

William Shakespeare

許綏南(Pierre)





Keanu Reeves and River Phoenix in *My Own Private Idaho*. The film is based on Shakespeare's *Henry IV*.



To be or not to be

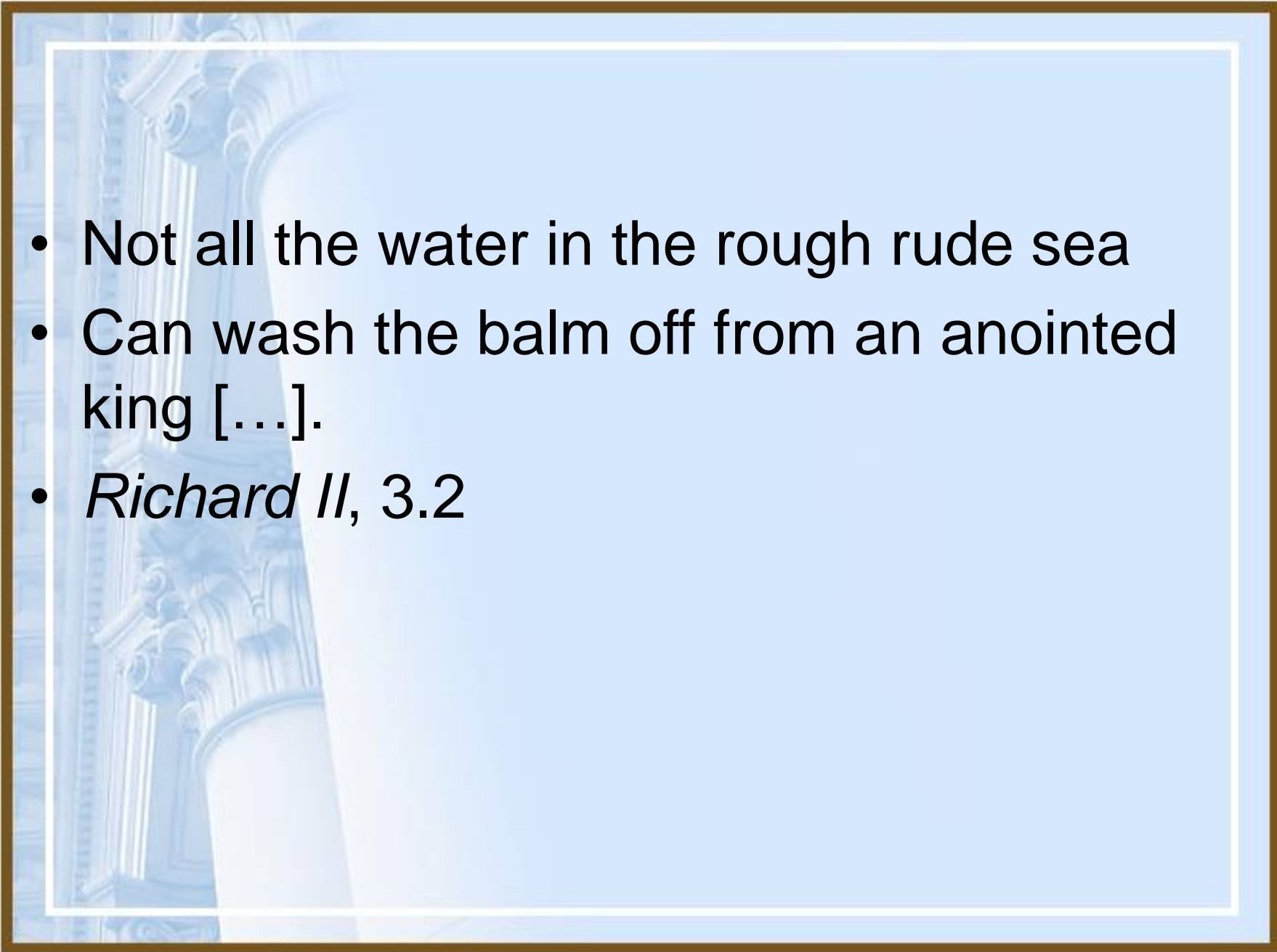
Ethan Hawke as Hamlet, Diane Venora as Gertrude, and Kyle MacLachlan as Claudius

Phrases from Shakespeare

- What's Done is Done. (Lady Macbeth)
- Fortune's Fool (Romeo)
- Tomorrow, and Tomorrow, and Tomorrow (Macbeth)
- Hoist with his own Petard (Hamlet)
- He hath Eaten me out of House and Home (Hostess Quickly in *Henry IV*)
- 'Tis Better to be Vile than Vile Esteemed (sonnet 121)

- William Shakespeare



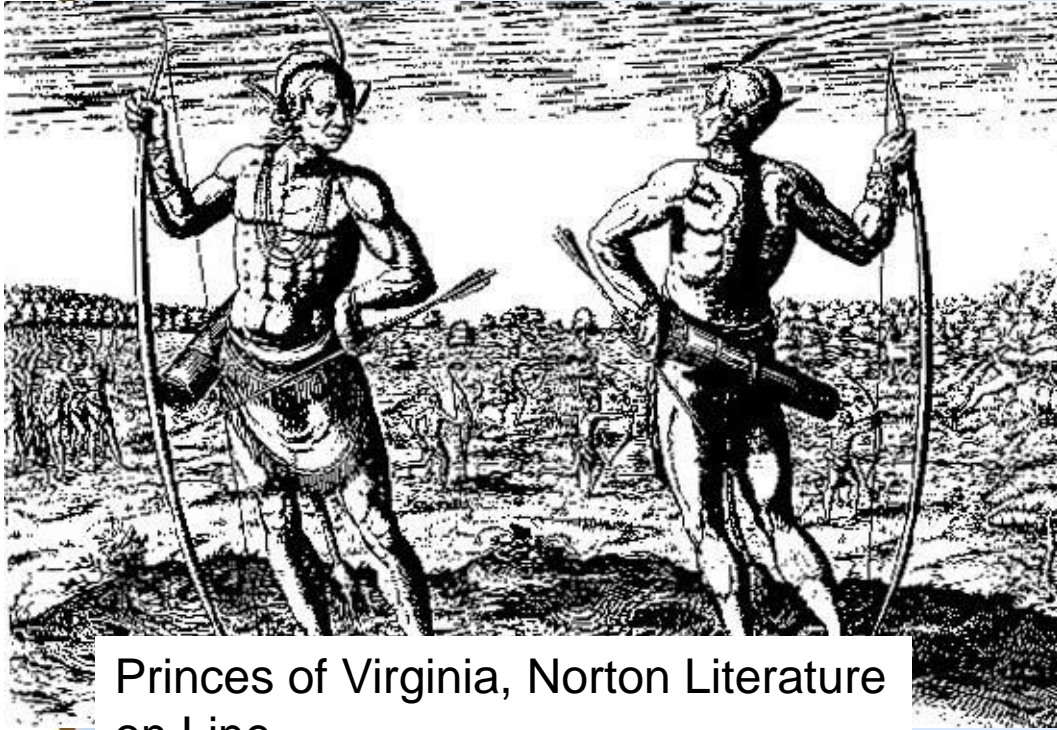
- 
- Not all the water in the rough rude sea
 - Can wash the balm off from an anointed king [...].
 - *Richard II*, 3.2

