



Norman B. Leventhal
Map Center
at the Boston Public Library

PRESS RELEASE

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**Norman B. Leventhal Map Center Announces Exhibition
Exploring Shakespeare Through Maps**

“Shakespeare’s Here and Everywhere” is open to the public now through February 26, 2017

Boston, MA – The Norman B. Leventhal Map Center announced today the opening of its new exhibition *Shakespeare’s Here and Everywhere*, honoring the life and literary works of William Shakespeare. Presenting a unique window into Shakespeare’s writings, the Leventhal Map Center invites visitors to join in a global celebration of Shakespeare’s legacy by examining his plays through the lens of the map, looking at the way the world was viewed by authors, mapmakers, and readers of his time.



An Anciente Mappe of Fairyland Newly Discovered and Set Forth
(detail), by Bernard Sleight (1872 – 1954)

Shakespeare’s plays envision lands throughout Europe, Africa, and Asia

from classical times through to the Renaissance. The exhibition *Shakespeare’s Here and Everywhere* features thirty items arranged geographically, and takes visitors on a journey from Northern Europe to Egypt as documented throughout the Renaissance world. Visitors will learn about the world Shakespeare knew and wrote of, facilitated by maps and images related to his life, from his birthplace in Stratford-upon-Avon to his workplace at the historic Globe Theatre in London. Just as Shakespeare’s works allowed audiences to imagine foreign and exotic lands, visitors will be transported on a journey throughout the Europe and the Mediterranean region while examining depictions of the sights and scenes of Shakespeare’s most famous works, as they were illustrated by cartographers and artists of the Renaissance and beyond. Highlights of

the exhibition include a 1629 map depicting the Danish castle that served as the inspiration for “Elsinore” in *Hamlet*, an illustration of Verona – home of the famous star-crossed lovers Romeo and Juliet – from 1582, and a map of Fairyland, the domain of King Oberon and Queen Titania of *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*.

“It’s fascinating to consider how Shakespeare and his contemporaries imagined far off places, and more so, how their understanding of these places shaped identities and storylines in Shakespeare’s works,” said Stephanie Cyr, Assistant Curator at the Leventhal Map Center. “Four hundred years after his death, we are thrilled to invite the public to revisit Shakespeare’s classics from a new perspective.”

The public is invited to attend *Behind the Scenes: Curator’s Talk*, in which Cyr will provide an insider view of the creation of *Shakespeare’s Here and Everywhere* before a viewing of the full exhibition on September 29th at 6:00pm.

Associated events include a talk by British author Peter Whitfield, author of *Mapping Shakespeare’s World* October 29 at 6:00pm, followed by a book signing. The Map Center is presenting this talk in partnership with the Boston Public Library’s Lowell Lecture Series, sponsored by the Lowell Institute.

For children ages 7-12, the Map Center will host a program called *X Marks the Adventure: Creative Writing and Inspired Mapping*, on Saturday, October 15, 1:30-2:30 pm in which children ages 7-12 and their parents are challenged to rethink Shakespeare’s plays by exploring the roles that place, identity, and travel play in them. Drawing inspiration from Shakespeare’s great romantic comedies and tragedies, along with a number of fictional maps from the Map Center’s collection, kids will be guided to map the Bard’s great love stories using craft supplies.

Guided tours will be offered on the first Wednesday and third Friday of every month 12:30-1:00pm.

The Leventhal Map Center’s Shakespeare programming is presented in partnership with *All The City’s A Stage, A Season of Shakespeare at the Boston Public Library*.

Shakespeare’s Here and Everywhere exhibition is open Monday-Thursday 10am-7pm; Friday-Saturday 10am-5 pm; and Sunday 1-5pm. Visit our exhibition website at <http://maps.bpl.org/content/tour-shakespeare’s-world#tour>.

The exhibition and all events take place at the Boston Public Library, Copley Square, 700 Boylston Street, Boston, MA.

About the NORMAN B. LEVENTHAL MAP CENTER

The Norman B. Leventhal Map Center is ranked among the top map centers in the United States for the size of its collection, the significance of its historic (pre-1900) material, and its advanced digitization program. It is unique among the major collections because it also combines these features with exceptional educational and teacher training programs to advance geographic literacy among students in grades K-12 and enhance the teaching of subjects from history to

mathematics to language arts. The collection is also the second largest in the country located in a public library, ensuring unlimited access to these invaluable resources for scholars, educators, and the general public. The Leventhal Map Center, incorporated in 2007 as a nonprofit organization, was established by philanthropist Norman Leventhal as a public-private partnership with the Boston Public Library. Its mission is to use the Boston Public Library's permanent collection of 200,000 maps and 5,000 atlases and a select group of rare maps collected by Mr. Leventhal for the enjoyment and education of all through exhibitions, educational programs, and a website that includes thousands of digitized maps at maps.bpl.org. The map collection is global in scope, dating from the 15th century to the present, with particular strengths in maps and atlases of Boston, Massachusetts, New England, the American Revolutionary War era, urban maps, and nautical charts. To learn more, visit maps.bpl.org.

About BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

Boston Public Library has a Central Library, twenty-four branches, map center, business library, and a website filled with digital content and services. Established in 1848, the Boston Public Library has pioneered public library service in America. It was the first large free municipal library in the United States, the first public library to lend books, the first to have a branch library, and the first to have a children's room. Each year, the Boston Public Library hosts thousands of programs and serves millions of people. All of its programs and exhibitions are free and open to the public. At the Boston Public Library, books are just the beginning. To learn more, visit bpl.org.

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