

To Catch a Thief: Recovering the Durham First Folio

A Folger Shakespeare Library podcast

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Fame, Fortune & Theft: The Shakespeare First Folio

Folger Shakespeare Library

The speakers were introduced by Stephen Enniss, Eric Weinmann Librarian, Folger Shakespeare Library.

Stephen Enniss: It's a special pleasure to share the story we have for you tonight, because the story relates so directly to the themes of our current exhibition, *Fame, Fortune, and Theft*, which you'll see afterwards in the Great Hall. That exhibition, I would note, has been favorably reviewed in the online edition of the *New York Times*, out today. It's also a special pleasure to share this story with you because my Folger colleagues distinguish themselves so admirably in identifying and repatriating the stolen copy, and because the story is a happy one for all of us who care about our common cultural heritage.

As you may already know from stories in the *Post* and elsewhere, the stolen volume was recently recovered and returned to Durham, thanks to the joint efforts of the two speakers you will hear from in a moment, and a number of others who it's my pleasure to thank here tonight. Among them: my predecessor, Librarian Richard Kuhta. Our colleague from the Library of Congress, Daniel de Simone. Independent appraiser, Stephen Massey. Anthony West, compiler of the census of all known First Folios. FBI Special Agent Greg Horner. And Michael Callan and Tim Lerner of the Durham Constabulary.

Shakespeare's First Folio commands high prices when, on those rare occasions, a copy comes on the market. Sotheby's recently sold a First Folio to an American collector for close to four million dollars. But I would quickly add that our own interest in the First

Folio is an interest in its research value. The Folger, after all, will never sell any of the 82 First Folios in its collection. So its monetary value ceases to have any meaning for the work that we do.

Instead, one of the guiding principles of our work is that it is intellectual context that provides meaning and value—that a rare book, a work of art, or a manuscript may be better understood and appreciated more fully when it comes to rest in a research collection like this one here, surrounded by related materials. I would add the Folger Shakespeare Library is the very best place for establishing that context and that understanding. In contrast, the story we're going to hear in a moment is all about money, all about greed, deceit, and a disregard for that common cultural heritage.

Sharing this sordid tale are two colleagues who are directly involved in the case, but I quickly add, their hands are clean. In fact, we're proud, justifiably proud, to have played a part in the recovery of the Durham Folio and glad to have played a part in its return to Durham. In a moment, we we will hear from them, from Dr. Steven Galbraith, Andrew W. Mellon curator of books, and Renate Mesmer, Eric Weinmann head of conservation. Alas, another key participant, Mr. Raymond Scott, is not able to be with us for this program this evening, as he is now serving an eight-year sentence in the Acklington Prison in remote Northumberland. Without further ado, Dr. Steven Galbraith.

Steven Galbraith: Thank you, Steve. Good evening. Before we begin, I want to thank Barbara Mowat and the editors of our Folger Shakespeare editions for producing the books that are now holding up our projector here. And, with that in mind, kind of a house announcement, please, nobody go near the projector now. It's not terribly stable.

Okay, good evening. I'm Steven Galbraith, I'm the curator of books here at the Folger. I'm joined this evening by my friend and colleague, Renate Mesmer, our newly appointed head of conservation. And the two of us will share with you a behind-the-scenes look at the events surrounding the reappearance, identification, and return of the Durham First Folio of Shakespeare's works, and our own personal interactions with it.

The story caught the attention of a great many people because, as you will see, it's an intriguing and somewhat scandalous story. You'll be happy to know that we've kept the outrageous stuff in. But for those of us who worked on the case, it was mostly about bibliography, and the ways in which a knowledge of printing history and experience with rare books led to this precious, invaluable book being returned to its proper home. I was going to thank the very people that Steve already thanked, so I'll skip that. But I will add to it Georgianna Ziegler, head of reference, who's not here tonight.

The story begins on Monday, June 16, 2008. Folger Librarian Richard Kuhta sits working in his office, taking advantage of a morning free of appointments. He receives a call from Officer Frederick Baylor, who says there's a man named Raymond Scott at the Folger security desk who's requesting to see him and show him a book. Six months from retirement, Richard has no idea the events that are about to unfold and the effect that they would have on the next two years of his life.

