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NEWS

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Additional Information Contact:

Steven Sabel (951)532-6803

publicity@shakespeareoxfordfellowship.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Shakespeare Oxford Fellowship Marks Centennial of Oxfordian Revolution in Shakespeare Studies March 4, 2020

NATION - The Shakespeare Oxford Fellowship will present a symposium 1 to 4 p.m. Wednesday, March 4, 2020, in the First Amendment Lounge of the National Press Club (NPC), 529 14th St. NW, Washington, D.C., exactly 100 years after the original publication of the landmark book by British scholar John Thomas Looney, which identified Edward de Vere, 17th Earl of Oxford as the true author behind the pseudonym, William Shakespeare. Admission is free and open to the public with complimentary refreshments and ample opportunities for Q&A. Doors open at 12:30 p.m.

First published March 4, 1920, Looney's book, "Shakespeare Identified in Edward de Vere the Seventeenth Earl of Oxford," assembled and analyzed a mass of evidence pointing to De Vere as the true author of the works published under the Shakespeare name. Over the past century, that book has persuaded some of the greatest minds of our time, from Sigmund Freud to U.S. Supreme Court justices across the ideological spectrum, along with many respected scholars, judges, attorneys, historians, professors, Shakespearean actors, and thousands of thoughtful people around the world of the true identity of the Shakespeare author.

A group of leading scholars will reintroduce Looney and his thesis to the world. They will discuss the importance of his book and how it continues to be corroborated by newly discovered and analyzed evidence.

Retired U.S. Foreign Service officer James A. Warren, editor and author of a series of books on Looney and his work, will explore how his insights have changed our understanding of the author Shakespeare and his works, as well as the Elizabethan era and theatre, and the nature of genius and literary creativity.

Attorney Tom Regnier will explain why the evidence supporting de Vere has persuaded judges

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with a lifetime of experience analyzing facts and logical arguments that the Earl of Oxford is the true author. He will point out key factual weaknesses in the traditional authorship claim made for businessman and actor William Shakspere of Stratford-upon-Avon.

Author Bonner Miller Cutting will explore Looney's evidence-based methodology and how it led him to the deduction that the author was Edward de Vere, 17th Earl of Oxford.

Filmmaker Cheryl Eagan-Donovan will discuss her recently-released documentary, "Nothing Is Truer Than Truth," and its exploration of how De Vere's travels as a young man in continental Europe, especially Italy, influenced the Shakespearean plays and poems.

Professor Roger Stritmatter will survey the numerous connections between the works of Shakespeare and Edward de Vere's life, private letters, early surviving poetry, and markings in his personal copy of the Geneva Bible. Much of this evidence was not even known to Looney in 1920, but it has provided powerful corroboration for his thesis over the past 100 years.

This symposium is an opportunity for anyone who loves the Shakespeare plays and poems to explore with fresh eyes the history and the evidence of the greatest literary mystery of all time.

The Shakespeare Oxford Fellowship (SOF) is a nonprofit educational association founded in 1957 with members across the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, and several other countries around the world. Among other activities, the SOF holds annual scholarly conferences and publishes an annual peer-reviewed scholarly journal, *The Oxfordian*. Its all-volunteer board of trustees includes two theatre professors, a law professor, a medical doctor, and leaders in government, business, the arts, and the nonprofit sector. For additional information, visit: ShakespeareOxfordFellowship.org.

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Shakespeare Oxford Fellowship Symposium on the Centennial of J. Thomas Looney's Identification of Edward de Vere, 17th Earl of Oxford as the Author Behind the "Shakespeare" Pseudonym National Press Club, Wednesday, March 4, 2020

Speaker Biographies and Abstracts:

Bob Meyers (Moderator), Welcome and Introduction

Bob Meyers, an award-winning journalist, 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 Newsweek, Rolling Stone, and Columbia Journalism Review, among other publications, and has authored two books: "Like Normal People," a memoir of his mentally handicapped brother which became a television

movie, and “D.E.S.: The Bitter Pill,” about the disastrous impact of an anti-miscarriage medication, which won the American Medical Writers Association Award for excellence in biomedical writing.

James A. Warren, “J. Thomas Looney and the Most Revolutionary Book in the History of Shakespeare Studies.”

