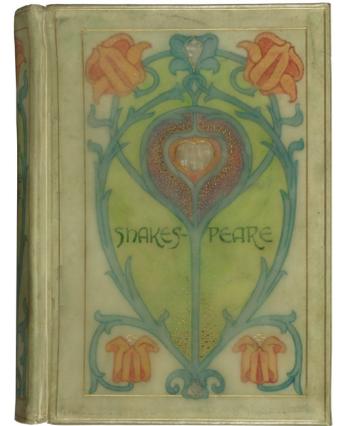


# A Family Guide to The Curatorial Eye: Discoveries from the Folger Vault June 13 - August 29, 2009

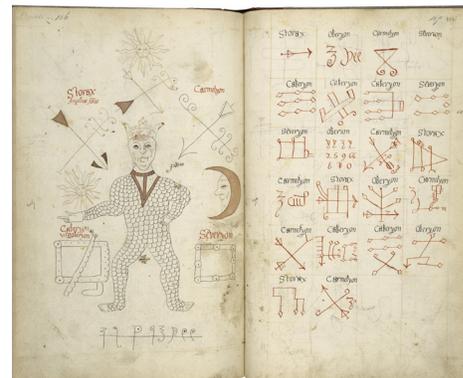
**EYE SPY!**  
All of the pictures in this guide can be found in the Great Hall. Can you find them all?



Have you ever searched for valuable treasure? Look where you are standing now. About four floors under your feet, the Folger houses a vault full of hundreds of thousands of books and artwork, some which are over 500 years old! Folger Shakespeare Library is full of treasures, many of which have never been displayed to the public. This exhibition is all about giving people like you a chance to view these treasures and learn about the stories each of them holds.

## MAGICAL TREASURES - Case 1

People have been interested in magic long before Harry Potter wielded his wand at Hogwarts. The manuscript pieces in this case are over 400 years old, and they contain detailed instructions for summoning spirits and casting spells. Through the magic described on these pages, people believed that they could cure sickness, catch thieves, or find love.

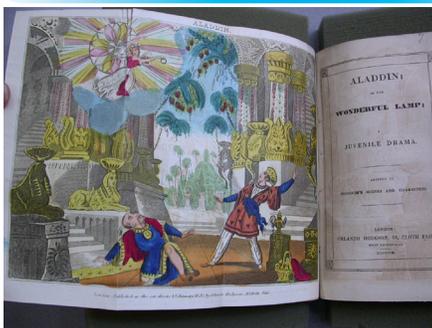


Top: The works of William Shakespeare, [n.d.]. Left: Book of magic: with instructions for invoking spirits, etc., 1580. Bottom: *Aladdin, or, The Wonderful Lamp: a Juvenile Drama*, 1832. All images, Folger Shakespeare Library.

**FIND:** The book shown on the bottom right side of Case 1 gives instructions for casting a spell to heal a sick person. Can you find the now-famous magical word that is used to cast this spell? What is it?

**IMAGINE:** What type of magic spell do you wish you could cast? What would the formula for your spell look like?

## THEATRICAL TREASURES - Case 3



Do you have an action figure of your favorite movie or cartoon character? Children in the nineteenth century had action figures, too! Theater was the primary form of entertainment at that time, and many kids had toy theaters they played with at home. A toy theater was a three-dimensional miniature theater that allowed the user to move paper cutouts of characters around the stage to recreate the plays of the day. Kids could also buy portraits of their favorite actor dressed in the costume he or she wore on stage. Another form of portrait, the tinsel print, allowed the owner to decorate the picture with items such as foil, leather, and silk.

**FIND:** Find the portrait in case 3 that is the tinsel print. What famous Shakespeare character does the print depict?

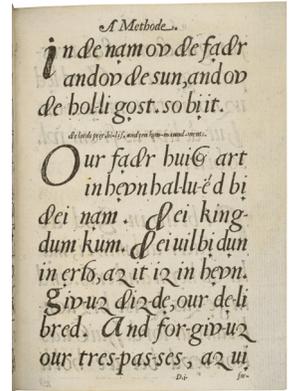
**IMAGINE:** Choose one of the portraits that you see in this case. What do you imagine the story of this play is about?

## INSTRUCTIONAL TREASURES - Cases 8 and 9

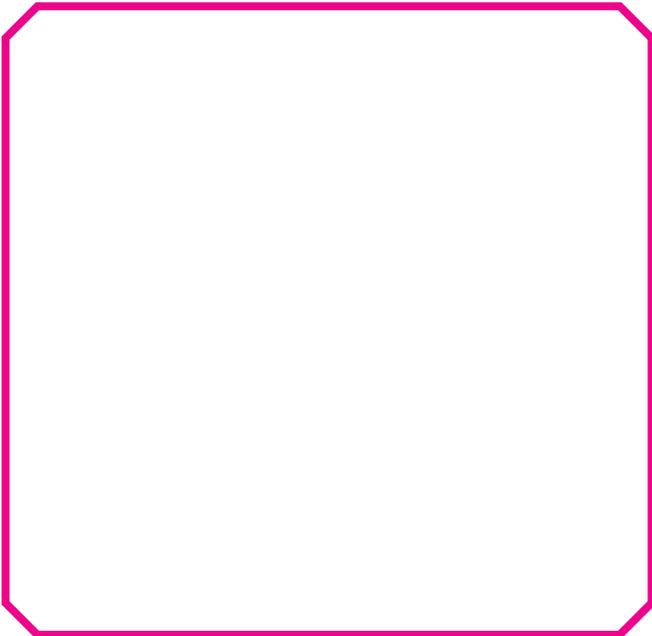
How-to books were very popular in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. These books informed their readers on topics such as cooking, reading, writing, singing, drawing, and swimming, to name a few. Technical manuals also existed at this time as a popular way for skilled workers to give instructions on their trade. These manuals covered all types of information, from firefighting to firework displays.

**FIND:** Find the picture in case 8 from the book entitled, *The Art of Swimming*. What type of activity do you think the picture is demonstrating?

*How to...*



**PLAY:** One of the pictures in case 9 shows how to set up a fireworks display that illuminates an epic struggle between a horseman and a fire-breathing dragon. Draw a picture of what you think those fireworks might look like in the sky.



## SHAKESPEAREAN TREASURES - Cases 12 and 13

For over 400 years, people all over the world have loved and studied Shakespeare's plays. The items in case 12 evidence some of the countries that have enjoyed Shakespeare's plays. Case 13 displays the signatures of many famous people who owned copies of Shakespeare's work.

**FIND:** Case 12 shows intricate doodles from the school notebook of a teenage Romanian girl who was studying Shakespeare in the 1950s. Name the two plays you see illustrated in the notebook.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

**PLAY:** Below are descriptions of some the people shown in case 13 who owned copies of Shakespeare's work or gave his plays as gifts. Find their signatures, and fill in the names of each person next to the description.



32<sup>nd</sup> president of the United States who led the country during the years of the Great Depression

American writer who is best known for his poetry collection, *Leaves of Grass*

Queen of the United Kingdom from 1837 to 1901, the longest reign of any British monarch

Left: *Le guignol de l'année, 1895*.  
Top Right: *A method or comfortable beginning for all unlearned, whereby they may be taught to read English, 1570*. All images, Folger Shakespeare Library.

**Congratulations on finding all of the Folger Treasures in the Great Hall! Before you leave, stop by the docent desk and pick up another exhibition activity that you can do at home!**

For more games and information about this exhibition, visit our website at [www.folger.edu/discoveries](http://www.folger.edu/discoveries). For other cool activities, visit us at [www.folger.edu/kids](http://www.folger.edu/kids).

