

NEW MEXICO HISTORY MUSEUM

PALACE OF THE GOVERNORS

The Book's the Thing: Shakespeare from Stage to Page A Palace Press interactive exhibit



Santa Fe—Where would we be without the printing press? We certainly wouldn't have Shakespeare, or the thousands of editions of his plays produced over the last four centuries. Not a bad run for one of the most mysterious playwrights in history. From February 5–28, the Palace Press at the New Mexico History Museum presents a special exhibition in collaboration with the New Mexico Museum of Art's [*First Folio! The Book that Gave Us Shakespeare.*](#)

In *The Book's the Thing: Shakespeare from Stage to Page*, award-winning Palace Press printers Tom Leech and James Bourland will mount a multi-part exhibit with a hands-on twist: The printers will print facsimiles of a First Folio page using a replica "Gutenberg" wooden hand press. Visitors will be able to make their own prints for a take-home treat. Printing sessions will be scheduled daily, with times to be announced soon.

In addition, Leech has worked with Shakespeare scholar Robin Williams to curate creations by members of the Santa Fe Book Arts Group. Winning entries showcase 15 contemporary handmade artist books inspired by the works of Shakespeare. (That's Will Karp's "Henry VIII" above. Download a high-res version of it [by clicking here.](#))

The walls of the gallery will also feature a collaboration between Leech and internationally known calligrapher Patricia Musick. Leech's handmade, marbled paper (embedded with recycled pages of *Hamlet*) provides a surface for Musick's hand-calligraphed quotes from *Hamlet, Prince of Denmark*. The artists successfully demonstrated similar works for past exhibits based on *Romeo and Juliet*, *Love's Labour's Lost* and *The Tempest*. See http://www.musickstudio.com/pm_calligraphy.htm for examples.

Finally, a selection of items ranging from cigar labels and playing cards to rare books will reveal examples of how Shakespeare's works have been published and interpreted by artists over time.

The exhibition takes over a previous storage space in the east end of the Palace of the Governors, with an entrance from the courtyard. It's a fitting locale, given that the Palace began construction in 1610, six years before Shakespeare's death. And in Act 3, Scene 2, of *Twelfth Night*, Maria references the European continent's growing awareness of the Spanish Indies (including New Mexico), when she says: "He does smile his face into more lines than is in the new map with the augmentation of the Indies."

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For more information about the museum, log onto www.nmhistorymuseum.org.

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[The New Mexico History Museum](#), 113 Lincoln Avenue, in Santa Fe, New Mexico, is part of a campus that includes the Palace of the Governors, a National Treasure and the oldest continuously occupied public building in the United States; the Fray Angélico Chávez History Library; the Palace of the Governors Photo Archives; the Press at the Palace of the Governors; and the Native American Artisans Program. A division of the Department of Cultural Affairs, its exhibitions and programs are supported by the Museum of New Mexico Foundation.

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