

English Renaissance Literature

Clark Library UCLA

1. Shakespeare: 14 seventeenth-century quartos (including 6 Pavier quartos), all 4 folios (one 1st, seven 2nd, three 3rd, four 4th folios), 1640 *Poems*, 9 apocryphal quartos. Extensive collection of Restoration and C18th adaptations/editions of Shakespeare. William Henry Ireland forged Shakespeare annotations (in a printed book from 1592).
2. Shakespeare's Contemporaries: 215 additional pre-1660 quarto and octavo playbooks, including plays by George Chapman, Ben Jonson, Thomas Heywood, Thomas Dekker, Beaumont and Fletcher and others.
3. Chrzanowski Collection of Shakespearean Source Material: books that either provide direct sources for Shakespeare's plays or situate his work within broader cultural, intellectual, historical, religious, and social contexts. Collection particularly strong in sixteenth-century English chronicle histories, devotional material (including Bibles), and literary sources. Some of the authors represented include Montaigne (Florio), Ascham, Lodge, Toppell, Markham, Hakluyt, Foxe, Elyot, Marlowe, Brandt, Sidney, and Ariosto (Harington).
4. Additional Pre-1660 English Material: William Andrews Clark Jr. started his book collection with high points of British literature, but with a heavy focus on Elizabethan and early Jacobean authors. Thus the collection includes additional pre-1660 English books beyond Shakespeare, early modern drama, and the Chrzanowski collection, including authors such as John Heywood, Thomas Coryate, Richard Brathwaite, John Donne, George Herbert, Joseph Hall, and John Selden, among many others. The Harmsworth Theological Collection also contains a large amount of sixteenth-century English religious polemic.
5. English Manuscripts: Though the bulk of the Clark's English manuscript material dates to 1640-1800, there are earlier manuscripts in the collection, including a heraldic MS from 1596 (part of the Chrzanowski collection) and John Selden's university notebook. The Clark's "Miscellaneous MSS" collection includes even more material, including an autograph letter by Francis Bacon.
6. Book History: contemporary bindings and binding structures, marks of ownership, readers' marginalia, print variants; manuscript genres such as commonplace books and miscellanies, account books, recipe collections, letters/letterbooks, literary manuscripts; descriptive bibliography, collation, print-house practices, etc.