

SHAKESPEARE OXFORD SOCIETY
NEWSLETTERS

1972

The Shakespeare Oxford Society

January 1972

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



Dear Fellow Members Shakespeare Oxford Society:

This News-Letter is reaching you later than it should. This is caused by certain circumstances, which are not worth while relating, and several reasons, of which only the latest will be set out. A News-Letter should contain news whenever possible on its subject, and this looked as if there was a chance to record a current event of rarity. It has been more than twenty-five years since any professor of English Literature of Stratfordian persuasion, (and who is not?) has allowed himself to be placed in a position where he might be confronted by an Oxfordian in public, and be called upon to give a reason for the faith that is in him; or to justify the snide sneers at unbelievers. This is true not only in the U.S., but in England also. For a short while, it appeared that, however inadvertently, a great Authority would find himself in that uncomfortable position. The heading below is from the Folger Library Newsletter. Jan. 11.

"Lecture, 'Shakespeare and the Problem of Biography,' S. Schoenbaum, 8 p.m."

For some time, The Folger, at least since the replica of the Globe Theatre there has been overhauled to comply with D.C. Fire Regulations for holding public meetings, has invited distinguished scholars to give lectures on their specialties to which the general public is invited. Last November, in a conversation with a member of the Folger Staff, I was asked if I had ever met Dr. Schoenbaum. I replied I had not, but would like to see what he looked like. "Then you will have a chance, for he is going to be here Jan. 11th. Will you come to hear him?" I replied I certainly would. On Dec. 7th, Dr O.B. Hardison, now director of the Folger was down for a lecture on "The Poet and the Orator: The Dilemma of the Renaissance Humanist." I attended it, partly out of my high regard for Dr. Hardison, though his subject was way over my head, but also to learn what was the format. I found that the lecturer read his paper, approximately an hour. Then there was a brief intermission to allow those who had to get home early, and/or did not care to participate in the discussion, to leave. After this there was an hour of discussion in which the speaker answered questions from the audience, or further explains some of his points. Inquiry verified that this was standard operational procedure. I advised several Oxfordian friends of this opportunity of confrontation, including Mr. Charlton Ogburn, Jr. All announced they would attend on the 11th. On that evening, just before the audience took their seats in the Theatre, I noticed several Oxfordians, including Mr. Ogburn, and two from the Baltimore area. One had come equipped with notes and references. At Eight, Drs. Hardison and Schoenbaum entered the stage; i.e. Dr. Hardison went on to the rostrum, while Dr. Schoenbaum sat down in a seat at the edge. After the introduction, in which the speaker was identified as one whose name was now known as the last word on Shakespearean biography, his honors and grants listed, and an extract from a review of his book by Mr. Michael Foot (an English Journalist and long-time left-wing Labour M.P) in which it was hailed-unless my ears deceived me, as the greatest book (or perhaps, biography) of the century, Dr. Hardison turned away from the lectern and took a step towards the speaker to escort him. Right then and there our best laid plans began to gang aley in a big way. He turned back to the lectern and said; "I have a brief announcement. When Dr. and Mrs. S. went to Chicago Airport to fly to Washington, they found their plane would leave three hours late. After they got to Washington they ran into a pea soup fog delaying landing; so it was nearly 2:30 this morning before they finally arrived. Therefore, contrary to our usual custom, there will be no hour of discussion after the lecture. (Italics supplied.)

And that was that. While the reason given for ducking questions, and curtailing by half a lecture what had been advertised, and which presumably carried a substantial honorarium to the speaker, may read weak, it sounded even weaker to the auditors. They were invited guests of the Folger to a free show, and had no legitimate grounds for complaint; no matter how disappointed. In the eyes of the beholders the good doctor seemed outwardly to be a man in good physical shape, and of an age of about the early or middle forties. A great many older men would have found 17½ hours perhaps enough time to recuperate from the loss of three or four hours of sleep, or rest in bed, so as to enable them to summon up the energy to go on "doing their thing" for another 45 or 50 minutes, especially to fulfill a legal and moral commitment to their host (The Folger). This reflection is, of course, ungracious and uncharitable, and would be harbored for an instant only in the deranged mind of an ignorant and snobbish amateur incapable of appreciating the orthodox faith. Away with it! Of course we must accept the fact that the disability was a physical one. For who knows what "chicken" lurks in the hearts of men? A great "Shakespearean Authority" is bound to be familiar with Falstaffian precepts. To put into practice "Discretion is the better part of valour," is his right and the business of no one else.

