SHAKESPEARE AFTER WERSTINE: EDITING SHAKESPEARE NOW

1–3 MAY 2025

King's University College at Western University,
266 Epworth Ave, London, Ontario, N6A 2M3

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Welcome to Shakespeare After Werstine! We're delighted that you're here to help us celebrate the career of Distinguished University Professor Paul Werstine. Our speakers comprise an international group of scholars at various career stages and we're looking forward to a stimulating two and a half days of papers and discussion.

Over the past three decades, through the work of Paul Werstine and other textual scholars, assumptions and practices that dominated twentieth-century editing have been overturned. Editors and textual theorists now work at a moment of uncertainty that demands new theories and practices for establishing and presenting Shakespeare's text. Paper sessions will collectively address three key current challenges. First, how may textual and documentary evidence bear on editorial decision-making? Second, how may new editions best serve a diverse modern readership? Papers may explore, for example, how obligations to equity and diversity may be better met through editorial strategies such as paratextual materials, decisions about the playtext, and innovative forms of annotation. Third, papers will also examine how accessibility and the possibilities for interactivity that come with digital publication have transformed the editor's work, the face of the edition, and concepts of what constitutes a work and a canon.

Speakers include Freya Abbas, Brandi K. Adams, Heidi Craig, Alan Galey, Ashley Howard, Janelle Jenstad, Eric Johnson, Ian Lancashire, Zachary Lesser, James J. Marino, Sonia Massai, Rebecca Niles, James Purkis, Ian Rae, Eric Rasmussen, Blake Robertson, Scott Schofield, Robert Stagg, M. L. Stapleton, Misha Teramura, Jessica Tooker and Katayoun Torabi.

From the Organizers,

M.J. Kidnie, James Purkis, Ian Rae

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

ABOUT PAUL WERSTINE

Professor Werstine has spent his career teaching Shakespeare and Medieval and Renaissance English Literature at King's University College and supervising graduate students at Western University. Among his teaching awards are the King's College Award for Excellence in Teaching 2003, and awards from the graduating classes of 2003, 2007, and 2009. He is co-editor of the Folger Library Edition of Shakespeare's plays and poems (1992-2010). He is also co-general editor of the New Variorum Shakespeare Edition. Professor Werstine has written widely about the early printings of Shakespeare, the Shakespeare editorial tradition, and dramatic manuscripts, especially in *Early Modern Playhouse Manuscripts and the Editing of Shakespeare* (Cambridge University Press, 2012). In 2010 he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada and in 2023 appointed King's inaugural Distinguished University Professor.

SPEAKERS

Freya Abbas

Freya Abbas holds a B.A. in English and linguistics and an M.A. in English and South Asian studies from the University of Toronto. She is currently studying Anishinaabemowin at Georgian College. She is interested in how exploration and colonization impacted seventeenth-century British literature, especially in the context of European encounters with Algonquian languages.

Brandi K. Adams

Brandi Adams is a groundbreaking early career scholar whose work is located on the intersections of the history of the book and race; she also researches the early history of artificial intelligence, early modern automata, and how studying literature can have a significant and positive impact on computing. Dr Adams's scholarship presses readers to reconsider how commonplace terminology and structures of thought within the field of bibliography privilege a history of codified speculation and reproduce ideologies of race and gender that date back to early modern England. She builds on Werstine's research into the problematic distinction between "foul papers" and "fair copy", for example, by investigating historical associations of "fairness". She is currently writing her first monograph, *Representations of Books and Readers in Early Modern English drama* (1580-1640), and co-editing Shakespeare's *The Merry Wives of Windsor* for the Cambridge Shakespeare Editions.

Heidi Craig

Heidi Craig is Assistant Professor (CLTA) of English at University of Toronto, Scarborough; she also teaches in the Digital Humanities Minor at Woodsworth College. She's the editor of the *World Shakespeare Bibliography* and, with Sonia Massai, co-creator and co-editor of Early Modern Dramatic Paratexts (EMDP) online. Heidi is the author of *Theatre Closure and the Paradoxical Rise of English Renaissance Drama in the Civil Wars* (Cambridge UP, 2023), which was short-listed for the SAA's First Book Prize in 2024, as well as several articles and chapters on early modern drama, bibliography, digital pedagogy, and material culture. She has also begun a second book project, tentatively titled *Waste Work: Writing and Labour from Rags to E-Waste* a transnational history of the extricable link between writing and material waste from the early modern period to the present.

