On October 6th at 5:30 p.m. at the Tweed Museum of Art, there will be a grand opening and kickoff of one of the most significant exhibitions with related events that has ever graced the campus of the University of Minnesota Duluth—Shakespeare’s First Folio. This event, unique in Minnesota and part of a national schedule of exhibitions of one of the folios in each of the states, arranged by the Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington D.C., will celebrate the arrival of the First Folio at the Tweed and the beginning of many related events, all in commemoration of the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare’s death. Mayor Emily Larson will open the celebration of this Folio, and Dr. Paul Cannan will talk about the making of Shakespeare. Shakespeare wrote thirty-seven plays covering a variety of topics and a diversity of individuals. Following first published “quartos” (pages folded twice) came the publication of his plays in 1623, in a “folio” (pages folded once). Some 750 copies were printed originally, of which only 234 copies are extant today.

But, while we all learned about Shakespeare in school and read his plays, why is his legacy important to us today? Born in 1564 in the small town of Stratford-Upon-Avon northwest of London, he died in 1616. Why are his writings...
PREPARING FOR THE FIRST FOLIO By Anneliese Verhoeven

In February 2015, the Tweed Museum of Art was notified of its selection as one of the museums that would host a traveling exhibition of Shakespeare’s First Folio. Organized by the Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington, D.C., the exhibition was made possible by two of Shakespeare’s contemporary writers, John Heminge and Henry Condell. As fellow actors of Shakespeare in the same company, Heminge and Condell would have had access to the play scripts and, as scholars have postulated, may have worked from the original manuscripts to produce the first edition. Their efforts to assemble all 36 plays in one volume was laborious and involved collecting the plays previously printed and those that were not. Only 18 of Shakespeare’s plays appeared in print during his lifetime, and many were either corrupt or pirated. The First Folio contains 36 plays, 18 of which were published for the first time, salvaging such works as The Tempest and Macbeth from likely extinction. The Folio is scheduled to arrive at the Tweed during the last week of September and, along with the accompanying text panels that complete the exhibit, will take approximately three days to install. It will be transported via FedEx Custom Critical White Glove Service, which provides a tamper-proof, time- and temperature-controlled environment for the shipment of highly sensitive objects. Once the Folio is secured within the museum, it will remain encased for a 24-hour acclimatization period. This will ensure that the Folio has adequate time to adjust to the Tweed’s humidity and temperature levels, preventing the type of drastic exposure to a new environment that could cause it to expand or contract and produce damage. Also accompanying the Folio will be a small team of trained museum preparators whose job it is to install and secure the Folio at each host location. This team, along with Tweed staff, will be responsible for setting up the display case, testing the case alarm system, lighting, and overseeing the condition inspection. For the safety of the Folio, all activity will be sealed off from the public and will take place after hours. Amidst all of the work and excitement, we at the Tweed know that hosting Shakespeare’s First Folio is a spectacular, once-in-a-lifetime opportunity not only for the Museum, but also for UMD and Duluth at large.

2. UMD’s Community Partnerships: With over 40 campuses and community partners, UMD’s First Folio program offers something for everyone. We will celebrate Shakespeare on the page and the stage and the silver screen, through art and music, from Renaissance faires to rock-and-roll meditations, and even with Elizabethan era science and technology.

3. Service to Greater Minnesota: Duluth’s beautiful location on Lake Superior already draws tourists from across the Upper Midwest, and its position midway between the Twin Cities and the Canadian border will allow many underserved communities across the Northland unprecedented access to this world-class cultural event. School groups and families will find many enriching activities to enhance their experience of the First Folio and make Duluth a destination for the most of a day trip to Duluth.

HOW UMD GOT TO HOST FIRST FOLIO! By Krista Twu

UMD competed with a number of other sites in Minnesota for the honor of hosting the Folger Shakespeare Library’s traveling exhibition of Shakespeare’s First Folio. Our application’s success resulted from three outstanding features:

1. UMD’s Interdisciplinary Academic Strengths: The Humanities & Arts programs, the Kathryn A. Martin Library, and the Tweed Museum of Art provide intellectual and creative leadership throughout the Northland. The Humanities & Arts programs offer a rich scholarly environment that features research and education in the area of Book History and will support learning opportunities across the disciplines. The Library’s Ramseyer-Northern Bible Society Collection will provide a unique complementary set of texts with which to contextualize the First Folio, offering materials for student service learning and supplementing visitors’ experience with parallel historical works. And the Tweed Museum will provide state of the art facilities and expert curation for the First Folio. It will also present two special exhibits on the art and artists of Hamlet to run concurrently and enhance the presentation of the First Folio.

Shakespeare’s First Folio was published in 1623, and the American Library Association named the 2015-2016 year Shakespeare’s Year to celebrate the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare’s death. The exhibition is sponsored by the Folger Shakespeare Library and its National Endowment for the Arts and Humanities Partnership Grant. The UMD exhibit is a display of the book only. If you’d like to learn more about the plays, the museum will have information and a miniature First Folio for purchase. The Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington, D.C. is open to the public. You can plan a trip to the Folger Library and see Shakespeare’s First Folio in person. The Folger Library is open from 10–5. Visit the Folger Shakespeare Library website for more information at folger.edu. The library website includes a database of all the plays and sonnets included in Shakespeare’s First Folio. You can find more information about Shakespeare’s First Folio at Folger Shakespeare Library on Facebook and Twitter. The tweedmuseumofart.org website has information about the Tweed Museum of Art and the First Folio exhibition. You can also find more information about the Folger Shakespeare Library’s First Folio exhibition at folger.edu/exhibitions/first-folio. The tweedmuseumofart.org website has information about the Tweed Museum of Art and the First Folio exhibition. You can also find more information about the Folger Shakespeare Library’s First Folio exhibition at folger.edu/exhibitions/first-folio. The tweedmuseumofart.org website has information about the Tweed Museum of Art and the First Folio exhibition. You can also find more information about the Folger Shakespeare Library’s First Folio exhibition at folger.edu/exhibitions/first-folio.

By Anneliese Verhoeven

To complement the main exhibit, Shakespeare’s First Folio, the museum gift shop has a number of items you can take home with you to remember this experience. The shop has journals, books, greeting cards, and even magnets! Shakespeare’s Sonnets has an illustration to match each poem shared; it’s truly beautiful! Bill Bryson’s Shakespeare: The World as Stage is a humorous and entertaining read. Who can forget the famous Romeo & Juliet—a romantic greeting card with Juliet pictured carving out for Romeo. Come shop the fun!