And what of the lecture itself? The writer sat in the front row, directly beneath the speaker, and close enough to touch him with a five-foot pole; so did not miss a word of it. After a few perfunctory words acknowledging the introduction, and a prefatory sentence or two about the fact that there was a great international convention at Vancouver B.C. attended by more than 500 Shakespearean scholars this summer, in which some mention was made of a possible discovery of a new "Shakespearean signature" the property of the Folger here, the speaker put on his reading glasses and read from a loose-leaf type-script. If there was any ex tempore, or ad lib, or interpolations from the script; they were undetectable. The advertised title was Shakespeare, The Problem of Biography. The paper read may, or may not, be the one prepared to be given on this subject under more propitious circumstances. It is difficult to say. It was a calling of the roll of the biographers of each century. Admittedly in the 17th neither Aubrey, Fuller, et al, had much definite to go on. In the 18th, the first real biography worth the name was that of Rowe 1709, though he mistook the number of the Shakespeare children. Later came others who used mostly conjecture and enthusiasm. Malone in the latter part was the first real biographer. Gaps were supplied by forgery of William Henry Ireland, and later in the 19th by John Paine Collier. George Steevens' summing up of the situation in the latter part of the 18th century was read in full. "All that is known, with any degree of certainty concerning Shakespeare, is that he was born at Stratford on Avon, married and had children there, went to London, where he commenced actor and wrote poems and plays, returned to Stratford, made his will, died and was buried." (Ed. Note, more about Steevens later in this N-L.) Then appropriate references were made to Knight, Helliwell-Phillips, the Wallace, and E.K. Chambers, et al. There was no mention of any "Problem" in Shakespearean Biography in explicit words, but the implication was left that any that may have existed long ago had been disposed of by a certain magnum opus, circa 1970. Seldom was heard a disparaging word, and that only in the mention that young Ireland and Collier were forgers. One of Ireland's forged letters from Shakespeare was read in full, with a few histrionic flourishes. The chance that there might be descendants or partisans of either in the audience, ranging from slim to none. Aptly enough for a speech read in Washington, it was distinctly D.C. - Discreet and Circumspect. In his book, Prof. S. does show a degree of wit, a knack for depreciatory remarks about others, which could be described as feline rather than falicitous; cute, but catty. Not in this paper, which ran the gamut from bland to insipid.

Before leaving Dr. S. Schoenbaum's speech, I now recall he did not claim 100 per cent success in clearing up all problems left in Shakespearean Biography—after all none of us is perfect—there did remain one slight fact to be found, but be of good cheer, he was working on it through an agent in Scotland. It seems that in the transition and abstract of Dr. John Hall's diary and notes on treatments of his patients, which Dr. James Cooke of Warwicks had published, after buying them from Susanna in 1642, there is no mention of father-in-law William. In fact, the notes translated began in 1616. Dr. S. tells us that is a great disappointment to all scholars and admirers of The Bard. We do not know what medicine he took, or was administered to him, when he was sick (if he ever was). Dr. S. then read what I recognized as word for word from his book's footnote on page 27, as follows

"Did Hall keep a medical notebook for the earlier period of his practice? And, if so, does it still await discovery. Reports that a Hall manuscript may be extant in Scotland led me to make inquiries at Register House in Edinburgh and elsewhere, but these proved unavailing. Such is the potential importance of the prize, that no lead, however tenuous, should be disregarded, (italics mine) but I suspect that in this case the rumors originated because the Hall case-book which James Cooke translated and published in 1657 as "Select Observations on English Bodies" belonged in the nine-teenth century to a Scot, Alexander Jackson of 9 India St. in Edinburgh. It is possibly to Jackson that W.O. Hunt refers in his letter of 24 June 1864 to Halliwell: 'I forgot if I told you that Dr. Hall's manuscript book of cases is in the possession of a Gentleman in Scotland, a friend of Dr. Thomson, who I believe saw them...' (Letters of Authors vol VI. f.6 Ed. Univ. Library)" Dr. S. said he had an agent working on it, and he was encouraged in the possibility of ultimate success because he (Dr. S.) had deduced that there might be more than one, because he noted that W.O. Hunt did say "them".

