



PEQUOT
LIBRARY

Illustration Inspiration

Let Pequot's Special Collections inspire your writing!

Take a close look at the following illustration from one of the gems of our Shakespeare collection. Study facial expressions, body language, and the relationship between characters. Using these visual clues, write a story about the scene. Consider:

- What led up to this moment?
- What comes next in the story?
- How does the story end?



The Merry Wives of Windsor
by William Shakespeare
Illustrated by Hugh Thomson
London: William Heinemann, 1910.
Bequeathed by Mr. Dean S. Edmonds

With 40 mounted color plates with printed guards. Signed copy by the illustrator. This edition was limited to 350 numbered and signed copies of which this is number 100.

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Hugh Thomson (1860-1920) illustrated two of the Shakespeare's plays in Pequot's collection: *As you like it* and *Merry Wives of Windsor*. Both works, published in 1910, include pen-and-ink drawings at the openings of each act. Additionally, the editions have 40 mounted full-page color plates by Thomson.

Thomson was Irish, born near Londonderry. In addition to the Shakespeare plays, Thomson's illustrations are also found in editions of works by Jane Austen, J. M. Barrie, and Charles Dickens. Thomson preferred pen-and-ink illustrations but would produce watercolor images when publishers requested special editions. The two works on display in the exhibit show warm depictions of the plays' action with great attention to detail. Before creating the illustrations, Thomson would research the works in the British Museum and the Victoria and Albert museum where he could concentrate on costumes and furnishings he later incorporated into his drawings.

