

WHY DID OXFORD WRITE AS “SHAKESPEARE”?

Edward de Vere was mercurial in nature...brilliant...quick-tempered...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...mercilessly...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 put 2+2 together 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.