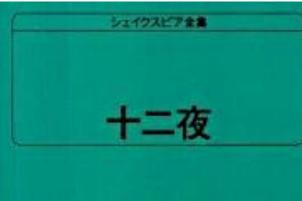


# Life with the Bard— Shakespeare and the Shaping of the Early Modern Self

Prof. Jean-Christophe Mayer French National Centre for Scientific Research and University of Montpellier

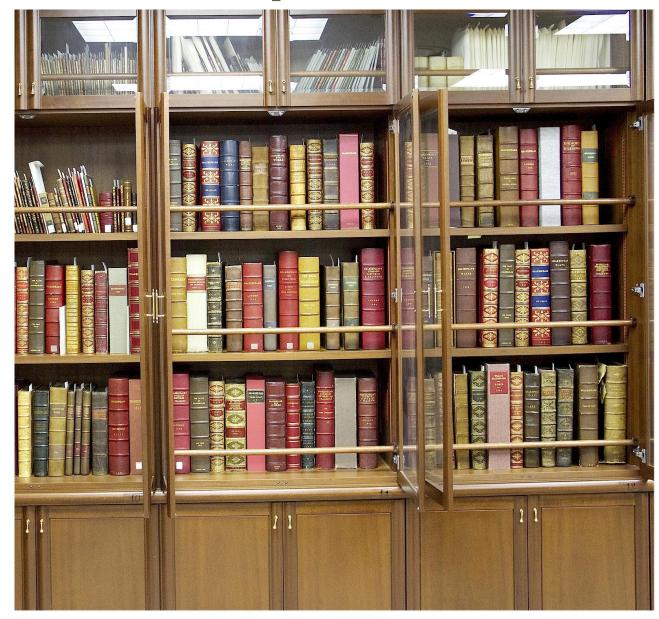


ウィリアム・シェイクスピジ 小田泉観志一駅

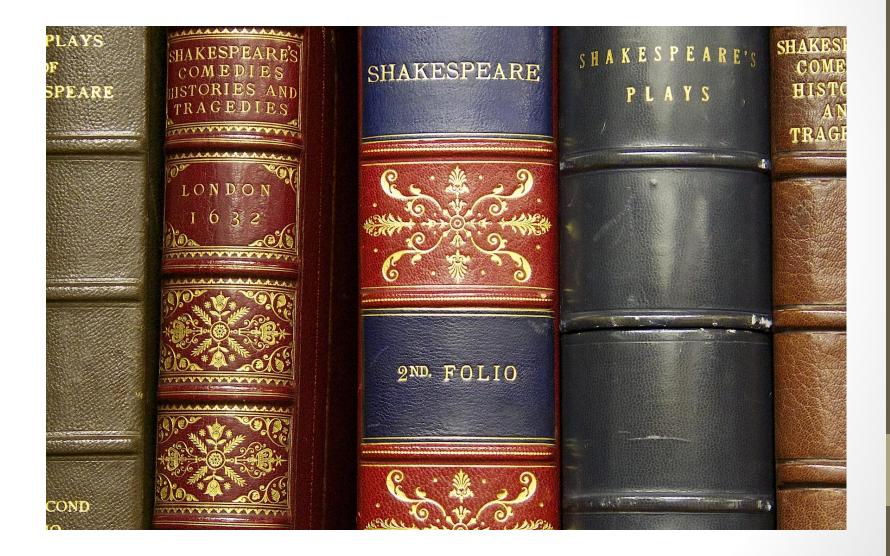


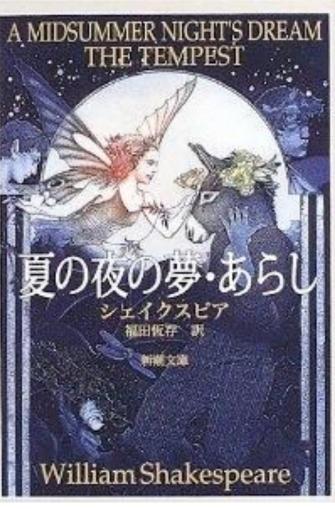


### The Meisei Shakespeare Collection



## The Meisei Shakespeare Collection







Shakespeare's First Folio (1623) ARES SHACOMEDIES, & HIS GEDIES, S. HIS GEDIES, S. Published accordings to the True Original TRA the True Original TRA the True Original To the Reader. This Figure, that thou here feeft put, It was for gentle Shakespeare cut; Wherein the Grauer had a strife with Nature, to out-doo the life : O, could he but have drawne his wit As well in braffe, as he hath hit Hisface; the Print would then furpaffe All, that vvas euer vvit in braffe. But, fince he cannot, Reader, looke Not on his Picture, but his Booke. B. I. Printed by Haac Laggard, and Ed. Blount. 1623

To the great Variety of Readers.

