

## CU Shakespeare CoLab Textual Annotation Application

**\*\*Please submit the following application, along with accompanying attachments or links, via email to Professor Rachael Deagman ([rachael.deagman@colroado.edu](mailto:rachael.deagman@colroado.edu)). The CoLab will review and respond to your submission within 3-5 weeks.**

Applicant's name: Cori G.

Date: 10/7/17

Email address: \*\*\*\*\*@colorado.edu

Majors/minors: International Affairs, minors in Geology and Political Science

Expected Date of Graduation: Spring 2017

Play title, act, scene and specific lines (or stage directions) to which your submission relates:  
*A Midsummer Night's Dream, 2.1.209-17*

Type of textual annotation you are submitting (HIGHLIGHT ONE):

Etymology entry

Biographical information

Character description

**EEBO Quotation**

Image (attach JPEG in email submission)

**\*\*NOTE:** images may only be taken from LUNA, the British Library, or WikiCommons.

Text to be included in the annotation (definition, quotation, biographical info etc.):

“A spaniel, a woman and a walnut tree,  
The more they're beaten the better still they be.”

-- John Ray, *A Collection of English Proverbs Digested into a Convenient Method for the Speedy Finding Any One upon Occasion*, 1678

MLA citation of source:

Ray, John. *A Collection of English Proverbs Digested into a Convenient Method for the Speedy Finding Any One upon Occasion : With Short Annotations : Whereunto Are Added Local Proverbs with Their Explications, Old Proverbial Rhythmes, Less Known or Exotick Proverbial Sentences, and Scottish Proverbs*. Cambridge [Cambridgeshire] : Printed by John Hayes ..., for W. Morden: n.p., 1678. 59. *Early English Books Online*. Web. 1 Dec. 2016.

Provide a one paragraph blurb describing the annotation:

This source is a compilation of proverbs published about fifty years after Shakespeare's death. The proverb is a very short and clear statement that demonstrates an acceptance and encouragement of domestic violence. As one can see from the EEBO image, this proverb is just one of many misogynistic and demeaning statements regarding women, even though much of it is not explicitly violent. While extreme cases could go to court, there seems to have been relative acceptance of domestic violence within Shakespeare's culture. One key point made was that of the "thumb rule." This rule states that the beating of wives (or children) to correct their behavior was acceptable as long as no blood was drawn and the stick used to beat the woman was no larger than the man's thumb.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Merry E. Wiesner, "Gender and Power," *Women and Gender in Early Modern Europe*, 2nd ed (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2000), 288-311.