plague years in London when the theaters were closed.

A collaborative effort of Shakespeare and John Fletcher (who succeeded Shakespeare as playwright for the King's Men), The Two Noble Kinsmen is based on Chaucer's The Knight's Tale. Set in ancient Greece, the story is of the cousins Palamon and Arcite who, after being captured by Theseus and the Athenians, both fall in love with Princess Emilia, sister of Hippolyta, Theseus' wife. While they are imprisoned, the jailor's daughter falls hopelessly in love with Palamon and engineers his escape after Arcite is banished. Both cousins eventually return to Athens and are about to duel for the hand of Emilia when Arcite dies after being thrown from his horse; with his dying breath, he gives Emilia to Palamon.

This first quarto of was bound in ninteenth-century red morocco with gold tooling, signed "BOUND BY RIVIERE & SON FOR T. J. WISE"on the lower turn-in of the front board. The spine is divided into six compartments. "THE | TWO | NOBLE | KINSMEN" is lettered in gold across the second compartment, "FLETCHER | AND | SHAK- | SPEARE" in the third, place and "LONDON | 1634" in the fourth. The turn-ins are gold tooled, and the leaves' edges are gilt. The bookplate of Thomas James Wise is on the front pastedown, and the Ashley Library stamp appears at the foot of the Prologue (p1v).

Now at the British Library, this quarto was previously owned by Thomas James Wise (1859–1937), was a British bibliographer and book collector whose Ashley Library of rare books and manuscripts was acquired, upon his death, by the British Museum. The collection was particularly strong in the