### "From the most able, to him that can but spell: There you are number'd,"

To the great Variety of Readers. Rom the most able, to him that can but spell: There you are number'd. We had rather you were weighd. Especially, when the fate of all Bookes depends vpyour capacities : and not of your heads alone, but of your purfes. Well ! It is now publique, & you

wil ftand for your priviledges weeknow : to read, and cenfure. Do fo, but buy it first. That doth best

commend a Booke, the Stationer faies. Then, how odde foeuer your but win braines be, or your wifedomes, make your licence the fame, and fpare tre, vo not. Iudge your fixe-pen'orth, your fhillings worth, your fiue thil-H. byt lings worth at a time, or higher, fo you rife to the just rates, and welcome. But, what ever you do, Buy. Cenfure will not drive a Trade, or make the lacke go. And though you be a Magistrate of wit, and fit try ban on the Stage at Black-Friers, or the Cock-pit, to arraigne Playes dailie, and ma know, these Playes have had their triall alreadie, and ftood out all Apnfe,obt peales; and do now come forth quitted rather by a Decree of Court, to appro then any purchas'd Letters of commendation.

Dy Bord th. Fu

Dop

easkd

etoi

bition

10 mort

by hun

berein.

confide

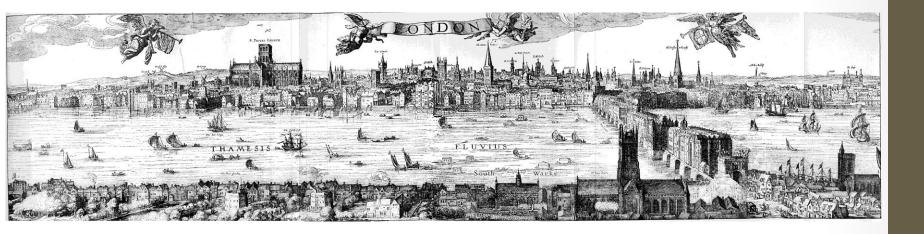
are; th

thoa It had bene a thing, we confesse, worthie to have bene wilhed, that the Author himfelfe had liu'd to have fet forth, and ouerfeen his owne dedicat writings; But fince it hath bin ordain'd otherwife, and he by death de. ecrate parted from that right, we pray you do not envie his Friends, the office of their care, and paine, to have collected & publish'd them; and fo to haue publish'd them, as where (before) you were abus'd with diuerse reputati careful ftolne, and furreptitious copies, maimed, and deformed by the frauds and ftealthes of iniurious impostors, that expos d them : even those, are now offer'd to your view cur'd, and perfect of their limbes; and all the reft, abfolute in their numbers, as he conceined the. Who, as he was a happie imitator of Nature, was a most gentle expresser of it. His mind and hand went together: And what he thought, he vttered with that eafineffe, that wee haue fearfe received from him a blot in his papers. But it is not our prouince, who onely gather his works, and give them you, to praife him. It is yours that reade him. And there we hope, to your divers capacities, you will finde enough, both to draw, and hold you: for his wit can no more lie hid, then it could be loft. Reade him, therefore ; and againe, and againe : And if then you doe not like him, furely you are in some manifest danger, not to vnderstand him. And so we leave you to other of his Friends, whom if you need, can bee your NGL guides : if you neede them not, you can leade your felues, and others . NBEL And fuch Readers we with him.

