



THE SHAKESPEARE OXFORD SOCIETY

NEWSLETTERS

BOOK ONE

COVERING YEARS 1965-1987

**SHAKESPEARE OXFORD SOCIETY
NEWSLETTERS**

1965-1966

The Shakespeare Oxford Society

918 "F" St., N.W., Room 612, Washington, D.C., 20004



Trusts and Trustees. Charitable #375 Advance of Education #86

" A gift to promote research as to the authorship of the plays attributed to Shakespeare and to discover the original manuscripts is charitable. It improves the literary heritage of the nation, and is educational and for community benefit. Re Hopkins Will Trusts 1964, Vol. #3, All England Reports pg.46, Naish and another v. Francis Bacon Society, Inc. and others, Chancery Division (Wilberforce. J.) June 16-17, July 8 1964.

In 1957 a Miss Hopkins, a member of the Francis Bacon Society, Inc. of England, died leaving a will, which, among other bequests, left one third of the residual estate, in trust for the benefit of the Francis Bacon Society, to search and research for the original manuscripts of the plays attributed to William Shakespeare of Stratford on Avon. She believed the author was Bacon. The sum involved was 6,500 pounds (£ 6,500) Her heir, not unnaturally, preferred that this sum go to them, and sought to have the provision declared invalid. In this endeavor, they had the help and assistance of the "experts", English Professors, and professional literary critics who, almost without exception, adhere to the orthodox and conformist revelation that William of Stratford is unquestionably the author, that this attribution has never been doubted by sane men, in fact no question exists, and that research on authorship or search for manuscripts, is illegal, immoral, and against the public interest. The executors of the will applied to the Court of Chancery (Equity) for instructions and a ruling on the contention of the heirs and the Literary Establishment. In 1964, the Justice handed down his opinion. He stated that there was no attempt or intention to settle, or rather, pass upon, the question of true authorship, but he would decide the question of legality, on the basis of agreed facts, and the record before him. In stating the facts as shown by the record before him, the Court said as follows: (Note. The pertinent paragraphs are set out below, omitting technical discussions of definitions of charitable trusts etc. Italics have been supplied.)

Court. "Although William Shakespeare died in 1616, the first folio was not published until 1623 and it contains a number of plays not published during his life time. This seems to show that manuscripts of some plays, later published under Shakespeare's name, must have been in existence, probably at the place where the folio was produced, in, or shortly before 1623. Counsel for the next of kin, describe it as a wild-goose chase; but wild geese can, with good fortune, be apprehended. This search is to be for real manuscripts, once in existence, of existing plays, believed to be capable of being found..... Before I come to the legal question (Charitable Trust) it is convenient to deal with an argument put forward on behalf of next of kin that the bequest is made for a purpose so manifestly futile, that it does not qualify for a charitable gift..... The authorship of Shakespeare's plays, as one would expect, has been the subject of extensive enquiry over many years. The evidence before the court is of an economical character; it does not

enter into any detail into the facts for or against the authorship of the various pretenders (I use this expression though the pretensions are those of their supporters and might well have been repudiated by the candidates themselves), it merely states, in some cases dogmatically, the outline of the contentions that have been made. The court cannot go outside this evidence. I summarise it as follows; (1) The orthodox opinion, which at the present time is unanimous, or nearly so, among scholars and experts in 16th and 17th century literature and history, is that the plays were written by William Shakespeare of Stratford on Avon, actor; (2) The evidence in favor of Shakespeare's authorship is quantitatively slight. It rests positively, in the main, on the explicit statements in the first folio of 1623, and on continuous tradition: negatively on the lack of any challenge to this ascription at the time. The form in which scholars express this evidence is, not that it proves Shakespeare's authorship, but that there is no reason to doubt it. (3) There is a number of difficulties in the way of the traditional ascription. There is no existing manuscript of any of the plays or poetry. There is no mention of any manuscripts or of anything to do with plays in Shakespeare's will. Some find difficulty in understanding how a man with the antecedents and known character of William Shakespeare of Stratford-on-Avon could have developed the literary qualities required to compose the plays. There are a number of known facts which are difficult to reconcile with William Shakespeare's authorship; some of them are referred to in Commander Pares's Affidavit. Moreover, as Prof. Trevor-Roper of Oxford points out, so far from these difficulties tending to diminish with time, the intensive search of the 19th century has widened the evidentiary gulf between William Shakespeare the man, and the author of the plays: (4) A number of alternative authors have been suggested by evident cranks, or ~~supported~~ supported by intelligent amateurs, but none of these have been accepted by scholars, little solid fact has been found to support any of them, and serious objections must be overcome before any of them can be considered as possible candidates; (5) As regards Bacon's own claims, the evidentiary material before the court is somewhat unsatisfactory..... I was told by counsel for the Society, that the Society had not thought it necessary or right to set out the full evidence at their disposal in their affidavits. On the other side, the two experts, Prof. Muir, and Mr. Crow, without traversing Commander Pares's evidence in detail, consider it "certain" that Bacon could not have written the "Shakespeare" Plays and Poems. They base this on consideration of the literary style, temperament, cast of mind, and attitude to life of Francis Bacon. Prof. Trevor-Roper, in a judicious affidavit, takes a more cautious line. While keeping his own position firmly in the ranks of the orthodox and stating that he definitely does not believe that the works of "Shakespeare" could have been written by Francis Bacon, he also considers the case for William Shakespeare rests on a narrow balance of evidence and that new material could upset it; that though almost all professional scholars accept "Shakespeare's" authorship, a settled scholarly tradition can inhibit free thought, that heretics are not necessarily wrong. His conclusion is that the question of authorship cannot be considered as closed. I read this to mean ~~to mean~~ at least that new material might show some person other than "Shakespeare" to have written the plays and poems, and it may mean that it is conceivable, though unlikely, that Francis Bacon may turn out to be the author.

