

Letters to the Editor

To the Editor:

Warren Hope's review (spring 1996) of *The Western Canon* by Harold Bloom of Yale ably addresses Bloom's lapse into silly shrillness in dismissing the case for the 17th Earl of Oxford as the author of Shakespeare's works.

At the same time, however, Bloom provides support for the case for an aristocrat as the author. He says "an aristocratic sense of culture" is at the origins of Shakespeare's art (45). And he puts Shakespeare "at the pinnacle of the long Aristocratic Age...going from Dante to Goethe." To avoid making an aristocrat of the Stratford man, Bloom suggests that the author depended upon aristocrats for patronage and protection, so that "his politics—if pragmatically he had any"—were appropriately aristocratic.

How this man acquired an aristocratic sense of culture that put him at the very pinnacle of Bloom's Aristocratic Age is left unexplained.

Yours,
Richard F. Whalen
Truro, Massachusetts

Editors Note: With this issue, we welcome three new members to our Editorial Board. They are Ross Duffin, Chair of the Music Department at Case Western Reserve University; Jules Janick, James Troop Distinguished Professor of Horticulture at Purdue University; and Patrick Buckridge, Associate Professor of Literary Studies at Griffith University in Brisbane, Australia. By their presence, we hope to further enlarge the scope of materials presented to our readers in future issues of the journal. We welcome your comments.