



SHAKESPEARE OXFORD FELLOWSHIP



**Celebrating the Life of Tom Regnier (1950–2020),
SOF President (2014–2018) and Oxfordian of the Year 2016,
and the Centennial of J. Thomas Looney’s
“Shakespeare” Identified in Edward de Vere the Seventeenth Earl of Oxford:
The Revolutionary Book That Launched the Oxfordian Movement**



**Live webcast from Napa, California, October 2–3, 2020, on the SOF YouTube Channel: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCyAA_HbOJZ_-quwmcLIKNXA
(times noted are Pacific Daylight; some segments recorded in advance)**

PROGRAM

Friday, October 2 (Afternoon Session, 4:00–6:00 pm)

4:00 pm **Steven Sabel** (Master of Ceremonies), **John Hamill** (SOF President and Symposium Host), and **Ben August** (SOF Trustee and Symposium Host)

Welcome to the Symposium: Celebrating the Life of Tom Regnier and the Centennial of the Oxfordian Movement

4:30 pm **Earl Showerman, M.D.**

Shakespeare and Politics from the 16th to the 21st Centuries

How have the works of Shakespeare affected American politics and presidents? This lecture links that question to the role of the history plays as Tudor political propaganda, the author's unique poetic license in writing subversive and satirical dramas, and the politics of the Shakespeare authorship question.

5:40 pm **Mr. Sabel, Mr. Hamill, and Mr. August** — *Additional Remarks*

Saturday, October 3 (Morning Session, 9:00 am–12:00 pm)

9:00 am **Mr. Sabel** and **Mr. August**, joined by **Joan Leon** (co-recipient of the 2018 Oxfordian of the Year Award and chair of the SOF Membership and Fund-raising Committee) — *Welcome to the Saturday Morning Session*

9:10 am **James A. Warren**

J. Thomas Looney's Difficult Task (recorded)

This lecture explores how Looney, launching the modern Oxfordian theory in 1920, approached the unusual challenge of seeking to change people's minds about an authorship legend most already believed to be true.

9:45 am **Mark André Alexander, M.A.**

Stratfordian Blind Spots

How can orthodox scholars fail to see the evidence in front of them? This lecture explores how the human mind spins reality and creates blind spots to the truth: pitfalls that Oxfordians as well as Stratfordians must work to avoid.

10:35 am **Cheryl Eagan-Donovan, M.F.A.**

Shakespeare Auteur: Creating Authentic Characters for the Screen (recorded)

Shakespeare was the original "auteur," fusing archetypes with his own lived experience to create unique yet iconic characters. This lecture compares his work with some of the greatest modern film directors and screenwriters.

(continued on next page)

PROGRAM (continued)

Saturday, October 3 (Morning Session, continued)

11:05 am **Professor Sky Gilbert, Ph.D.**

Shakespeare Beyond Science: When Poetry Was the World (recorded)

This lecture explores how Edward de Vere, Earl of Oxford, writing as “Shakespeare,” was not only at the center of a “euphuistic” Elizabethan literary circle, but was also steeped in the ancient Greek rhetorical tradition of Hermogenes.

11:25 am **Steven Sabel** (Symposium Master of Ceremonies) — *The Mentors to Genius*

Shakespeare is widely viewed as a “natural” genius, sometimes compared to Mozart or Einstein. This lecture explores how such geniuses are typically recognized at an early age by mentors who foster their education and development. The mentors of the author “Shakespeare” are easily found if we open our minds to the idea that he was not a glover’s son from Stratford.

Saturday, October 3 (Afternoon Session, 1:00–5:00 pm)

1:00 pm **Mr. August and Mr. Sabel** — *Welcome to the Saturday Afternoon Session*

1:05 pm **Katherine Chiljan**

Lord Prospero in The Tempest and Lord Prospero Visconti

It has long been speculated that Prospero may represent, in part, the author “Shakespeare,” a magus conjuring plays on his theatrical “island.” Is he also based on an actual historical Duke of Milan who sought refuge in the arts? This lecture explores an excellent candidate, proposed by an art historian in 1950 whose insight has been ignored by orthodox scholars. Edward de Vere, Earl of Oxford, may well have met this Duke during his 1575–76 European tour.

1:50 pm **Ramon Jiménez**

Shakespeare in Stratford and London: Ten Eyewitnesses Who Saw Nothing

Orthodox scholars insist that a businessman from Stratford was the author “Shakespeare.” But this lecture explores ten people who personally knew or met the Stratford man or his daughter Susanna. They left numerous writings, some referring directly to people and events in Stratford. Most and possibly all were aware of the “Shakespeare” plays and poems. Yet none of these eyewitnesses left any hint that they connected the Stratford man with those literary works.