What then of the practical possibility of discovering any manuscript, "Shakespeare" or "Bacon", or of other authorship? The experts who have

given evidence on the side of the next of kin are not encouraging, but they are also not very specific. Prof. Muir says that it is very remotely possible that a manuscript of one of "Shakespeare's" plays may be discovered, but that a wide search has been made in all probable places and he is at a loss to imagine where any useful search could now be made. Mr. Crow also says that search has vigorously been made since the 18th century and that all other "probable places for their probable finding" have long since been examined. Both experts direct specific attention to the prospects of finding a manuscript in "Shakespeare's" or some other person's grave, but summarily dismiss this both on the grounds that it is extraordinary to suggest that any manuscript should ever have been placed in a grave, and if it had, it would long ago have disintegrated, "Shakespeare's" grave in particular being close to the bank of the River Avon. The latter point is challenged, with some authority, and with the use of some scientific terminology, by Mr. Edward Pyddoke, Fellow of the Royal Society of Antiquities, and the more general issue, as to the utility of a further search for manuscript is taken up by Mr. Roderick Eagle, by profession a marine insurance adjuster but evidently an enthusiastic amateur of "Shakespearean" questions of "Baconian" inclination, who witnessed an abortive attempt to excavate Spenser's tomb in 1938. He otherwise disagrees with the views of the experts that all likely places have been searched, and gives a list of six unexplored monuments where manuscripts of the plays might be found. He adds that there are many chests of documents in country houses which have never been properly examined, though as to them he limits his hopes to the discovery of private correspondence which might prove the identity of the plays and poems. Commander Pares refers to the establishment in 1962 of a "Shakespearean" Action Committee, which hoped, before the quater-centenary, to investigate "Shakespeare's" Tomb and monuments at Stratford-on-Avon.

On this evidence, should the conclusion be reached, that the search for the Baconian-Shakespeare manuscripts is so manifestly futile that the court should not allow this bequest to be spent on it as an object devoid of the possibility of any result. I think not. The evidence shows that the discovery of any manuscript of the plays is unlikely; but so are many discoveries before they are made. (One may think of the Codex Sinaiticus, or the Tomb of Tut Ankhamen, or the Dead Sea Scrolls.) I do not think that the degree of improbability has been reached which justifies the court in placing an initial interdict on the testatrix' benefaction. I come to the only question of law; is the gift of a charitable character? (Holds that it is).

It would seem to me that a bequest for the purpose of search, or research, for the original manuscripts of England's greatest dramatist (whoever he was) would be well within the law's conception of charitable purposes. The discovery of such manuscripts, or one such manuscript would be of the highest value to history and literature. It is objected against this, that as we already have the text of the plays, from a contemporary date, that the discovery of a manuscript would add nothing worth while. This I utterly decline to accept. Without any undue exercise of the imagination, it would surely be a reasonable expectation that the revelation of a manuscript would contribute, probably decisively, to a solution of the authorship problem, and this alone is benefit enough. It might also lead to more accurate dating..... This gift is not that (referring to Re Shakespeare Memorial Trust case) but it is in the same field, for the improving of our literary heritage, and my judgment is for upholding it. Declaration accordingly.

THE SHAKESPEARE OXFORD SOCIETY

330 MADISON AVENUE
NEW YORK, N. Y. 10017

June 30, 1965

To The Members of The Shakespeare Oxford Society:

Our Society suffered a great loss last February in the death of its President and Executive Officer, Mr. Francis T. Carmody.

Mr. Carmody presided at the meeting of the members on Thursday, February 11, and made the meeting a stimulating one by his own comments on the Oxfordian authorship issue, and also by calling on one after another of our members to present their views. After nearly two hours of discussion in which many members participated there was a brief business session in which Mr. Carmody was re-elected to the office of President. Throughout this meeting he appeared to be in the best of health and his thorough knowledge of our subject, together with his enthusiasm and buoyancy, made the meeting most interesting. On the following Monday, four days later, he was in his office and along in the afternoon felt some discomfort and lay down upon a lounge. His condition became more serious, a doctor was in attendance in short order, and an ambulance was at the door promptly, but nothing helpful could be done and he passed away within an hour.

We shall have difficulty in replacing Mr. Carmody but we must and will carry on as best we can.

I was elected to the office of Vice-President at the February meeting and am therefore serving temporarily as the executive officer of our Society.

This letter advising our members of the demise of Mr. Carmody, together with some word as to plans for the future, should have gone out to the members long before this; it was not because it was thought that a new President would be installed promptly and that he would want to write to the members.

Copies of "The Shakespearean Authorship Review" published by our sister Society in London, The Shakespeare Authorship Society, the spring 1965 number of that interesting pamphlet, have been sent to us and will be sent to all members in the near future.

A very interesting paper on the authorship issue has been written by Mr. Stanley Lovell, a member of our Society. It is entitled "A Mystery Beyond Words". That is being put into print now and that too will be sent to all members.

An item of more than usual interest is just ahead of us. The Pepsai-Cola Company is preparing to put on a Shakespeare Exhibit in their very handsome exhibit room constituting the first floor of the Pepsai-Cola Building at 59th Street and Park Avenue, New York City. It is to open on or about June 29 and will continue for two or three weeks. All who have anything of interest to offer are invited to participate in the exhibit, and we know now that the Shakespeare Festival Theatre on the Housatonic and also the Folger Library in Washington are participating.


Our Oxford Society has an opportunity here and preparations are under way, with Mr. Charlton Ogburn, Jr. assisting in a major way.

Contributions to the exhibit or suggestions relating to it by any of our members will be welcome and we will give all assistance we can in including them in our exhibit. We have arranged to have an invitation to visit this exhibit sent to each of our members.

A new book of interest to our members has just appeared. It is entitled "Oxford, Courier to the Queen" and its author is Miss Eleanor Brewster of Hartford, Connecticut. As indicated by its title, it is distinctly Oxfordian. On the other hand, a new book which is in no sense Oxfordian is about to appear. Its title is "Was Shakespeare Shakespeare?" and its author is Milward W. Martin, who is a vigorous Stratfordian and also heads the group in Pepsai-Cola having charge of the coming exhibit.

On any and all subjects coming within the purview of our Society, those referred to above and any others, we shall be glad to hear from our members at any and all times. More specifically, we will welcome additions to our membership, suggestions as to further activities of our Society and offers to participate in the management of our affairs or the names of persons who might well be asked to participate as officers of the Society.

Ever Thine


Dean S. Edmonds,
Vice-President.

