

Catalog wishlist

due by 7:00 pm, Monday, February 24th; email to swerner@folger.edu

The primary purposes of this exercise are 1) to get you familiar with the Folger's catalog and holdings, and 2) to help you start thinking about book-history questions that you can explore by looking at early modern books.

Browsing Hamnet

The first step is to browse Hamnet, the Folger's online catalog (<http://shakespeare.folger.edu>). Try different types of basic searches, including looking for specific authors or titles. Remember that on the results page, you can reorder the items to go from oldest to newest publication; that is probably the easiest way to see what early modern printed books we have, as opposed to modern editions of those works. You can also follow links within a specific record under the "associated name" category; those names typically include the author, printer, and previous owners.

You should also try more complex or esoteric searches, from either the basic search screen or from the advanced search screen. You can search for physical attributes of books, such as annotations, manuscript waste, or duodecimo format. You could also search for books published at a specific date (all books in 1487) or books published in a specific location (Antwerp, perhaps). You can combine searches as well, so you could look for all works published in Paris in the 1580s (using the wildcard to search for 158?) and then you would discover we have 112 such items, although that includes works that identify themselves as having been printed in Paris but that were actually printed elsewhere (see, for example, <http://shakespeare.folger.edu/cgi-bin/Pwebrecon.cgi?BBID=163875>). (Remember, though, if you're interested in continental books, you need to check the card catalog as well, since many of those books are not yet included in Hamnet. See Goran Proot's post for an introduction on that topic: <http://collation.folger.edu/2012/08/a-treasure-chest-6-75-meters-long/>.)

On the advanced search screen, you can select from the drop-down menu to search within "Folger copy notes." Regardless of how you did your search, when you get to an item in your results, be sure to read the Folger copy notes carefully; that is where you will find the most information about that particular copy and, often times, intriguing leads.

As you are doing this catalog browsing, keep track of those items that strike your fancy. Please note that each item also has a field for the permanent url of that record; that is the url to save and to cite once you come to writing papers on these books.

Assignment parameters

For this assignment, I would like you to each identify five items in our rare books holdings that you find interesting. Please focus on **printed works** from the dates **1450 through 1700**, and make sure you are identifying **originals and not facsimile copies**. (One way to verify that is in an original is to look where it is shelved: all books from this period will either be in the STC vault or in Deck C—rare stacks; if it is on Deck B, it is printed after 1830.) You should email me a document that contains a list of these five items, with each item providing:

- a) the title, author, and publication information for that work;
- b) the permanent url for that catalog entry; and
- c) one to two sentences explaining why you found this item interesting or how you found it.

Your assignment should be emailed to me at swerner@folger.edu by the deadline specified at the top of these guidelines.

References (these are also on our course site under the “resources” tab)

- ◆ If you are coming across book terms that you do not understand (like manuscript waste or duodecimo format), you can look them up in John Carter’s *ABC for Book Collectors* (online as a pdf at <http://www.ilab.org/download.php?object=documentation&id=29>).
- ◆ To identify Latin place names: <http://net.lib.byu.edu/~catalog/people/rlm/latin/names.htm>.
- ◆ Latin terms in printing imprints: <http://net.lib.byu.edu/~catalog/people/rlm/glossary/glossary.htm>
- ◆ Many more helpful resources are at the Rare Books and Manuscript Section’s Bibliographic Standards Committee’s Directory of Web Resources at <http://lib.nmsu.edu/rarecat/>.

Terms to know:

STC: The acronym comes from Pollard and Redgrave’s *A Short-Title Catalogue of Books Printed in England, Scotland and Ireland and English Books Printed Abroad 1473-1640*. This constitutes a distinct collection within the Folger’s holdings, and you’ll notice that all STC items have an STC call number. The STC is followed by the Wing catalog (*Short-Title Catalogue of Books Printed in England, Scotland and Ireland, Wales and British America and of English Books Printed in Other Countries 1641-1700*), although the Folger does not house or catalog its Wing books as a discrete collection.

Continental: This is fairly obvious: it’s the term used to refer to books printed on the Continent, i.e., not British works.

Incunabula: Books printed before 1501. These, except for the ones in STC, have call numbers starting with INC.

Hints for effective browsing:

call number: For items that are cataloged as a series of numbers separated by a hyphen, the proper sequence is the first numbers followed by the hyphen, followed by a space, followed by the final numbers and letter: e.g., 134- 811f

browsing by name: Search by name, rather than “author/creator” to browse all the works associated with a person, whether as author, owner, inscriber, printer, etc.

saving/printing: Use the “save, print, or email records” option at the bottom of the screen, which will generate a friendlier (and space-saving!) version of the record. Notice there is a pull-down menu of different options for format, including one for generating an EndNote citation format. (If you use Zotero, another citation management system, you can save that from the original screen, although both EndNote and Zotero don’t handle the “associated names” well and you’ll have to hand-sort those.)