As Richard later recalls, Raymond Scott was—here, I'm going to quote Richard—conspicuously bejeweled and shaded in Fendi sunglasses, with linen slacks and Gucci loafers, bedecked in a spanking new, oversized T-shirt with a large gamefish on its chest. He'd arrived from Cuba, he said, where the fishing was fine. He occupied a villa there and had properties in Monaco and Switzerland. He said he was very comfortable, able to travel the world at will. A friend in Cuba had inherited a book he thought might be valuable. So he flew from Havana to Washington, DC, to show us this book. Richard escorts Raymond Scott to his office, where Scott opens his brown leather briefcase and pulls a book out of a plastic bag.

What Richard sees is unimaginable. What he sees is this. And I'm going to be referring to this book as the Recovered Folio throughout this presentation. The book has no binding, and is missing several leaves. Scott says that it might be a Shakespeare First Folio and wants it authenticated.

Richard can't be sure at first glance, particularly considering its condition. He later recalls finding it strange that when he expressed doubts, Scott quickly assured him that it was a First Folio. Perhaps he had done some research and knows that he has a copy of one of the most valuable printed books in the world. He seems sure of the book that he wants authenticated.

Scott has brought the book to the right place. As most of you know, the Folger Library owns 82 First Folios. I should pause here; some of you might be more familiar with our old count of 79. There were fragments in our collection that, although unbound, comprised more than some of our bound volumes, so we've cataloged them now. So the number's now 82. We didn't buy any new books or Folios, that is. So we own 82 First Folios and the Folger's the world's center for First Folio research.

As our current exhibition demonstrates, and I do hope you all get to tour the exhibition, perhaps no artifact represents William Shakespeare more than the First Folio. Published in 1623, it was the first collection of English plays to be published in folio, a

format that typically produces the largest books. The book contains 36 plays, eighteen of which had never before appeared in print. Thus, without the First Folio, plays such as *Macbeth*, *Julius Caesar*, *Twelfth Night*, and *The Tempest* would be unknown to modern audiences.

In addition to preserving half of Shakespeare's corpus, the First Folio features an engraved title page portrait of Shakespeare that has come to be the most recognizable depiction of the Bard. And I'll show you a picture of that in a moment. It is just one of two surviving contemporary likenesses of Shakespeare, the other being the bust from Holy Trinity Church in Stratford-upon-Avon, where Shakespeare's buried.

Back to Richard and Scott. Richard Kuhta asked Raymond Scott for 48 hours, so that his staff could authenticate the book. Scott agrees, and leaves the book with Richard, who gives him a receipt for it. I just want to pause here, to add that you'll notice how wisely Richard's behaving. And I can't stress enough how amazing Richard is throughout this story. Each move he makes is so thoughtful and on the mark.

Folger reference librarian Georgianna Ziegler and I both independently examine the book. Comparing it to Folger copies of the First Folio, as well as the Second Folio, which has many similarities to the First. The Second's in some way a reprint of the First with some added material in the preliminaries. We both conclude that is indeed a First Folio, though a damaged one.

The leaf facing the title page, containing Ben Jonson's dedicatory poem, the title page with the famous portrait of Shakespeare, and the colophon page, all shown here from a Folger copy of the First Folio, are all missing from the Recovered Folio, along with the book's binding.

On the morning of June 18, Raymond Scott returns to meet with Richard Kuhta, who shares the staff's preliminary assessment that the book is indeed a First Folio. Scott is delighted and asks, should we go to the *Washington Post* with an announcement? Richard says no, and explains that because the potential value of the book, the Folger's preliminary assessment needs to be confirmed and suggests getting a second opinion from an outside expert.

He suggests Stephen C. Massey, independent rare books appraiser and senior international consultant for Bloomsbury Auctions in New York. Raymond Scott agrees. That morning, Raymond Scott brings a present for Richard Kuhta. Reaching into his briefcase, he produces a box of 25 Cuban cigars. He jokes that he smuggled them out

of Cuba just for Richard. Richard replies that he doesn't smoke. Thus, in the coming days, Scott would also give Richard a box of three bowties, with a gift receipt recording the purchase.

Later, closing the door behind him, Scott would place 25 100-dollar bills on the table in Richard's office for membership in the Renaissance Circle of the Folger Friends of the Library. Richard takes the money and signs him up. We think this may have actually been a bribe. But librarians are so rarely bribed, we can't be really sure.

