

An early quarto edition of Shakespeare's *Henry V*

William Shakespeare, *Henry V*. [London: Thomas Pavier, 1619]. 7 9/16 inches x 5 7/8 inches (174 mm x 135 mm), [56] pages, A–G4 (G4 blank).

[Engraved title vignette] The | Chronicle History | of Henry the fift, with his | battell fought at *Agin Court* in | France. Together with an- | *cient Pistoll*. | *As it hath bene sundry times playd by the Right Honou- | rable the Lord Chamberlaine his | Seruants*. | [printer's device] | Printed for *T. P.* 1608 [i.e., 1619].

Shakespeare's quartos, so named because of their format (a single sheet folded twice, creating four leaves or eight pages), are the first printed representations of his plays and, as none of the plays survives in manuscript, of great importance to Shakespeare scholarship. Only twenty-one of Shakespeare's plays were published in quarto before the closure of the theaters and outbreak of civil war in 1642. These quartos were printed from either Shakespeare's "foul papers" (a draft with notations and changes that was given in sections to actors for their respective roles); from "fair copies" created from foul papers that presented the entire action of the play; from promptbooks, essentially fair copies annotated and expanded by the author and acting company to clarify stage directions, sound effects, etc.; or from a previously published quarto edition. The quartos were inexpensive to produce and were published for various reasons, including to secure the acting company's rights to the material and to bring in money during the plague years in London when the theaters were closed.

Henry V takes place in England and France at the beginning of Henry's reign. The action opens before the 1415 Battle of Agincourt and presents the events leading to the conflict and preparations for battle. The English arrive in France, take control of a town, and are cautioned by the French who vow not to back down. On the eve of battle, Henry wanders anonymously among his soldiers and expresses his doubts, yet he gives them a rousing call to arms the following day. The English prevail, and King Charles VI of France consents both to Henry's marriage of his daughter, Catherine of Valois, and to Henry's eventual succession to the French throne. (Henry died only two months before Charles, narrowly missing his chance to become king of France.)

This third quarto of *Henry V* is bound in nineteenth-century dark tan morocco with blind-stamped oval vignette in the center of front and back covers surrounded by a floral border, a gold-stamped flower in four corners of front and back covers. The spine is stamped in gold with the following reading up: "HENRY THE FIFT 1608:". A handwritten note by J. O. Halliwell-Phillipps is on the obverse of back free endpaper.

This quarto was formerly owned by Edward Capell (1713–1781) (his initials on the title page), who was appointed in 1737 as deputy-inspector of plays and was author of a 10-volume edition of Shakespeare. The book was given to Edinburgh University Library in 1872 by James Orchard Halliwell-Phillipps (1820–1889), the English Shakespeare collector and scholar whose *Outlines of the Life of Shakespeare* (1848) was published in several editions. Beginning in the 1870s, he devoted his time completely to the research of Shakespeare's life. Halliwell-Phillipps was instrumental in the acquisition of

New Place, the site of Shakespeare's last home, and in the creation of the Museum at Stratford-upon-Avon (now Nash's House and New Place).

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