(continued on next page)

PROGRAM (continued)

Saturday, October 3 (Afternoon Session, continued)

- 2:40 pm **Professor Bryan H. Wildenthal, J.D.**
Early Authorship Doubts: The Oxfordian Connections (recorded)
- This lecture explores some of the dozens of early published doubts about the authorship of the Shakespearean works — doubts forming an integral part of Shakespeare’s own time and culture. Many suggest the author was an aristocrat. Some point specifically to Edward de Vere, Earl of Oxford.
- 3:20 pm **Donald Ostrowski, Ph.D., Lecturer in History, Harvard University Extension School** — *Toward an Epistemology of Attribution: A Comparison of the Shakespeare and Kurbskii Authorship Controversies* (recorded)
- This lecture is drawn from Dr. Ostrowski’s new book, *Who Wrote That? Authorship Controversies from Moses to Sholokhov*. Dr. Ostrowski, who finds the Oxfordian theory of Shakespeare authorship convincing, explores twelve points of comparison between that controversy and the dispute over works attributed to Russian Prince Andrei Kurbskii (d. 1583). He evaluates the two controversies and shows how they advance the overall scholarly study of literary attribution.
- 4:10 pm **“Who Wrote Shakespeare?” Video Contest** — announcement and screening of winners with **Julie Sandys Bianchi** (SOF Trustee and chair of the SOF Video Contest Committee) (recorded)
- 4:25 pm **Tom Regnier Memorial Video** — and announcement of new SOF award in Tom’s honor to be conferred starting in 2021 (recorded)
- 4:45 pm **Oxfordian of the Year Award** — announcement of winner and concluding remarks by **Mr. Hamill** and **Mr. Sabel**

Short biographies of the principal symposium speakers, the two main symposium hosts, and the master of ceremonies are on the following two pages in alphabetical order.



Mark André Alexander earned a B.A. in English and M.A. in Organization and Management Development. He has taught legal writing and worked in Silicon Valley training engineering managers in Cognitive Science and High Performance Thinking. He is the author of several books and a landmark 2001 article in *The Oxfordian*: “Shakespeare’s Knowledge of Law.” His Shakespeare authorship website (<https://sourcetext.com/sourcebook>) is a remarkable resource for examining numerous relevant texts.



Ben August, Symposium Host and SOF Trustee, is a vintner in Napa County, California, whose Cabernet and Merlot wines are marketed under his “Earl 17” label. Upon embracing the Oxfordian theory, he resolved to remove the traditional Stratfordian Shakespeare bust from his library. He commissioned a bronze bust of Edward de Vere, Earl of Oxford, by sculptor Paula Slater. An original has been placed at Castle Hedingham in England. In order to keep de Vere’s personal copy of a book by Herodotus in Oxfordian hands, Ben purchased it at auction last year.



Katherine Chiljan earned a B.A. in History at UCLA and has published two edited volumes of poems and letters by, and dedication letters to, Edward de Vere, Earl of Oxford. She is the author of *Shakespeare Suppressed: The Uncensored Truth About Shakespeare and His Works* (2011, rev. 2016), which earned her an award for distinguished scholarship at Concordia University in Oregon. She has debated and lectured frequently on the Shakespeare authorship question, including in a 2003 debate at the Smithsonian Institution.



Cheryl Eagan-Donovan, honored as Oxfordian of the Year in 2019, is a Boston-based film director, writer, and producer. She earned her M.F.A. in Creative Writing at Lesley University. Her newest documentary, *Nothing Is Truer Than Truth*, premiered at the Independent Film Festival Boston in 2018, and is on disk, Amazon Prime, and Hulu. She has published several articles on screenwriting and film, and teaches writing, film, and literature at Lesley University and North-eastern University.



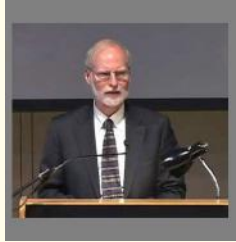
Sky Gilbert, Ph.D., is Professor of Creative Writing and Theatre at the University of Guelph, Ontario. He is a prolific and award-winning poet, novelist, playwright, and director. He was co-founder and longtime artistic director of Buddies in Bad Times Theatre in Toronto, one of the largest gay and lesbian theatres in the world. His lecture is based on his new book, *Shakespeare Beyond Science: When Poetry Was the World* (2020).



John Hamill, Symposium Host, served as the first President of the SOF in 2013–14, after playing a major role in unifying its predecessor organizations. He was again elected SOF President in 2018. He studied at the University of Puerto Rico, California State University, and the University of California, and holds a Master’s degree in Historical Geography. He lives in San Francisco and is a retired project manager for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. He has published several scholarly Shakespearean articles and is an expert on Shakespeare’s sexuality.