On June 19, Richard invites Daniel de Simone, curator of the Rosenwald Collection at the Library of Congress, to examine the Shakespeare volume. Based on his examination, De Simone concludes that the binding appears to have been recently stripped and that the book lacks any evidence of former ownership. He thinks it could be a stolen First Folio. Folger conservator Renate Mesmer has had similar concerns while examining the books in our conservation lab.

Later that morning, Richard Kuhta contacts Stephen Massey, who agrees to come to Washington to examine the unbound volume. The purpose for his visit, in his capacity as an independent rare books appraiser, is to determine the value of the book and to suggest whether the volume would be saleable. Behind the scenes, he's also going to help determine whether or not it's a stolen copy and if so, what copy it could be.

Richard Kuhta telephones Raymond Scott at his room in the Mayflower Hotel to advise him that he had spoken to Stephen Massey, who had not be able to come to Washington to look at the book until June 26 or 27. So about a week later, Scott expresses his appreciation for Mr. Massey's efforts, offers to pay Mr. Massey's expenses, and assures Richard that he's happy to leave the volume in the custody of the Folger Library, being assured that the volume is going to be stored in a library vault.

It is agreed that Scott will return to the library that afternoon for a tour. When he arrives that afternoon, he has a final gift. A cheesecake, for Folger tea time, prepared by the pastry chef at the Mayflower Hotel. Its icing reads, "Shakespeare First Folio 1623" question mark.

What you see here is actually a replica of the cake that was prepared for the making of a BBC documentary in the Durham case that recently aired in England and in the U.S. on the Smithsonian Channel. It's called *Stealing Shakespeare*. I should mention that on the cake that Scott brought, "Shakespeare" was actually misspelled. No one remembers

exactly how it was misspelled, and, as Georgianna likes to say, the evidence has been eaten.

After tea, Raymond Scott announces that he's returning to Cuba and leaves the First Folio with the Folger as agreed. On the morning of June 27, Stephen Massey arrives at the Folger to examine the book. His approach is brilliantly simple. Using a census detailing all known surviving copies of the First Folio, prepared by scholar Anthony James West, Massey has prepared a list of all missing copies and their physical dimensions. In a matter of minutes, he measures the Recovered Folio and matches its dimensions, 330 by 210 millimeters, to a copy stolen from Durham University in 1998.

I'll blow this up. This is the actual list of dimensions that he brought with him. Because First Folios were bound and rebound by different owners over the course of centuries, very few have the same dimensions. According to West's census, only two surviving First Folios measure 330 by 210.

The information on the Durham First Folio provided by Anthony West—who I should remind you is the co-curator of our current exhibition—in his census would prove invaluable. In addition to the book's dimensions, West notes a manuscript inscription, *Troilus and Cressida*, added to the book's Table of Contents. The play *Troilus and Cressida* was a late addition to the First Folio and therefore, does not appear in the printed list of plays. An early reader of the Durham Folio corrected that by adding the title in its appropriate position following the *Life of King Henry VIII*. And here is a photo of the Recovered Folio's catalog page with the inscription. The Recovered Folio was not only the right size, it also had *Troilus and Cressida* added in manuscript.

Scans of the Recovered Folio, including the *Troilus and Cressida* manuscript annotation, are sent to A.I. Doyle, who had worked in the Durham University Library special collections from 1950 until his retirement in 1985, when he was made Honorary Reader in Bibliography. On July 3, he writes to Richard Kuhta to confirm that he had no doubt that the scans he received were from the First Folio with which he had spent so much time, over nearly half a century. He's still working in that collection.

West's entry also identified several distinguishing features in the Durham copy that happened to be located on pages that had been removed from the Recovered Folio. I'll just read through them for you here. So, pasted to the recto of the first free binder's leaf is a letter from the Deanery Norwich, dated December 16, 1914. And that leaf is missing. The dedication written by Ben Jonson that faces the book's title page was inserted in facsimile by Bernard Quaritch, the book dealer, on November 22, 1923. That

leaf is missing. The book's title page has a pressmark, or shelf mark at the top of the page from when the book was housed at Peterhouse, Cambridge. That leaf is missing. Finally there is a large, sorry, largeish, that's how they say it, finally there is a largish repaired hole in the colophon or final page. And that leaf is missing.