Shakespeare's Time



- Henry VIII (divorce)
- Elizabeth (Anglican Church formalized/compromise)
- James I (“the wisest fool in Christendom/King James Bible)
- Shakespeare born of a Catholic family

Shakespeare's Time



Princes of Virginia, Norton Literature on Line

Elizabeth reigned
(1558-1603)

James I (1603-25) 3
millions inhabitants
in the country

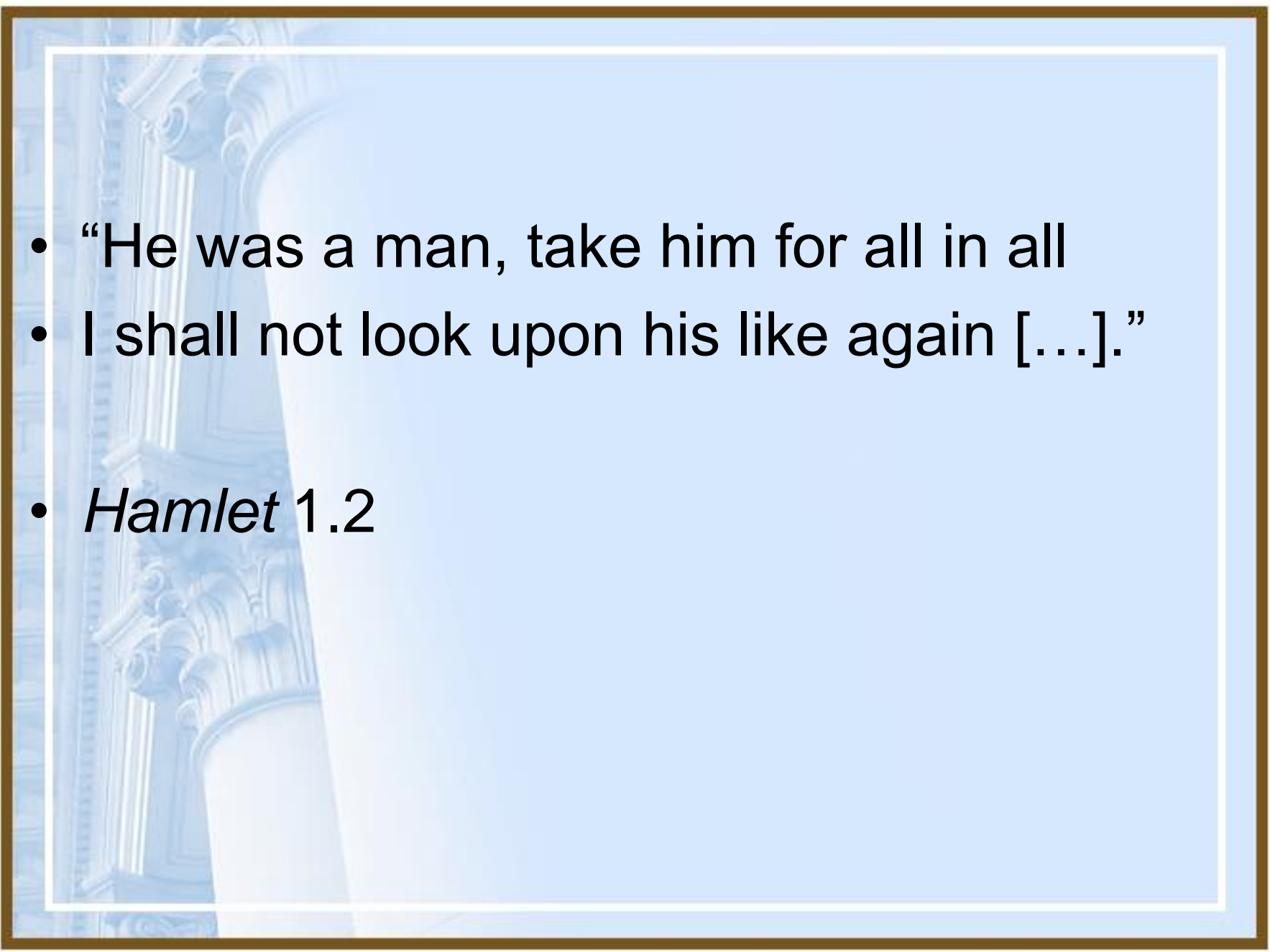
200,000 in London

1500 in Stratford-
upon-Avon



From Norton Literature on
Line

- Sidney and Spenser's Poetry
- First permanent theater (1576)
- The Elizabethan theater: cut across class lines
- Ben Jonson: "he was not of an age, but for all time!" (political and religious censorship?)

- 
- “He was a man, take him for all in all
 - I shall not look upon his like again [...].”
 - *Hamlet* 1.2

Shakespeare's Life (1564-1616)



Born to John Shakespeare, a glove-maker, high bailiff in the town council, but John's business later failed.

Married Anne Hathaway, eight years his senior, in 1583.

Attended grammar school (ridiculed by university-educated rival playwrights)

- Might be an actor for some time after 1592 before becoming a playwright.



