**English 50**

**Professor N. Stork**

**Final Research Paper**

**Textual History**

Please use MLA format for all notes and bibliography.

Length: 1200 words, typed, double-spaced

Please select a work from one of our Renaissance/early Modern authors this semester. You will need to find at least THREE outside sources for this work, including:

1. a scholarly edition of the work

2. a biography of the poet or general literary history of the poet’s time

3. one scholarly article

Biographies are full-length books, as are books entitled *The Collected Poems of Poet X*  or *The Collected Works of Poet X.* Other scholarly editions include the Norton Critical Edition series and some editions of selected works. Many of these are available as eBooks. Be sure you find a serious, scholarly work with introduction, commentary, footnotes and bibliography. There are many good literary sites out there, usually connected with universities, but there are many that are inadequate. If you have any doubts, please email me the URL. San Jose State English Department has many links to good literary websites and you may find this a useful place to start.

To find your article you can use the MLA Bibliography or jSTOR (available on the King Library website). Look for articles that deal with some literary aspect of the text. You may contact Peggy Cabrera, the English Literature librarian if you need help finding araticles.

Please write a textual history of this work. Was it hand written? Does the manuscript survive? Where is the manuscript today? Are you able to find a copy of it? What is the subsequent publication history of this work? What differences can be noted in different editions? Did the author themself make changes to the text? Did a subsequent editor change the text? Where is the work found today? What different audiences have earlier editions been intended for? Are the words used with their expected meanings for that time? Use your critical article as the basis for one way in which the work has been received in the modern world. You may need to check the history of word usage in an historical dictionary such as the *Oxford English Dictionary*. This research is intended to make you aware of the importance of considering the history of text itself when writing about literature.

Include a Works Cited page at the end of this paper in MLA format.