West also notes that the Durham copy has gilt edges. The recovered copy has gilt edges. Now this is not uncommon for First Folios with later bindings, but helpful, nevertheless. West also notes that the book has been bound in heavy goatskin. The Recovered Folio has been stripped of its binding. So its binding style isn't apparent, not yet, anyway.

Stephen Massey and Richard Kuhta are confident that they are looking at the Durham First Folio. Early that afternoon, Richard contacts the FBI and Scotland Yard. Scotland Yard informs the Durham police. Raymond Scott never returns to the Folger Shakespeare Library.

At this point, I'm going to turn things over to Renate, who will tell you a little bit about the Durham First Folio and why it's so special.

Renate Mesmer: Good evening. The Durham First Folio is also known as Bishop Cosin's Folio, for it was once owned by John Cosin who lived from 1595 to 1672. Early in his career, he served as Master of Peterhouse, Cambridge. He appears to have purchased his First Folio sometime before 1632, when the Second Folio was published. A royalist with close ties to King Charles I, in 1644, during the English Civil War, Cosin fled to France where he served the court of Queen Henrietta Maria along with others loyal to Charles.

He left his First Folio behind at Peterhouse, and during this time the book received the Peterhouse pressmark, at the top of the now-missing title page. Here is a surviving photograph of the title page to the Durham Folio. It ends up being quite useful, so we'll see it again in a moment. In the upper right, you can see the pressmark, or shelf mark. Remember that this page and this identifying inscription were removed when the Folio was stripped.

Cosin returned to England in 1660, following the Restoration, and was appointed Bishop of Durham. Sometime after his return, Cosin must have gathered up his library in Cambridge and brought it back to Durham, where in 1669, he founded the Episcopal Library on Palace Green, known as the Palace Green Library. It was a public library for

clergy, gentry, and scholars and is still an invaluable resource for researchers in the 21st century.

The library and First Folio officially became part of the University of Durham Library in 1937. The Durham First Folio's connection to Cosin and his uninterrupted chain of provenance make it one of the most valuable surviving copies. Furthermore, its place in Cosin's library may make it the first First Folio to be housed in a public library. Stephen Massey appraised the book at 1.5 million pounds, or roughly 2.5 million dollars, despite missing several key leaves.

The Durham or Cosin First Folio resided in Cosin's library for over three centuries until December 19, 1998, when it was stolen from an exhibition case in the Durham University Library where it was to be part of an exhibition charting the progress of English literature from the Middle Ages to the 20th century.

Evidently, the thief or thieves broke the lock on the glass-topped display cases and stole the First Folio and six other items, including two works by the 10th-century poet Aelfric, printed in 1566, an edition of *Beowulf* printed in 1812, and a 15th-century manuscript, which included a fragment of a poem written by Geoffrey Chaucer. None of these other items have been recovered. I give the stage back to Steve.

Steven Galbraith: While we were beginning to learn quite a bit of the Durham Folio, we know little about Raymond Scott. For all we know, he's jetted off to Cuba, Monaco, or Switzerland, locales in which he claimed he owned homes. A manhunt begins, but doesn't last long.

As luck would have it, Scott calls Richard Kuhta at his Folger office in order to explain that his Folio is not the Durham Folio. He had just heard the bad news from Stephen Massey. While Richard listens, he writes down the number he sees on his caller ID. After the conversation, Richard calls Greg Horner of the FBI and gives him the number. The FBI shares the number with the Durham police. The Durham police locate Scott living, not in Cuba, Monaco, or Switzerland, but in Washington, Tyne and Wear, a small town in the north of England about a 20 minute drive from Durham University, the site of the theft of the Durham First Folio.

He is briefly taken into custody by the Durham police and released on bail. Thus begins a wave of newspaper articles on the recovery of the stolen Folio, but more often on the suspect, Raymond Scott. Articles appear in most of the major newspapers in England and the US, and as far away as India, Bulgaria, and Australia. The world learns about

the Durham Folio and more than anyone would ever want to know about Raymond Scott.

Nothing he told Richard Kuhta is true. He's an unemployed man living with his mother, has rather extravagant tastes which include a Ferrari, Tiffany sunglasses, and a diet of expensive champagne poured into jeweled flutes, which he carries in a briefcase. Evidently, he travels frequently to Cuba to visit his young fiancée, a 21 year old dancer named Heidy Rios, who the newspapers call his "Cuban cutie."