- Early plays presented at the Rose, London's most popular theater in the 1590s.
- Shareholder of the Lord Chamberlain's Men (1594), later the King's Men(←)
- Globe (1599/ 2000 spectators) and Richard Burbage: tragedies

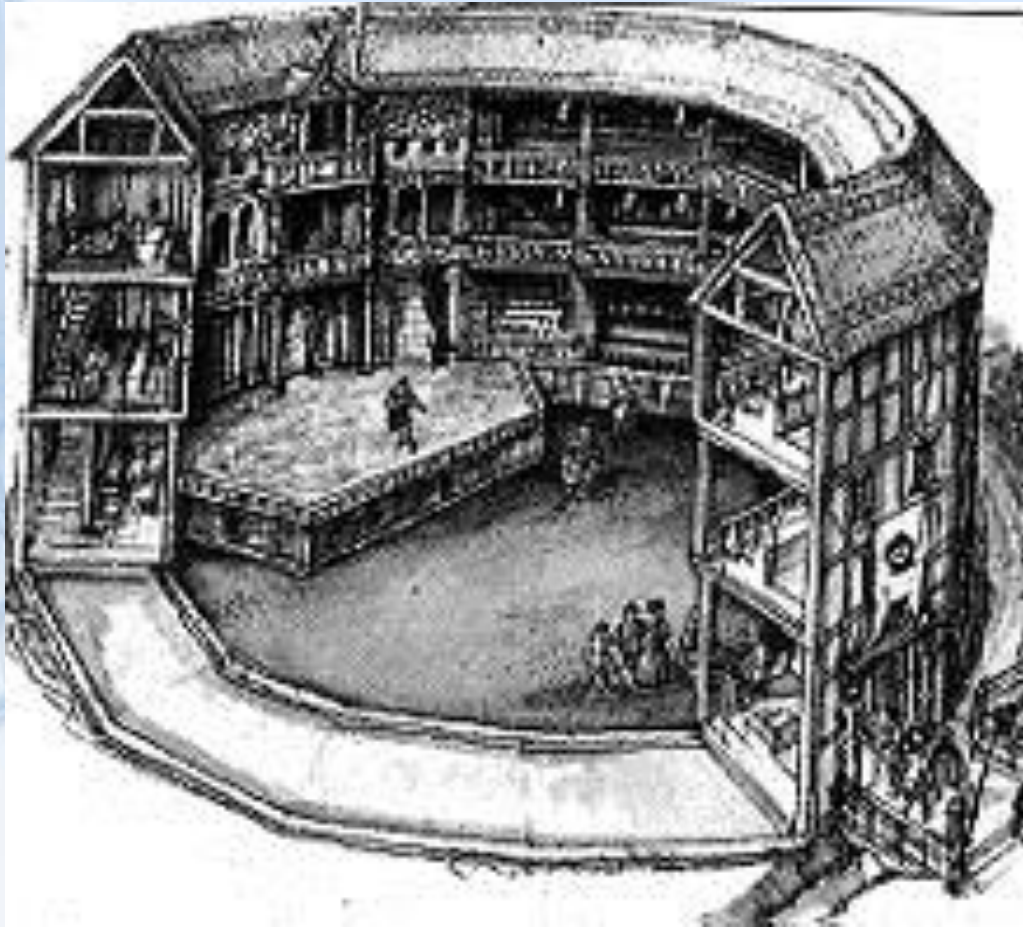


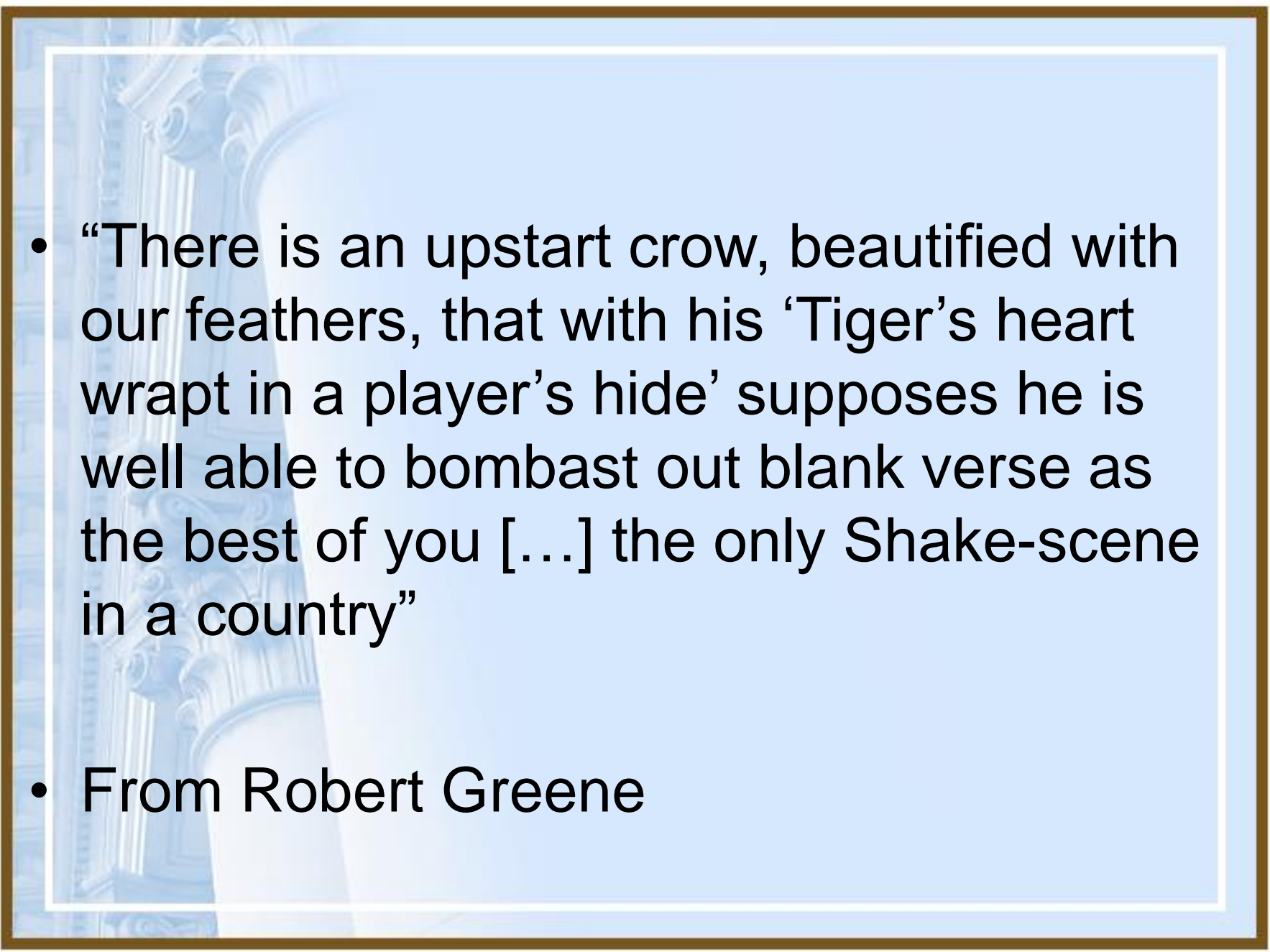
- Plague (1592), Shakespeare turned to poetry.
- Tragedies
- Father's death (1601) or his 40th birthday/other playwrights wrote tragedies a that time, too.
- Romances
- *Tempest* (Shakespeare's last play, on his own)



Probably died
because
drinking too
much at his
daughter's
wedding/"I
give unto my
wife my
second-best
bed." (1616)

The Elizabethan Stage



- 
- “There is an upstart crow, beautified with our feathers, that with his ‘Tiger’s heart wrapt in a player’s hide’ supposes he is well able to bombast out blank verse as the best of you [...] the only Shake-scene in a country”
 - From Robert Greene



300 playwrights in
competition
miracle play (11th C.)
mystery play (14th C.)
morality play, still in
a rage, played in the
courtyards of inns.