The Shakespeare Oxford Society

918 "F" St., N.W., Room 612, Washington, D.C., 20004



March 30, 1966

To The Members of The Shakespeare Oxford Society:

The fact you have not had a bulletin or news-letter from your Society since August does not mean we are dead or sleeping, though it might strongly suggest it. The treasury, by that time, had been depleted to \$60., and no renewals due before the end of the year. Notices were sent out in December to those who subscribed in 1964, and the response, though slow in some cases, was encouraging and provided funds for printing and mailing. The latest edition of the "Shakesperean Authorship Review", which you were promised, was delayed in publication, and later in arriving here by ordinary mail. A copy is enclosed. We do not have enough to send to all, so are taking the liberty of "shorting" those of our members who also belong to the British Society, as they have already received their copies direct from London. We hope you understand.

There have been no new publications on the Oxfordian cause by our members, though Miss Eleanor Brewster's "Oxford, Courtier to the Queen" is most favorably reviewed on page 11 of the current "Shakesperean Authorship Review", and fellow members can read it with pleasure and profit. The "Review" also says that the brochure of our Society, "Shakespeare and the Man of Stratford" - "though brief, could hardly be bettered as an exposition of the Oxford anti-Stratford case." We think so, too, and hope to arrange for a second printing, if the funds to pay for it can be raised.

We have printed a number of "flyers", Oxford as Shakespeare, one of which is enclosed, to be used by our membership, in soliciting their friends to join their Society. Your comments and suggestions will be appreciated. Write to us at our temporary address in Washington, D.C. We hope to get more suitable quarters, and some clerical help, but all of this takes money.

Mr. Edward L. Troxell addressed the University Club of Winter Park, Fla. on Dec. 16th, 1965 on Oxford as Shakespeare. He requested, and received, help and material from his Society to use in confuting a previous speaker before the same audience, who had sneered at Oxford. This kind of help, research, and hard facts are available now to any and all of our members who want to write, speak, or publicly answer conformist Stratfordians.

Mr. Craig Huston of Philadelphia has called the Society's attention to an item in a 1960 issue of the "Shakesperean Authership Review" reporting the sale at auction of a miniature portrait, presumably of Edward de Vere, to the back of which was permanently affixed a picture of the Stratford monument to "Shakespeare". As Mr. Huston observes, this extraordinary feature of the portrait is of even more than ordinary interest because of the analysis (published in synopsis in the English magazine Past and Future) that led Charlton Ogburn, Jr. to conclude that the Stratford monument might be the repository of the vanished Shakespeare manuscripts. The Society is seeking to obtain from the auctioners the name of the purchaser of the portrait.

Charlton Ogburn, Jr. reports as follows:

"Last spring in rounding up material for an article I went back to an interview with Prof. John McCabe of New York University, Drama Department, on the Shakespearean authorship which appeared in The New Yorker of June 20, 1959. In this interview Prof. McCabe ridiculed the anti-Stratford position on the subject taken by the late Mr. Francis Carmody, former President of the Society, in an interview previously reported in the magazine. Although nearly six years had passed I was moved to write Prof. McCabe and challenge the indefensible statements he had made. He replied, standing by what he had said, and then on my pressing the attack, replied further that the argument would have to go over until after Commencement. Actually it was not resumed until September. At that time Prof. McCabe wrote to say he was turning over his end to a "person more fully qualified to answer you." This was Mr. Russell McLaughlin who, Prof. McCabe stated, had "unique qualifications for engaging in the anti-Stratford disputation because he holds a degree in law from Cornell University and was also, for over three decades, the leading drama critic of Detroit. He is also a man who knows his Shakespeare and the Elizabethan period in depth." The upshot was that Mr. McLaughlin and I exchanged five or six letters each, sending copies to Prof. McCabe. In November Prof. McCabe wrote that "I must say I have found it (the correspondence) fascinating--and though I still believe that the man of Stratford wrote the plays, I think that a very full record of a debate like yours and Mr. McLaughlin's should attain the dignity of print so that the question can be fully considered." While in fact the correspondence laid unmistakably bare the bankruptcy of the Stratford case, this seems a long way for a member of the Drama Department of a leading university to go in writing for the record. Very few academicians are willing to concede our side deserves a hearing. Horrified at the suggestion that anyone should be condemned without a hearing, they strive to ensure that we shall be.

"In December I sought and obtained the agreement of The New Yorker to have a member of its editorial staff read the correspondence with a view to ascertaining whether The New Yorker might not do something about the subject. In my letter I said that "I feel that anyone who reads it, and who is not irretrievably committed to the Stratford case, will find his faith in that case and the competence of its proponents severely shaken."

"In January The New Yorker gave its opinion there was a story and an interesting one but that in view of its questionable news value and timeliness in comparison with Viet Nam, civil rights, etc., and of the burden that would be placed on one of the reporters of the magazine who would have to go into it, it felt it was not the right magazine to treat it. The writer of the letter added, "We have no solutions to suggest, but think the number of year's success and impression 'Daughter of Time' has made, indicates that an appropriate hearing is possible. We hope so." He also said he would like to keep the copy of "Shakespeare and the Man of Stratford" that I had sent him since "it might jog an idea from some one of us some day."

"This letter followed by two weeks the publication in the Washington Sunday Star of the 1000-word review of "Was Shakespeare Shakespeare" by Milward W. Martin, that I wrote at the request of the Star's book critic and which exposes the shallowness of the book and the dissembling tactics of its author--matters of significance since two leading Stratfordian academicians allowed their names to be used in the promotion of the book, Prof. Leslie Hotson and Prof. Louis Marder, the latter contributing an introduction. It seems fair to say that the fissures in the wall behind which the Stratfordians have sought to isolate us are beginning to widen."

The editor of the A.B.A. Journal recently advised one of our members: "You may be interested to know that The American Bar Association Journal sales of "Shakespeare Cross-Examination" keep increasing instead of dropping off. We sold more copies last year than we did in any three preceding years."

The only book published lately on Shakespearean authorship, is that of Mr. Milward W. Martin, who is V.P. and Gen. Counsel of the Pepsi-Cola Company. It received a critical review in one of the Boston papers from Mr. Robt. H. Montgomery, as well as from Mr. Ogburn, as he wrote above. Mr. Martin is severe in taking the A.B.A. Journal to task for its articles on Oxford as Shakespeare.

