

# The Archivist's Shakespeare

Compiled by PAUL LEWINSON

Arlington, Va.

---

## ARCHIVES

They are the abstracts and brief chronicles of the time.

*Hamlet*, II, ii, 555.

. . . the hand of time

Shall draw this brief into as huge a volume.

*King John*, II, i, 103.

## ARCHIVISTS

O good old man; how well in thee appears

The constant service of the antique world.

*As You Like It*, II, ii, 56.

A snapper-up of unconsidered trifles.

*Winter's Tale*, IV, ii, 26.

## APPRAISAL

The text is old.

*Venus and Adonis*, 806.

. . . nothing undervalued . . .

*Merchant of Venice*, I, i, 165.

## REPAIR AND PRESERVATION

. . . the sere, the yellow leaf.

*Macbeth*, V, iii, 22.

Yet here's a spot . . . . Out, damned spot! out, I say!

*Macbeth*, V, i, 33, 37.

## ARRANGEMENT AND DESCRIPTION

. . . he hath an abstract for the remembrance of such places.

*Merry Wives of Windsor*, IV, ii, 60.

And in such indexes . . . there is seen

The baby figure of the giant mass. . . .

*Troilus and Cressida*, I, iii, 343.

## REFERENCE

I sigh the lack of many a thing I sought.

*Sonnets*, XXX, 3.

'Tis the curse of service.

*King Lear*, V, iii, 35.

Made you my guardians, my depositaries,  
But kept a reservation to be followed.

*King Lear*, II, iv, 251.

#### GENEALOGISTS

I am not in the roll of common men.

*2 King Henry IV*, III, i, 80.

. . . He makes up the file

Of all the gentry.

*King Henry VIII*, I, i, 78.

Look in the chronicles; we came in with Richard Conqueror.

*Taming of the Shrew*, Induc., i, 4.

#### RECORDS MANAGEMENT

I'll wipe away all trivial fond records.

*Hamlet*, I, v, 99.

. . . they lack retention.

*Twelfth Night*, II, iv, 96.

#### **"I delayed the inventory"**

At the post of Avoyelles, the tenth day of the month of August of the year one thousand seven hundred ninety-three—before me, Louis Grisey, interim commandant of the said post, and in persuance of my orders, at eight o'clock in the morning were assembled at my house *Sieurs* Jacques Gaignard, sub-lieutenant of the militia, Pierre Ducoté, Joseph Mayeux, and François Bordelon, sergeants of the militia, all being prominent residents of the said post, in order to be present at the opening of the *greffe*, which was done by me as commandant, after having shown them the seals of *Sieur* Julien Poydras, formerly special judge at the said post, and having found, in the presence of the aforesaid named, the papers pell-mell and without order, and having searched for the inventory of the said papers in order to be able to put them in order, none could be found, neither any notes-of-hand nor bills remitted by several residents to *Monsieur* Apereto who gave them no receipts, and the said witnesses having pointed out to me that the making of their indigo does not permit them to remain for the inventory of the papers that comprise the said *greffe*, without exposing themselves to some real losses, I delayed the inventory until I could make a more thorough examination than is now possible. With this in mind, I have drawn up the present proces-verbal to be used when needed, and in order that it may be effective, the abovementioned witnesses have signed with me, the commandant, to which I give testimony. [Signed:] Jacques Gaignard, jh mayeux, pierre ducotes, fcs. Bordelon, Louis Grisey

—AVOYELLES PARISH COLONIAL DOCUMENTS, Index no. AV1793-128, Louisiana State Archives and Records Commission, Baton Rouge, La. Contributed by Winston De Ville, who has also translated this document from the original French.