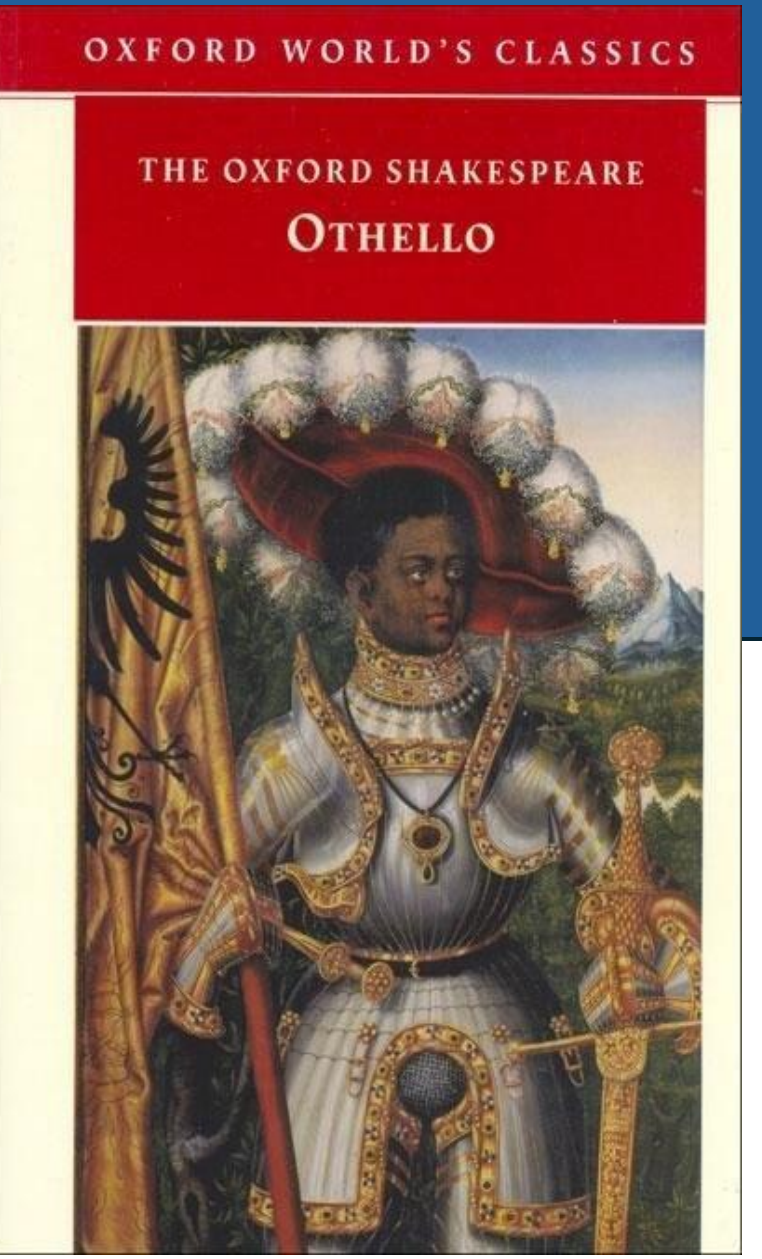




Editing *Othello*

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Introduction

William Shakespeare's tragedy *Othello* is a play that remains highly relevant because of the themes it tackles. These include, but are not limited to, race, gender, jealousy, gender, and sexuality. The goal of this research project was to compile a bibliography that represents the complete history of the play, not only through identifying critical literature, but also through developing performance and illustrative histories. The two resultant bibliographies include all *Othello* editions, scholarly works, manuscripts and archival materials, illustrations, and film and theatre adaptations. Professor Abdulhamit Arvas will use these bibliographies as part of his larger research project, which is to edit a new edition of the play for Oxford World's Classics.

Methods

Editions

Compiled a list of all published *Othello* editions since 1900, focusing on those from publishers such as Arden, Cambridge, Oxford, and Norton. These editions often belong to different series, such as The Arden Shakespeare and Arden Performance Editions or The New Cambridge Shakespeare and Cambridge School Shakespeare, that were written for different audiences and uses.

RESOURCES USED

University of Pennsylvania Libraries Franklin Database
Kislak Center for Special Collections:
Furness Shakespeare Library
Folger Shakespeare Library

Scholarly Works

Arranged scholarly works by journal articles, reviews, books, and book chapters. These works were then categorized by themes of race, gender/sexuality, motivations/characterization, language, and performance. Additionally, assembled a list of news articles about *Othello* referenced in popular media. The publication dates of these works range from the 1990's to present.

