

# Clark Library Rare Books and References<sup>1</sup>

## Shakespeare Collection

- 1) Rymer, Thomas, Frederick S. Stallknecht, Richard Baldwin, Frederick S. Stallknecht, and Frederick S. (Frederick Stoud) Stallknecht. 1693. *A Short View of Tragedy: It's Original, Excellency, and Corruption: With Some Reflections on Shakespear, and Other Practitioners for the Stage* / by Mr. Rymer ... London: Printed and are to be sold by Richard Baldwin, near the Oxford Arms in Warwick Lane, and at the Black Lyon in Fleetstreet, between the two Temple-Gates.

**Clark Library Rare Book Stacks; PR3671.R7 S5 \***

<https://catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/100218940>

*In this important work in which Rymer advocates for a return to classical tragedy and offers Shakespeare as a cautionary tale, Rymer's most infamous contribution here is his reading of Shakespeare's Othello, particularly its eponymous hero, who, according to Rymer, Shakespeare had the audacity and the bad taste to actually give a name. Rymer offers one of the earliest published critiques of Othello's racialized Blackness. Rymer also known for coining the phrase "poetic justice" in an earlier work, The Tragedies of the Last Age Consider'd (1678).*

- 2) Shakespeare, William. 1668. *The First Folio of Shakespeare* / Prepared by Charlton Hinman. Edited by Charlton Hinman. [First edition]. New York: W.W. Norton & Company, Inc.

**Clark Library Reference; f PR2751.A15 1668**

*Attendees should, of course, be made aware of copies of The First Folio or facsimiles thereof that are being held by the Clark Library.*

## Titus Andronicus

- 3) Shakespeare, William, and Joseph Quincy Adams. 1936. *Shakespeare's Titus Andronicus: the First Quarto, 1594, Reproduced in Facsimile from the Unique Copy in the Folger Shakespeare Library / with an Introduction by Joseph Quincy Adams*. New York and London: for the trustees of Amherst college, C. Scribner's Sons.

**Clark Library Reference; PR2835 .A1 1594f**

**Clark Library Press Collection; Press coll. Anderson 013**

<https://catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/001017605>

*One of the reasons I've added this to the list is because it gives us an example of a Shakespeare quarto but it also, given this earliest of Shakespeare's tragedies, it also reminds us of Shakespeare's early interest in representing Black personas. Further, Adams' presentation of this*

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<sup>1</sup> I have written *Shakespeare Jungle Fever*, the first book critical study (not counting *Exegesis* [below] to have Shakespeare as the primary site of its study of race. My edited collection, *White People in Shakespeare*, also, I hope, marks an important moment in Shakespeare and race studies as a "first", again not counting *Exegesis*. Other important books that could be here are Kim F. Hall's 1995, *Things of Darkness*, and Margo Hendricks and Patricia Parker's edited volume, *Women, "Race," and Writing in the Early Modern Period* (1994).

*quarto also ties the text to Adams' role with respect to the establishment of The Folger Library and his highly racialized inaugural address given at the same.*

### **Shakespeare Literature in the 1900s: Miscellaneous**

- 4) Bridges, Horace J. (Horace James). 1916. *Our Fellow Shakespeare, How Everyman May Enjoy His Works* / by Horace J. Bridges. Chicago: A.C. McClurg & Co.

**Clark Library Reference; PR2976 .B851**

<https://catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/001373733>

\*Especially this chapter: “the merchant of Venice: the tragedy of race-prejudice”

*Interesting to think about this work in terms of ongoing debates in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century about Shakespeare the everyman and about its link, too, to the American Immigration Act of 1924. The discussion of “race-prejudice” via the figure of anti-Semitism can also be quite generative—a work that can be usefully compared to the New Exegesis of Shakespeare listed below. Thinking about the relationship between Jewishness and Blackness in Shakespeare is also one of the ideas raised (however briefly) in my presentation.*

### **Secondary Sources**

- 5) Emerson, Ralph Waldo. *Representative Men: Seven Lectures*. Bohn Series. London: H.G. Bohn, 1850.

*Emerson's Representative Men, including a talk he gave at Amherst College in 1879, as well as some of his more pointed ideas about Shakespeare in America, situates him in the founding story of The Folger Library as well as what Nell Painter calls in her History of White People, one of the major voices of white racial theory in the nineteenth century.*

- 6) Erickson, Peter. *Citing Shakespeare: The Reinterpretation of Race in Contemporary Literature and Art*. New York, NY ; Palgrave Macmillan, 2007.

*In this short critical work, Erickson thinks about the “citation” of Shakespeare by several Black writers and artists, including the poet Rita Dove and the sculptor Fred Wilson. Erickson has been one of the significant early voices in Shakespeare critical race studies and has recently worked closely with the Folger Library renovations and the art installations for its reconceived foyer. This particular book is also one of the inspirations for my presentation and title.*

- 7) *Hamlet, presented by Laurence Olivier: Scenes from the Film with Original Set Designs by Roger Furse / Reproduced from the J. Arthur Rank Enterprise*. London: Published by Benjamin Pollock Limited, 1948.

*My presentation ends with a discussion of Olivier's Hamlet (and the British and American hype around it) and its importance as a site of cultural and racial exchange between America and England at the end of World War II.*

- 8) *New Exegesis of Shakespeare; Interpretation of His Principal Characters and Plays on the Principle of Races*. Edinburgh: A. and C. Black, 1859.

*A very intriguing volume that tries to locate Shakespeare at the heart of racial science in the middle of the nineteenth century. The author is particularly interested in the “white races” and in advancing an argument that Shakespeare himself is actually Celtic rather than Anglo. He also faults Shakespeare and others for placing Jews in the pantheon of white races. This hefty volume is to my knowledge the first serious extended “study” of Shakespeare and race, operating more as a polemic than a textually accountable analysis.*

- 9) Thompson, Ayanna. *Passing Strange: Shakespeare, Race, and Contemporary America*. OUP USA, 2011.

*I’m including this book because it is a smart book, and one of the foundational studies of Shakespeare and race in the arena of popular culture. This book temporally extends the story I’m developing in my talk.*

- 10) Thompson, Ayanna. *The Cambridge Companion to Shakespeare and Race*. First edition. Cambridge Companions to Literature. Cambridge, United Kingdom; Cambridge University Press, 2021.

*This smartly edited collection does an exceptional job moving its reader through some rather accessible avenues for pursuing a critical study of race in Shakespeare. Working with Shakespeare scholars both in the U.S. as well as outside it, the collection also illustrates the further opening up of Shakespeare and race scholarship to an ever-growing scholarly audience.*