One of our members, after reading this book, was tempted and "fanned up" the following bit of doggerel.

"Was Shakespeare Shakespears?
A Lawyer Looks at(for?) the Evidence. By Milward W. Martin.
With Introduction by
Louis Marder.

Lines upon First Reading Master Milward Martin's Masterpiece,
With Maestro Marder's Magnification thereof:

Hang down your head Bar Journal!
Hang down your head in shame!

Upon further reflection (30 seconds):

The gentleman criss Proof! Proof! when there is no proof.
He radiates reverence for words "carved in stone", evidently
aware of the 20th Chapter of Exodus, but unaware of Doctor
Johnson's delightful dictum; "Lapidarians are not upon oath."
Come Alive! Come Alive! You're in the Oxford generation!
Things go better with Vere! Drink deep, or taste not of the
Pierian spring. There shallow drafts intoxicate the brain;
And drinking largely sobers us again.

During April you can expect to hear from the Director-Trustess regarding plans for expanding the membership, a program for meaningful research, and waging an active campaign to bring the "truth" to the uncommitted, and converting, or at least discomfoting, the present-day disciples of John Aubrey, the father and founder of the Stratfordian Attribution.

Yours for E.Ver,

The Shakespeare Oxford Society, Inc.

By: Richard C. Horne, Jr., Director

The Shakespeare Oxford Society

918 "F" St., N.W., Room 612, Washington, D.C., 20004



June 30, 1966

To The Members Of The Shakespeare Oxford Society:

Since our last News-Letter of March 30th, nothing much has happened of particular interest to our members, except for the debate sponsored by the Bar Association of the City of New York, under the direction of a committee headed by George Siegel, Esq. This was held at the House of the Association, 42 W. 44th St. on May 11th. Mr. Dean Edmonds acted as moderator. A brief and witty introduction was made by Mr. Siegel, followed by the singing of two Elizabethan songs from Shakespeare by a young English Oxonian, who accompanied himself on the guitar, in lieu of a lute. (Words and music by the Earl of Oxford). Mr. Milward Martin spoke for the Stratfordians, and Mr. Charlton Ogburn, Jr. for us. Each side had 55 minutes, and a question and answer period followed. All of the questions and comments were favorable to the Oxford case, those directed to Mr. Ogburn were answered to the audience's satisfaction, and two critical ones directed to Mr. Martin, brought admissions against interest, and gave us additional opportunity to capitalize on the weakness of the Stratford case. The Bar Assn. Committee very courteously furnished the Society a number of "Flyers" to notify our members in and around New York, so they could attend. All in the vicinity were notified by mail or 'phone, and there was a good crowd. Though we admit to prejudice, and Mr. Martin will, no doubt, disagree, we feel that we picked up all the marbles.

May we suggest that members who want to do something for the cause, arrange similar debates, or discussions in their own localities. The Society will furnish a competent speaker, capable of handling our side alone, or in company with a local Oxfordian, with no Stratfordian barred as an opponent, no matter how high his place in Academe, or in the Temple Hierarchy.

For the benefit of our recent joiners and for those of our regulars who may not be too familiar with the history and purposes of the Society, it may be well to outline what it is and what it hopes to accomplish. It is an Educational Foundation, tax-free, and dues and contributions are tax-deductible. It was chartered in 1957 under the membership corporation law of New York. A year or so later, it was investigated by the Internal Revenue Bureau of the U.S. Treasury and granted tax-deductible and tax-free status. It is under strict supervision, and regular and extensive reports have to be made to the U.S. Government and to the appropriate bureaus of New York State.

"The objects or purposes to be promoted and carried on are to conduct and encourage research into the history of the Elizabethan period of English Literature, to disseminate the results of such research in the form of books, pamphlets, periodicals, papers and other publications in furtherance of or connected with the increasing of knowledge of the English literature of said period and to aid or assist individuals, institutions or organizations in carrying out said purposes. More particularly, the definite purpose of this research and the objectives of the corporation are to explore and verify the evidence bearing on the authorship of the Shakespearean works, particularly the evidence indicating that Edward de Vere, the 17th Earl of Oxford was the author thereof."

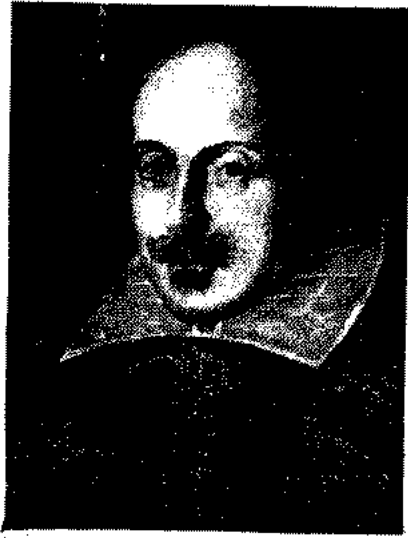
Any person shall become a member of the Foundation who shall apply for membership and shall pay his dues for the current year and shall continue to be a member in good standing for so long as he shall continue to make timely payment of any annual dues fixed by the Board of Trustees from time to time. The affairs of the Foundation shall be managed by a Board of Trustee-Directors, not less than 5, nor more than 15, who shall be members of the Foundation. Vacancies on the Board may be filled by the remaining members of the Board. An Executive Committee is provided for, as well as the usual officers to be chosen by the Board. The President and Chairman of the Board must be Directors; other officers need not be. Members, Trustees, and officers must be in good standing and not behind in current dues. Meetings such as annual, or special called meetings, may be held in or out of New York. This also applies to meetings of the Director-Trustees.

The above is a brief summary of the corporate set-up. We know of no formula by which we can aid, assist, publish, and disseminate without money. We are often asked what are the qualifications of members and what is required of them. The minimum requirement is having \$5.00 with which you are willing to part. Literacy is presumed but not essential. An open mind, or a slight skepticism as to whether the Aubrey-Stratford ascription is THE revealed faith, makes you more congenial, and apt to get some benefit out of membership. If you think that the authorship has not been definitely settled for all time, or that the possibility of the Earl of Oxford being the author is, at least, worth looking into; then you are welcomed as a fellow-worker toward the ends of the Society, and will probably want to give a fuller measure of support. Stratfordians are welcomed with open arms, especially if they come bearing gifts. Though they may come to scoff, they can still remain to pay. We do not fear infiltration, have nothing to hide, and while the lamp holds out to burn, etc., etc.