RESOURCES USED

University of Pennsylvania Libraries Franklin Database
Proquest Dissertation and Theses Global
JSTOR
Project MUSE
World Shakespeare Bibliography
Kislak Center for Special Collections:
Furness Shakespeare Library
News Outlets

Manuscripts/Archival Texts

Manuscripts, which are works that are written by hand, are organized by library location. The archival texts selected are rare items that consist of either playbills, commentaries, or even early editions of the text such as the First Folio (1623), a collection of Shakespeare's plays published after his death. These items are also categorized by library location. These items mostly range from the 17th century.

RESOURCES USED

University of Pennsylvania Libraries Franklin Database, Colenda Digital Repository, and English Renaissance in Context Collection
Kislak Special Collections: Philadelphia Area Archives
Folger Shakespeare Library Catalog:
Manuscripts
Shakespeare's Globe Archive

Illustrations

Organized by object type, including prints, drawings, photographs, paintings, sculptures, costume and set design, posters, and playbills. These objects range from 19th century hand-colored lithographic prints to gloves worn by an *Othello* stage actor to contemporary performance photographs.

RESOURCES USED

Furness Theatrical Image Collection
Folger Shakespeare Library: Art & Objects
The Metropolitan Museum of Art
Victoria and Albert Museum
Museum of Modern Art
Philadelphia Museum of Art
Shakespeare's Globe Archive
JSTOR Images (ARTSTOR)

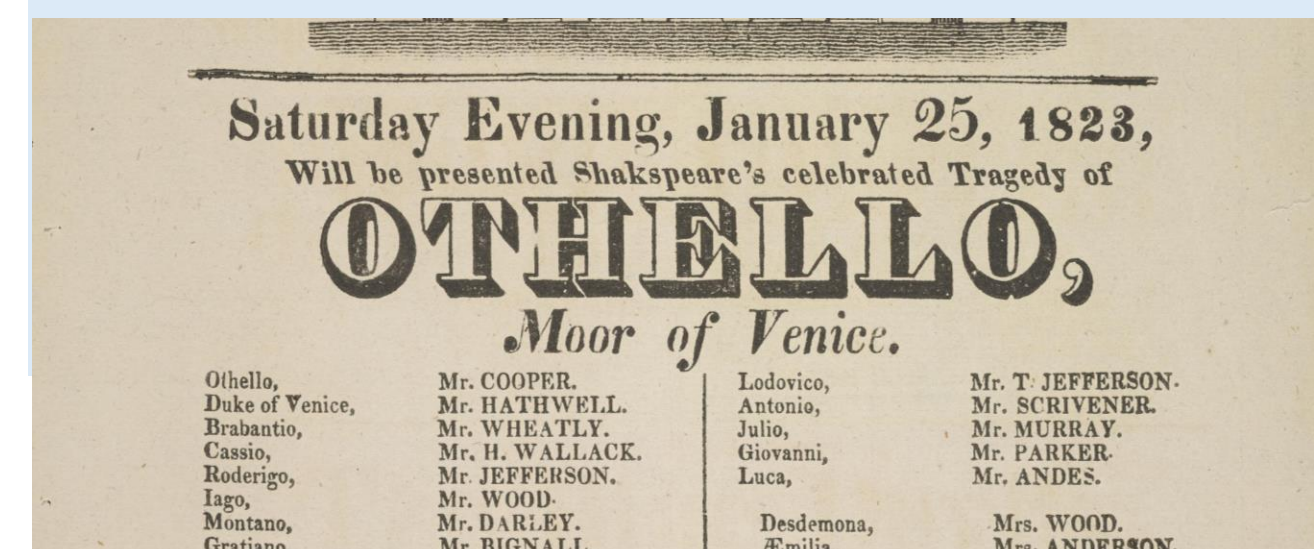


Performance/Film History

Compiled a timeline of theatrical and film performances, including those from non-Anglo-American origins, inspired productions such as Verdi's operatic adaptation *Otello*, and burlesque parodies from the 19th century.

RESOURCES USED

Past *Othello* Edition Introductions
MIT Global Shakespeares Video and Performance Archive
Digital Theatre+
Academic Video Online
IBDB: Internet Broadway Database
News Outlets (New York Times, Royal Shakespeare Company, etc.)



Conclusion

Working through compiling each of these categories has allowed us to develop skills in library, database, and archival research, both through in-person and online work. Working with Penn librarians John Pollack and Mayelin Perez allowed us to delve even deeper into the University of Pennsylvania's Shakespeare collections, especially the Furness Shakespeare Library. Our bibliographies are just one step towards Professor Arvas' goal, which is to create a new *Othello* edition that follows the play's history from its origination in the early 1600s to now and is accessible to the general public, students, and scholars alike.