To me, wretch that I am, this deduction seems a little short of Sherlockian. In Dr. Hall's nuncupative will he refers to his "study of books", and "as for my manuscripts" etc you may, son Nashe, burn them or do with them what you please". (the study of books" has also been left to "son Nashe, to dispose of them as ye see good"). Cooke tells us that while in Stratford with the Royal Army, of which he was a Surgeon, he went to New Place to examine the books that Dr. Hall had left behind. Susanna, his widow (had been taught (presumably by her husband) how to sign her name to legal documents, but nobody has ever found anything in her handwriting outside these few signatures. She could not recognize her husband's distinctive handwriting in his medical diaries. Says Cooke: "I, being acquainted with Mr. Hall's hand, told her that one or two of them were in her husband's, and showed them ~~her~~ she denied; I affirmed, till I perceived she begun to be offended". As Hall, a Cambridge graduate, wrote both Latin and English, and had practiced medicine in Stratford from 1600 until his death in 1635, it would seem a safe assumption that his output could have run into the plural, and not just a book, or a Manuscript. Besides, fifty or more years ago, we used to read that the only current mention of Shakespeare's death, was an entry in Hall's diary: "my father-in-law died Thursday".

"THE POTENTIAL IMPORTANCE OF THE PRIZE" What are we to make of this unintentional insight into Stratfordian Shakespearean Authority's scale of values? Dr. Hall, whose local standing and reputation is acknowledged to be far above that of his malster and money-lender father-in-law, was still just a provincial physician, a man who believed in the curative properties of "frog-spawn water, juice of goose excrements, powdered human skulls, and swallows' nests". If we could only learn definitely which of these remedies, or combination thereof, he ingested when ill; or when Dr. Hall prescribed blood-letting, it was a one, two, or three leech case, and duly recorded for posterity; then, as far as Biography, or Authorship Question, is concerned, this would be the icing on the cake, the maraschino on the topping, and all Academe could join in a grateful Nunc Dimittis!

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World Shakespeare Congress I, Vancouver, B.C. Aug. 21-28 1971.

New York Times Sunday Aug. 29, 1971 page by Robert Rainhold (spl to N.Y. Times)

Vancouver, British Columbia. Aug 27. After more than 300 years of study, one might have thought the works of William Shakespeare had just about been exhausted by scholars. But 500 of the world's leading scholars (*Shakespearean) from 30 countries gathered here this week..... It was the first World Shakespeare Congress, certainly the largest gathering ever of Shakespearean scholars and directors. And if the scope of research and issues aired here is any indication, then the study and performance of the powerful plays written more than three centuries ago by the son of an Elizabethan glove-maker has become an international industry of no small magnitude. In the last ten years the annual output of books and articles on Shakespeare has doubled to about 1800 world wide. With such proliferation, it was felt that a major international conference was needed to sort out the main issues and to standardize etc. After three centuries, one of the chief problems still facing the Shakespeareans is finding out just what the Elizabethan playwright meant to say. Because virtually (sic) none of his manuscripts are extant, modern-day editors must rely on versions set by notoriously inaccurate contemporary composers, who often took the liberty of "correcting" Shakespeare.....

"But it was not all serious business. At the opening banquet, Roy Danzig, past-president of the Royal Society of Canada, offered a spoof on the sometimes obscure clues pursued by the scholars--all in impeccable Shakespearean verse.

He noted that the 46th word from the beginning of the 46th Psalm in the King James Bible was "shake", and that the 46th word from the end was "spear". Then, adding that the book was published in 1611 when Shakespeare was 46 years old, he brought his point home.

Here is the plainest proof, that damns
All cyphers and all cryptograms.
To piece it out we need not go
To Sherlock Holmes or Edgar Allen Poe.
Say what you will of scrabes that penned 'em,
Such marvels do not fall at random,
Nor come by stagee incremental,
Nor yet by chance coincidental.
Here's proof, without debate or quibble,
Proof absolute that Shakespeare wrote the Bible.

Note. This was an important landmark in the Stratfordian Industry which deserves fuller discussion which it will get in the next N.L. I do not know if Mr. Rainold is a newspaper reporter, or a professor attending who sent in a summary for the N.Y. Times. In any case he shows a delightful naivete in saying "virtually" no manuscripts are extant (there are none), and in assuming that the verse above was a gentle spoof of "scholars." One of the principal tenets of the revealed Stratfordian faith is that all scholars accept it: those who doubt it are called many names, but never scholars. It was not gentle, but to give the diners the gentle glow of satisfaction that they were "the people", and all others slightly ridiculous, whose beliefs or objections were based on nothing more substantial than the parody above. Shakespeare wrote Shakespeare. Q.E.D.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Shakespeare's Scrawl

Editor — It would be amusing, were it not so tragic, to see scholars scrambling after what will surely prove to be only the latest Shakespearean merchandise: the discovery of yet another plausible scrawl fondly hoped to be "Shakespeare's" signature, in the ever-futile attempt to find some link between the Stratford malster and the literature he is supposed to have authored ("Detective Work on a Signature," The Chronicle, August 21). "Such stuff as dreams are made on" has become a valuable commodity to professors of English the world over in their campaign to put down as "cranks" those sleepies who, like Emerson, "cannot marry the man with his verse." The very existence of some of Stratford Will's doubters — Henry James, Mark Twain, Whitman, Freud, to name only a few — only seems to add fuel to the flames of these scholars' vituperation.

