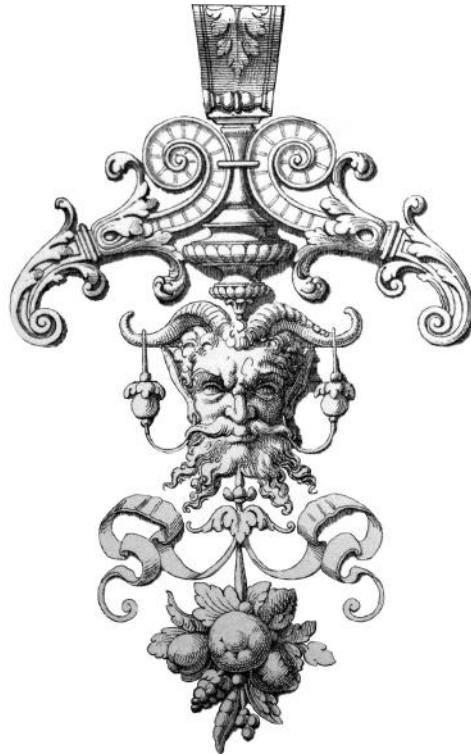


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Front Cover: oil painting of Venus and Adonis (c. 1554) by the Italian painter, Titian. During Shakespeare's time, it could have been seen only in Titian's home in Venice. Equally important, it was the only one of Titian's five versions of this scene in which Adonis wears a "bonnet", which Shakespeare describes in his poem of *Venus and Adonis* (1593):

He sees her coming and begins to glow...
And with his bonnet hides his angry brow...
Fall askance he holds her in his eye...
ll.337–339

Shakespeare refers to Adonis's bonnet two more times in V&A—see II.1081–90. While William Shakspeare of Stratford never left England, Edward de Vere traveled throughout Italy during 1575-76, making Venice his home base, where Titian worked until his death in August 1576.

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