There is no official canon, and members can accept as little or as much of the beliefs, or hypotheses, of our scholars, as seems fit to each one. Wider knowledge may bring wider acceptance. Historically-Twentieth Century that is-many of us feel that Sir. George Greenwood, M.P., K.C., from 1900 to 1916, established almost to the point of demonstration, that it was impossible for Shagsper, or Shaxper, of Stratford to be the author of the plays and poems of Shakespeare. He believed the author was not Bacon, but some highly placed and cultured nobleman in Elizabeth's court. Andrew Lang referred to Sir George's postulated author as "The Great Unknown". Canon Beeching, J. M. Robertson, and Andrew Lang wrote books trying to confute Sir George, but he sent them all back, reeling. J. Thomas Looney, influenced by Greenwood's logic and his own skepticism of Stratfordianism, set up hypothetical necessary characteristics that the author must possess, from a study of his works, and identified the author as the 17th Earl of Oxford, Edward de Vere. He published his book in 1920. Looney is the Darwin of the Oxford case, and the others, Huxleys and Wallaces. More studies following Looney, by the Wards, Canon Rendall, Percy Allen, Admiral Holland, Mrs. Eva Turner Clarke, Wm. McFee, C.W. Barrell, Dr. Benezet, Richard Bentley, and the Ogburns, among others, have made new discoveries and found a mass of supporting data for the case Looney pioneered. Right now, today, research by our members is opening up new channels of corroboration, and the prospect of turning up real documentary evidence is getting brighter and nearer, and the dawn of acceptance not too far off.

Shakespeare Oxford Society, Inc.

Shakespeare portrait x-rayed



The portrait of Shakespeare bought by Mrs. Charles Flower in 1895 and presented to the Royal Shakespeare Picture Gallery.

The "Flower" portrait of Shakespeare—that fastidiously respectable frontispiece to so many collected editions of the plays—has now lost whatever remained of its claims to authenticity. It was at one time supposed that the portrait was the model for the Droeshout engraving; subsequent scholarship reversed this order of derivation, and the latest examination, besides confirming this view, has disclosed another painting under the portrait.

A recent X-ray investigation by the Courtauld Institute of Art reveals that it is executed over an Italian painting of the Madonna and Child and St. John. This painting, according to Major Paul Payne, curator of the Royal Shakespeare

Theatre Picture Gallery, has a severely damaged surface, but in technique it suggests the second half of the fifteenth century. The "Flower" portrait does not appear to have any pigments which would help in dating it, and its artist is unknown; but from the point of view of technique it seems to be no earlier than the eighteenth century. It has been suggested that the Madonna and Child may be of greater artistic value than the portrait which covers it—in which case there may be a question of sacrificing the "Flower" Shakespeare altogether. Both the portrait and the X-ray radiograph of the Italian painting are on view in the Royal Shakespeare Gallery at Stratford-on-Avon.

Stratfordians assert, and the uninformed believe, that First Folio says "S. of Stratford was the author. Not so. Only reference to Stratford is Bigges: "Shakespeare..and Time dissolves by Stratford Monument".

Time did just that, for by 1749, original figure of the grain-dealer, with a sack clutched to his middle, was replaced with present effigy holding a pen. Now Time, with an assist from X-and infra-red ray, has dissolved the authenticity of the "Flower". In an article in the "Scientific American", Jan. 1940, C. W. Barrell proved by X-and infra-red photo's, that Folger Library's prized "Ashbourne Shakespeare Portrait" was an altered and over-painted portrait of Oxford by C. Hétel. May we hope that now, after a quarter of a century, the curators of Folger will follow the example of Royal Gallery at Stratford, and place their X-and infra-red photographs side-by-side with "Ashbourne" so the public may know how Shakespeare really looked? Clipping to right courtesy of London Times.

The Shakespeare Oxford Society



Detail from the Italian painting.

The Shakespeare Oxford Society

918 "F" St., N.W., Room 612, Washington, D.C., 20004



To Members of Shakespeare Oxford Society:

October 30, 1966

This bulletin is largely devoted to the progress the Society has made recently on one of the activities for which we are chartered, namely; research. More particularly, looking for documentary evidence that would tend to establish the 17th Earl of Oxford as the real Shakespeare, or that some friend or acquaintance had so indicated in writing. Of course, the supreme achievement would be to find a manuscript of a Shakespearean play or poem in handwriting that could be identified as Oxford's.

The Southampton MSS. in the Library of St. John's College, Cambridge University.

Scholars have known for some time there was a gift of books and manuscripts made to the Library of St. John's College, Cambridge University, known as "The Southampton Manuscripts". Some writers in the past have said these are not kept in a collection, but are "scattered" throughout the Library. Mrs. C. C. Stopes, early in this century, could find nothing to connect the Third Earl with Shakespeare, but her reference to his gift to St. John's, and to some of the letters from the College to his widow acknowledging receipt of, and gratitude for, certain MSS have caused Oxfordians to believe, (hope is more accurate) that the Sonnets might be found "overlooked" somewhere in the Library, or that Southampton had possession of Oxford's library and had left it to St. John's College, from which both had been graduated. This avenue has now been explored and, unfortunately, proves barren of the treasures sought. The facts are as follows.

Early in the 17th Century, St. John's College and Wm. Crashaw, a Puritan divine and father of the poet Richard Crashaw, were negotiating for the purchase and sale of Crashaw's large library of over 3000 books and MSS. The only thing that stood in the way was money. Later, hearing of the hitch in negotiations from either St. John's, or Crashaw, the wealthy Southampton entered the picture, dealt direct with Crashaw, and purchased the library with the announced intention of giving it to St. John's. Crashaw delivered the books and MSS to Southampton who kept them until St. John's could build a library to house this gift and others as well. When he died in 1625 he still had possession, but his Countess honored the commitment, and they were all turned over to St. John's in installments, as facilities to receive and house them became available. The 4th Earl, Thomas, anxious to start on his European travels, seemed to think he had inherited the title to these books and MSS, and while willing for St. John's to have them, he wrote, or caused to be written, "Thos. C. (onte) S." on all but four of the MSS, viz; Nos. 385-388 incl. (Jas. Nos) which are listed as from Heury, his father. Consequently Thomas is listed as "donor".