13

John Henninge. Henrie Condell

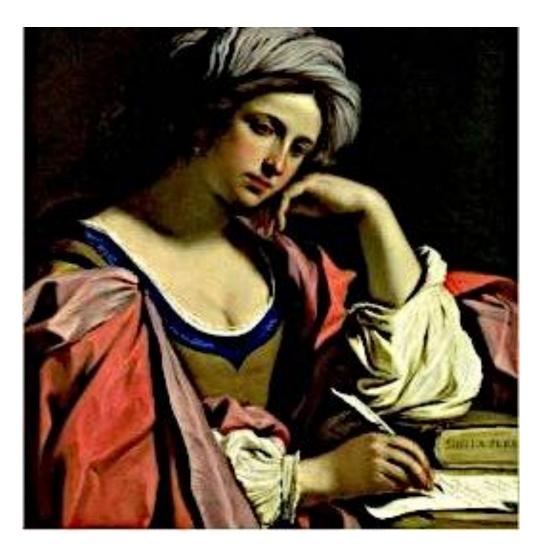
# Literacy in Shakespeare's London



#### 22% of men were illiterate

70% of London Tradesmen could read and write (only 50% in the North of England)

# **Gender inequalities:** 90% of women could not write their names



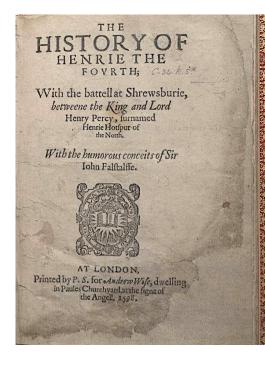
# Shakespeare's books in circulation in London before 1623

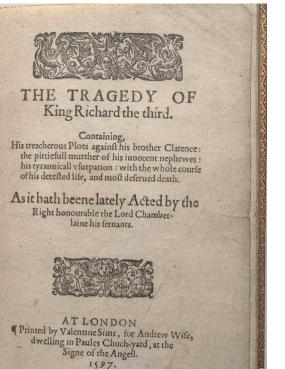
About 50,000 Shakespeare books for a population of about 200,000 people in the London around 1600

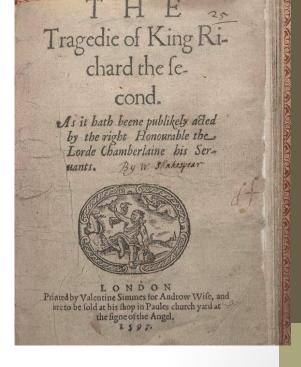


# Shakespeare First Best Sellers !

 Henry IV, Part 1 (7 editions), Richard III (5 editions), Richard II (5 editions).







#### Price: six pence



# Early Buyers: Richard Stonley

 On Tuesday 12 June 1593, Stonley (who was about 73 years old) recorded in his diary that he had paid 6 pence for Shakespeare's recently published *Venus and Adonis* ("the Venus & Adhonay per Shakspere":

