

Transcript for The Bard's Birthday Bash

<http://iminervapodcast.blogspot.com/2010/04/bards-birthday-bash.html>

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IM: Hi, I'm Irma Minerva at the University Libraries at UNCG, and this is your podcast of the week.

JD: Last year on Friday April 24th, 2009, dozens of people gathered to hear members of the campus community, several decked out in Elizabethan attire and academic regalia, read all of Shakespeare's sonnets in honor of the bard's 445th birthday. This year we will be celebrating Shakespeare's 446th birthday on Friday April 23rd, from 2 to 5:30 on the lawn outside Jackson Library and what better way to celebrate than to read all of Shakespeare's 154 sonnets and of course with birthday cake. I'm here with faculty members Michelle Dowd, Jen Feather, and Chris Hodgkins of the Department of English at UNCG, they're here to share some of their favorite sonnets and tell us a little bit more about this event.

CH: It began a few years ago with our colleague, Hephzibah Roskelly, who had, as a grad student experienced the pleasure of a total read-through of the sonnets and saw it as a way of advertising the library's importance at the heart of the campus community and the importance of the humanities at the heart of the campus's mission that we would honor the greatest writer certainly in the English language by reading a section of his writing that certainly can be read in three hours or so, and that's his sonnets.

MD: Last year's event was a big success, a lot of people joined us outside, it was a beautiful day, we hope for the same this year. We certainly want to invite anyone in the community to come, and you certainly wouldn't have to come for the whole three and a half hour period, you could stop by for as long or as little as you like and listen to the reading. We're going to have a celebration at the end, a drawing for some Shakespeare related prizes and some cake of course to celebrate so we do hope it will be a festive community event as well as a literary event.

JF: We're hoping to celebrate the birthday of William Shakespeare and there is no experience required, we want anyone who wants to come to join us and read poems and enjoy a lovely afternoon on the lawn

JD: Alright now we'll have you guys share some of your favorite sonnets with us just to give us a taste of what this event is going to be like.

CH: Chris Hodgkins, not the author, but the reader, number 55

Not marble, nor the gilded monuments
Of princes, shall outlive this powerful rhyme;
But you shall shine more bright in these contents
Than unswept stone besmear'd with sluttish time.
When wasteful war shall statues overturn,
And broils root out the work of masonry,
Nor Mars his sword nor war's quick fire shall burn

The living record of your memory.
'Gainst death and all-oblivious enmity
Shall you pace forth; your praise shall still find room
Even in the eyes of all posterity
That wear this world out to the ending doom.
So, till the judgment that yourself arise,
You live in this, and dwell in lover's eyes.

MD: Hi this is Michelle Dowd, I'll be reading Sonnet 138

When my love swears that she is made of truth
I do believe her, though I know she lies,
That she might think me some untutor'd youth,
Unlearned in the world's false subtleties.
Thus vainly thinking that she thinks me young,
Although she knows my days are past the best,
Simply I credit her false speaking tongue:
On both sides thus is simple truth suppress'd.
But wherefore says she not she is unjust?
And wherefore say not I that I am old?
O, love's best habit is in seeming trust,
And age in love loves not to have years told:
Therefore I lie with her and she with me,
And in our faults by lies we flatter'd be.

JF: Hello I'm Jen Feather, and I'll be reading Sonnet 135

Whoever hath her wish, thou hast thy Will,
And Will to boot, and Will in overplus;
More than enough am I, that vex thee still,
To thy sweet will making addition thus.
Wilt thou, whose will is large and spacious,
Not once vouchsafe to hide my will in thine?
Shall will in others seem right gracious,
And in my will no fair acceptance shine?
The sea, all water, yet receives rain still,
And in abundance addeth to his store;
So thou, being rich in Will, add to thy Will
One will of mine, to make thy large Will more.
Let no unkind, no fair beseechers kill;
Think all but one, and me in that one Will.

JD: Thank you all so much for joining me today for sharing some of your favorite sonnets and we look forward to hearing more of these on the lawn outside Jackson library Friday from 2 to 5:30 where we will have cake, prizes, hopefully lots of costumes. So we hope to see many of you there.