I should pause here for a minute. I remember the morning this article came out. And I went into Richard Kuhta's office. I just came in and said, "Richard, do me a favor. Go to Google, type in Cuban Cutie." And he kind of looked up at me and went... That's how I know we were tight, you know.

This is what the press seems most interested in. The story of their peculiar romance and impending marriage splashes all over the English press, particularly *The Daily Mail*. The Cuban connection turns out to be central to Scott's story about the origins of the First Folio. He claims he received the book from Heidy and her friend, Denny Leon, a former bodyguard to Fidel Castro. He's the large, serious-looking man on your right in this photo.

He says that the book belonged to Leon's deceased mother who kept it for half a century in a wooden box. Once Scott authenticated the book as the First Folio, the plan was to sell it, and to split the proceeds three ways. We later learned that Scott was 90,000 pounds in debt. And from January to May 2008, he had sent Heidy 10,000 pounds. This is at a time when the average monthly salary in Cuba was 10 pounds. This information would later be used in court to show Scott's motive for trying to sell stolen goods.

As the world learns more about Raymond Scott, the Folger staff continues to work with the Durham Folio. Once the identification was made, a collation or bibliographic examination of the Durham First Folio that had been prepared in 1901 by J. T. Fowler and W. Greenwell of Bishop Cosin's Library at Durham is faxed to the Folger from the Stratford Records Office, where it is housed.

The collation provides details not available to in West's census. In preparing their collation, Fowler and Greenwell followed an early printed collation, noting any variants found in their copy. Acquisitions librarian Melissa Cooke and I compare the Fowler Greenwell collation with the Recovered Folio, and find that each of the five

typographical variants observed by Fowler and Greenwell agreed with typographic variants found in the Recovered Folio.

And for the record, I'm just going to read them to you and you get a sense of the sort of detail here. In *The Taming of the Shrew*, page 214 is misprinted 212 in some copies of the First Folio. Both the Durham Folio and the Recovered Folio have the misprint 212. In some copies, signature V is misprinted VV, or two Vs, in *The Taming of the Shrew*. Both the Durham and the Recovered Folio have VV. In *All's Well That Ends Well*, page 237 is misprinted 233 in some copies. Both the Durham Folio and Recovered Folio have 237. In *King Richard II*, or *Richard II*, page 37 is misprinted 39 in some copies. Both the Durham and the Recovered Folio have the misprint 39. Finally, in *Henry VI, Part II*, all of our favorite play, *Henry VI, Part II*, signature M3 is most often misprinted L3. Both the Durham Folio and the Recovered Folio have M3.

Four months later, when Anthony West reviews the evidence we've collected, he concludes that the odds of two First Folios having all of these typographical variants in common was extremely unlikely. Something like a 2 percent chance.

So the matching dimensions, the *Troilus and Cressida* manuscript annotation, the removal of leaves that had specific identifying information, and the collation match is enough evidence to identify the Durham First Folio.

For the time being, the book remains at the Folger, resting peacefully in a nondescript archival box. But soon it will be collected by the FBI and returned to its home in Durham, England. Is there any more evidence to gather before the book leaves the Folger Library? Folger staff begins working on finding more forensic evidence. And I'll now turn things back over to Renate Mesmer.

Renate Mesmer: When Steve brought the book to me, this is what it looked like. The outermost pages were A2 and page 398. The first and the last pages were tattered and partly detached. The sewing thread was coming loose and the sewing supports appeared to have been pulled back and looked somewhat frayed. Before I started my part of the examination on the Recovered Folio, I made myself familiar with the resources that Steve and Georgianna had already used.

I looked at West's description of the First Folios and Fowler's collation notes. In West's description of the Durham Folio, I was interested in this part: It had been bound in heavy goatskin with all edges gilded. Fowler's collation notes also mentioned that it had been bound in brown morocco and gilt edges.

Knowing that the Durham Folio had been bound in goatskin, we took a closer look at the leather remnants that we found on the spine of the stripped Recovered Folio. It was clear and without any doubt that the remnants were leather. But was it goat? To determine if the leather used had been goatskin, I needed to take a closer look at those remnants.

