



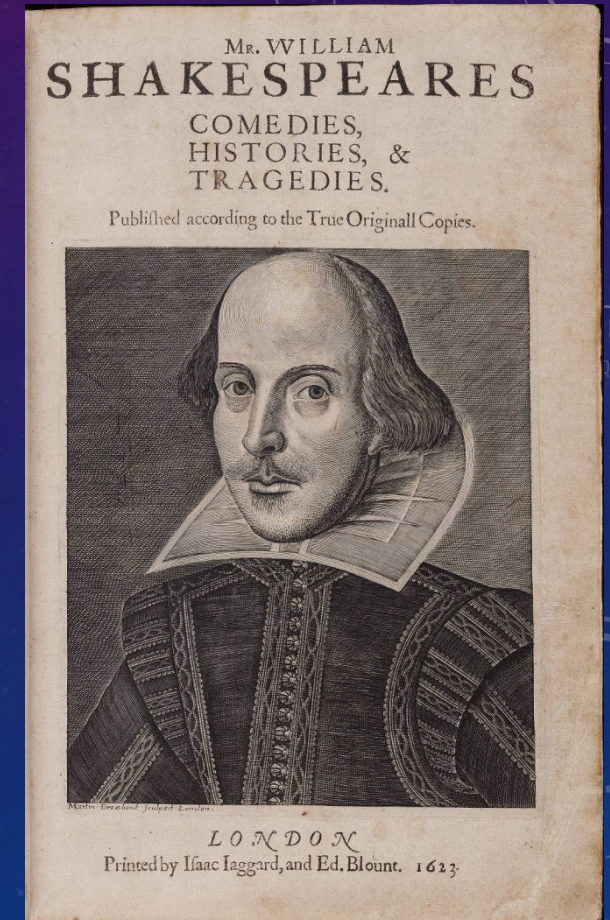
ALL THAT GLITTERS

THE NUMISMATICS OF SHAKESPEARE

Presented by Lloyd G. Chan
Redwood Empire Collectors Club
Wednesday, 17 August 2022

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE (1564-1616)

- Playwright, poet and actor
- 39 plays
- 154 sonnets
- Three long narrative poems
- Recurring references to gold, money, and coins. Coins provide information about status and character.



BEGINNINGS

- All that glisters [glitters] is not gold;
Often have you heard that told:
Many a man his life hath sold
But my outside to behold:
Gilded tombs do worms infold.
Had you been as wise as bold,
Young in limbs, in judgment old,
Your answer had not been inscroll'd:
Fare you well; your suit is cold.



Prince of Morocco reads 'all that glitters is not gold' note from the gold casket.

- *Merchant of Venice* 2.vii.67

SHAKESPEARE'S MONEY: STANDARD COINS

- 1 Pound = 20 Shillings = 240 Pennies
- Denominations
 - Crown
 - Half Crown
 - Shilling
 - Sixpence
 - Groat
 - Threepence
 - Twopence
 - Penny
 - Three Farthings ($\frac{3}{4}d$)
 - Halfpence

SHAKESPEARE'S MONEY: OTHER COINS

- English

- Angel
- Noble
- Royal (Ryal)
- Sovereign

- Foreign Coins

- Ducat (Chequin, Zecchino)
- Ecu (French Crown)
- Crusado (Moy, moidore)
- Guilder

ELIZABETHAN WAGES AND EXPENSES

INCOMES

The Queen: £60,000 per annum

Country Gentleman: £50 - £150 per annum

Skilled Laborer: 8d - 12d per day

Unskilled Laborer: 3d - 4d per day

Field Worker: 2d - 3d per day

Ploughman: 1s per week with board

Shepherd: 6d per week with board

Sergeant: 1s6d per day

Drummer: 1s6d per day

Common Soldier: 8d per day

COSTS OF LIVING

Ferry Across River: 4d-6d

Globe Admission: 1d (groundling), 2d (lower gallery), 3d (upper gallery), 6d (private box)

Bottle of French Wine: 2s (24d)

A tankard of Ale: 1/2d

A loaf of bread: 2d

A quail: 1/2d

Oysters: 4d per bushel

A chicken: 1d

A goose: 4d

Best beef: 3d per pound

DUCAT

Hath a dog money? Is it possible

A cur should lend thee three thousand ducats?

Shylock, The Merchant of Venice. I.3.112-113

My daughter! O my ducats! O my daughter!

Fled with a Christian! O my Christian ducats!

Solanio, The Merchant of Venice II.viii.15)



SIXPENCE, TESTER

Come on, there is sixpence for you—let's have a song.

Sir Toby Belch, Twelfth Night. II.iii.32

Oh – sixpence, that I had o' Wednesday last . . .

Dromio of Ephesus, The Comedy of Errors. I.ii.55



CRUZADO, MOY, MOIDORE (MOEDA D'ORO)

Believe me. I had rather have lost my purse
Full of cruzados.

Desdemona, Othello. III. iv. 26

Oh, prenez miséricorde! Ayez pitié moi!
—Moy shall not serve, I will have forty moys.

Pistol, Henry V. Part IV. ix. 14



ANGEL

They have in England. A coin that bears the figure of an angel.
Stamped in gold . . .

Prince of Morocco, The Merchant of Venice. II. vii. 56

Your ill angel is light, but I hope that he that looks upon me will take
me without weighing.

Falstaff, Henry IV. Part II.1.ii.187



NOBLE

Tis true, I gave a noble to the priest
The morn that I was wedded to her mother.

Shepherd, Henry VI. Part 1. V. iv.23

Look, what I speak, my life shall prove it true—That Mowbray hath
received eight thousand nobles . . .

Henry Bowlingbroke, Richard II. I.i.88



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