But in order to cloak their smears in a tinge of respectability, the professors now and then dredge up some vain "discovery," such as W. Nicholas Knight's law book scribble, which, because it may resemble one of the six in the canon of Shakespeare signatures (no two of which resemble each other), might prove two things: 1) that the Stratford chicken could read and 2) that he learned some-

thing about law. The first point is germane to scholars, because Stratford Will was bound to be his dear, and there is good evidence in the belief that both his parents and one of his daughters were illiterate. Also, there are no Shakespearean holographs extant except the six signatures mentioned, a vacuum which forgers have been quick to fill (signatures in copies of Ovid and Montaigne, as well as the manuscripts and documents forged by Ireland and Collier). Scholars have been equally quick to believe that any old writing in a book the author must have owned must therefore, be in the same handwriting as these six signatures. As to the second point, nobody really denies that the man from Stratford knew something of law, inasmuch as he was a perpetual plaintiff in petty business litigation. It is quite possible he learned enough for these purposes from some such book or books. But it is a large leap from this to the law which lawyers assert to be found throughout Shakespeare's plays and poems, where the law is used metaphorically and easily, as to the "inanner barn." That Professor Knight has no hesitation in making this leap is, unfortunately, characteristic of much Shakespearean scholarship today.

GORDON C. CYR

Barkeley

The writer is a member of the Shakespeare Oxford Society, Washington, D.C., and the Shakespeare in Authorship Society, London.—Editor.

Note. Prof. Knight's claim that he had found a "million-dollar dot" which authenticated a new Shakespeare signature, and furnished evidence he was a law scrivener in Westminster by day, near the Law Courts, and wrote his plays and poems at night, etc., created a sensation in the metropolitan press and was syndicated all over the country. Its first appearance in C.Sc. Monitor 7/29/71 was sent me by one of our members. I told him it was not only a last year's birdnest, but a last generation's mare's nest, and to forget it.

I underestimated the credulity of the newspapers. More on this in next N.-L. Meanwhile save these exhibits so you can understand the references later. What is good is the belief by the Press that anything about Shakespeare is of interest to their readers. K.C.H.

The signature is an enlargement of one which appears on the title page of a compilation of English laws printed in 1568. The book is in the Folger Shakespeare Library. Dr. Nikolaus Wright, Wesleyan University, English professor, discovered that the ink had bled through the page and the faded signature was more visible on the reverse side. The signature above is the mirror image of the reverse side.

This is a copy of the original signature.

APXAIONOMIA,

SIVE

de praeiis anglicorum legibus libri, sermone Anglico, vetustate antiquissimo, aliquot ab hinc saeculis conscripti, atque tandem, magno iurisperitorum, & amantium antiquitatis omnium commodo, & tenebris in lucem vocati.

J. Gulielmo Lambardio interprete.

Regum qui has Leges scripsit non nomenclationem, & quid prae se acciperit, aliter monstrabitur.

LON.

ex officina Joannis T. J.

An. 1568.

CCM. GRATIA ET
Regis Matricatis per



Above: an authentic signature of William Shakespeare, written in 1613. It is in the collection of the Guildhall Library, London.

Note. Reproductions on this page are by the Courtesy of The Folger Library. The first 3 letters of each alleged "signature" (?) are S. h. a. If the remarkable resemblance of each to the other does not prove to you they were signed by the same man, keep those doubts to yourself, or also risk breaking little Tinker Bell's heart.

The Shakespeare Oxford Society

The Possible Shakespeare Signature at the Folger Shakespeare Library
A few facts about the book and its signature