This is a highly magnified image of one of the leather remnants we found, showing oval hair follicles in a wave-like pattern. This is a typical characteristic for goatskin. To confirm my findings, I needed to look at a new heavy brown goatskin, which I knew it was 100 percent goatskin, as a reference for comparison. The hair and follicle patterns had to be the same.

First I would like to show you a set-up at the Werner Gundersheimer Conservation Lab. On the left, the stereo microscope with a 7 to 40 times magnification. On the right, you see the monitor we used for examination, making it possible for a number of people to look at the same image at the same time, versus taking turns on the microscope. And this is where Steve and I actually spent a lot of time during the examinations. Now what you see here, is roughly a 7 to 10 time magnification of the new brown goatskin. And we can already see the follicles in a wave-like pattern. Looking closer, we can now clearly see that the goatskin appears to have oval shaped follicles in a wave-like pattern. This, compared to the remnants of the Recovered Folio, made me conclude that the Recovered Folio was once bound in brown goatskin. But all that said, I'm pretty sure you could have seen that is goat. And I have to say, Steve and I, we had a fun time during the examination.

The next part of the book I looked at were the sewing supports. While examining the textblock, I remembered that West had also said that the front board was breaking away. The 1901 Fowler-Greenwell collation includes a photocopy of a photograph of the Durham First Folio open to its title page. When the photograph was taken, the front board of the book was breaking away from the textblock, as mentioned by West, exposing the sewing supports.

So Steve and I wondered if further evidence could be found in the photograph. On July 15, Richard Kuhta asks Dr. John Hall, Durham University Librarian, for a copy of the photograph, which arrived less than a week later. I scanned the photograph, resized it to the height of the Recovered Folio and printed—I have to say "height and width," actually—and printed out a copy. This allowed me to compare the resized Durham photograph with the actual Recovered Folio first page, A2.

According to the 1901 collation, A2 follows the title page in the Durham copy. By overlaying A2 on top of the title page, I was able to find that the placements of the sewing supports matched, every single one, perfectly. Unless two books were bound at the same bindery, at the same time, and trimmed to the same size, it is highly unlikely that the height of the textblock and the placement of the sewing supports would match on two different copies of a book.

The last part of my examination included looking closely at the first page of the Recovered Folio, page A2. Stains, tears, and creases present very strong evidence to see if pages had been once bound together or not. In this case, I looked very closely at a long crease in particular, on this page.

To make this actually visible for you, I had to enhance the picture of page A2. So first, I made it black and white. Then I enhanced the contrast. Now let's focus on this part of the page. This is where the tear is. And this is the tear I was looking at. So when I compared this to the enhanced image of the Durham title page—I hope everyone can see what I'm trying to explain, it's a little difficult—it was obvious that those two pages had once been bound together. Also, see this tear? Again, another perfect match. With the addition of this forensic evidence to what is already compelling evidence, we were confident that we had built a strong enough case for the FBI and Durham police.

A month after turning over all of this evidence to the authorities, one more key piece of evidence was found. The Recovered Folio has strange wedge-shaped incisions through thirteen leaves of the tragedies. While researching in the Durham archives as an expert witness in the First Folio case, Anthony James West found a pre-theft reference to those, to the holes seen here. There can be no doubting that the Recovered Folio, the volume, is the Durham First Folio. And now Steve is going to finish up our talk.

Steven Galbraith: Before I carry on, I just want to mention that a lot of what you saw in that slideshow came from a Powerpoint that Richard Kuhta, Renate Mesmer, and I prepared for the Durham police while they were here interviewing us. And then, it's part of what they presented in court.

And if you don't mind, I'll just tell a quick story about when the sewing supports match up. And really, it was something that the Durham police found very, very compelling., I think, the physicality of it . And while I was giving my deposition here at the Folger, they had us in a room and they were interviewing us.

And Mick Callan, he's a very lovely guy from the Durham police, we watched that. And he said, this is great. He said, months ago, Steven, we had a case when someone was stabbed. And the knife broke off in his body. The blade was still in him and he threw the hilt into the woods. And we found the hilt and we pulled the blade out and they matched together. And he said to me, this is the same thing. So imagine my horror.

A year and a half passes before Raymond Scott is actually put on trial. During this time the First Folio is returned to its home in Durham University. Raymond Scott, meanwhile, gains further notoriety by making a scene each time he arrives for a court hearing. Here he is, as Bonnie Prince Charlie, with a woman identified as "research assistant." Fidel Castro. He'd often come to court in a stretch Hummer. The *Sun* newspaper dubs him Bling Lear.

