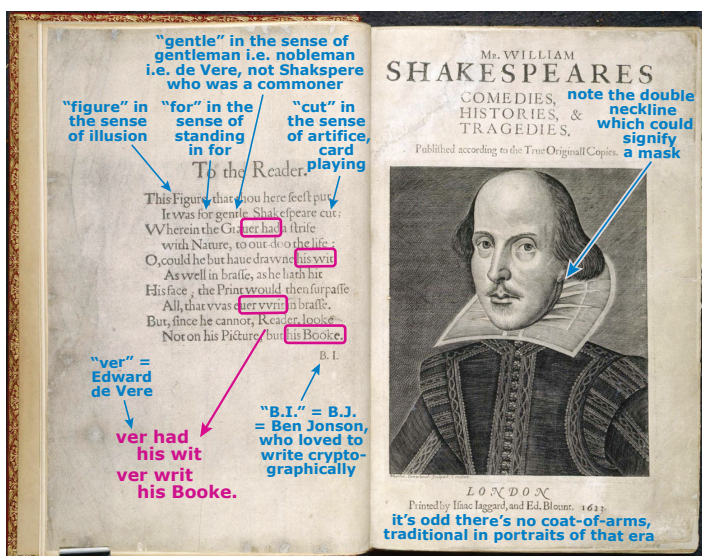


First Folio 1623: Ben Jonson's hidden tribute? to Edward de Vere

In the frontispiece:



And then in the preface poem, Jonson's praise of the "Sweet Swan of Avon", seeming to point to Stratford-upon-Avon, appears to have been a sly misdirection...because "Avon" had also traditionally referred to Hampton Court Palace on the Thames, the royal venue where many of Oxford's plays received their first performances...not in public theaters such as the Globe.

Traditionalists often express the view that contemporaries all accepted Shakspeare of Stratford-upon-Avon as author of the Shakespeare works. But in reality: Stratford-upon-Avon never had any alleged link to the works until this 1623 "Avon" reference by Ben Jonson, which doesn't stand up – it appears to have been in furtherance of the "Shakespeare" ruse the First Folio publishers were maintaining.