Lecture on: Twelfth Night, or What you Will

I. Twins, Text, and Title

A. Twins: used as device in Comedy of Errors
B. Text first in 1623 Folio. Probably written in 1599, just before or after As You Like It
C. Twelfth Night = Feast of Epiphany, 6 January, arrival of Three Kings at stable, revelation of Jesus to gentile world

II. Feste and function: William Kempe, Robert Armin

III. Letters as words, letters as messages

(Cf. 2 Corinthians, 3:6: "Who also hath not made us able ministers of the New Testament, not of the letter but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life.")

A. Viola and Ovilia: one has an extra "I"

B. C,U. [N], T, P

C. M.A.O.I: the riddle of Malvolio's letter
  1. Mooing - animal
  3. I AMO [I Love]
*Revelation, 1.8: I am A [alpha] and O [omega], the beginning and the end [of the Greek alphabet], saith the Lord, Which is, and Which was, and Which is to come, even the Almighty.

A. Malvolio as:
  1. animal
  2. Self-love, the sin of Adam and Eve
  3. as Pride, the sin of Satan

IV. Allegory, Evil, and the Comic Butt

Littera gesta docet, quid credas allegoria Moralis quid agas, quo tendas anagogia.
[The letter teaches deeds, allegory what you believe, moral what you do, and anagoge your destination.] - Augustine of Dacia, ca. 1260

A. The Four Senses of Allegory:
   1. literal sense: the action you read or see
   2. tropological, or moral, sense: moral reading of one's actions;
   3. allegorical sense: how those actions relate to the beliefs of Christianity;
   4. anagogical: what is promised
      exemplum: Jonah and the whale

A. Allegory and Renaissance Drama
exempla: Malvolio, Orsino, Olivia, and Viola (1.5.175ff.)