All the while, he's carrying a pot noodle, which I take to be sort of an English equivalent of Ramen noodles. Perhaps he was fishing for an endorsement deal. But one deal he does land is a book deal for an autobiography titled *Shakespeare & Love, Much Ado About Nicking*. Currently on sale at Amazon.com. And that should not be taken as a plug. But I will show you the cover. It's real. Renate and I did not make that.

Scott files and loses a civil suit to get the book back. He protests in front of Durham University Library for the return of his book and compares himself to Gandhi. During this time, he is also arrested for stealing books. He admits to stealing two books at Waterstone's at the Metrocentre Mall in Gateshead.

The actual trial finally begins in June 2010, almost exactly two years since the Durham Folio arrived at the Folger. Raymond Scott is charged with the theft of the Durham Folio, handling stolen goods, and transporting stolen goods out of the country. Richard Kuhta from the Folger and Dan de Simone of the Library of Congress are flown to England to testify at the trial. And here they are.

Here they are making the most of it, by retiring to Durham Shakespeare Pub. Earlier I mentioned Mick Callan, who is part of two who were working on this case in the Durham police. I should mention the man on your far right by the door of the pub is Tim Lerner of the Durham police, clearly keeping an eye out for Richard and Dan.

Arriving for the actual trial, Raymond Scott takes a much more sober approach. The prosecution details Scott's 32-year history of petty theft and fraud before turning to the details of the Durham Folio. Scott claims that he, Heidy, and Denny made plans to sell the Folio over a bottle of champagne in Cuba on June 6, 2008, a day he dubbed Folio

Friday. The prosecution have CC TV video and credit card receipts proving that on that day, Folio Friday, he was actually shopping in Sunderland, England. And he had purchased two T-shirts for 100 pounds. Scott claims he flew to Washington, DC, with the Folio from Cuba, via the Bahamas. Police have evidence proving he flew from Heathrow Airport to Dulles Airport.

All of Scott's stories begin to fall apart. His defense attorney takes a different tack. He describes an old fool who didn't know better, a lonely man who fell into temptation. He says, and here I'm going to quote—this is nothing that I said, this is all from the defense attorney, and I won't do my fake defense attorney voice.

He says, yes, "he's feckless and a spendthrift... He is, you may think, of questionable taste. Yes, he's had his head turned. He fell into a honey trap." Again, not my words. But he is just the "sort of bizarre, naïve, out-of-the-mainstream type of character who could be taken in by someone much more worldly and cynical in Cuba... Is this naïve mama's boy simply out of his depth? He's someone who genuinely believes a 21-year-old dancer is his fiancé. Ladies and gentlemen, there is no fool like an old fool." Thus ends the defense attorney.

Two weeks into the trial and after the testimony of Richard Kuhta, Daniel de Simone, Stephen Massey, and Anthony James West, the defense concedes that the First Folio is indeed the Durham Folio. This gives us all at the Folger great, great relief. Not only do we feel good about the work we've done, Georgianna Ziegler and I are relieved that we no longer need to testify at the trial, which we were supposed to have done via satellite from the British Embassy.

In the end, Raymond Scott is found guilty of handling a stolen possession and smuggling it into the US. But there is not enough evidence to convict him of stealing the First Folio. He's sentenced to eight years in prison.

I'd like to conclude our presentation with the Where Are They Now? segment. Richard Kuhta is finally happily retired to an undisclosed location and is more concerned with gardening than First Folios. The Cuban cigars—I was under the impression that the Cuban cigars Raymond Scott gave to Richard, 25 in all, were taken into the custody of the FBI. But I just recently learned, literally days ago, that they were smoked by book appraiser, Stephen Massey. Raymond Scott had also sent him 50 cigars. The total is now 75.

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Raymond Scott is behind bars in the Acklington Jail in Northumberland, where he currently volunteers in the prison library. And finally, the Durham First Folio is still back home at Durham University. From January to March of this year, it was on display in an exhibition called *The Treasures of Durham University*. Currently, it's receiving conservation treatment. And with that happy ending, our story ends, too. And we're happy to take any questions that you might have. Thank you very much.

