

V&A SUMMARY #2 (November 2011): RESPONSE TO SHaLT PROJECT REPORT No.2 – November 2011

1. Introduction

The V&A's primary role in the SHaLT project is fourfold:

- to provide a key means for 'knowledge transfer' through the various platforms operated by the Museum. These range from the Museum's research facilities, spaces for public engagement, through to the web site (currently under a major rebuilding);
- to give access to the wide range of material in the V&A relating to the SHaLT project themes, and to make this material available for use by the project in the six main output strands;
- to support the project through specialist skills in the V&A, including curatorial expertise in performance, period and materials and delivery mechanisms, including publishing, Apps, exhibitions, etc.
- to give practical support in terms of office space and support services

The V&A is considering a Shakespeare Festival in 2014 (450th anniversary of birth) and the work undertaken by SHaLT provides an important development strand in the period running up to it.

2. Specific Activities

a. Highlighting Shakespearean material in V&A

PS research has flagged up the great opportunities to use original playtexts in the National Art Library to provide visual material for the project. The images, typography and printing details provide very strong period feel for general audiences. They also expand from Shakespeare to embrace the whole writing world in London. Most will require new photography not only to meet publishing standards but also to reflect modern attitudes to highlighting these crucial survivals.

b. SHaLT Map

GM discussed practical issues of filling map with PS/MH. Location of sites seems to offer space

For 10-20 strong visual images. Question of printing on back.

c. Potential V&A Shakespeare Festival 2014

Department is developing ideas with Learning Department and project will seek formal approval in May 2012. Possibly for four weeks around 23.04.2014 (450th Anniversary). Might contain small exhibition and means to highlight relevant material throughout V&A (and elsewhere). SHaLT provides good basis for reaching

out to the City area. Will give an opportunity to promote outputs of SHaLT Project, albeit a little after the project has formally finished.

3. Other activities

i. Beverley Hart drawing up list of Shakespeare and related productions recorded in NVAP.

ii. John Ford's *Tis a Pity She's A Whore* to be recorded at Barbican (Silk Street Theatre) in March 2012. First produced at Cockpit Theatre, Drury Lane?

4. Action

GM to introduce PS to key staff.