While it is technically correct to say the Southampton MSS are "scattered" -not in one group or one place in St. John's Library- they, 218 in number, are actually carefully preserved, cataloged, described, and arranged, along with other MSS, in chronological order of date of origin. Over 90% of the Southampton MSS are religious MSS, looted from the monasteries at the time of Henry VIII, running back to the 10th Century-some even earlier- though most are 13th, 14th, and 15th Centuries. Not a one has the slightest reference to sonnets, Shakespeare and/or Oxford. Very few are on secular subjects or literature. No. 54 Vergil (T.C.S.) is described as "xv. late, written in Italy in a Roman hand. There are two sets of notes. One by an English hand of cent xv.xvi. which chiefly gives glosses in Eng. and Latin of single words throughout the book. The other, in Roman hand, writes a continuous comment, filling up the margins from about Aen.I-601 to III 418 where it ends abruptly and is not resumed." (It is not beyond the bounds of possibility, but far outside those of probability, that Oxford may have purchased this in Italy, and made the comments in the

margins. Even if the identity of these marginal comments could be established with other known marginal comments in his handwriting on other MSS, nothing would be further proved, or anything added to our present store of knowledge.)

The definitive study, analysis, identification, and cataloging of this MSS collection, was the work of Montagus Rhodes James, Provost of Kings College, Cambridge University. James was a noted paleographer and antiquarian, an experienced expert in this line of work, and had made similar catalogs of other collections. This one was completed in 1913. In his Preface he says that, up until the time of the Southampton gift, the St. John's collection of MSS. did not amount to much. "The three Hebrew manuscripts given by Richard Horne in 1546, numbers 1-3, are apparently the patriarchs of the Manuscript Collection as it now exists." Under the head of "Trivia", or "Long arm of Coincidence" could perhaps be noted that, 420 years later, a namesake of the "original donor" was inquiring about and investigating this MSS collection at St. John's Library.

Bacon Papers in Archbishop of Canterbury's Library in Lambeth Palace.

On the theory that Francis Bacon must have known the Earl of Oxford, who Shakespeare really was, and probably participated in the perpetration of the First Folio "Hoax", -a theory which we think highly probable- some scholars in the Society believed that support of this theory and clues leading to proof of its verity, might be found if the "Bacon Papers" in the Lambeth Palace Library could be exposed to x-ray and infra-red photography to bring out what was concealed by erasures, cancellations, and mutilations. One of our members offered to contribute the expense of this, if permission could be obtained from the Archbishop of Canterbury.

B. G. Theobald in "Exit Shakespeare", (London 1937) states on page 47 "True, most of his (Bacon's) correspondence which has been preserved deals with matters of State; but even such portions as are concerned with literature, reveal no connection with Shakespeare. Moreover, in numerous instances of letters to and from intimate friends like Sir Toby Mathew, and his beloved brother, Anthony (also deeply interested in the drama) there are definite signs of the wish to conceal something. Dates and names are erased, and in other ways many letters are mutilated, apparently of set purpose." In "Francis Bacon, the Temper of a Man" by Catherine Drinker Bowen (New York 1963) is stated on page 58 that there are 16 large folios of Bacon's MSS in the Archbishop's Library in Lambeth Palace.

There are 16 large folios of "Bacon's MSS" in the Lambeth Palace Library. These have been lately carefully examined by, and for, our Society. They are indexed in Codex de Tenisonensis, and Codex de Gibsonensis, Latinized names of Archbishops of Canterbury. Each large folio volume contains over 200 manuscript letters from 1580 to 1625, approximately. While called "Bacon Papers", they must have come from Anthony Bacon, diplomat and, for many years, secretary to the Earl of Essex. While there are letters to and from Anthony and Francis, and to and from their friends and relatives, the ratio of Anthony to Francis is in the proportion of about 20 to 1. Included are holographs from Queen Elizabeth, King James, King Philip of Spain, Burleigh, Robt. Cecil, etc. as well as from various diplomats and agents, some of which are in numerical codes. There is nothing in Anthony's or Francis' letters bearing on the drama, or literature, or Shakespeare, or Oxford. There is no evidence of an "erasure" as we understand it. There are many cancellations or lines drawn by a pen, through a word or words, but in every instance, the word or words crossed out are easily discerned and read, and, in most all instances replaced by a preferred choice, either above, or immediately following, the cancellation. The context shows no relation to literature or

attempt to conceal. The only "mutilations", -and there are many on the Bacon letters, as well as others- consist of squares, of one or two inches, cut out from a blank space, where there had been a wax seal. The weight of the sealing wax would, if left on, have a tendency to tear the rest of the letter. This has apparently been done by scissors, and seems an ordinary prudent precaution by binders or librarians.

It is likely that Theobald had not made a personal examination of these letters and was relying on hearsay. Others did not check on this for themselves, but gave free reign to conjecture, tinged by their own hopes, that there existed "proofs" of their belief, if only someone would find it. If Anthony or Francis Bacon ever discussed the drama or Shakespeare in writing to each other or to friends, they did not do it in letters preserved in Lambeth Palace Library. X-ray or infra-red photography, assuming permission could be obtained, would only result in depleting funds that could otherwise be devoted to research in other and more promising fields, and there are now such.

Edmund Spenser and William Shakespeare

It is generally conceded that the two outstanding poets of the Elizabethan Age were Edmund Spenser and Wm. Shakespeare. Were they acquainted with each other, and with each others work? We will not attempt to give a categorical answer, but the following are set forth to let each reader draw his own conclusions.

1. The Passionate Pilgrim VIII.

If music and sweet poetry agree,
As they must needs, the sister and the brother,
Then must the love be great twixt thee and me,
Because thou lovest the one, and I the other.
Dowland to thee is dear, whose heavenly touch
Upon the lute doth ravish sense;
Spenser to me whose deep conceit is such
As, passing all conceit, needs no defense.
Thou lovest to hear the sweet melodious sound
That Phoebus lute, the queen of music makes;
And I in deep delight am chiefly drown'd
When as himself to singing he betakes.
One god is god of both, as poets feign;
One knight loves both, and both in thee remain.