Ramon Jiménez, co-recipient of the 2018 Oxfordian of the Year Award, is the author of two acclaimed book club selections on the history of ancient Rome: *Caesar Against the Celts* and *Caesar Against Rome*. His most recent book, *Shakespeare's Apprenticeship* (2018), demonstrates that several anonymous plays were early versions of canonical Shakespearean works, most likely written by Edward de Vere, Earl of Oxford.



Donald Ostrowski, Ph.D., is Lecturer in History and Research Advisor in the Social Sciences at Harvard University's Extension School, and a recipient of the Early Slavic Studies Association Award for Distinguished Scholarship. He is the author of several books, including *Muscovy and the Mongols* (Cambridge Univ. Press, 1998), and more than 150 publications altogether. His most recent book is *Who Wrote That? Authorship Controversies from Moses to Sholokhov* (2020).



Steven Sabel, Symposium Master of Ceremonies, is the former Producing Artistic Director of the Archway Theatre Company in Burbank, and founder and Producing Artistic Director of the Redlands Shakespeare Festival, both in California. He is an actor and director whose many diverse theatrical productions include 60 stagings of 23 Shakespearean works. He now lives in Oregon, serving as Director of Public Relations for the City of Grants Pass, and in the same role for the SOF. He hosts the SOF "Don't Quill the Messenger" podcast series.



Earl Showerman, M.D., graduated from Harvard College and the University of Michigan Medical School. He practiced emergency medicine for more than 30 years in Oregon, where he is a longtime patron of the Oregon Shakespeare Festival. After retiring from medicine, he studied Shakespeare at Southern Oregon University and now lectures and publishes prolifically on Shakespeare's knowledge of medicine and ancient Greek dramatic sources. He is a Trustee of the SOF and past President of the Shakespeare Fellowship.



James A. Warren served as a U.S. Foreign Service officer for many years, and as executive director of the Association for Diplomatic Studies and Training. He is the editor or author of several books, including the modern scholarly edition of J. Thomas Looney's *"Shakespeare" Identified* (1920) and *"Shakespeare" Revealed: The Collected Articles and Published Letters of J. Thomas Looney* (2019). He is currently working on a major new study of Looney's life, work, and influence.



Bryan H. Wildenthal, Professor of Law Emeritus, earned his A.B. and J.D. at Stanford University. He is scheduled to teach as a Visiting Professor at the University of San Diego School of Law in the spring of 2021. He is the author of a law textbook and many articles in leading law reviews, including one cited by the U.S. Supreme Court in 2010 and 2019. His most recent book is *Early Shakespeare Authorship Doubts* (2019). He recently served as First Vice-President of the SOF, and serves currently as the SOF Website Content Editor.

Thank You to Our Donors

The Shakespeare Oxford Fellowship expresses our gratitude to all who donated so generously in the memory of Tom Regnier to fund this online symposium. These donations will greatly support our educational outreach efforts and future symposia, conferences, and publications.

About the Shakespeare Oxford Fellowship

The SOF is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit educational association, devoted to exploring the Shakespeare authorship question and the evidence that the true author behind the “Shakespeare” pseudonym was Edward de Vere, 17th Earl of Oxford (1550–1604). Founded in 1957 and based in the United States, we have members around the world and work in concert with the De Vere Society (DVS) based in the U.K. We encourage our members to join the DVS as well.

The SOF sponsors annual scholarly conferences and publishes an annual peer-reviewed scholarly journal, *The Oxfordian* (founded in 1998), and the quarterly *Shakespeare Oxford Newsletter* (now in its 56th volume). The SOF, then known as the Shakespeare Oxford Society, merged in 2013 with a related organization, the Shakespeare Fellowship, which published another annual scholarly journal, *Brief Chronicles* (2009–16), which now continues as a series of occasional scholarly books. The SOF sponsors original research on Shakespeare authorship through its Research Grant Program.

The SOF website provides a wealth of news and information, including free access to back issues of our journals as well as many more historical authorship publications, many original new articles, and a YouTube channel with fascinating lectures that have amassed more than 300,000 views. We sponsor a popular annual video contest with cash prizes, as well as a podcast series, “Don’t Quill the Messenger,” hosted by Dragon Wagon Radio.

Curious? Please explore our website, sign up for free email news, and consider becoming a member. We invite you to join our mission to promote thoughtful and fact-based study of the Shakespeare authorship question and the evidence supporting the Oxfordian theory.

SOF Website: ShakespeareOxfordFellowship.org

SOF Podcast: DragonWagonRadio.com/DontQuillTheMessenger

DVS Website: DeVereSociety.co.uk/public



SHAKESPEARE
OXFORD FELLOWSHIP