Title of the book	<u>Archaeologia, sive de principis anglorum legibus libri...</u> edit. by William Lambard, 1568. (STC 15142). A compilation of old English laws, chiefly Anglo-Saxon, which was a pioneer work and used as a source book for precedents for many years. It was one of the first books to be printed using Anglo-Saxon type: on one side is the Anglo-Saxon and on the other the Latin translation.
Acquisition	The volume was one of four offered for sale by Sotheby's auction house in London, November 29, 1912, lot no. 565. It was not described in the sale catalogue and the lot was ordered by the Folger for the sake of another volume. The cost was \$1.
Description of the book	<p>It measures 13.4 by 19.1 cms. and contains 160 leaves or 320 pages. It is bound in stiff vellum covers with leather ties and a stamp, bearing traces of gold, in the center of each cover.</p> <p>The paper is very fragile, particularly the end leaves, and shows the effects of moisture. Two leaves have been tipped in at the beginning and end to help protect these leaves.</p> <p>On the inside of the front cover is written in a late eighteenth-century hand: Mr. Wm Shakspeare Lived at No. 1 Little Crown St Westminster NB - near Dorset steps St. James's Park</p> <p>On the top right hand corner of the title page is a signature which seems to read "W Shaksper," though the last two and possibly three letters (since there may also be a final "e") are uncertain.</p> <p>The volume is one of several copies of the <u>Archaeologia</u> in the Folger Library, but the only one classified as a manuscript because of the signature.</p>
Condition of the signature	According to reports the title-page was wrinkled when it arrived at the Folger and the signature was only noticed when the leaf was smoothed out. Nearly all the signature is written over the decorative border of the title-page and so is not clearly visible. On the underside of the leaf, thanks to the bleeding of the ink, it is more distinguishable and can be read with aid of a mirror.
Accessibility Restricted	Circulation of the volume is restricted. Two glossy prints of the title-page and two blown-up ones of the signature taken from the back of the title-page are on open shelves in the Reading Room and are intended to reduce use of the volume to a minimum. Scholars are asked to use them whenever possible rather than the volume itself.
Bibliography (Partial)	The first published references to the signature were made by Dr. Adams, then Director of the Folger Library, and Dr. Dawson, a member of the staff, in 1942 and 1943. Interest in it has been sporadic since then and has recently been revived by Professor N. Knight of Wesleyan University who published an article on the subject in the May, 1971, issue of the <u>Shakespeare Newsletter</u> .

"The Shakespeare Authorship Question. Evidence for Edward de Vere
17th Earl of Oxford" Craig Huston, Dorrance and Co. 170 pages. \$4.00

The above book, the latest on the Authorship Question, is written by Mr. Craig Huston, a lawyer of Philadelphia, an ardent Oxfordian, and a long-time member of our Society. It was released for publication in December. Those of us that have read it, are delighted with it, and recommend it highly. It contains a succinct statement of the Oxford case, with some new points not covered in earlier books, together with parallels with Shakespeare and some of the Earl's letters that are striking, and that I have not seen set out before. The size, format, and price are right. It is a book that any member with more than a casual interest in Oxford should own, read, and recommend to his friends. A further virtue is that it can be lent to those that would not buy, with more than an even chance of being read and understood to a degree that might awaken a deeper interest. Getting it back is still the problem of the lender. It is hard cover, six illustrations, and can be had from your local bookstore (ordered), or from the publisher Dorrance and Company, 1809 Callowill St. Philadelphia, Pa. 19130.

Two other Oxfordian books with which we are already familiar, are still in print, and available by order from your local bookstore, or the publishers.

"Wasn't Shakespeare Someone Else?" Ralph L. Tweedale, Verity Press, 25045
Merland, Southfield, Mich. 48075, 200 pages, Hard cover. \$5.95

"Shakespeare: The Man behind the Name," Dorothy Ogburn & Charlton Ogburn, Jr.
290 pages, 7 Illustrations, William Morrow & Company, New York, Hard cover \$6.00,
Paper-back \$1.95.

The Society has several brochures and pamphlets on several phases of the Oxford Authorship question, which are not for sale. They are, however, available to our members and contributors to our publishing fund in accordance with our well-known policy. This includes re-prints from The Shakespeare Fellowship Quarterly, American Branch.

New Chapter of the Shakespeare Oxford Society in Essex.

As some of our new members may not know, the Society considers its most important program now is the furthering of the search and research in England for documentary proof of Oxford's authorship and hunting for genuine Shakespearean MSS. This has been going on for some time, as funds and opportunity permit. We think that Essex and East Anglia is the real "Shakespeare Country"; not Warwickshire. This search, in which we enjoy(?) a virtual monopoly, unchallenged and unhampered by the activity of any other society either here or abroad, is not as simple as may be supposed. It is a little more complicated, than going to a library, checking the card index files, filling out a card, and sitting down to wait for the librarian to bring the "proof" to your seat. An example. A member of the S.A.S. in London suggested to me that I might look up the date of a certain marriage, which would help her in a paper she was writing, as long as I was going to be in Essex. There are over 400 parishes in Essex, some with records of christenings, marriages, and burials dating back before 1550, and some without. Some are in Government depositories, others still in the parishes. In every case, permission of the incumbent must first be obtained, before they can be examined etc. etc. New converts made there by us have offered to help in any way they can, and asked to have an organization. Mr. H.W. Patience, already an honorary member of our Society has consented to act as a corresponding secretary of the Society, and Secretary of the Essex Chapter.

