πA₆ (πA₁+1 πA₅+1.2): Like the first gathering in the Tempest, this gathering, with introductory materials, is also labeled “A.” Because there are two “A”s the collation statement adds π to distinguish the prefatory gathering. This gathering is atypical for a “folio in sixes.” It contains an extra sheet and a half of paper. That creates some options for assembly as well as challenges for the material integrity of this gathering over time. In particular, the half-sheet title page was vulnerable to dislodgement.

The +1 and +1.2 in the collation statement indicate three leaves that have been added to the gathering. That first +1 (πA₁+1) is the famous portrait of Shakespeare, added after πA₁. The second +1.2 (πA₅+1.2) indicates two leaves inserted after πA₅. Those leaves are found inserted after πA₆ in some copies of the First Folio, however, including Folger copy 68, the source of these digital files. Note the absence or irregularity of navigational guides—page numbers, consistent signatures, or running heads.

www.folger.edu/publishing-shakespeare
A **SHEET** of paper or parchment when folded once contains two leaves, or four pages. Works made up of such sheets are described as **folios**. Printers set text one side of a sheet at a time.

A **LEAF** includes front (**recto**) and back (**verso**). In an **opening**, the recto is on the right.

A **PAGE** is one side of a leaf.

A **GATHERING** is a collection of folded sheets, labeled with a **signature**. **Signature marks** (or **signatures**) are letters and sometimes symbols that help printers and binders put sheets in the correct order. The first half of the leaves in a gathering are **signed** on the recto with that gathering’s **signature** and a number to indicate the leaf: A2 would be the second leaf in gathering A. Signatures apply to both sides of a leaf. Gatherings may (or may not) have other navigational aids, such as page numbers, running heads, or catchwords.
A CATALOGUE

of the Several Comedies, Histories, and Tragedies

Comedies

Tragedies

Histories

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A6v

A1r
To the Reader.

This Figure, that thou here seest put,
It was for gentle Shakespeare cut;
Wherein the Grauer had a strife
with Nature, to out-doo the life:
O, could he but have drawne his wit
As well in brasse, as he hath hit
His face; the Print would then surpasse
All, that was euer writ in brasse.
But, since he cannot, Reader, looke
Not on his Picture, but his Booke.

B. I.
Cut and discard blank page
Mr. William Shakespeare
Comedies, Histories, & Tragedies.

Published according to the True Original Copies.

London
Printed by Isaac Jaggard, and Ed. Blount. 1623.
The Epistle Dedicatorie.

unto their parent. There is a great difference, whether any Brooke chose his Patron, or finde them: I hit bath done bath. For, so much were your L. L. likenes of the several parts, when they were acted, as before they were published, the Volume askd to be yours. We have but collectd them, and done an office to the dead, to procure his Orphanes, Guardians; without ambition either of selfe-profit, or famc; only to keep the memory of so worthy a Friend, & Fellow along, as was our Shakespeare, by humble offer of his playes, to your most noble patronage. Wherein, as we have truly observed, no man to come near your L. L. but with a kind of religious addresse, it bath bin the height of our care, who are the Presenters, to make the present worthy of your H. H. by the perfection. But, there we must all crave our abilities to be considred, my Lords. We cannot go beyond our owne powers. Country hands reach forth milke, creme, frutes, or what they have; and many Nations (we have heard) that had not gummes & incense, obtained their requests with a learned Cake. It was no fault to approach their Gods, by what means they could. And the most, though meanest, of things are made more precious, when they are dedicated to Temples. In that name therefore, we must humbly consecrate to your H. H. these remains of your servant Shakespeare; that what delight is in them, may be ever your L. L. the reputation his, & the faults ours, if any be committed, by a paire, so careful to show their gratitude both to the living and the dead, as is

Your Lordshippes most bounden,

John Heminge
Henry Condell.
TO THE MOST NOBLE
AND
INCOMPARABLE PAIRE
OF BRETHREN.

WILLIAM
Earle of Pembroke, &c. Lord Chamberlaine to the
Kings most Excellent Maiestie.

AND

PHILIP
Earle of Montgomery, &c. Gentleman of his Maiesties
Bed-Chamber, Both Knights of the most Noble Order
of the Garter, and our singular good
LORDS.

Right Honourable,

We studie to be thankful in our particular for
the many favors we have receiued from your L.L.
we are faine upon the ill fortune, to mingle,
two the most diverse things that can bee, feare,
and rashness: rashness in the enterprise, and
feare of the success. For, when we view the places your H.H.
soigne, we cannot but know their dignity greater, then to descend to
the reading of these trifles: and while we name them trifles, we have
deceived our selves of the defence of our Dedication. But since your
L.L. have been pleased to thinke these trifles some thing, heretofore;
and have prosegued both them, and their Author living,
with so much favour: we hope, that they out-living him, and be not
having the fate, common with some, to be execucator of his owne wrtings.
you will use the like indulgence toward them, you have done
unto
To the memory of my beloved,
The AUTHOR
Mr. W. SHAKESPEARE:
And
what he had left us.

