



SHAKESPEARE
OXFORD FELLOWSHIP

Exploring the evidence that the works of Shakespeare
were written by Edward de Vere, 17th Earl of Oxford

NEW EXCITEMENT ABOUT SHAKESPEARE

From massively abundant suggestive evidence which we invite everyone to examine for themselves with an open mind, we are strongly of the view that Edward de Vere, 17th Earl of Oxford (1550-1604), was true author of the works long attributed to William Shakespeare (1564-1616). Why does this matter? It matters because learning about Oxford's eventful life and times in the court of Queen Elizabeth I vastly enriches our understanding of the works, as we find extraordinary new connections and meanings, stunning new insights and revelations. These enhance even further, ever further, our already boundless love and admiration for the works. It has been creating a wonderful, momentous new era of rediscovery of Shakespeare. **Join us!**

WHY DID OXFORD HAVE TO WRITE AS "SHAKESPEARE"?

The pseudonym was indispensable because: Oxford was prominent in Queen Elizabeth's court where he had certain archrivals whom he enjoyed lampooning in some of his works, including plays performed in front of royal gatherings. In effect he made his adversaries laughingstocks in front of the queen and the entire royal court. These humiliations were fine so long as they would remain "inside jokes", not publicly embarrassing any target courtiers indelibly for all time. This required that posterity would not deduce who the parodied victims were. Disclosure of courtier Oxford as the playwright would have enabled gossipy outsiders to put 2 plus 2 together easily to figure out who he was making fun of, which might have subjected those powerful members of the nobility to derision far and wide. Therefore Oxford's identity as author had to be suppressed in favor of, supposedly, William Shakspere of Stratford-upon-Avon, a harmless ordinary citizen, grain merchant and sometimes theater investor and actor but who, so far as we know, never set foot in the royal court. Remarkably: certain influential family members of embarrassed courtiers gained control over Oxford's plays and other works after his death in 1604. They were fiercely determined to protect their loved ones' posthumous reputations permanently and therefore, even though Oxford was now no longer living, they made sure to preserve and reaffirm the authorship myth right up through publication of the "Shakespeare" First Folio in 1623.

STILL – COULDN'T THAT OTHER FELLOW HAVE BEEN THE TRUE AUTHOR?

From town records we have the last will and testament of William Shakspere (notice the spelling, different from "Shakespeare") (1564-1616) of Stratford-upon-Avon, written entirely by his lawyers, not by him. His estate had no books in it or bookshelves or any elements of writing and literature. Researchers have never found a single letter he wrote to anyone during his entire lifetime. None of his in-laws or friends or associates ever referred to him in their own journals or correspondence or anywhere as being a writer. We believe he was completely illiterate, and we know his parents, wife, and children were illiterate. When he died in 1616, no one in literary circles paid any attention. These indications and many more, which scholars don't dispute, appear to render laughable any notion that Shakspere was author of the greatest works in the English language.

AS WITH GALILEO'S TELESCOPE: "LOOK AND SEE FOR YOURSELF"

Like Libri and Cremonini who, around 1610, reportedly refused to look through Galileo's telescope to see for themselves his discoveries they believed were impossible, many in the worldwide literary and stage establishment decline to even consider Edward de Vere as true author of the "Shakespeare" works. I.e. after four centuries...the ruse is still working! But no one should take our word for any of this. Everyone should merely contemplate, and evaluate for themselves, the very extensive evidence we point to. Soon everyone will understand that acknowledging Oxford as the true author is going to enhance, not detract from, studies of the Shakespearean canon for all ages to come.

FIRST FOLIO 1623: BEN JONSON'S HIDDEN TRIBUTE? TO EDWARD DE VERE

"gentle" in the sense of gentleman i.e. nobleman i.e. de Vere, not Shakspere who was a commoner

"figure" in the sense of illusion

"for" in the sense of standing in for

"cut" in the sense of artifice, card playing

To the Reader.

This Figure that thou here feest pur
 It was for gentle Shakespeare cut;
 Wherein the Graver had a strife
 with Nature, to out-doo the life:
 O, could he but haue drawne his wit
 As well in brashe, as he hath hit
 His face, the Print would then surpass'e
 All, that vvas euer vvirg in brashe.
 But, since he cannot, Reader, looke
 Not on his Picture, but his Booke.

B. I.

"ver" = Edward de Vere

ver had his wit
 ver writ his Booke.

"B.I." = B.J.
 = Ben Jonson,
 who loved to write cryptographically

Mr. VVILLIAM
SHAKESPEARE'S
 COMEDIES, HISTORIES, & TRAGEDIES.
 note the double neckline which could signify a mask
 Published according to the True Originall Copies.



LONDON
 Printed by Isaac Iaggard, and Ed. Blount. 1623.

<https://shakespeareoxfordfellowship.org/discover-shakespeare>