

**BOOK TITLES
FROM SHAKSPERE**

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Book Titles from Shakspere by Volney Streamer

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VOLNEY STREAMER

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FROM SHAKSPERE**

Book Titles from SHAKSPERE

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Book Titles

FROM

SHAKSPERE

"This title honors me and mine"
—*Henry VI*



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THE BEQUEST OF
EVERI JANSEN WENDELL
1913

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Proem



OF all the devices the ingenuity of bookmen has yet hit upon to secure the attention of the reader none has been more widely used or more successful than a terse, apt, suggestive quotation. SHAKSPERE has been most frequently drawn upon, and his playwright's wit is ready and potent yet, after all these centuries, to help various literary wares to a good market.

The above appeared several years ago in the magazine called *Shakespeariana*, followed by a citation of some dozen examples. Believing a more complete list would be of interest, the following classified arrangement is offered. A few of these, it will be noticed, are implied or suggested by a quotation, and the precise text is not employed; but the derivation is not to be mistaken, for such a happy collocation of words as "Fortune's Boats" could only be inspired by the speech of Pisanio in *Cymbeline*.

Apparently the first use of SHAKSPERE as title maker is Leigh Hunt's "Table Talk;" then follows Hawthorne's "Twice Told Tales," and Charles Kingsley with "Westward Ho!" The greater portion of these are however books published within the last twenty years. Mr. Howells easily leads with thirteen titles; Mrs. Brodhead is author of five books, four of which owe the felicitous combination of words which form their titles to SHAKSPERE.

It is interesting to note how much the play of *Hamlet* exceeds all the rest as a source of inspiration, about one-third of the entire list being taken from that tragedy. *As You Like It* is next in favor, followed closely by *Macbeth* and *Othello*. In the case of the former, one title is used by three authors, which brings that play two numbers higher in the list than otherwise would be warranted. Dramatists do not often find suggestions for titles in the works of the great master—but seven names seeming to have their origin in his language.

The act or scene in which these quotations occur is not given, as those unfamiliar with the text will enjoy the search and, failing to at once find the lines, are sure to hit upon some others well worth the reading. Nor does this list claim completeness—indeed it may be, while this is printing, a half score of others are in process of incubation! Think of the good books that could be written with (at present unused) titles such as “The Whirligig of Time,” “Blind Cupid,” “Our Little Life,” “A Poor Player,” “A Friar of Orders Grey,” “Vaulting Ambition,” and “One Man in His Time.”
V. S.

“Let there be gall enough in thy ink, though thou write with a goose-pen, no matter: about it.”

—Twelfth Night.

BOOK TITLES
From SHAKSPERE

WILLIAM DEAN HOWELLS

- A Circle in the Water
Henry VI
- The Coast of Bohemia
A Winter's Tale
- A Counterfeit Presentment
Hamlet
- A Foregone Conclusion
Othello
- A Hazard of New Fortunes
King John
- A Modern Instance
As You Like It
- An Open-Eyed Conspiracy
The Tempest
- The Quality of Mercy
The Merchant of Venice
- A Sea Change
The Tempest
- The Shadow of a Dream
Hamlet
- The Undiscovered Country
Hamlet
- A Woman's Reason
Two Gentlemen of Verona