Into the Elizabethan Plays

- Actors tried their hands at writing
- The so-called “University Wits”: Marlowe among them
- So plays began to move beyond the focus of morality plays.
- (The playwrights’ main concern was to fill the theatres, with little heed to the rules of classical drama.)

The Swan Theatre



A 1596 sketch of a performance in progress on the thrust stage of The Swan, a typical circular Elizabethan open-roof playhouse.

The Theatre



Around 1580

The original Theatre (1576) and the **Curtain** Theatre (1577)

Total theatre capacity of London was about 5000 spectators

With the building of new theatre facilities

The **Rose** (1587),
The Swan (1595),
The Globe (1599),
The Blackfriars (1608).

Location of Theaters

- Mostly outside the boundaries of the City of London in areas known as “liberties,” beyond the direct control of Puritan city elders.
- In 1642, Parliament closed all theaters, under Puritan influence. When the order was lifted in 1660 under Charles II, not one theater remained standing.

Censorship

- No new play could be performed without the consent of the Master of the Revels.
- Edward Tilney, however, to the distress of Puritans, cared less in suppressing lewdness than in spotting political and religious seditious matter.

Actors

- A flag flying above the theater: a performance was under way
- All men and boys
- The stage is bare. Occasionally an actor would inform the audience of a change of location.
- No stage director. The play was what the playwright wrote and the actors interpreted.

Difference between the Elizabethan and Jacobean Drama

- Elizabethan Theater: optimistic, light-hearted
- Jacobean Theater: sombre, moralizing, introvert (Shakespeare's later plays, *Volpone*)
- (Whitehall: this candle-lit hall affected the staging of plays. Night scene could be portrayed realistically, and the use of flying spirits became common practices.)

The Publication of Shakespeare

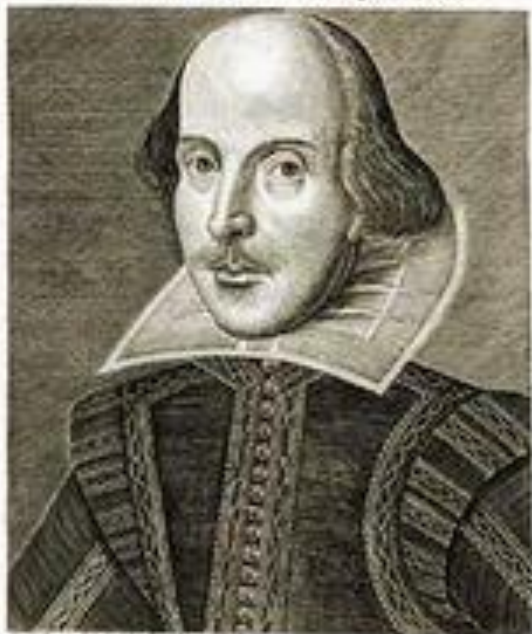
- Tear him for his bad verses,
- tear him for his bad verses!
- *Julius Caesar, 3.3*

Problems

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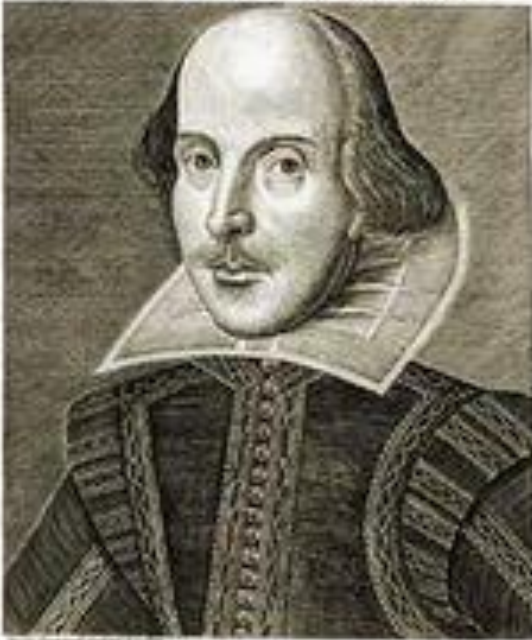
Printed by Iam: Iaggard, and Ed. Blount. 1617.

- Right of the script belonged to the theater company, not to the playwright.
- Publication did no good to Shakespeare's company, since other companies could get the script and stage the play.

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Printed by Iam: Iaggard, and Ed. Blount. 1617.

First Folio published in 1623.

