

34



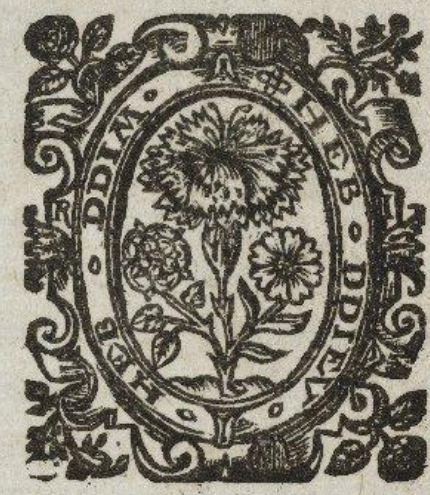
*This Shadowe is renowned Shakespear's? Soule of th' age
 The applause? delight? the wonder of the Stage.
 Nature her selfe, was proud of his designs
 And joy'd to weare the dressing of his lines;
 The learned will Confess, his works are such,
 As neither man, nor Muse, can prayse to much.
 For ever live thy fame, the world to tell,
 Thy like, no age, shall ever paralell.*
 W. M. sculpsit.

p. 1. (2. 50.) 3434

POEMS:

VVRITTEN

BY
 WIL. SHAKE-SPEARE.
 Gent.



Printed at London by Tho. Cotes, and are
 to be sold by Iohn Benson, dwelling in
 S^r. Dunstons Church-yard. 1640.

Shakespeare, Wililam. [Poems. 1640] Poems vvritten by Wil. Shake-speare. Gent. London: by Tho. Cotes for Iohn Benson, 1640. Folger STC 22344 copy 1.

John Benson (d. 1667), the editor of this compilation, made several controversial choices in his new arrangement of Shakespeare's Sonnets for this compilation, which also includes *The Phoenix and the Turtle* and *A Lover's Complaint*, among other poems. Benson combined sonnets, rearranged them, and gave them descriptive titles. Most radically, he changes a number of pronouns from 'he' and 'him' to 'she' and 'her', erasing indications that many of the poems are addressed to a 'fair youth'. For a full description of the controversy surrounding this work, see the British Library's essay on it here:

<https://www.bl.uk/collection-items/shakespeares-collected-poems-1640>

From an original in the [Folger Shakespeare Library](#)
 Licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 4.0 International License](#) (CC BY-SA 4.0)