Recently, Mr. Victor Kanter, a British Stratfordian "Shakespeare Authority," delivered some remarks which should not go unchallenged. The thoughts Mr. Kanter expresses are of a piece with the desperate Stratfordian attempts of the last hundred years to find "parallels" among sundry men of genius to the absolutely unique case of a scantily educated Shaksper, with the "small Latin and less Greek" Jonson attributes to him.

Sir George Greenwood dealt a knockout blow to most of the more well known "parallels" (so-called) dredged up from the literary sphere (Shakespeare Problem Restated, John Lane, London 1908, pp. 54-81), such as Robert Burns, Keats, Bunyan, et al. So the orthodox search has since shifted ground and now attempts to explore the less directly related territory of music and the pictorial arts.

In this new vein, Mr. Kanter cites the names of Leonardo da Vinci and Mozart as examples of "self-taught genius"! These same two great artists also figure in a recent review by Alfred Kay of Louis Auchincloss's Shakespearean tract, Motiveless Malignity (San Francisco Chronicle, July 13, 1969), in which the reviewer, in speaking of Shakespeare, finds that "pure genius ... -- which somehow, against all logic and background, brought about a Mozart, say, or a Leonardo." (Emphasis mine.)

Now these solemn comparisons of Leonardo's artistic formation with that of Shaksper (on the assumption that the latter is indeed the author of Shakespeare's works) were effectively dealt with by Sir George Greenwood (loc. cit.), and need not detain us here. Suffice it to say, the analogy "won't hold water." Far from being the "common notary" alleged by axe-grinding Stratfordians, Leonardo's father was a notary in the Signory of Florence, a very high government position. Far from being "self-taught," Leonardo himself was apprenticed to the master-artist Andrea del Verrocchio until Leonardo's twenty-fifth year. After this, he was, to quote Sir George, "taken into the special favor of Lorenzo the Magnificent, and readers of Florentine history will not need to be told what this would mean, or the immense advantages which it would confer on a student of literature, science, and art." (Op. cit., p. 80.)

And Mozart? To a student of music, this must be the most far-fetched and desperate attempt yet to find a supposed "analogy" to Shaksper! "Self-taught"? Why, young Wolfgang's father, Leopold Mozart, himself an accomplished and distinguished musician and composer, raised his two children (Wolfgang and his older sister Nannerl) to be musical "child prodigies." Young Wolfgang's exceptional gifts were carefully nurtured with lessons from his father and, more importantly, journeys to the musical capitals of Europe, where he came into contact with the important composers of his day, such as Johann Schobert (born c. 1720, died 1767), Johann Christian Bach (youngest son of Johann Sebastian, born 1735, died in London 1782), and Haydn.

Moreover, these highly important and formative contacts can be traced not only in documents of the time, but throughout Mozart's own early compositions, which are clearly influenced by the works of these older men. It is true that Mozart's genius had a large component of purely natural gifts. He undoubtedly possessed perfect pitch, for example (i.e., the ability to recognize the pitch name -- A, F sharp, etc. -- when sounded), but this gift is to be found in many who are not musicians at all, and, on the other hand, many musicians with quite well-developed ears do not possess it. Thus, the phenomenon the Western world knows as Mozart would not have been possible had not his purely natural attributes been complemented by his training, his travels, and his total immersion into the highest realms of the then musical world.

Where, then, is the parallel with the Shakespeare of the orthodox biographies, about whom Leonard Digges improbably contended that "Nature only helped him"?

What possible point of comparison can be found between the young Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, a "natural genius," to be sure, but one thoroughly prepared by training and background to perform the very activity in which his genius chose to express itself, and the case of Stratford Will, who, under the received hypothesis of authorship, had but a meager education at best, who is not known to have travelled outside of England, whose evident conversance (evident, that is, from the works themselves) with the court and courtly personages of Elizabeth's reign cannot be documented?

If the argument is to be that Shaksper's genius could overcome all these tremendous obstacles and many more besides, then let not its proponents compare items of unlike quantity! Certainly the genius of Leonardo and Mozart was exceptional, and it seemed so to many of their contemporaries. But such contemporaries have left us ample witness of their wonderment. How much more, given what we know of Stratford Will, must his accomplishment have seemed to his contemporaries, to have been deprived of the rich, formative influences enjoyed by both that master Florentine artist and the eighteenth century Austrian musician, and yet to have poured forth those plays and poems so replete with culture! And then to have passed his entire life without a soul taking note of this truly superhuman accomplishment!

