

V&A SUMMARY #4 (February 2012):

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

GM has asked Dr Jim Fowler (T&P: Head of Research) to look into potential for a publication for April 2014 containing 100 Shakespeare related items in the V&A. This would be mostly objects not on display. The work PS is doing on the objects on display in the V&A could create a separate guide (perhaps 10-20 items) – which could then be integrated into this larger publication. Precise way forward will depend on view of VAE (to be submitted Autumn 2013). Further thought needs to be given to the larger exhibits, such as Sir Paul Pinder's House.

b. SHaLT Publication

Following discussions with MH and PS, it was decided to see if VAE (the commercial arm of the V&A) would consider publishing the i. 48/72 pp book covering SHaLT's subject, and ii. the associated map. After a discussion with Mark Eastment (VAE Head of Publishing), it was decided that the book proposal would be submitted by MH to the V&A's Publishing Advisory Board (PAB) but that the map did not match the Museum's publication profile. The V&A will provide relevant images for the publication to the project.

Claire Hudson (Head of Collections) will organise photography to appropriate quality once PS/MH have drawn up a complete listing of items required. Such images can be used for all of the six SHaLT project strands.

a. SHaLT Map

GM has developed some suggestions about possible walking routes for the map, based on experience with Roman walks done at the Museum of London. To discuss with MH in March.

b. Potential V&A Shakespeare Festival 2014

Further planning work undertaken and project will seek formal approval in May. Will give an opportunity to promote outputs of SHaLT Project, albeit a little after the project has formally finished.

3. Other activities

- a. The Great Bed of Ware is being dismantled and will be exhibited at Ware Museum from May 2012- early 2013.
- b. GM has written to owners of site of The Theatre about their plans for site redevelopment and potential inclusion of related material. Acknowledged but no reply to date.
- c. There will be a '*Shakespeare in A Suitcase*' event at V&A on 20th-21st April 2012, when four theatre design course will create set designs in four different areas. This will be filmed using as small grant from European funding. This event is part of the activity programme around the exhibition of British Theatre Design opening 16th March and running thru September.
- d. The T&P's travelling exhibition *Five Truths* an examination by Katie Mitchell of Ophelia's drowning will be shown at the Aix-en-Provence Festival in July and the National Theatre in November.
- e. The V&A's (NVAP) recording of *Hamlet* at the Old Vic in 2006 was screened on Sunday 5th February. Trevor Nunn, the dIrector, introduced and there was an audience of about 90 despite the snow.

4. Action

GM to continue to investigate publishing options.