

Assignment 4, option 2: textual afterlife  
due Monday, April 27th, 11:00 pm (email to [swerner@folger.edu](mailto:swerner@folger.edu))  
worth 10% of your final grade

If your book doesn't present any provenance hints, you can tackle a different task for this assignment, one that you're all going to need to work out for your book's biography: what is the history of your text post-Renaissance?

This is a different task from the ones that you've faced so far in that it asks you explicitly to think about your work as *text* rather than as *book*. Your job is to find out what sort of afterlife your book had as a text—was your work printed after 1700, either as a facsimile or as a modern edition, either in print or as a digital work? Was it translated into other languages? Was it adapted/performed/??? ?

There are a couple of strategies to find out this information. One is to work backwards: if you know your work exists in a modern, scholarly edition, that edition should provide some information on its textual history that can give you a sense of its scope. Another is to google vociferously! Google is likely to turn up nineteenth-century editions as well as twentieth-century ones. And ESTC, of course, will bring up works printed in the British Isles and North America before 1800.

Remember, it doesn't matter for this whether it is the same edition of a work as yours is: if I were researching Mary Wroth's sonnets, I would include all texts of the poems whether they were based on the manuscript version or the print. And, for some of you, excerpts might be relevant: again, using Wroth as an example, I would note the inclusion of individual sonnets in late twentieth-century anthologies.

All of this is information that you will want to include in your book's biography. If you have enough to do with provenance, you need not delve into these questions now. But if your book isn't presenting any signs of provenance to follow through on, spend your time on its afterlife.