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Rare Shakespeare First Folio to tour all 50 states, DC, and Puerto Rico in 2016

*Folger Announces 52 Locations for National Traveling Exhibition to
Mark the 400th Anniversary of Shakespeare's Death*

Washington, DC—The Folger Shakespeare Library is pleased to announce the tour sites for its 2016 national traveling exhibition of *First Folio! The Book that Gave Us Shakespeare*, one of the world's most treasured books. In partnership with Cincinnati Museum Center and the American Library Association, the Folger will tour the original 1623 First Folio of Shakespeare to all 50 states, Washington, DC, and Puerto Rico. The locations include 23 museums, 20 universities, five public libraries, three historical societies, and a theater.

"The First Folio is the book that gave us Shakespeare. Between its covers we discover his most famous characters—Hamlet, Desdemona, Cordelia, Macbeth, Romeo, Juliet, and hundreds of others—speaking words that continue to move and inspire us," said Michael Witmore, Director of the Folger Shakespeare Library. "Shakespeare tells the human story like no one else. He connects us to each other, to our history, and to themes and ideas that touch us every day. We are delighted that we can share this precious resource with people everywhere, from San Diego, California, to Gurabo, Puerto Rico, from Eugene, Oregon, to Duluth, Minnesota."

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The First Folio, which is the first collected edition of Shakespeare's plays, was published in 1623, seven years after Shakespeare's death. John Heminge and Henry Condell, two of Shakespeare's fellow actors, compiled 36 of his plays, hoping to preserve them for future generations. Many of Shakespeare's plays, which were written to be performed, were not published during his lifetime. Without the First Folio, we would not have 18 of the plays, including *Macbeth*, *Julius Caesar*, *Twelfth Night*, *The Tempest*, *Antony and Cleopatra*, *The Comedy of Errors*, and *As You Like It*. All 18 appear for the first time in print in the First Folio and would otherwise have been lost.

The Folger Shakespeare Library holds 82 copies of the First Folio, by far the largest collection in the world and more than a third of the 233 known copies in the world today. Researchers believe that about 750 copies were originally printed. One of the most valuable printed books in the world, a First Folio sold for \$6.2 million in 2001 at Christie's and another one for \$5.2 million in 2006 in London. It originally sold for one British pound (20 shillings)—about \$200 today.

The Folger, with the American Library Association and Cincinnati Museum Center, reviewed hundreds of potential applicant sites to host the First Folio before making the final selection. All were required to meet specific environmental and security requirements.

For the *First Folio!* tour, the rare book will be opened to one of the most quoted lines in the world, "to be or not to be" from *Hamlet*. A multi-panel exhibition exploring the significance of Shakespeare, then and now, with additional digital content and interactive activities, will accompany the First Folio. Each of the 52 tour locations is planning numerous programs for the public and families around the exhibition.

The *First Folio!* tour begins in January 2016 at three sites, each of which will host the exhibition for four weeks. A total of 18 First Folios will be on display during the tour; six will travel at any one time. The final Shakespeare First Folio will return to the Folger in December 2016. The local touring dates for *First Folio! The Book that Gave Us Shakespeare* will be announced in April 2015.

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The Cincinnati Museum Center exhibits department is providing tour management and design expertise in building and preparing for travel the panels that will accompany the First Folios at each stop, as well as designing and constructing traveling cases for the 18 First Folios. Staff from Cincinnati Museum Center will also accompany the First Folios on each step of their national journey to coordinate and facilitate the transportation, installation, and de-installation of the exhibition at each stop of the tour.

The national tour of the Shakespeare First Folio is part of the Folger's *Wonder of Will* initiative in 2016 to commemorate the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's death. *The Wonder of Will* includes performances, lectures and readings, family programs, teacher workshops, scholarly programs, a new website, *Shakespeare Documented*, and exhibitions—at the Folger and on tour—including *Shakespeare, Life of an Icon*; *America's Shakespeare* (Washington, DC, Chicago, and Los Angeles); *Will & Jane: Shakespeare, Austen, and the Cult of Celebrity*; and *First Folio! The Book that Gave Us Shakespeare* (all 50 states, Washington, DC, and Puerto Rico).

First Folio! The Book that Gave Us Shakespeare has been made possible in part by a major grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities: Exploring the human endeavor, and by the generous support of Google.org and Vinton and Sigrid Cerf. Sponsorship opportunities of this major exhibition are available.

