Hamlet
After Q1

An Uncanny History
of the Shakespearean Text

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For Taije and Raphael Boaz

belated discoveries and endless rarities
The treasures of time lie high, in Urnes, Coynes, and Monuments, scarce below the roots of some vegetables. Time hath endless rarities, and shows of all varieties; which reveals old things in heaven, makes new discoveries in earth, and even earth itself a discovery.

—Thomas Browne, *Hydriotaphia, Urne-Buriall* (1658)

Who shall tell what may be the effect of writing? If it happens to have been cut in stone, though it lie face downmost for ages on a forsaken beach, or “rest quietly under the drums and tramplings of many conquests,” it may end by letting us into the secret of usurpations and other scandals gossiped about long empires ago:—this world being apparently a huge whispering-gallery.

—George Eliot, *Middlemarch* (1874), (mis)quoting *Urne-Buriall*

Genealogy . . . operates on a field of entangled and confused parchments, on documents that have been scratched over and recopied many times.

—Michel Foucault, “Nietzsche, Genealogy, History” (1971)