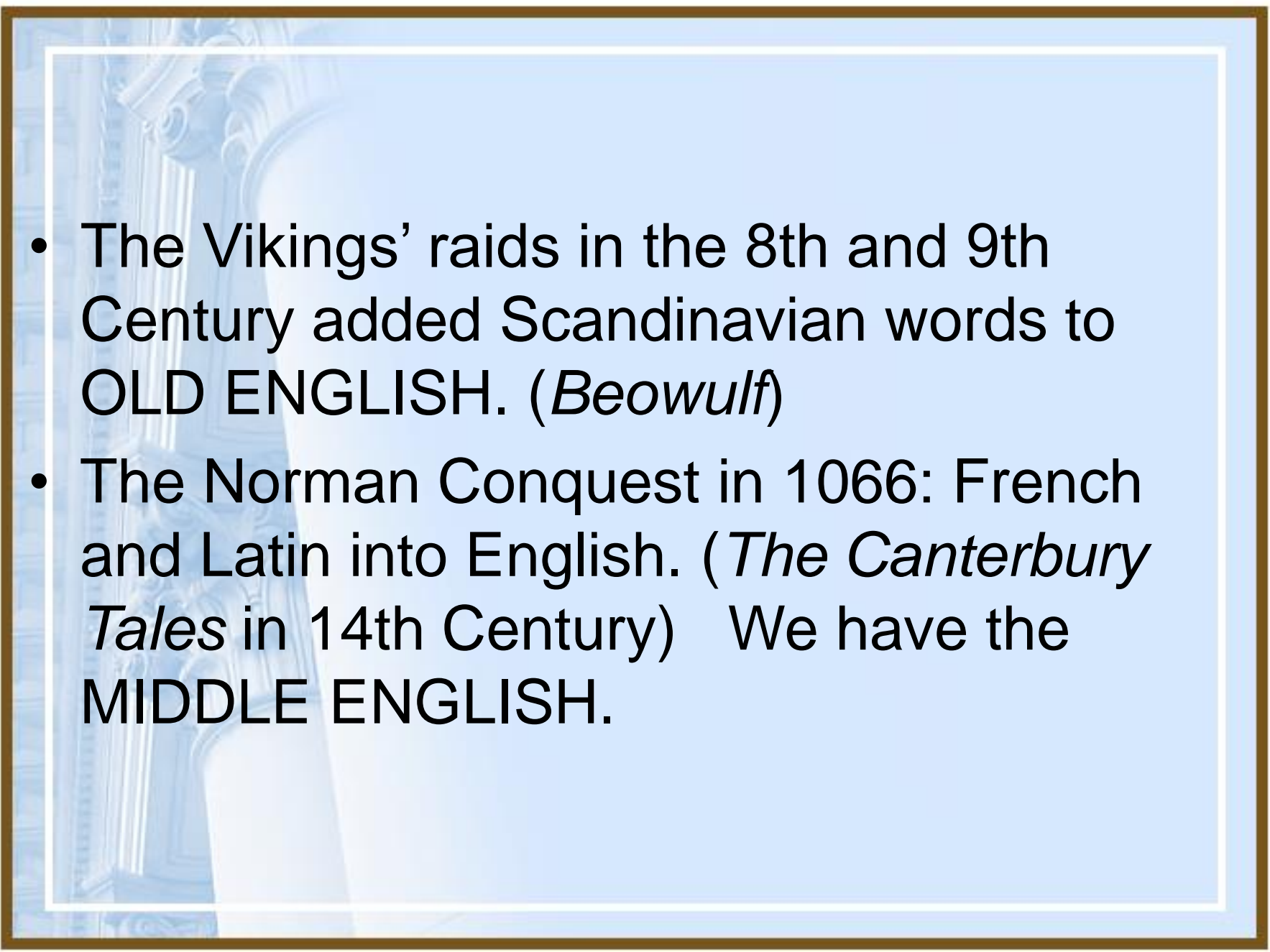
John Hemminge and Henry Condell, colleagues from the King's Men, tracked down and edited 36 of Shakespeare's plays.

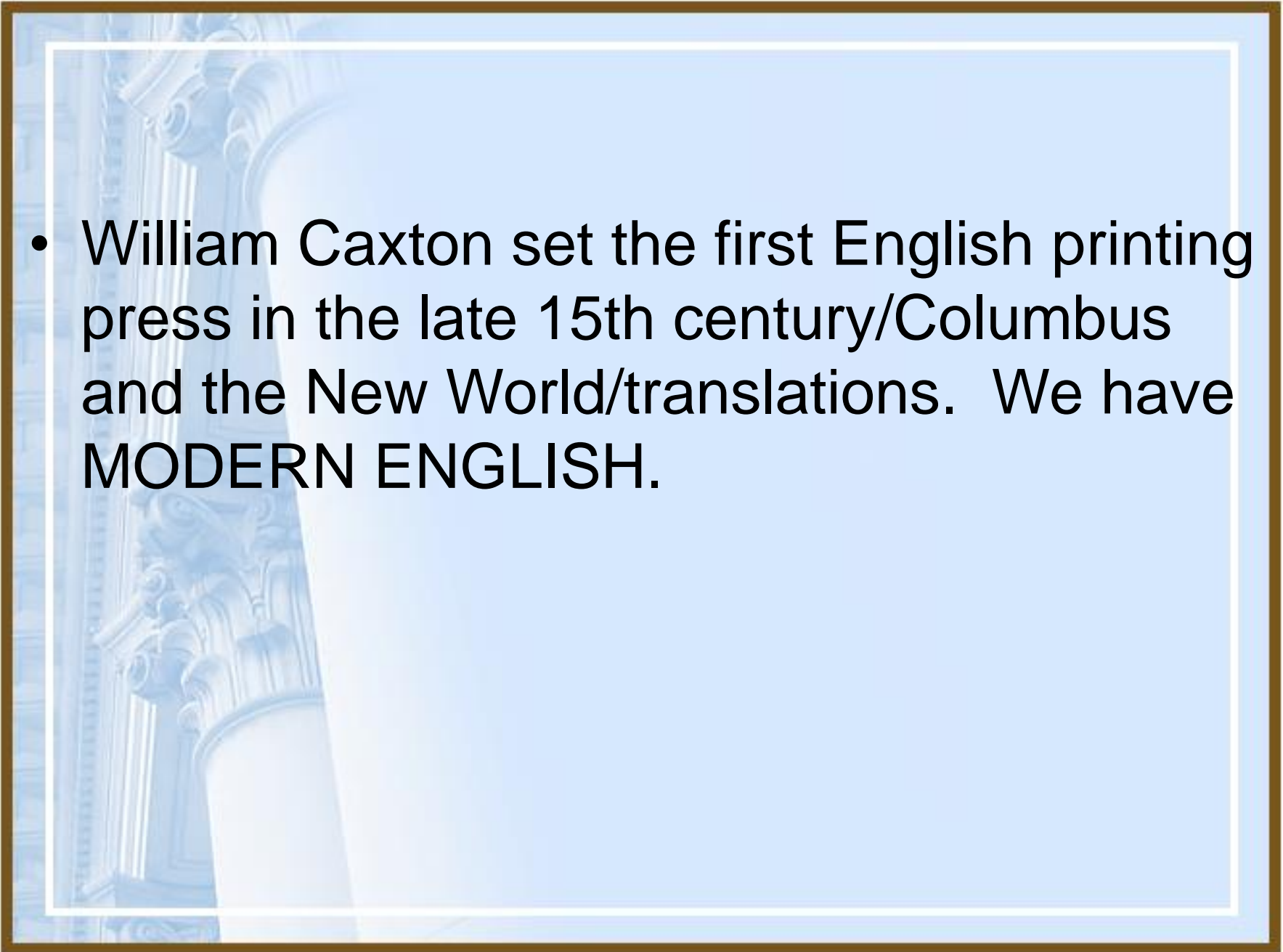
Genre

- Categories in the First Folio unacceptable.
- “Those which are called histories, and even some of his comedies, are really tragedies, with a run or mixture of comedy amongst them,” wrote Nicholas Rowe in 1709.
- Problem Plays: *Measure for Measure*, *Troilus and Cressida*, *All’s Well that Ends Well*

Shakespeare's Language

- Before Roman Emperor Claudius's conquest of Britain in 43 AD: Celtic inhabitants' language similar to modern Irish, and Scottish Gaelic.
- The Romans departed in 410: the languages of Germanic peoples (notably the Angles and Saxons) dominated. We have the OLD ENGLISH.