About Folger Shakespeare Library

Folger Shakespeare Library is a world-renowned center for scholarship, learning, culture, and the arts. It is home to the world's largest Shakespeare collection and a primary repository for rare materials from the early modern period (1500-1750). The Folger is an internationally recognized research library offering advanced scholarly programs in the humanities; an innovator in the preservation of rare materials; a national leader in how Shakespeare is taught in grades K–12; and an award-winning producer of cultural and arts programs—theater, music, poetry, exhibitions, lectures, and family programs. Learn more at www.folger.edu

About Cincinnati Museum Center

Cincinnati Museum Center (CMC) at Union Terminal is a nationally recognized

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institution and national historic landmark. Dedicated to sparking community dialogue, insight, and inspiration, CMC was awarded the 2009 National Medal for Museum and Library Service from the Institute of Museum and Library Services and received accreditation from the American Alliance of Museums in 2012. CMC is one of only 16 museums in the nation with both of these honors, making it a unique asset and a vital community resource. Union Terminal has been voted the nation's 45th most important building by the American Institute of Architects. Organizations within CMC include the Cincinnati History Museum, Duke Energy Children's Museum, Museum of Natural History & Science, Robert D. Lindner Family OMNIMAX® Theater, and Cincinnati History Library & Archives. Recognized by *Forbes Traveler Magazine* as the 17th most visited museum in the country, CMC welcomes more than one million visitors annually. For more information, visit www.cincymuseum.org

About the American Library Association

The American Library Association is the oldest and largest library association in the world, with approximately 58,000 members in academic, public, school, government, and special libraries. The mission of the American Library Association is to provide leadership for the development, promotion, and improvement of library and information services and the profession of librarianship in order to enhance learning and ensure access to information for all.

ALA's Public Programs Office provides leadership, resources, training, and networking opportunities that help thousands of librarians nationwide develop and host cultural programs for adult, young adult, and family audiences. The mission of the ALA Public Programs Office is to promote cultural programming as an essential part of library service in all types of libraries. Projects include book and film discussion series, literary and cultural programs featuring authors and artists, professional development opportunities, and traveling exhibitions. School, public, academic, and special libraries nationwide benefit from the office's programming initiatives. Additional information can be found at www.ala.org/programming

About the National Endowment for the Humanities

Created in 1965 as an independent federal agency, the National Endowment for the Humanities supports research and learning in history, literature, philosophy, and other

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areas of the humanities by funding selected, peer-reviewed proposals from around the nation. Additional information about the National Endowment for the Humanities and its grant programs is available at www.neh.gov

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**First Folio! The Book that Gave Us Shakespeare
2016 National Tour**

Host Sites by State
including the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico

AK	Juneau	Alaska State Libraries, Archives and Museums
AL	Montgomery	Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts
AR	Conway	University of Central Arkansas with Arkansas Shakespeare Theatre
AZ	Tucson	University of Arizona
CA	San Diego	The Old Globe with San Diego Public Library
CO	Boulder	University of Colorado Boulder
CT	Storrs	University of Connecticut
DC	Washington	Gallaudet University
DE	Wilmington	University of Delaware
FL	Miami	The Patricia & Phillip Frost Art Museum at Florida International University
GA	Atlanta	Emory University
HI	Honolulu	Kapiolani Community College
IA	Iowa City	The University of Iowa Libraries
ID	Boise	Alberstons Library, Boise State University
IL	Wauconda	Lake County Discovery Museum

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IN	Notre Dame	University of Notre Dame
KS	Manhattan	Kansas State University
KY	Louisville	Frazier History Museum, University of Louisville, and Louisville Free Public Library
LA	New Orleans	Tulane University
MA	Amherst	Amherst College
MD	Annapolis	St. John's College
ME	Portland	Portland Public Library
MI	Detroit	Wayne State University with the Detroit Institute of Arts and the Detroit Public Library
MN	Duluth	University of Minnesota Duluth
MO	Kansas City	Kansas City Public Library
MS	Oxford	University of Mississippi
MT	Missoula	University of Montana
NC	Raleigh	North Carolina Museum of History
ND	Bismarck	State Historical Society of North Dakota
NE	Omaha	The Durham Museum
NH	Manchester	Currier Museum of Art
NJ	Madison	Drew University and The Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey
NM	Santa Fe	New Mexico Museum of Art

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NV	Reno	Nevada Museum of Art, Reno
NY	New York	New-York Historical Society
OH	Cleveland	Cleveland Public Library
OK	Norman	The Sam Noble Museum
OR	Eugene	University of Oregon
PA	Elizabethtown	Elizabethtown College
PR	Gurabo	Universidad del Turabo
RI	Providence	Brown University
SC	Columbia	University of South Carolina Libraries
SD	Vermillion	University of South Dakota and the National Music Museum
TN	Nashville	The Parthenon
TX	College Station	Texas A&M University
UT	Salt Lake City	Salt Lake City Public Library
VA	Charlottesville	University of Virginia
VT	Middlebury	Middlebury College
WA	Seattle	The Seattle Public Library
WI	Madison	University of Wisconsin - Madison
WV	Wheeling	Museums of Oglebay Institute
WY	Cheyenne	Wyoming State Museum

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