



The Aldus Society presents
Thursday, February 8, 2018 ♦ 7:30 PM
Thurber Center, 91 Jefferson Ave., Columbus

*“Women Obstinate in Mischief”:
Commonplacing Femininity in Shakespeare First Folio*

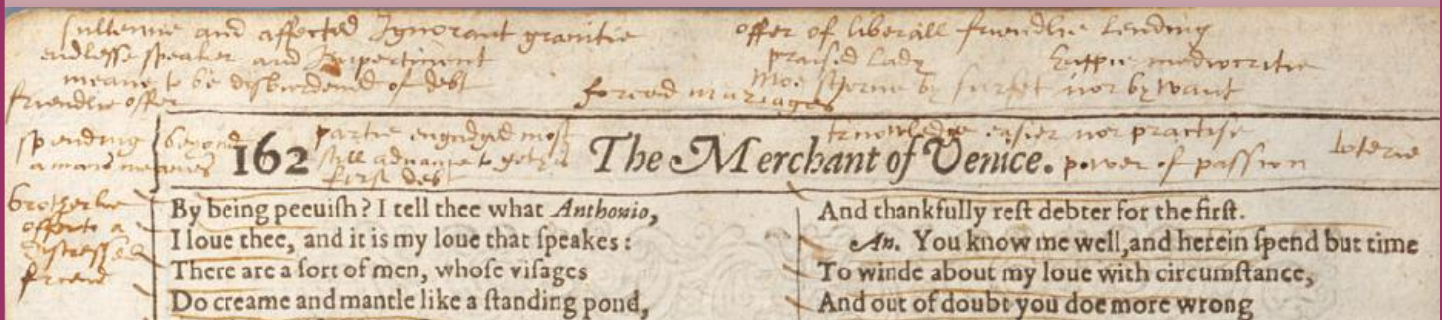
This presentation examines the marginalia in the most extensively annotated extant copy of the Shakespeare First Folio which is held by Tokyo, Japan’s Meisei University. Nearly every page of this volume, from the opening scene of *The Tempest* to the conclusion of *Cymbeline*, contains underlining, dots, slashes, and notes most likely made by a Scottish reader in the 1620s or 1630s.

Although this reader’s notes have usually been viewed as one person’s idiosyncratic responses to Shakespeare’s plays, Farmer argues instead that the reader’s misogynistic marginalia grew out of a wider set of early modern reading practices taught in schools and universities. In particular, this reader’s notes often take the form of commonplaces. Commonplacing was a ubiquitous reading practice in early modern England. Ultimately, Farmer suggests that the reader’s misogynistic marginalia and misreading of *Merry Wives* provide us with an insight into different, and more disturbing ways that Shakespeare was read, interpreted, and appreciated as literature in the seventeenth century.

Alan B. Farmer is Associate Professor of English at the Ohio State University. He has published widely on Renaissance drama and the book trade in early modern London.



Alan Farmer
OSU Associate
Professor,
English



Pre-program socializing begins at 7:00 p.m. and allows members and guests time to discuss their latest bibliophilic adventures.

The evening’s program is free and open to the public.

Free parking is available behind State Auto building (518 E. Broad) on west side of N. 11th St. (alley behind Thurber House).

The Aldus Society is an organization for people who appreciate the many facets of text and image through various media, but principally the book, past, present and future. Aldus provides a wide variety of programs and activities on book collecting, the history of printing, publishing, and book selling, book illustration, book design, book bindings, paper making, typography, calligraphy, and libraries.



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