2. The Faerie Queen (1589) Verses Addressed by the Author; No. 3.

To the Right Honorable the Earle of Oxenford, Lord high
Chamberlayne of England, &c.

Receive, most Noble Lord, in gentle gree,
The unripe fruit of an unready wit;
Which by thou countenance doth crave to bee
Defended from foule Envies poisonous bit.
Which so to doe may thee right well befit,
Sith th' antique glory of thy suncestry
Under a shady veile is therein writ,
And eke thine own long living memory,
Succeeding them in true nobility,
And also for the love that thou dost beare
To th' Heliconian ymps, and they to thee;
They unto thee, and thou to themm most deare;
Deare as thou art unto thy selfe, so love
That loves and honours thee, as doth behove.

3. The Faerie Queen. Verses Addressed to the Author. No. 7.

To looke upon a work of rare devise,
The which a workman setteth out to view,
And not to yield it the deserved prise
That unto such a workmanship is dew,
Doth either prove the judgment to be naught,
Or els doth show a mind with envy fraught.

To labour to command a peece of worke,
Which no man goes about to discommend,
Would raise a jealous doubt, that there did lurke
Some secret doubt whereto the prayse did tend;
For when men know the goodnes of the wyne,
Tis needless for the hoast to have a sygne.

Thus then to show my judgement to be such
As can discerne of colours black and white,
As alls to free my mind from envies tuch,
That never gives to any man his right,
I here pronounce this workmanship is such
As that no pen can set it forth too much.

And thus I hang a garland at the dore;
Not for to show the goodness of the ware;
But such hath beene the custome heretofore,
And customes very hardly broken are;
And when your tast shall tell you this is trew,
Then looke you give by our hoast his utmost dew. IGNOTO.

(While Ignoto sometimes was used as we now use Anon, nevertheless competent scholars and authorities on Elizabethan anthologies have identified numerous verses signed with the "posie" Ignoto as the undoubted work of the Earle of Oxford.)

If the "goode wine needs no bush, etc." seems vaguely familiar, turn to the Epilogue, spoken by Rosalind, at end of As You Like It.

Gabriel Harvey (Hobynoll) was a friend of Spenser's at Cambridge, and introduced him to Philip Sidney who, in turn, secured him patronage. Harvey was under many obligations to Oxford for favors shown him at Cambridge, and was profuse in his respect and praise. In 1578 he referred to him in Gratulationem Valedensis; "thy eyes flash fire, thy countenance shakes spears." Later he referred to him as "Axiophilous" (lover of truth,) a play upon his motto, and complained he was slow in publishing his exercises.

In 1579 Spenser subscribed a letter to Harvey; "from one that is firmer bound to thee, than any merchant to any Jew in Venice." In 1591, Spenser wrote in "Colin Clout's Come Home Again" in verses directed to Amyntas (Fernando, Lord Strange, (Derby)

"And there, though last, not least is Aetion!
A gentler shepherd may nowhere be found:
Whose Muse, full of high thoughts invention,
Doth like himself Heroically sound."

(In the "Shakespeare Allusion Book" edited by Sir Ed. Chambers(1932) the editors say that this can only refer to Shakespeare because Aetion means eagle, and a carefull search of all poets writing at this time in England reveals only one whose name could have an "Heroic" sound, and that is Shakes-peare. This reference is in 1591, yet we are told by Stratfordian academicians, that "first heir of my invention" means his first poem, Venus and Adonis, which was first hsaard of in 1593.)

Other referreece to Oxford as a poet, by Spenser, are in Mulopotmus, Shepherds Calendar, Tears of the Muses, etc.

* * * * *

In August, one of our members, Mrs. John C. Crowley, got up a dinner at her home "Great Oaks", in Pasadena, California, and had it addressed by an officer of the Society, on the subject of Oxford as Shakespeare. The talk was well received, and the question and answer period that followed went on for several hours. The whole discussion was recorded on tape, and a number expressed the intention of joining our Society, and made suggestions as to how the cause could best be furthered in that intellectual community.

A similar meeting was held at the Country Club in Birmingham, Alabama, given by the New Era Literary Club, on October 21st. This is a ladies literary society formed over fifty years ago, which is studying Shakespeare and his plays for the season of 1966-67, with meetings every two weeks. Considerable interest was evinced in Oxford, after the talk, though many had never heard of him before.

This is one of the best waye to spread the gospel, and we wish more would take advantage of the opportunity. Full cooperation will be given by the Shakespeare Oxford Society, if given sufficient advance notice.

The Shakespeare Oxford Society, Inc.

The Shakespeare Oxford Society

Dec. 15, 1966

918 "F" St., N.W., Room 612, Washington, D.C., 20004



Dear fellow members of the Shakespeare-Oxford, Society, Inc.:

This is not a bulletin nor News-Letter about Oxford, Shakespesre, or William of Stratford. It is a family letter concerned with internal affairs of your Society, its present status, its needs, and prospects for its future.

History

It, as you know, is an educational, tax-free foundation organized in 1957, whose dues and contributions are tax-deductible. At the time of its founding, there was reason to believe it would be the recipient of a grant for research, from a private source, of \$25,000. annually for a minimum of three years. Unfortunately, this never materialized. Fifteen or sixteen prominent and distinguished men were on the Board of Trustees; the majority lawyers. An advertisement signed by these men soliciting members at annual dues of \$10. was placed in The Journal of the American Bar Association. The number of the lawyers who responded was so small that it was determined to return their money, and the Society was almost dormant, as far as active members, until 1964. During this period it was supported by two or three individuals who made grants to further research. In 1964, someone had the happy inspiration to have Charlton Ogburn, Jr. write a brief brochure "Shakespesre and the Man of St. Stratford". This was published for the Society by means of donated funds. All of you have had a copy. It is, as said by The Shakespeare Authorship Society of Great Britsin "though brief, could hardly be hettered as an exposition of the Oxford anti-Stratford case." A salaried corresponding secretary was secured, and a solicitation for membership was sent out to over a thousand people. About 75 responded st an average subscription of \$20. each, and the Society was back in business with good prospects. Most unfortunately, its President, Mr. Francis T. Carmody, who was the mainspring and chief supporter, died suddenly from a heart attack in February 1965, a few days after the first meeting of its members. After about six months of a "care-taker" regime, a new executive was chosen, but by then the funds in the treasury were exhausted. In Dec. 1965, and Jan. 1966 notices were sent out to all members for renewal of dues. The response was sufficicnt to enable the Society to limp along for the last fifteen months, sans headquarters, clerical staff, and funds for publication. About 20 members in 1965 have been lost to the Society through death and "drop-outs", as over \$500. in dues. About forty or more new members have been recruited by active personal solicitation in the last fifteen months, but not enough to make up the \$500. lost by death and defection.

