



SHAKESPEARE
OXFORD FELLOWSHIP

Centennial Symposium

1920 – 2020

**Celebrating J. Thomas Looney's
"Shakespeare" Identified:
Unmasking Edward de Vere,
17th Earl of Oxford, the
Author Behind the Pseudonym**



**Wednesday, March 4, 2020
National Press Club, Washington, D.C.**

Shakespeare Oxford Fellowship Centennial Symposium, 1920–2020
Celebrating J. Thomas Looney’s “Shakespeare” Identified:
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PROGRAM

- 12:30 pm Doors Open, Fourth Estate Room — Reception and Refreshments
- 1:00 pm **Bob Meyers** (moderator), *Welcome and Introduction*
- 1:05 pm **James A. Warren**, *J. Thomas Looney and the Most Revolutionary Book in the History of Shakespeare Studies* (followed by Q&A)
- How have Looney’s insights changed our understanding of the author “Shakespeare,” the Shakespearean plays and poems, the Elizabethan theatre and era, and the nature of genius and literary creativity?
- 1:40 pm **Tom Regnier**, *Justice Stevens, the Law of Evidence, and the Shakespeare Authorship Question* (followed by Q&A)
- Why have some of the greatest minds of the last 100 years been persuaded to doubt or reject the traditional theory of Shakespeare authorship, and often to embrace the Oxfordian theory — including lawyers, judges, and Supreme Court justices with lifetimes of experience analyzing evidence?
- 2:20 pm **Cheryl Eagan-Donovan**, *“Nothing Is Truer Than Truth”: Every Author’s Life Tells a Story* (followed by Q&A)
- How did Oxford’s youthful travels in Europe, especially Italy — and his possible bisexuality — influence the Shakespearean plays and poems? Eagan-Donovan discusses her documentary on Oxford, inspired by Looney’s work.
- 2:55 pm **Bonner Miller Cutting**, *Profiling the Author: Will the Real Shakespeare Please Stand Up?* (followed by Q&A)
- How did Looney’s evidence-based “profile” methodology lead him to Oxford as the author of the Shakespearean works? Cutting also surveys key facts explored by later researchers, including Queen Elizabeth’s mysteriously generous grant to Oxford of an annuity of £1,000 per year.
- 3:30 pm **Professor Roger Stritmatter**, *Between a Rock and a Hard Place: My Journey From Rebel Graduate Student to Marginalized Professor* (followed by Q&A)
- How has the Oxfordian theory influenced Shakespeare studies over the past century? Professor Stritmatter offers a perspective from his unique vantage point in the field, while surveying connections between “Shakespeare” and Oxford’s life as manifested in his personal Bible.
- 4:15 pm Reception Continues — Centennial Birthday Cake



James A. Warren served as a U.S. Foreign Service officer for more than 20 years at eight embassies, and was executive director of the Association for Diplomatic Studies and Training. He is editor or author of several books on the impact of J.T. Looney's work, including scholarly editions of Looney's 1920 landmark, "*Shakespeare*" *Identified*, and Esther Singleton's 1929 classic, *Shakespearian Fantasias* (an Oxfordian-influenced book with which Henry Folger, founder of the Folger Shakespeare Library, was deeply fascinated), and "*Shakespeare*" *Revealed: The Collected Articles and Published Letters of J. Thomas Looney* (2019).



Tom Regnier, an attorney in South Florida, earned his J.D. *summa cum laude* at University of Miami School of Law, where he has taught as an adjunct professor, and his LL.M. at Columbia Law School, where he was a Harlan F. Stone Scholar. He has also taught at Chicago's John Marshall Law School. He lectures and publishes widely on the treatment of law in the works of Shakespeare. His lecture "Hamlet and the Law of Homicide" was selected by the Dade County Bar Association to inaugurate its Thurgood Marshall Distinguished Lecture Series.



Cheryl Eagan-Donovan is a film director, writer, and producer whose newest documentary, *Nothing Is Truer Than Truth*, premiered at the Independent Film Festival Boston in 2018 and is now available on Amazon Prime and Hulu. She earned her M.F.A. in Creative Writing from Lesley University, has published several articles on screenwriting and film, and teaches writing, film, and literature as an adjunct faculty member at Lesley University and Northeastern University.



Bonner Miller Cutting is the author of *Necessary Mischief: Exploring the Shakespeare Authorship Question* (2018). She lectures frequently and has published many articles on Shakespeare and the authorship question. An accomplished pianist, she earned her B.F.A. from Tulane University and her Master of Music from McNeese State University in Louisiana.



Roger Stritmatter is Professor of Humanities and Literature at Coppin State University in Baltimore. He has been deeply engaged in Shakespeare studies for three decades, publishing dozens of scholarly articles in leading journals such as *Review of English Studies*, *Shakespeare Yearbook*, *Notes and Queries*, and *Critical Survey*. He is co-author (with Lynne Kositsky) of *On the Date, Sources, and Design of Shakespeare's The Tempest* (2013), and (with Alexander Waugh) of the forthcoming *New Shakespeare Allusion Book*. His 2001 Ph.D. thesis, *The Marginalia of Edward de Vere's Geneva Bible*, explores numerous linkages between markings in Oxford's personal Bible and biblical references in the works of Shakespeare.



Bob Meyers is an award-winning journalist who has worked as president of the National Press Foundation, reporter at the *Washington Post* (including on its Pulitzer Prize-winning Watergate investigation), editor at the *San Diego Union*, and director of the Harvard Journalism Fellowship for Advanced Studies in Public Health. He has been a freelance writer for (among other publications) *Newsweek*, *Rolling Stone*, and *Columbia Journalism Review*, and is the author of two books, one of which won the American Medical Writers Association Award for Excellence in Biomedical Writing.

The Shakespeare Oxford Fellowship (SOF) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit educational association devoted to exploring the authorship question and the evidence that the true author behind the “Shakespeare” pseudonym was Edward de Vere, 17th Earl of Oxford (1550–1604).

The SOF, founded in 1957 and based in the United States, has members around the world and works in concert with the De Vere Society (DVS) based in the United Kingdom. The SOF encourages its members to join and support 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), now continuing as a series of occasional books.

The SOF website provides a wealth of news and information, including free access to back issues of our publications before the current year, as well as back issues of many more historical authorship publications, many original new articles, and a YouTube channel with fascinating lectures that have amassed more than 200,000 views. We also sponsor a popular “Who Wrote Shakespeare?” video contest with cash prizes, and a podcast series, “Don’t Quill the Messenger,” hosted by Dragon Wagon Radio.

SOF conferences and publications are not restricted to Oxfordian views. Unlike most established Shakespearean conferences, journals, publishers, and programs — which typically shun and censor any views deviating from the orthodox authorship theory — the SOF welcomes any and all thoughtful studies and discussion of the authorship question, including other authorship candidates such as the traditionally credited William Shaksper of Stratford-upon-Avon (1564–1616).

We stand for free inquiry and against bullying or name-calling of anyone.

The SOF sponsors original research on Shakespeare authorship through its Research Grant Program. SOF members have authored numerous books on the subject over the years, as well as producing two major documentary films: *Last Will. & Testament* (2012) and *Nothing Is Truer Than Truth* (2018).

Curious? Please explore our website, sign up for free email news, and consider becoming a member! Join our mission to promote fact-based research and study — and civil, thoughtful, and respectful discussion — of the authorship question and the evidence relating to the Oxfordian theory.

SOF website: ShakespeareOxfordFellowship.org

DVS website: DeVereSociety.co.uk/public

Podcast: DragonWagonRadio.com/DontQuillTheMessenger



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