To draw me thus (Shakespeare so thy name,
And I close ample to thy books, and cleaner
While I confesse thy writings are fair;
As another Man, one Mule, can prove so much.
I'm true, and all men's suffrage, but those some
were not the cause I meant, and so prosely many,
Fearing he should not those his might full,
Which, when it sounds at last, but could'st so right
Or blinde afflication, which does me no advance.
The truth, but greater, mad by changeless book.
Or craft, Master, mightily caused this prose,
And thine to raise, whereof it causest suffice,
'To these are, at time so many, that, whereof, as when
Should suffice a Patron, what could be desired,
But show your prose against them, and indeeden
Above all th' forces of them, or the mind;
To me, therefore will begin. Some of the age.
The applause I delight, the wonder of one Stage book.
Let Shakespeare, so I will not lodge, then be
courage, or Spencer, or this Beaumont by such
And so, for to make thee a comedy
Thou art a Monument, without a monument, what's whole
And all, in an hill, which my book, death, line,
And which we have to read, and prose to give.
And now that I not more the thee, thy praise excell'd
I might wish with great, but different a Muses:
Yet, if I thought thy judgment were of years,
I should commend thee fully with thy peers,
And will, but thy book didst fill our Lily out-flow,
Or/', down Kid, or Marlowe, mighty line.
And though thou hadst small Lanne, and left Graces,
From thence to honour thee, I would not seek
For names, but call forth thy name, Aeschylus,
Euripides, and Sophocles to us,
Paccianus, Accius, him of Cordoue dead,
To life again, to hear thy book so read,
And make a Stage: or, when thy Sacker were run,
Leave thee alone, for the comparison.
To the great Variety of Readers.

From the most able, to him that can but spell: There you are number'd. We had rather you were weigh'd. Especially, when the fate of all Booke's depends upon your capacities: and not of your heads alone, but of your purses. Well! He is now publique, & ye shall stand for your priviledges we know: to read, and censure. Do so, but buy it first. That doth best commend a Booke, the Stationer saith. Then, how oddes fowreys your brains be, or your wifedomes, make your licence the same, and spare not. Judge your wise pursed, your hillings worthe, your fine hillings worthe at a time, or higher, to you rife to the stilt rates, and welcome. But, what ever you do, Buy. Censure will not drive a Trade, or make the lacke go. And though you be a Magistrate of wit, and sit on the Stage at Black-Friers, or at the Cock-pit, to arraigne Playes dally, know, these Playes have had their trial already, and rood our all Appeals; and do now come forth quitted rather by a Decree of Court, then any purchas'd Letters of commendation.

It had bene a thing, we confesse, worthie to have bene wished, that the Author him selfe had hau'd to hau'cstor forth, and overseen his owne writing: But since it hath bin ordain'd otherwise, and he by death de parted from that right, we pray you do not envie his Friends, the office of their care, and pains, to hau' collected & publish'd them; and so to have publish'd them, as where (before) you were abs'd with dierne stoln, and surreptitious copies, maimed, and deformed by the frauds and threats of inuorious impollors, that expos'd them: even tho' these are now offer'd to your view cur'd, and perfect of their limbs, and all the rest, absolute in their numbers, as he conceiv'd the. Who as he was a happee imitator of Nature, was a most gentle expresser of it. His mind and hand went together: And what he thought, he verted with that easine, that wee have rarelie receiv'd from him a blot in his papers. But it is not our prouincie, who onely gather his works, and give them you, to pale him. It is yours that reade him. And there we hope, to your dirers capacities, you will finde enough, both to draw, and hold you: for his wit can no more lie hid, then it could be loft. Reade him, therefore, and againe, and againe: And if then you do not like him, surely you are in some maniferset danger, not to understand him. And so we leaue you to oother of his Friends, whom if you need, can bee your guides: if you neede them not, you can leade your selues, and others. And such Readers we with him.

A 3
John Heminge, Henrie Condell.
The Workes of William Shakespeare, containing all his Comedies, Histories, and Tragedies: Truely set forth, according to their first Original.

The Names of the Principall Actors in all these Playes:

William Shakespeare.
Richard Burbadge.
John Hemmings.
Augustine Phillips.
William Kempt.
Thomas Poope.
George Bryan.
Henry Condell.
William Sylly.
Richard Cowly.
John Lowine.
Samuell Crofe.
Alexander Cooke.

Samuel Gillborne.
Robert Armin.
William Osler.
Nathan Field.
John Underwood.
Nicholas Tooley.
William Ecclestone.
Joseph Taylor.
Robert Benfield.
Robert Gagbe.
Richard Robinson.
John Shancye.
John Rice.
TO THE MEMORIE

of the deceased Author Maister
W. SHAKESPEARE.

Hake-speare, at length thy pious followers give
The world thy Workes : thy Workes, by which out-live
Thy Tombre, thy name most: when that flour is rent,
And Time dissolves thy Stratford Monument,
Here we all shall view thee still. This Bookes,
When Brass and Marble fade, shall make thee looke
Fresher to all Ages: when Pythias
Shall teach what's new think' and all is prolonge.
That is not Shake-speares iury Line, each Verse
Here shall remaine redeemt thee from thy Verse.
Nor Fire, nor conquering Age, as Nato faild,
Of thy, thy wis-fragnct Bookes shall once invade.
Nor shall Ite be believe, or think thee dead
(Though mist:) untill our banter Stage be fed
(Imposible) with some more straine't out-do
Passions of Julia's, and her Romeo;
Or till I heare a Scene more noble take,
Then when thy halfe Sword parting Romains spake.
Till there's till any of thy Volumes rest
Shall with more fire, more feeling be express,
Be fare, our Shake-speare, thou canst never dye,
But crown'd with Laurell, live eternall.

L. Digggs.

To the memorie of M. W. Shake-speare.

V V E wondred (Shake-Speare) that thou wentst so soon
From the Worlds Stage, to the Granes-Trying-roomes.
Were thought thou dead, but this thy printed worth,
Tells thy Spectators, that thou wentst so forth
To enter with applause. An Authors Art,
Can dye, and live, to be a second part.
That's but an Excuse of Mortalitie;
This a Re-entrance to a Plaudit.

I. M.