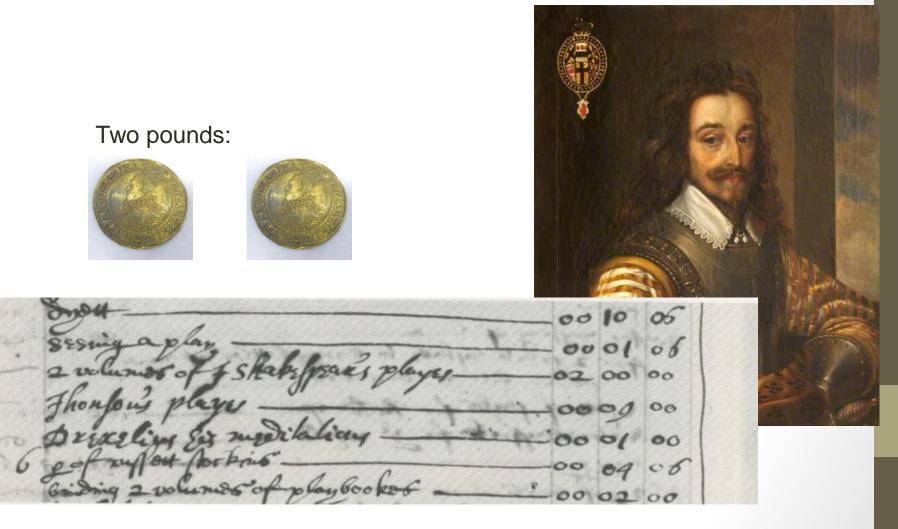
On vor of

Price: six pence



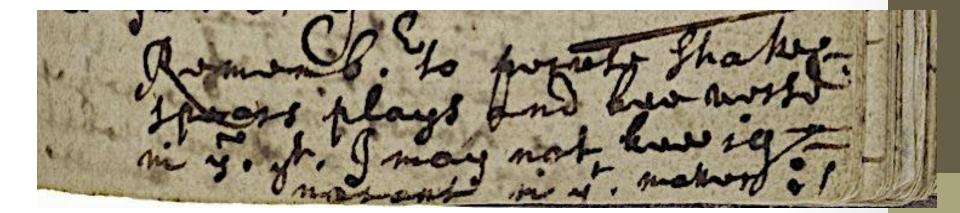
## Early Buyers: Sir Edward Dering

 Bought two copies of Shakespeare's First Folio on 5 December 1623 for two pounds (at the age of 25)



### John Ward's Diaries, Winter 1663

"Remember to peruse Shakespears plays and bee versd in them that I may not bee ignorant in that matter:"



## Samuel Pepys (1633 – 1703): his diaries



#### Develen

Links ag 2 . y & 14 2 3 2 11 - 1 + + + + 2 2 + Jone of & J = 3 + 120 2 we argan 1 1 1 1 1 3 . 19 - 10 - 1 Markhave & 1 24 F 4 - 3 to I P Stat man Fain - 20 a any do the - pow y shareh 117 7 11 - US" Seven or w 23 2 - field " Lenden the life in S - 1 5 Belingary 10 Pr + 30 + 1 19 y Serch 4 Michol · Ander - Sho A -why so , is magined of my re . Historicate - + + + + + + + Midile of 1 = 1 - No 2 +1 おうとう 一日本大王 シャイア マインガイ 5 1 , silver to 1 may 3. 1. with 2 to 5

#### Septem 6"

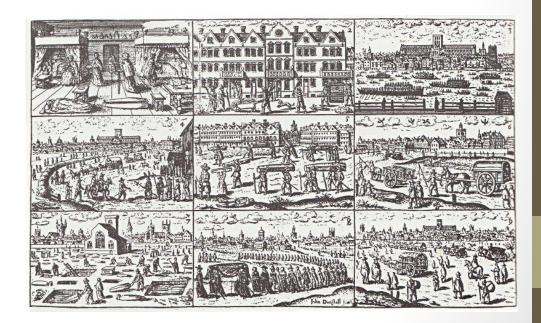
des the in flowerst 1 1 good an -- July hall ... , 24 3 " " " Artrylor - 1 - 0 - 1 × -Willight 2 3 3 - 7 3. - they Frid a star your 1 5 2 . . May" y Country Press a sea of o ma 17 6 6 10 S. r. 10300 1000 - of the hand a do 10 17 - my 25" 5 1 49 3 05

# Samuel Pepys: the Plague in London (1665), fear of death and memories of

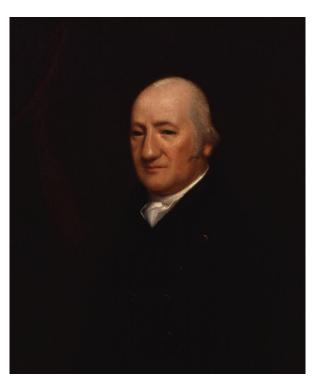
## Shakespeare's Hamlet

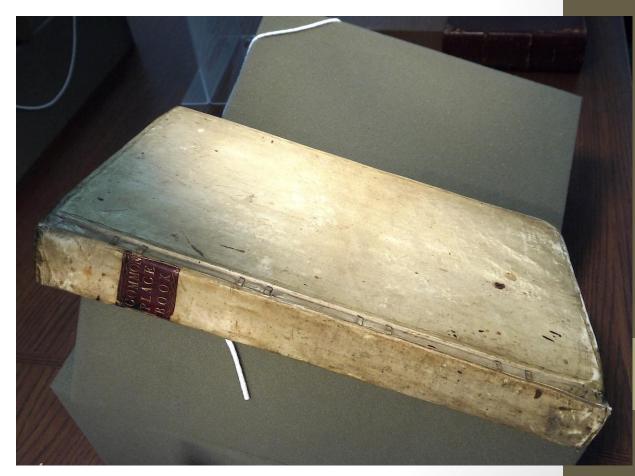
 "what a happy thing it would be if when we are in our graves (as Shakespeare resembles it) we could dream, and dream but such dreams as this, that we should not need to be so fearful of death as we are this plague-time"