Enough has been shown here to knock the supposed "parallels" of Leonardo and Mozart with that of Shaksper into a cocked hat. All that these two great artists can show us about "Shakespeare" is the folly of such comparisons. They also serve to demonstrate the lengths to which Stratfordians are willing to reach to shore up their provably shaky edifice.

Miscellany.

Back to Prof. S. Schœenbaum's Lecture on Jan. 11th. I heard that Mr. Ogburn met met Dr. S.S. after the aborted lecture, and in a brief conversation, challenged him to a debate. The professor agreed, but would not fix a time nor place. Unless I have sadly misjudged him, the date certain to be expected from the good doctor, would be something on the order of: the second Tuesday in the first week following the finding of an available and suitable hall in Poictesme. A copy of this N.L. with my notes on his lecture will be sent Dr. S.S. as a courtesy.

I hope members will pardon me if I take this opportunity to lay a little flattering unction to my prophetic soul on my vatic virtuosity. A year ago, I predicted that "Shakespeare's Lives" would become, despite its manifest deficiencies, an authoritative work of reference, the last word on Biography, and its author hailed as a Great Authority. All this has come to pass, you find it in almost every library, which alone would bring in substantial royalties to its nominal author/ or editor/ and he has been awarded a prize for the best "something" for the year of 1970 or 1971. I regret I do not have the exact citation before me or the name of the donor organization.

Notices of Renewal Dues Enclosed.

In reference to the notices enclosed, please refer to the following page with extracts from former news-letters. Recent members may not be familiar with our policy. What is needed now is money, which is in short supply. There is plenty of "know how" but it needs to be implemented. Postage alone has gone up over 60% in recent years, and other expenses are not far behind.

Please excuse typos and overstrikes.

Sincerely yours for E.Ver. R.C.H. for ShOx.

-11-

Back to Shakespeare Oxford Society "nuts and bolts" (business). Enclosed herewith is a notice of the last payment of dues and an opportunity to contribute or pay dues to the Society. if you want to. This is a free country, every-and any-body can believe in Oxford and disbelieve in the Stratford Man without let or hindrance; or owing a person or group a penny. Wishing that something would "turn up" to discredit Shaxper and recognize Oxford as Shakespeare, is also "for free", like the best things in life. If, however, you believe that an organized, cooperative, and concentrated action to direct our efforts and resources toward that goal, and maybe attain it in the lifetime of those now living, is worth trying or desirable, then we would welcome your membership and contribution. A stamped addressed envelope is enclosed for your convenience. The form of the notice is an old one we have on hand, and no significance or slight to anyone is to be read into it by the hyper-sensitive. Those of you who have already sent in dues and contributions, without notice or solicitation, will understand.

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 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.

The Shakespeare Oxford Society is a free association of its members joined together to promote or foster the purposes set forth in its charter and by-laws. No one has been conscripted or drafted. It is a reasonable presumption that those who maintain their membership have faith in the Oxford cause. But that is not enough. The Bible tells us that faith without works is dead, and exhorts us to be doers of the word, not sayers only. With a few honorable exceptions, from all outward signs, most of our members are micawbers, waiting "for something to turn up" to hasten the acceptance of Oxford as Shakespeare, and the rout of the orthodox Stratfordians. This is, of course, a pious wish, but "wishing won't make it so." If you are looking for the mass conversion of the English Professors and Literary Critics, or their renunciation of William of Stratford, forget it! They would have to be born again. By "something" most mean, or hope for, documentary proof. It is a fair assumption that documents do exist which might be persuasive, but wistful wishing that, like the clod in the poem, each document is feeling a stir of might, an instinct that reaches and towers, and groping blindly above it for light, is going to climb to a soul in grass and flowers, is a bit unrealistic after nearly three hundred years of inertness. Some of us believe that they will have to be dug up, by intelligent, persistent, and resourceful research. What can you do to help? Don't let your membership participation turn into a mere spectator sport.

The Shakespeare Oxford Society

May 1972

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



Dear Fellow-Members Shakespeare Oxford Society:

Every now and then, some of our new members wonder out loud why the Society does not have printed stationery with names of the officers etc., for corresponding with the public. There are several reasons for this, though none are really important. Here they are listed in order of importance(?)? a. To save money that might be better spent on research, publication, and stamps. b. Awaiting the Society's establishing a headquarters, and relieving the President of furnishing the facilities in his private office. c. Under the law, any Tax-exempt Foundation soliciting funds through the mail must file a formal statement from the owners of each name printed on the letterhead agreeing to use of his name for that purpose, and implying responsibility for the solicitation and anything resulting from the same. As even a reminder of dues, or request for contributions from members, could technically be considered a solicitation of funds, the President decided to take personal responsibility for everything in each News-Letter by signing each one with his name. As a matter of information, below are the present officers.