Warren was a U.S. Foreign Service officer with the Department of State for more than 20 years, serving in public diplomacy positions at eight U.S. embassies, mostly in Asia. He later served as executive director of the Association for Diplomatic Studies and Training and as regional director for Southeast Asia with the Institute of International Education. He is the editor of the scholarly 2018 edition of J. Thomas Looney’s 1920 classic, “‘Shakespeare’ Identified in Edward de Vere the Seventeenth Earl of Oxford,” the scholarly 2019 edition of Esther Singleton’s hard-to-find 1929 classic, “Shakespearian Fantasias,” “‘Shakespeare’ Revealed: The Collected Articles and Published Letters of J. Thomas Looney” (2019), and “An Index to Oxfordian Publications” (4th ed. 2017). He is currently working on a biography of J. Thomas Looney, among other books.

Abstract of symposium presentation: Warren will explore how J. Thomas Looney’s insights have changed our understanding of the author “Shakespeare,” the Shakespearean plays and poems, the Elizabethan era and theatre, and the nature of genius and literary creativity.

Tom Regnier, “Justice Stevens, the Law of Evidence, and the Shakespeare Authorship Question”

Regnier is an attorney in South Florida. He earned his law degree summa cum laude at University of Miami School of Law, where he also taught as an adjunct professor, and earned his master of laws degree at Columbia Law School, where he was a Harlan F. Stone scholar. He also taught at Chicago’s John Marshall Law School. He has lectured and published 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, Florida Bar Association to inaugurate its Thurgood Marshall Distinguished Lecture Series.

Abstract of symposium presentation: Regnier will explain why the evidence supporting Oxford has persuaded some of the greatest minds of the last 100 years, including judges with a lifetime of experience analyzing facts and logical arguments, such as Justices John Paul Stevens, Harry Blackmun, and Antonin Scalia of the U.S. Supreme Court. He will point out key weaknesses in the traditional Stratfordian claim that a businessman and actor, William Shakspere of Stratford-upon-Avon, was the author.

Bonner Miller Cutting, “Profiling the Author: Will the Real Shakespeare Please Stand Up?”

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 bachelor's degree from Tulane University and her master's degree in music from McNeese State University, Louisiana.

Abstract of symposium presentation: Cutting will explore J. Thomas Looney's evidence-based profile methodology and how it led him to the true author of the works of "Shakespeare." She will point out later-discovered facts that have corroborated Looney's deduction that the author was Edward de Vere, 17th Earl of Oxford, including her own research into Queen Elizabeth's grant to de Vere of an annuity of 1,000 pounds per year.

Cheryl Eagan-Donovan, "Nothing Is Truer Than Truth: Every Author's Life Tells a Story"

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. Her debut documentary, "All Kindsa Girls," screened at film festivals and arthouse theatres in London, Toronto, and throughout the U.S. She earned her master's degree in creative writing from Lesley University, lectures frequently, and has published several articles on screenwriting and film. She teaches writing, film, and literature in the Boston area at Northeastern University, Lesley University, Lasell University, and Grub Street Center for Creative Writing. Among other projects, she is working on a book for screenwriters, "Shakespeare Auteur: Creating Authentic Characters for the Screen."

Abstract of symposium presentation: Eagan-Donovan will discuss the youthful travels of Edward de Vere, 17th Earl of Oxford, in continental Europe, especially Italy, and how his experiences influenced the Shakespearean plays and poems.

Professor Roger Stritmatter, "Oxfordian Connections: A Century of Evidence Building on Looney's Insights"

Stritmatter is a professor of humanities and literature at Coppin State University in Baltimore. He has been deeply engaged in Shakespeare studies for almost 30 years, publishing dozens of scholarly articles on the subject, many in orthodox academic journals such as *Review of English Studies*, *Shakespeare Yearbook*, *Notes and Queries*, and *Critical Survey*, among others. He is the co-author, with Lynne Kositsky, of the study "On the Date, Sources, and Design of Shakespeare's *The Tempest*" (2013), and, with Alexander Waugh, of the forthcoming "New Shakespeare Allusion Book," a massive compendium exploring literary allusions from 1584 to 1786, and both orthodox and skeptical commentaries. His classic 2001 doctoral thesis, "The Marginalia of Edward de Vere's Geneva Bible," exploring compelling linkages to the Shakespeare canon, is also available on Amazon.com in a revised 2015 edition.

Abstract of symposium presentation: Professor Stritmatter will survey the numerous connections between the works of Shakespeare and Edward de Vere's life, private letters, early surviving poetry, and markings in his personal copy of the Geneva Bible. Much of this evidence was not even known to J. Thomas Looney in 1920, but it has powerfully corroborated his thesis.