# Henry James Pye's, Commonplace book, Folger MS M.b.16





# Henry James Pye, Commonplace book, f. 145r

145 t was a bad translehen of an Account of 19 years old - the Story Junes my own Studies lineus . Iremente some line a la Aussoije his particuly as well

"an Account of my own <u>Studies</u> a la Mutain [Montaigne]"

## Henry James Pye, Commonplace book, f. 32v

There appear more as Orester T Drestes & Humlet than can I thank be well resolved into accident for ister flamlet the fathe killed by an user a bustles in one, a Kenner in and ther who population wife & usways the threme , the son disordended + betraged - his being except to see by superhutand comments. No hadrefs - Ne character & Horatio & Pylaks The wood gill occurs as a substantive by Shekeyene + gilt is syringness with grilding of this the commentators all tell your dida. it may be so , but when I was a boy I never ken head leaf you while by any other name than gilt . I remembe particularly the first time! ment leaf silver The word gilt occurs as a substantive by Jc.2. "The double gill of Shakespeare" & dit 1.00 "Dur geperfo our gilt were her made the speare of the of the her her "The poly of the synonymous with gilding & this the

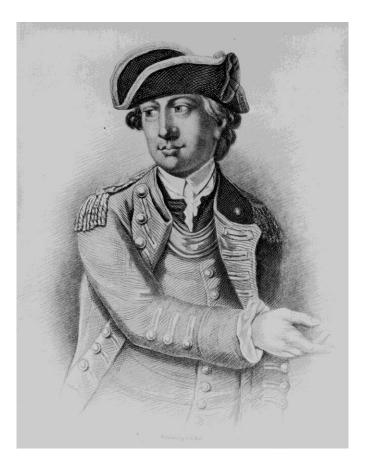
commentators all tell you is obsolete, it may be so, but **when I was a boy I** never heard leaf gold called by any other name than gilt & I remember particularly the first time I heard the expression 'Silver gilt' [...]

# Charles Lee to Miss Robinson (15 December 1775), Folger MS Y.c.1374 (2).

 Have you, my D[ea]r Friend, read Shakespear over and over again? can you repeat any of his striking passages? are you not in raptures with him? I beg you will at least read a scene of him every day, and get at least a dozen lines

- by heart for heaven's sake, who has favour'd you so much,
- do not throw away too much of your time in gossiping with every
- Drone and Lounger who is so kind when his dinner or supper
- is not ready to make a sauntering house of your room

# British-born revolutionary general Charles Lee (1731-1782)



Gamp on Minter Hill Deck ye 15 thiggs Thittle the yes, my kind gracious barepondenty that the tappenet I the priverse, should have thrown me into any degree of calarragement Jam in how to capped my gratitede amonats to difters the language which I could no criggy and religion to the ing I am prechded from by reasons but heren to your fair suff I will to god I and north myself ye to that sublime Degree of Platonic for a which my River and in comparable Master Roufican says the attained with repart to his places with to the friend of your Plason and the fores your proties the taken the father my self and the hopes of hing at least an Trioffensive borryporture he this I am afraid with reser be the case as long as you actain your form roca and nannes I will here can make a generous effect, and endeavous through the remaindres of this letter only to use the love of a tender affectionalit Here you, My Dr Bring, read I lakes pear one and They again I can go repeat any of the striking papages. the you not the deptations with him to They you will at last read a serve of him very day and get a done lives by heart for hearin's same the has farmed go so med, To not throw a any too much of your time the populating south cong Drove and Longer who is so head when this diagon or supper The Linley Sisters (Mrs. Sheridan and Mrs. Tickell) 1771/72 (oil on canvas), Gainsborough, Thomas (1727-88)/© Dulwich Picture Gallery, London, UK



#### Mary Tickell to Elizabeth Ann Sheridan, Folger MS Y.d.35, f. 131r

are, every triffing occurrence wills to consequence -as for any prospect of entertaintness to Sur afraid you much not all lay it your Accounts to receive any, you I mean to go to Town in about a treate, to lay in oc good Hoch of intelligence for you of all hind - Togon ch a destance as to to Town presently, I suppose that he may be in time to see a bit of the fiddows - my prospect of the Day is confined to seeing him take Horse after Size and reading Matuespean Historical Mays after tea to fill & Same - rot much to be made of that foill say - so I won't waske my Paper in mere lod

my prospect of the Day is confin'd to seeing him take Horse after Dinner and reading Shakespears Historical Plays after tea to Bill [her brother] & Jane – not much to be made of that you'll say – so I won't waste my Paper in mere Words but wait tomorrows hidden Fate -

