Who
was the REAL
Shakespeare? See
abundant evidence per...

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...including
why this now
re-energizes
excitement
about his works even
more than ever
before!

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## NEW EXCITEMENT ABOUT SHAKESPEARE

From evidence we deem overwhelming which we invite everyone to examine for themselves, we are persuaded 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 it matter who created the works – since we have them anyway? 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 ever further our already boundless love and admiration for the works. It heralds a wonderful, momentous new era of rediscovery of Shakespeare. ***Join us!***

## WHY DID OXFORD WRITE AS "SHAKESPEARE"?

Edward de Vere was mercurial in nature...brilliant...scandal-prone... tempestuously prominent in the court of Queen Elizabeth (1533-1603) where he had certain archrivals whom he lampooned in some of his plays first performed at royal gatherings. Skillfully...devilishly...he made his adversaries villains, or laughingstocks, in front of the queen and the entire royal court. Sometimes he even satirized the queen herself, which we believe she tolerated and even enjoyed because she was fond of him. But all this could only work as "inside jokes". Not only was it taboo during that era for nobles like Oxford to publish works under their own names, but also, disclosure of the playwright as being someone in the court would have tipped off gossipy outsiders to figure out who he was making fun of, which might have subjected powerful courtiers – and even the monarch – to derision far and wide! Therefore the price Oxford had to pay was that his identity as author had to vanish in favor of "frontman" William Shakspere of Stratford-upon-Avon, a businessman and sometime theater investor and actor but who, so far as we know, never set foot in the royal court.

## BUT WHY STILL "SHAKESPEARE" EVEN AFTER OXFORD'S LIFETIME?

Certain influential family members of embarrassed courtiers acceded to official positions in the regime of King James I, Queen Elizabeth's successor, which enabled them to gain control over Oxford's plays and other works after his death in 1604. Evidently they admired the works and considered them very promising to finance as a print run, but also they were fiercely determined to protect permanently the reputations of their loved ones and others whom Oxford's quill had not flattered. Therefore, even though Oxford was now no longer living, they avidly preserved and reaffirmed the authorship myth right up through publication of the "Shakespeare" First Folio in 1623.

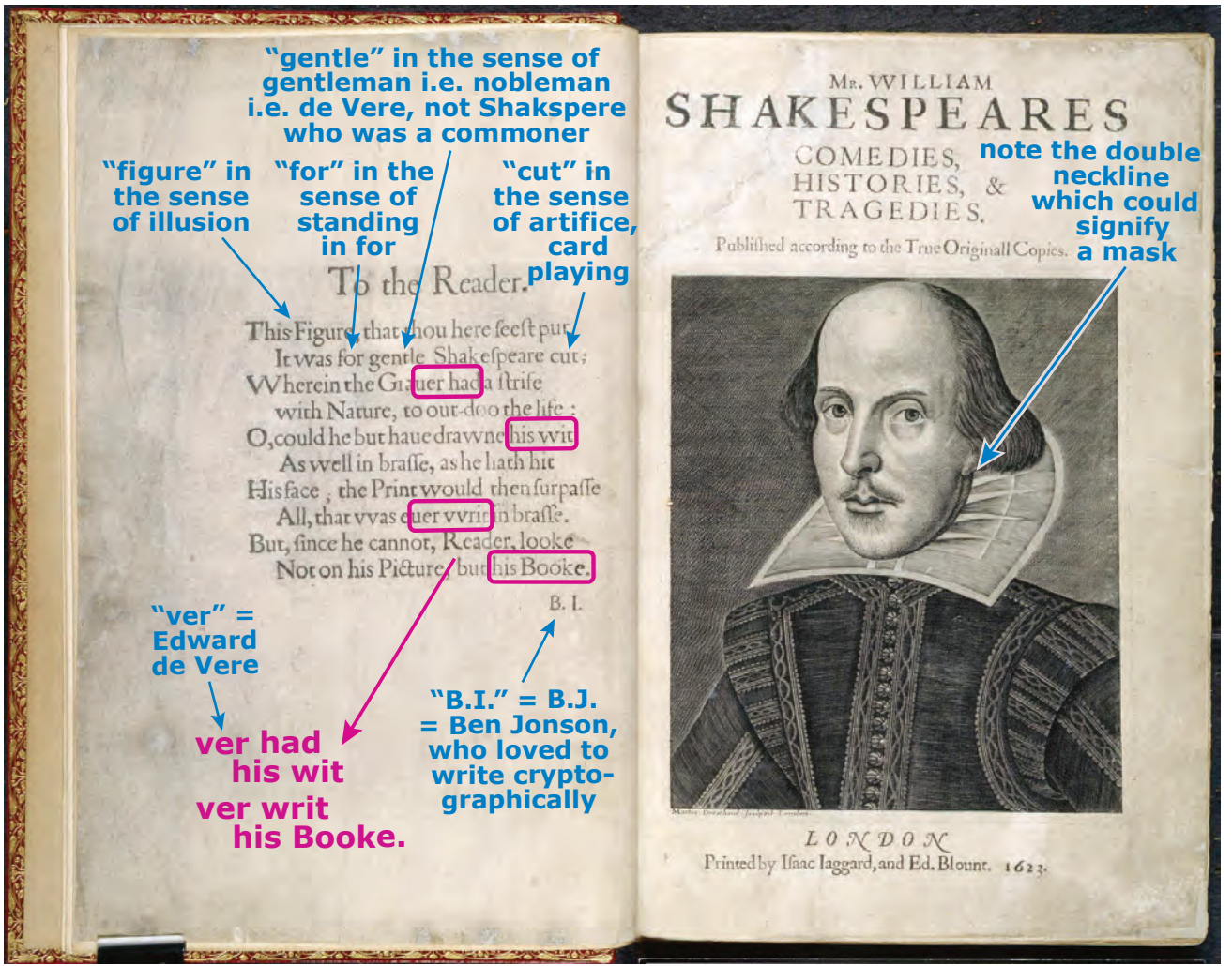
## REALLY? THAT STRATFORD FELLOW WASN'T THE TRUE AUTHOR?