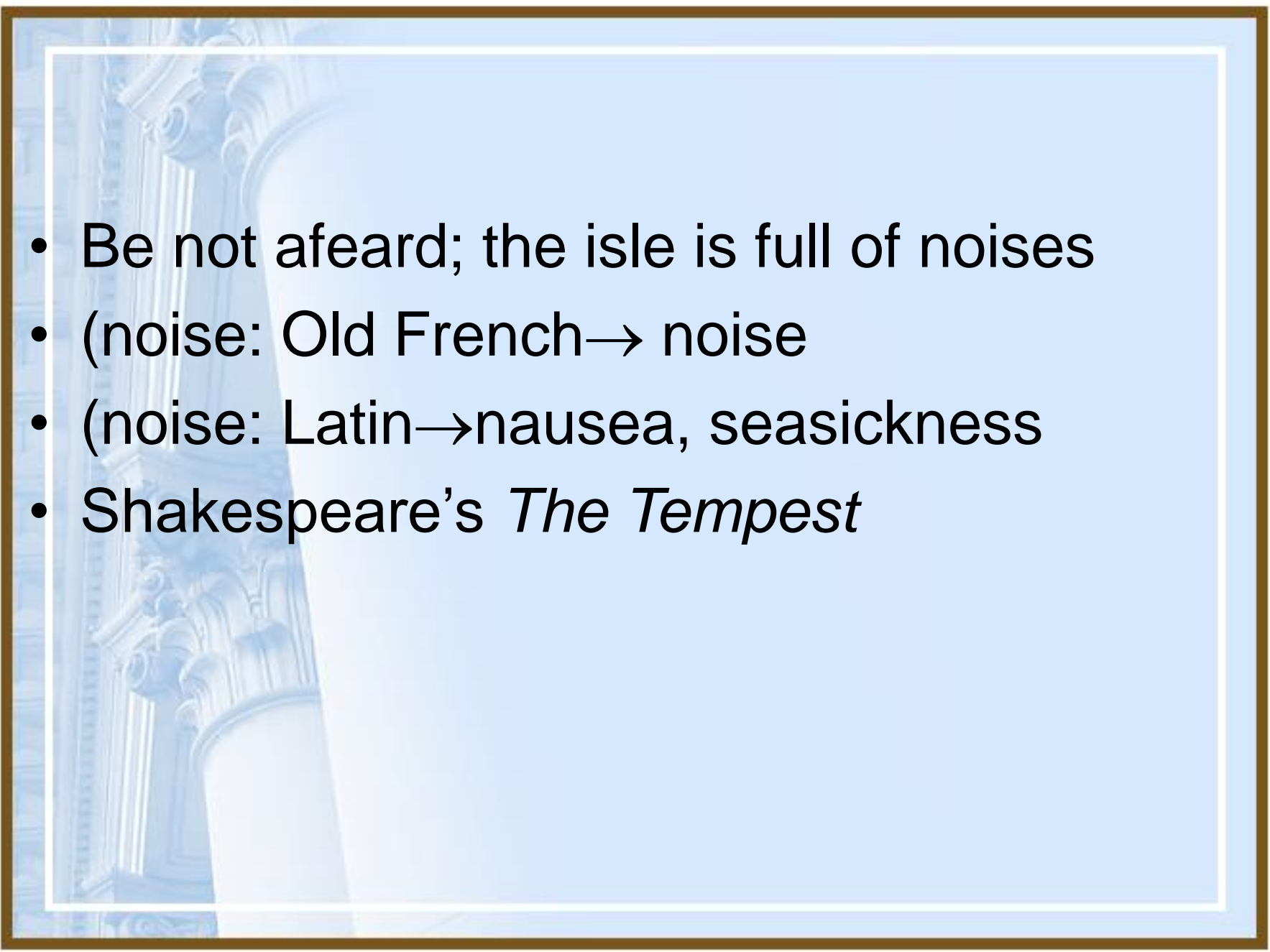
- 
- The Vikings' raids in the 8th and 9th Century added Scandinavian words to OLD ENGLISH. (*Beowulf*)
 - The Norman Conquest in 1066: French and Latin into English. (*The Canterbury Tales* in 14th Century) We have the MIDDLE ENGLISH.

- 
- William Caxton set the first English printing press in the late 15th century/Columbus and the New World/translations. We have MODERN ENGLISH.

Examples

- Heard, hand-locen; hring-iren scŕr
- Hard, hand-fastened; and the shining iron rings
- (*Beowulf*)

- Ful weel she soong the *service* dyvyne,
- Full well she sings the service divine
- (The Canterbury Tales/ *service*: Old French)

- 
- Be not afeard; the isle is full of noises
 - (noise: Old French→ noise)
 - (noise: Latin→nausea, seasickness)
 - Shakespeare's *The Tempest*

Elizabethan Wordplay

- “What’s in a name? That which we call a rose
- By any other word would smell as sweet.
- (*Romeo and Juliet*, 2.2)

Expressions Created

- Elbow room
- Cold comfort
- Puppy dog
- Shooting star
- Love is blind
- Love letter
- Marriage bed
- An eye-sore.....

Words Created

- Academe
- Advertising
- Drug
- Embrace
- Employer
- Glow
- Gossip
- Watchdog.....

Shakespeare's Prose and Verse

- Verse for noble speaker
- Prose for common or comic parts
- To be, or not to be—that is the question;
- Whether 'tis nobler in the mind to suffer
- (*Hamlet*)
- I have a whole school of tongues in this belly of mine, and not a tongue of them all (*Henry IV*)

Shakespeare's Meters

- iamb (∪ '): revenge
- Trochee (' ∪): midnight
- Dactyl(' ∪ ∪): document
- Spondee (' '): amen
- Anapest (∪ ∪ '): underneath

Blank verse

- Usually ten syllables a line
- Iambic pentameter
- Unrhymed
- Sometimes heroic couplet
- Good to express harmony, but expressive of intensities as well

Examples

- Harmony:
- Care keeps his watch in every old man's eye,
- And where care lodges, sleep will never lie.
(*Romeo and Juliet*)

Examples

- Intensities
- Tomorrow, and tomorrow, and tomorrow,
- Creeps in this petty pace from day to day.