SPEAKERS

Alan Galey

Alan Galey is Associate Professor in the Faculty of Information at the University of Toronto, cross-appointed to the Department of English, and former director of the collaborative program in Book History and Print Culture. His research and teaching are located at the intersection of media studies, the history of books and reading, and the digital humanities. He has won awards for both his teaching and research, including the 2013 Bowers Prize for best article in the field of textual studies. His first monograph book, *The Shakespearean Archive: Experiments in New Media from the Renaissance to Postmodernity*, was published in 2014 by Cambridge University Press. He has published articles in journals including *Book History*, *Shakespeare Quarterly*, the *Canadian Journal of Communication*, *Literary and Linguistic Computing*, *Archivaria*, and *Archival Science*. He has also contributed chapters to several scholarly edited collections, and co-edited Shakespeare, the Bible, and the *Form of the Book: Contested Scriptures* (with Travis DeCook; Routledge, 2011). His current SSHRC-supported project is called *Bibliographic Methods for Born-Digital Texts: From Paratext to Performance* (www.veilofcode.ca).

Ashley Howard

Ashley Howard is a PhD Candidate at the University of British Columbia. She specializes in early modern ecocriticism and editorial praxis, focusing on amateur playwrights and emerging editors. Her work has appeared in *Scholarly Editing and Performance Philosophy*, and she is currently editing Ralph Knevet's *Rhodon and Iris* for *Digital Renaissance Editions*.

Janelle Jenstad

Janelle Jenstad is Professor of English at the University of Victoria. She co-coordinates the New Internet Shakespeare Editions and Digital Renaissance Editions and directs the Humanities Computing and Media Centre at UVic (hcmc.uvic.ca), Linked Early Modern Drama Online (lemdo.uvic.ca), and The Map of Early Modern London (mapoflondon.uvic.ca). She served for three years on the Technical Council of the Text Encoding Initiative. With Jennifer Roberts-Smith and Mark Kaethler, she co-edited *Shakespeare's Language in Digital Media* (Routledge). Her essays and book chapters have appeared in *Shakespeare Bulletin*, *Elizabethan Theatre*, *EMLS*, *JMEMS*, *DHQ*, *Digital Studies*, *Scholarly Editing*, and other venues. For a full list, see janellejenstad.com

SPEAKERS

Eric Johnson

Eric Johnson holds a faculty appointment in the English Department at George Mason University. He is the former Director of Digital Access at the Folger Shakespeare Library, where he oversaw digital projects and academic publications. Under his leadership, his team tripled the size of the Folger's online audiences, created a range of innovative resources for the public and researchers, and drove up print sales of the Folger Shakespeare Editions by over 30%. Working with Dr. Werstine on the Editions was one of the highlights of Eric's time at the Folger -- indeed, of his entire professional career -- and he is delighted to honour Werstine's legacy at this conference.

Ian Lancashire

Ian Lancashire is Professor Emeritus of English at the University of Toronto. He is the Editor of Representative Poetry On-Line (1994-), the Early Modern English Dictionaries Database (EMEDD, 1996-2006), and Lexicons of Early Modern English (2006-). His books include *Two Tudor Interludes* (1980), *Dramatic Texts and Records of Britain* (1984), *Using TACT with Electronic Texts: Text-Analysis Computing Tools Vers. 2.1* (MLA, 1996), *Forgetful Muses*, and numerous book chapters and journal articles. He was Founding Director, Centre for Computing in the Humanities, Toronto, 1985-96.

Zachary Lesser

Zachary Lesser, Edward W. Kane Professor of English at the University of Pennsylvania, is the author of three award-winning monographs and a general editor of The Arden Shakespeare (fourth series). He is a world-leading scholar in the materiality of texts, evidenced in his recent *Ghosts, Holes, Rips, and Scrapes* (Penn Press, 2021), which was shortlisted for the DeLong Book History Prize. He is also the co-creator of two important digital databases, the Shakespeare Census and DEEP: Databases of Early English Playbooks, and the Director of the University of Pennsylvania's Workshop in the History of Material Texts.

James J. Marino

James J. Marino is Associate Professor of English at Cleveland State University. He is the author of *Owning William Shakespeare: The King's Men and Their Intellectual Property* (U Penn Press) and of essays in *ELH, Shakespeare Quarterly, ELR, Renaissance Drama*, and elsewhere. He is currently working on the Arden 4 edition of *The Taming of the Shrew*.

SPEAKERS

Sonia Massai

Sonia Massai is the author of three monographs, including *Shakespeare and the Rise of the Editor* (Cambridge, 2007), a seminal pre-history of Shakespeare editing. She has edited drama for the Arden Early Modern Drama series and is a general editor of the Cambridge Shakespeare Editions, a project that combines traditional print editions with digital texts and supporting material. Dr Massai has also published on world-wide Shakespeares and, recently, on how identity is defined through accents in performance.