The 1616 last will and testament of William Shakspere (notice the spelling, different from "Shakespeare") from town records of Stratford-upon-Avon shows his estate had no books in it or any elements of writing or literature. Ardent researchers scouring exhaustively over centuries have never found a single letter he ever wrote to anyone. None of his in-laws, friends, or associates ever referred to him in their own correspondence or anywhere else as being a writer. Additional known facts point not only to him but also his parents, wife, and children as having been completely illiterate. When he died in that year 1616, no one in literary circles paid any attention. All these indications and many more, which scholars don't dispute, surely render laughable any notion that Shakspere created the greatest works in the English language.

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

In 1610 philosophers Libri and Cremonini refused Galileo's offer to look through his telescope to see for themselves his discoveries, which they disparaged as impossible and as ideologically offensive. Fast forward to today, when most in the worldwide literary/stage establishment and in the mass media claim to be apostles of open inquiry and intellectual freedom, yet sternly forbid and harshly ostracize any and all discussion about whether Oxford was the true Bard. Wow – the durable "Shakespeare" ruse, now in the 21st century, is still working just as the publishers of the First Folio originally intended in 1623! But rather than taking our word for it, everyone should evaluate for themselves the extensive, largely uncontroverted evidence we point to. Soon everyone will understand that, as described on page 1 above, acknowledging Oxford as the true author is going to thrillingly enhance, not somehow devalue, studies of the Shakespearean canon for all ages to come.

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



## 100+ YEARS OF OXFORDIAN RESEARCH

The focus upon Oxford is not something recent. An independent researcher, English schoolteacher J. Thomas Looney, all the way back in 1920, identified Oxford via records from the Elizabethan period as by far the most likely individual to have been the true "Shakespeare". This was because facts about Oxford's life which Looney tabulated comported extraordinarily well with innumerable elements found in the plays and other works. Since 1920 and particularly in recent decades, Oxfordian scholars have been substantiating and expanding upon Looney's work to great breadth and depth, unearthing many interconnected layers of voluminous evidence collectively reinforcing the indications pointing to Oxford as the actual author. These strata of evidence appear to fit together better and better all the time, in ever-greater detail and granularity. We think it's a fair characterization that nothing even remotely comparable is true for any other authorship candidates such as Francis Bacon, William Stanley, or Henry Neville...and <u>especially</u> not for William Shakspere of Stratford-upon-Avon.

## IF YOU'RE INTRIGUED TO LEARN MORE

A leading Oxfordian organization is the Shakespeare Oxford Fellowship.

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