reading Series features Ann Patchett, Gary Shteyngart, Stacy Schiff, Dagoberto Gilb, Allegra Goodman, Gish Jen, and Edith Pearlman (winner of the PEN/Malamud Award).

Director Michael Witmore (left) with poet Robert Pinsky



PHOTO BY MIG DOOLEY

Six of the women writers represented in the chapbook accompanying the Shakespeare's Sisters exhibition come together for a celebratory evening and a reading of this commissioned work.

Director Michael Witmore delivers a free talk on *Data-Mining Shakespeare*, author Arthur Phillips discusses his book, *The Tragedy of Arthur*, and, in partnership with the National Museum of Women in the Arts, Eleanor Holdridge and Georgianna Ziegler hold "A Conversation about Susanna Centlivre."

Podcasts of lectures at www.folger.edu/pocasts

Folger Poetry/Lecture Series

The O.B. Hardison Poetry Series features readings by Robert Pinsky, Gary Snyder, Eavan Boland, Aracelis Girmay on Emily Dickinson, and the new US Poet Laureate Natasha Trethewey.

Lectures presented in conjunction with the *Manifold Greatness* exhibition include Jill Lepore on *KJV in the USA: The King's Bible in a Country without a King* and Jacqueline Osherow and Michele Osherow on *Poetics and the Bible*.



PHOTO BY JAMES BRANTLEY

'Wait, Wait... Forsooth!' at the 2012 Gala.

'Food, fun, and merriment' was had at the 2012 Folger Gala, which featured a 'Wait, Wait... Forsooth!' parody of the popular NPR program with Carl Kassell and Roxanne Roberts. The event was chaired by David Gardner, Folger Board member and Chairman of The Motley Fool, and his wife Margaret.

REPORT OF DONORS

The Folger is extremely grateful to all those who have provided financial support or in-kind contributions for the Library and its programs during Fiscal Year 2011-2012. For our honor roll of donors representing gifts of \$250 or more, please visit the online Annual Report posted on our website at www.folger.edu/annualreport.

We extend special appreciation to the donors who made major gifts between July 1, 2011 and June 30, 2012. We are also grateful to the many contributors whose names space will not permit us to print and who have pledged support for future years.



2012 Folger Gala

PHOTO BY JAMES BRANTLEY

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Gifts and grants with a cumulative total of \$20,000 or more

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Folger Shakespeare Library's premiere membership group

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2012 Folger Gala Sponsors

Folger Shakespeare Library's annual benefit event, which took place on April 18, 2012

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2011-12 First Folio Society Members

The First Folio Society honors friends who have included the Folger Shakespeare Library in their estate plans through a will commitment, a life income gift, or a beneficiary designation in a life insurance policy or retirement plan

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*Deceased



Othello

PHOTO BY CAROL PRATT

Folger Theatre

Othello Robert Richmond, director

The Gaming Table By Susanna Centlivre with additional material by David Grimm Eleanor Holdridge, director

The Taming of the Shrew Aaron Posner, director



PHOTO BY CAROL PRATT

The Gaming Table



PHOTO BY CAROL PRATT

The Taming of the Shrew

Aaron Posner's staging of *Cyrano* from the 2010/11 season wins the Helen Hayes Award for Outstanding Director

Folger Theatre productions fill the Elizabethan Theater to 92% capacity, welcoming nearly 33,000 patrons during its 2011/12 season.

The Gaming Table, closely adapted from Susanna Centlivre's *The Basset Table*, is produced in conjunction with the *Shakespeare's Sisters* exhibition and celebration of early modern women writers.

Two plays developed by Folger Theatre are seen in other major national venues: *Cyrano*, adapted by Michael Hollinger and Aaron Posner, is produced by Philadelphia's Arden Theatre, and Robert Richmond's Helen Hayes award-winning *Henry VIII* is staged at the Alabama Shakespeare Festival.

For a behind-the-scenes look at productions, visit www.folger.edu/theatervideos.

More on exhibitions, concerts, theater, poetry, readings, and lectures at www.folger.edu/whatson

The Library is also profoundly grateful to the committee members, volunteers, and staff members whose time and effort make the work of the institution possible. We encourage you to visit the online version of the Annual Report at www.folger.edu/annualreport for a complete list of these individuals.

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On the cover: Shakespeare's Birthday Open House, 2012
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