Needa for 1967

1. Headquarters. The Society since its inception has been an orphan of the storm, as far as headquarters. The first nominal office and mailing address was the private law office of Mr. Francis T. Carmody in New York City. After his death, for s few months in 1965, it was the private law office of Mr. Dean S. Edmonds, also in New York City. Since the late summer of 1965, it has been the private law office of Richard C. Horne, Jr., in Washington, D.C. This is not a satisfactory srrrangement from any standpoint, the Society's, nor that of those who have furnished, or been burdened by, it. One ohvious solution, is rented quarters. That is fine, hut the money to pay for them will have to be on hand from contributions. Another alternative, is donated, or free, facilities. Prsctical suggestions on the latter will be most welcome. There is no compelling reason why the working headquarters of a national foundation should be in New York City or Washington, D.C. The Boston or New England area is a logical one, and so are places in the South, Mid-west, and Far-west. Nor is a large city necessary. At a minimum, one or two rooms somewhere with a little free, or volunteer, clerical help for typing, mailing, and forwarding, in an office building, association, school or college, etc. There would have to be s dedicated Oxford-Shakespeare Society, Inc. member or two, who would supervise or "ride herd", and who could be depended upon. If such there be, he or she, can count upon being elected a member of the Board of Director-Trustees, and the un-paid office of Secretary, or Asst. Secretary or Treasurer, as may be preferred. In other words, location of the Society's headquarters is now "up for grabs". Please let us hear from you.

2. Finances. Money would solve about 98% of the Society's problems. Where it is to come from, is the question. At first, counting on a large grant to carry out its purposes, dues from members were fixed at a nominal sum of \$5. per annum. At the revival in 1964, the Trustee-Directors set up four classes of membership: \$5. regular, \$10. sustaining voting, \$25. voting fellow-member, \$50. Crispian Crispianship member. This was not to discriminate against the minimum membership members, but to provide a means for those who could, and want to, to contribute more substantially toward furthering the Society's purposes. This has worked reasonable well, but of late the \$5. non-voting memberships are gaining in popularity, most noticeably among those who can well afford to contribute more, but who may think that is all that is required or expected, that there is a large membership, that the Society is endowed, or that it is a hobby or avocation of rich men and women who support it from their ample incomes, and really appreciate being able to make substantial deductions from their high-bracket income taxes. Would this were the case! It is not, alas! A hundred members at \$5. each per year comes to but \$500. If our roster was doubled; to only \$1000. or 1200. which would be but a drop in the bucket. While \$5. was once a respectful sum--I can recall working a six-day week for it--it does not have its former efficacy in the market place, nor with printers, U.S. Post Office, stationery dealers, common-carriers, landlords etc., etc. You may not realize it, but support of a cause you believe in and want to further, when limited to \$5. annual dues, is the equivalent of one cigarette a day. If however, the \$5. is a real hardship, the widow's mite; and you alone are the best judge of that, then the Society appreciates it in the spirit that it is given. If it is a real hardship like taking bread out of children's mouths, or depriving you of the necessities of life; then here is a practical suggestion. Stir around, spread the word, and get the Society two new members from your friends and acquaintances, and you will be given an annual complimentary membership with equal privileges, and have your \$5. plus the thanks of your Society which will be a net gainer. To those who can do better, try and remember that the days when the children were given a penny for Sunday School, and a nickel for church, are long gone. To those of our more fortunate members, better endowed with worldly goods, and who enjoy a well-earned but good income, or have retired with more than a competence, how about adding a substantial contribution to the Shakespeare-Oxford Society, Inc. to the list of your deductions on your I.R. return? Or, if you are already taking the maximum deductions allowed for charitable and educational gifts, consider "shaving", say ten per cent, your customary contributions to highly endowed universities, charities, etc. and cut in your Society for that much this year?

3. Notice of Dues. Enclosed is a subscription blank for subscription or renewal of dues for 1967. We know it is less than a year since some of you joined and paid dues. Also it is more than a year since some of you have paid dues. The Society has a card with each member's name upon it with the amount and date of each payment. It is also entered in a book. Dues cover a membership for one year, running from the first date of payment, e.g.: Dec. 64-Dec. 65, Feb. 65-Feb. 66, July 66-July 67. Your dues are credited for one full year from the date due. Dues are all we have to go on, or count on, in making plans. If we had an endowment or substantial contributions, the dues could be reduced to a nominal \$2. or \$3. annually, and a campaign put on for a large membership. Right now think about giving a \$5. membership or two, to friends for Christmas. Send us the names and, if you wish, we will send the notice of membership and literature with your compliments.

Prospects for 1967

Assuming there is support forthcoming, the Society's prospects for 1967 are bright, particularly on the research and publication side. More than one hitherto unnoticed manuscript linking Oxford and Shakespeare have been located and examined, and there are clues which, if they can be followed up, may lead to a cache of genuine Shakespeare documents. Several Oxford poems in MS, so far unlisted are now located by our research, plus another of his nom de plumes. More than one of our member-writers have books ready for publication with startling discoveries of the early writings of the "young Shakespeare" which should prove a literary sensation.

The foundations of a "bridge" between us and some of the orthodox academicians in two of our leading universities have been laid. To vary the metaphor; while we cannot say we have a foot in the heretofore locked door, or even a toe, there is a slight dialogue being conducted through a screen door, on terms of mild tolerance, without "sicking" the dogs, or putting a hurried call for the men in the white coats. There is developing a realization of mutual interest and respect, and the screen may even be un-hooked with an invitation to come in and stand, if not to sit. A monthly, or bi-monthly, News-Letter to which members may submit contributions, is under active and serious consideration

by: Richard C. Horne, Jr.

Sincerely yours for E.Ver.,
Shakespeare Oxford Society, Inc.