How Meters to Express the Mental State

- The *lights burn blue*. It is *now dead midnight*.
- Cold *fearful drops* stand *on* my *trembling flesh*.
- *What do I fear? Myself? There's none else by.*
- *Richard Loves Richard*: that is, *I am I*.
- Is *there a murderer here? No. Yes. I am.*

William Shakespeare (1564-1616)

(from Wikipedia)



An English poet, dramatist
and actor

He wrote about **37 plays**
and **154 sonnets**, as well as
a variety of other poems.

William Shakespeare (1564-1616)

(from Wikipedia)

- The most **quoted writer** in the literature and history of the English-speaking world.
- Considered to be England's **national poet** and is sometimes referred to as the "**Bard of Avon**" (or simply "The Bard") or the "**Swan of Avon**".

William Shakespeare (1564-1616)

(from Wikipedia)



Produced most of his work between 1586 and 1612, although the exact dates and chronology of the plays attributed to him are under considerable debate.

William Shakespeare (1564-1616)

(from Wikipedia)

He is counted among the very few playwrights who have excelled in both tragedy and comedy, and his plays combine popular appeal with complex characterization, poetic grandeur and philosophical depth.

William Shakespeare (1564-1616) (from Wikipedia)



His many quotations and neologisms have passed into everyday usage in English and other languages

William Shakespeare (1564-1616)

(from Wikipedia)

- Over the years, many people have speculated about Shakespeare's life, raising questions about his sexuality, religious affiliation, and the authorship of his works.

William Shakespeare: **3 Stylistic Groups**



His plays tend to be placed into three main stylistic groups:

early comedies and histories (range from broad comedy to historical **nostalgia**)

Much Ado about Nothing

The Twelfth Night

A Midsummer

Night's Dream

William Shakespeare : **3 Stylistic Groups**



middle period (which includes his most famous tragedies that are grander in terms of theme, addressing such issues as **betrayal, murder, lust, power, and ambition**):

Othello

Macbeth

Hamlet

King Lear

William Shakespeare : **3 Stylistic Groups**



as well as "problem plays"

Troilus and

Cressida

Measure for

Measure)

later romances featuring
redemptive plotlines with
ambiguous endings and the
use of magic and other
fantastical elements

The Winter's Tale

The Tempest

Transition by Genres

- Delightful Comedies: falling in love
- Ambitious Tragedies: marital conflict, murderous envy, philosophical doubt, aging, fear of death
- Comedies: sorrow and world-weariness

William Shakespeare: **Style**



Playwrights like Thomas Kyd and Christopher Marlowe and Shakespeare began to **revolutionise theatre**.

Their plays blended the old morality drama with academic theatre to produce a new **secular** form.

William Shakespeare: **Style**

- The new drama had
 - the **poetic** grandeur
 - **philosophical** depth of the academic play
 - bawdy **populism** of the moralities.

William Shakespeare: **Authorship**



Christopher Marlowe is considered by some to be the most highly qualified to have written the works of Shakespeare.


William Shakespeare: **Authorship**

- Marlowe's recorded death in 1593 was **faked**
- Marlowe went into hiding, subsequently writing under the name of William Shakespeare

William Shakespeare: **Authorship**



Sir Francis Bacon is another proposed author for the Shakespeare works.

- 
- “Traveling to some of the countries in which the plays are set
 - Reading the Shakespeare sources in their original Greek, Italian, Hebrew, or French.
 - He described himself as a "**Concealed Poet**" and was alive at the time of the publication of the First Folio in 1623.

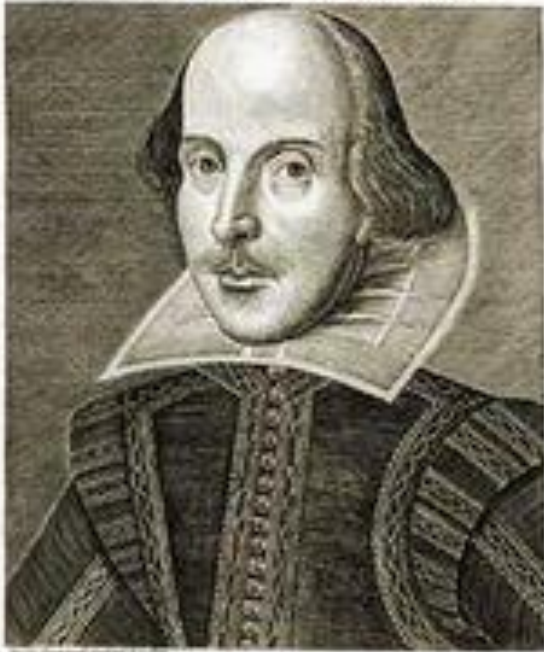
- **Arguments against Bacon**

- No time to write so many plays
- His style is different from Shakespeare's

William Shakespeare: **Religion**

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Printed by Iacobi Iaggard, and Ed. Blount. 1617.

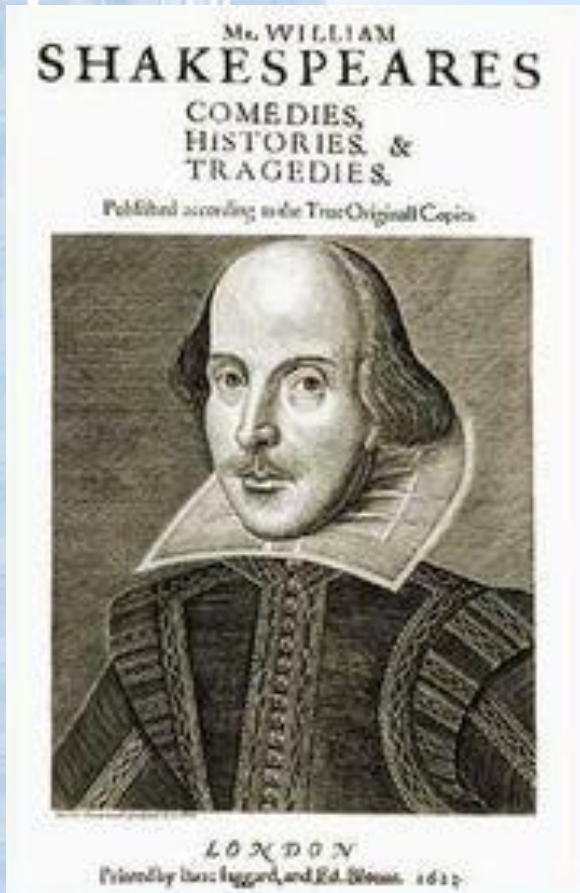
Shakespeare's **Catholicism** is by no means universally accepted. The Catholic Encyclopedia questions not only his Catholicism, but whether

William Shakespeare: **Religion**

"Shakespeare was not infected with the **atheism**, which... was **rampant** in the more cultured society of the Elizabethan age."