Rebecca Niles

Rebecca Niles is an independent contractor, designing and developing digital tools, resources, and experiences that bring the arts of the past into the present. Since 2012, she has functioned as digital editor of the Folger Shakespeare online, and production editor of the Folger Shakespeare Editions in print. Rebecca resides in both Toronto and Hamilton, in Canada.

James Purkis

James Purkis has published on the intersecting fields of textual studies, theatre history, authorship, and collaboration. He is a leading scholar of dramatic manuscripts, and his *Shakespeare and Manuscript Drama* (Cambridge, 2016) was shortlisted for the Globe Book Award. He is currently editing *Sir Thomas More* for Cambridge Shakespeare Editions. The edition will offer a new appraisal of the most complicated early modern theatrical manuscript, and develop readings of the play's representations of nationalism and refugeeism, topics that resonate in the present.

Ian Rae

Ian Rae began researching the private Shakespeare collection of J.D. Barnett in 2012 as part of a SSHRC Insight Development Grant on "Mapping Stratford Culture." He became interested in the way that Barnett used his collection of 42,000 volumes as a lending library to stimulate local and regional intellectual circles and civic projects. The presence of Barnett's collection in Stratford, and the way that it attracted scholars from across North America, contradicts the legend of the Stratford Festival as having created the largest classical theatre in North America in a cultural vacuum. Rae published the first scholarly article on this topic, "Stratford, Shakespeare, and John Davis Barnett," in *Shakespeare and Canada: "remembrance of ourselves"* (University of Ottawa Press, 2017). He subsequently examined how the collecting philosophy developed by Barnett through his research on Shakespeare led to his proposal to create "A National Library for Canada" (*English Studies in Canada*, 2020).

SPEAKERS

Eric Rasmussen

Eric Rasmussen is an internationally renowned bibliographer and editor, with special expertise in the Shakespeare folios. Stories about his authentication of a newly discovered Shakespeare First Folio were featured in *The New York Times*, *The Guardian*, and the BBC. His book, *The Shakespeare Thefts: In Search of the First Folios*, was serialized by *The London Sunday Times*. He brings to the conference deep knowledge of editorial practices and challenges, having edited the *Complete Works for the Royal Shakespeare Company* and critical editions of individual plays for the Arden Shakespeare, Oxford's World's Classics, and the Revels Plays. He is a contributor to *The Cambridge Edition of the Works of Ben Jonson* (named Book of the Year for 2012 by *The Times Literary Supplement*) and *Shakespeare Beyond Doubt* (named Book of the Year for 2013 by both the TLS and History Today).

Blake Robertson

Blake Robertson is a PhD Candidate at the University of Western Ontario. His research focuses on the censorship of 17th century history plays and how various textual collaborators read and revised historical moments concerning succession, monarchial authority, and rebellion.

Scott Schofield

Scott Schofield has researched book history for the last two decades with a particular interest in histories of reading, collecting and editing. A typical example of such work came in 2016, when he curated a Shakespeare 400 exhibition at the University of Toronto's Fisher Rare Book Library and authored chapters on early modern printing and Shakespeare's reading for the accompanying exhibition catalogue. Schofield's current research on the Stratford Ontario bibliophile, John Davis Barnett, looks closely at the material traces left in the more than 1000 books within his Shakespeareana collection of 1918, a collection that marked the largest of its kind in Canada for the time.

Robert Stagg

Robert Stagg is Assistant Professor of English at Texas A&M University, where he serves as the Director of the New Variorum Shakespeare.

SPEAKERS

M. L. Stapleton

M. L. Stapleton is Chapman Distinguished Professor of English at Purdue University, Fort Wayne, a chair he has occupied since 2004.

Misha Teramura

Misha Teramura is Associate Professor of English at the University of Toronto. His work has been published in such journals as *ELH*, *Shakespeare Quarterly*, *Modern Philology*, *English Literary Renaissance*, *RES*, *Early Theatre*, *Huntington Library Quarterly*, and *The Chaucer Review*, and has received both the Martin Stevens Award for Best New Essay in Early Drama Studies and the Barbara Palmer Award for Best New Essay in Early Drama Archival Research. He is currently working on two book projects, titled *Paper Plays: The Material Lives of Early Modern Manuscript Playbooks* and *Reading Lost Plays: Early Modern Drama and the Forms of Textual Survival*, and is editing *Henry IV*, *Part 2* for the Arden Shakespeare Fourth Series. He is also a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society and a co-editor of the Lost Plays Database.

