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.

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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, Manuscript Studies, and Art History.

2. UMD’s Community Partnerships: With over 40 campus 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 fairies 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 of all ages will find many enriching activities to enhance their experience of the First Folio and make a day trip to Duluth.

First Folio!

To complement the main exhibit, Shakespeare’s First Folio, the museum gift shop has more than a dozen unique items for sale, including a photograph of photographer Sally Mann’s memoir Hold Still and a travel mug featuring photographs of Shakespeare’s plays and art. You can take home a book about Shakespeare, a DVD, a small book about the book that gave us Shakespeare, or a poster of the Folger Shakespeare Library.

MUSEUM STORE
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, the Cincinnati Museum Center and the American Library Association, and the anticipation has been building ever since. Initially published in 1623, the First Folio is the original comprehensive volume of the Bard’s plays, the publication and compilation of which was made possible by two of Shakespeare’s contemporaries, 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 sealed 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 allow 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.

Let us end with Will’s view of the purpose of the plays (and of the arts more generally) ... at the first and now was and is to hold as ‘twere the mirror up to Nature.

WHAT GOES TOGETHER BETTER THAN ART AND READING?

An idea from a Tweed focus group in 2012 has resurfaced and is taking form at the museum this fall. A new reading group starts on September 13th from 6:30-8:00pm and will take place every other month, alternating with Tweevenings. The series begins with a discussion of photographer Sally Mann’s memoir Hold Still and modern comedian Bill Shipley’s photograph The Ditch, currently on display as part of the Reframing Ophelia exhibit.

The round-table discussions will be held in the Texta Library and will feature different moderators each month. The coming year’s reading schedule includes The Murialt by Barbara Shapiro, Air Guitar by Dave Hickman, and an open discussion with each book. The Tweed Museum 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. The Tweed Museum will provide state of the art facilities and expert curation for the First Folio. It will also present two special exhibitions on the art and stagecraft of Hamlet to run concurrently and enhance the presentation of the First Folio.

TO COMPLEMENT THE MAIN EXHIBIT, THE FIRST FOLIO...

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The book that gave us Shakespeare on tour from the Folger Shakespeare Library

PREPARING FOR THE FIRST FOLIO By Anneliese Verhoeven

NOW! NEW TWEEDE BOOK CLUB

HOW UMD GOT TO HOST FIRST FOLIO! By Krista Twu

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MUSEUM STORE
This last June the Tweed Advisory Board met in retreat to review the current strategic plan for the museum, the better to see what has been accomplished and how our museum can best move forward. The board determined that one important long-term goal would be that of accreditation by the American Alliance of Museums. Similar to the accreditation of educational institutions, accreditation by the American Alliance of Museums (AAM) gives a prestigious seal of approval to a museum. Only ten percent of museums nationwide are so accredited. The AAM was founded in 1906 as a collaborative effort by individuals, not by institutions or government. Since then the AAM has been a scholarly and authoritative body that provides great credibility to its members. Benefits of membership include: national recognition of excellence and professional standards; credibility with funding agencies and donors; faithfulness to the mission of the institution; clarity of the strengths, goals, priorities and mission of the museum; and better relationships with other museums. Membership is also a means to attract support for capital improvements, to be seen as a better risk by the insurance industry, to have a governing body that is better informed on museum standards, and to be a valuable tool in lobbying state and local governments.

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