William Shakespeare: **Religion**

Stephen Greenblatt
suspects Catholic sympathies of
some kind or
another in
Shakespeare and
his family
but considers the
writer to be a less
than pious person
with essentially
worldly motives.

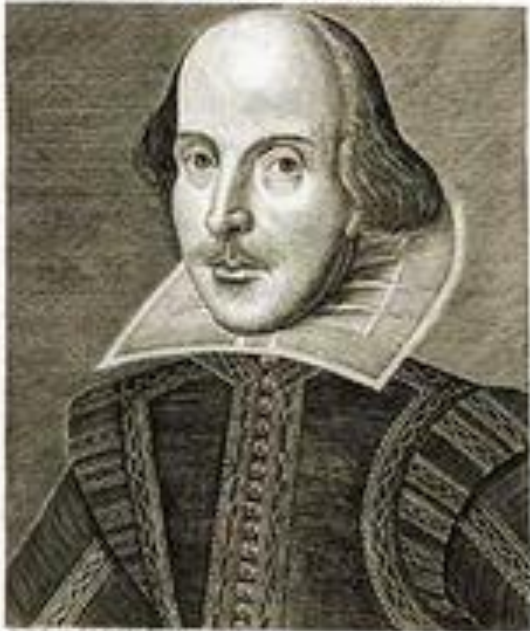


William Shakespeare: **Sexuality**

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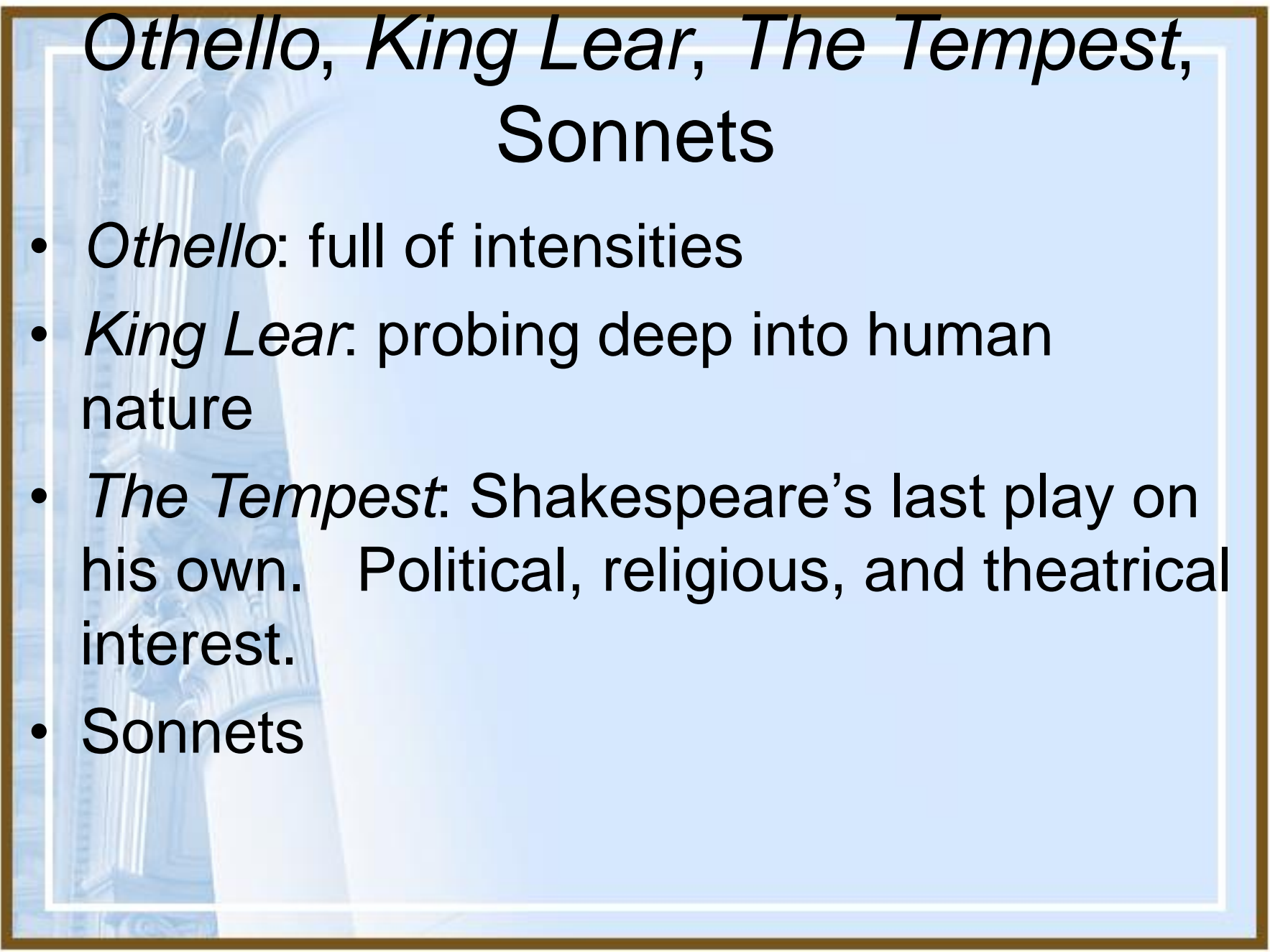
Printed by Iacobi Iaggard, and Ed. Blount. 1617.

Homoerotic allusions

in a number of his works have led commentators to contemplate Shakespeare's possible bisexuality.

William Shakespeare: **Sexuality**

- In Sonnets
 - **26 of the Sonnets** are love poems addressed to a married woman (the "Dark Lady"),
 - **126** are addressed to a young man (known as the "Fair Lord").
 - The amorous tone focuses on the young man's beauty
- Nonetheless, others interpret them as referring to **intense friendship** rather than sexual love.

The background of the slide features a faint, blue-tinted image of classical architectural columns, likely from a Greek or Roman temple, set against a light blue gradient. The columns are arranged in a perspective view, receding into the distance.

Othello, King Lear, The Tempest, Sonnets

- *Othello*: full of intensities
- *King Lear*: probing deep into human nature
- *The Tempest*: Shakespeare's last play on his own. Political, religious, and theatrical interest.
- Sonnets

Works Cited for the Above Slides

- Wikipedia
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- *Essential Shakespeare*
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