Jessica Tooker

Jessica Tooker received her PhD in English from Indiana University, Bloomington. Her research interests include Shakespeare and critical theory.

Katayoun Torabi

Katayoun Torabi is Instructional Associate Professor of English at Texas A&M University, where she serves as the Project Manager of the New Variorum Shakespeare.

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SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

DAY 1   *Thursday, May 1, 4:30–7:00 pm*

4:30–7:00 pm

CATERED RECEPTION

Garron Lounge / King's University College

266 Epworth Ave, London, Ontario, N6A 2M3

DAY 2   *Friday, May 2, 9:30 am–6:00 pm*

9:30–11:20 am

PANEL 1: ACCEPTING UNCERTAINTIES

Vitali Lounge / King's University College

Panel Chair: Margaret Jane Kidnie

James Purkis

 "Werstine and Greg"

Brandi Adams

"Editing through Discomfort and Uncertainty"

Blake Robertson

"'I haue plodded in ployden & can find no lawe': Textual Confusion and Its Value in *Thomas of Woodstock*"

Alan Galey

"The Textual Mystery of Everything: Applying Shakespearean Textual Scholarship Beyond Shakespeare"

DAY 2
continued

Friday, May 2

11:20–11:45 am

COFFEE & TEA
Vitali Lounge Extension / King's University College
266 Epworth Ave, London, Ontario, N6A 2M3

11:45 am–1:15 pm

PANEL 2: AUTHORS AND COLLECTORS
Vitali Lounge / King's University College
Panel Chair: Peter Blayney

Misha Teramura
"Disappearing Acts: The Loss (and Survival) of Manuscript Playbooks"

Scott Schofield and Ian Rae
"In Search of a Forgotten Collector: John Davis Barnett and His Collection of Shakespeareana"

1:15–2:15 pm

LUNCH
Garron Lounge / King's University College
266 Epworth Ave, London, Ontario, N6A 2M3

2:15–3:45 pm

PANEL 3: EDITOR AS MEDIATOR
Vitali Lounge / King's University College
Panel Chair: Emily Pez

Rebecca Niles
"'What mighty contests rise from trivial things': Editing Shakespeare, and the Critics Who Love to Hate It"

DAY 2
continued

Friday, May 2

2:15–3:45 pm

PANEL 3: EDITOR AS MEDIATOR (continued)
Vitali Lounge / King's University College
Panel Chair: Emily Pez

Jessica Tooker
"Interpretive Praxis in 'The Scottish Play'"

Eric Rasmussen
"Imaginary Commentators"

6:00 pm

CONFERENCE DINNER
Idlewyld Inn

36 Grand Ave, London, ON N6C 1K8 (for conference attendees – this event is capped at 50, so please register early at the conference website)

DAY 3

Saturday, May 3, 9:30am–3:00pm

9:30–11:00 am

PANEL 4: DIGITAL SPACES
Vitali Lounge / King's University College
Panel Chair: C. E. McGee

Janelle Jenstad
"Shakespeare, Digital/Typographical Markup, and Interface Design"

Eric Johnson
"Modern Readers and the Editor as Engineer"

Kathy Torabi and Rob Stagg
"The New Variorum Shakespeare"

DAY 3
continued

Saturday, May 3

11:00–11:15 am

COFFEE & TEA

Vitali Lounge Extension / King's University College

266 Epworth Ave, London, Ontario, N6A 2M3

11:15–12:45 pm

PANEL 5: ARCHIVAL INNOVATORS

Vitali Lounge / King's University College

Panel Chair: Leslie Thomson

Sonia Massai

"Diverse Editing in the Archive"

Ashley Howard

"Playediting Playreaders: Amateurs and Future Shakespeare Editors"

M. L. Stapleton

"The Sorrows of Sir Thomas Hanmer"

12:45–1:30 pm

LUNCH

Garron Lounge / King's University College

266 Epworth Ave, London, Ontario, N6A 2M3

DAY 3
continued

PANEL 6: WORDS, WORDS, WORDS

1:30–3:00 pm   *Vitali Lounge / King's University College*

Panel Chair: Lynne Magnussen

Zachary Lesser

"The Merciless Who?"

Freya Abbas

"Language Policy in The Tempest and Jamestown"

Jim Marino

"Two Benvolios: Repertory Revision in Doctor Faustus and Romeo and Juliet"

CLOSING REMARKS

3:00 pm   *Vitali Lounge / King's University College*

266 Epworth Ave, London, Ontario, N6A 2M3

M. J. Kidnie

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CONTACT INFORMATION

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