### Mary Tickell to Elizabeth Ann Sheridan, Folger MS Y.d.35, f. 133r

made very happy by hearing a very favorable accound A My Taker, T- says he suped in It truck Bridge hight having proviously dispatched a time of backridges to pre-- pare his way - and took Michardson to keid with him by way of helping of the Evening - but Maam when the came instead of finding my Tether to Mother, as using at opportive lides of the fire growning against one another, the first thing they keard as soon as the track your was open, was a hoar of daughter for folow - and on entring the Parlows they forme a very jolly party at Supper, consisting of Wlot & I my mother quicke gay - in

Sunday Morning

Just as I had sent Bill into the Study for the 6<sup>th</sup>: Vol: of Shakespear, in came T [her husband, Mr Tickell]– with the Sieur Reid, & poor Henry the sixth was laid on the Shelf <u>once more,</u> -

#### Mary Tickell to Elizabeth Ann Sheridan, Folger MS Y.d.35, f. 297r

fortblop you here that it is really impossible to dry invaried ne the any low requence - Sin sure for these lag adjust three Days there has not been a quarter il with of an hours d'ifference in them - & yet. selicity carept the pleasure of being with you, Spre-

My Life now is so very unvaried that it is really impossible to dignify it into any lose sequence – I'm sure for these last three Days there has not been a quarter of an hours difference in them. (17 November 1786)

### Mary Tickell to Elizabeth Ann Sheridan, Folger MS Y.d.35, f. 318v

you now feel yourself my dear Betsey in the it of b It ation I have been in ever since for left for Leci be, eacept indeed the Weeks I have been in own seg Town, and know from coperience how averse a won Town, and know from corrected now avere a wone a quick dife of reading working to working into forthis the quick vary incidents we are the dife & lar Joinety of a good Sournal - Same Hishave regelable him at suy. for this last forthight - I did not return till Dropsus Tourday evening the I expected him, the totarday about I before - he was detain's to disce with I. Altallis & the he. and was anxion, besides to finish his bootlan at prom Dropers Letter, web Suppose you'll hear f. the Tabber

December 1786: "[I] know from experience how averse a quiet Life of reading working & walking is to the quick varying accidents wch: are the Life & Soul of a good Journal"

#### **MANSFIELD PARK:**

#### A NOVEL.

IN THREE VOLUMES.

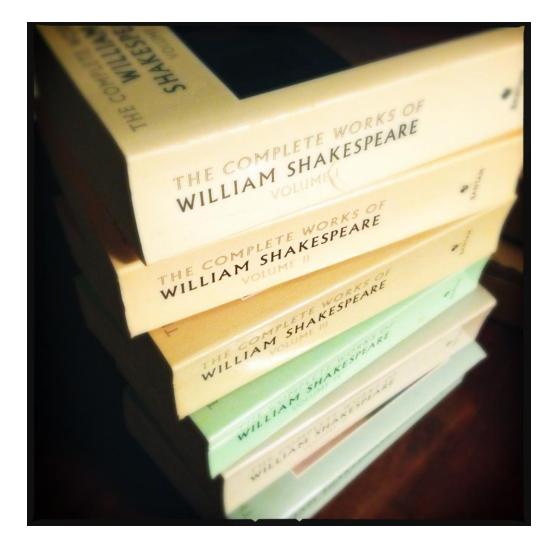
BY THE

AUTHOR OF "SENSE AND SENSIBILITY," AND "PRIDE AND PREJUDICE."

	VOL. I	•
	London	
PRINTE	D FOR T. I	EGERTON,
MILITARY	LIBRARY,	WHITEHALL.
	1814.	

For two characters in Jane Austen's *Mansfield Park* (1814), Shakespeare "is a part of an Englishman's constitution", as indeed "we all talk Shakespeare".

# **Reading Shakespeare Today**





# Life with the Bard— Shakespeare and the Shaping of the Early Modern Self

Prof. Jean-Christophe Mayer French National Centre for Scientific Research and University of Montpellier