President. Richard C. Horne, Jr.
918 "F" St. N.W. Washington D.C. 20004

Vice Presidents.

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In our last N-L, members were promised an analysis and discussion of the latest flurry from the orthodox; the "discovery" of a new "Shakespeare" signature by Prox. Knight of Middletown, Conn. and his "discovery" that Shakespeare was a law scrivener in Westminster by day, a playwright by night, and a friend of Wm. Lambard. This received quite a play in the national press last summer. This is ready, but must be deferred until July., appearing in the next News-Letter.

Included in this mailing, but not a part of the News-Letter, which goes to others besides members, such as reference libraries, etc. is a reproduction of some of the papers submitted last year, to the National Endowment for the Humanities, in what proved to be a vain effort to get a government grant for research. This grew out of contact with staff members of the Dept. of Education, whom I met in checking on the results of the computer study of Chettle's Groatsworth of Wit. Suggestions were made that such an application might prove fruitful. In June it was too late for a grant to an institution, but I was urged to apply for a Senior Fellowship worth \$18,000 as an individual. This was submitted, considered, but turned down in November. The request was renewed in Nov. 1971 in the form of a shared-grant in the name of the Society, 80% Govt. 20% Society. A letter of regret was received on this in March. While the subject was plainly History, and labelled as such, I have the uneasy feeling that anything with the name of Shakespeare in it, was submitted to Shakespearean authorities, Eng. Lit. Professors, for evaluation and recommendation. These are for our members information, and to show we will have to rely on our own resources and funds for research.

If you have not sent in your renewals and contributions, please do so.

Sincerely yours for E.Ver., Richard C. Horne, Jr.

"Shakespeare. The Problem of Biography."

The above is the advertised title of a lecture now being given before colleges and universities by a widely acclaimed "Shakespearean Authority." Implicit in the title is that a biographical problem does exist. This is progress of a sort, but we never hear what the problem is. If the Shakespearean scholars-Stratfordians of course, for it is well-known there is no other kind- are having difficulty in defining it, may we, in a spirit of helpfulness, offer this suggestion for their consideration? The "problem" is to find any bit, no matter how slight, of contemporary evidence, in his lifetime, or generation, connecting their candidate, or pretender, or claimant- all time-honored orthodox nomenclature, with any of the three H's; 'reading', 'riting', and 'rithmatic'.

If, as, and when, any progress is reported towards solving this "problem", we will immediately notify our members. But; Don't hold your breath!.

Robert Greene's "Groatsworth of Wit etc" 1592 with alleged first reference to "Shakespeare" (Shakescene, Upstart Crow etc) has been PROVED a forgery by Chettle.!!

For over two hundred years "Shakespearean Authorities" included prominent and prosperous ones now publishing and editing texts and "Lives of Shakespeare", have been telling us that Stratfordian "Will" by 1592, had become so well-known as an actor and playwright on the London scene as to excite the jealousy of Robt. Greene who denounced him in his 'Groatsworth of Wit', published posthumously by Hen. Chettle in 1592; and furthermore, that this was proof he was in London before 1592, that his name, Shakespeare, was so well-known that people immediately identified "Shakescene" as the Stratfordian. At the time Nash and others of Greene's friends denounced the G. of W. as a "scald, lying, trivial pamphlet" not by Greene at all, but a forgery by Chettle. Chettle took notice of this, and in a preface to "Kind Heart's Dream" swore all was written by Greene, none by him, and apologised to "gentle Shakespeare."

All of this attribution has been demonstrated to be fictions passed off as facts to uphold the Stratfordian attribution, and line the pockets of the hucksters of the hoax, and marketers of the myth. Decisive proof of Chettle's forgery was obtained by use of a computer in 1967-8, and reported to H.E.W in 1969, and now on record. The U.S. Govt. had made a \$10,000 grant for this study. But before this, skeptics had pointed out such facts as are categorically stated below.

1. No where is any name of anybody, much less Shakespeare, mentioned by Greene, Chettle, or Nash. /2. "Shakespeare" was not a widely known name in 1592. In fact the first time it ever appeared in print, was when the dedication of Venus and Adonis "As the first heir of my invention" to Earl of Southampton, was signed William "Shakespeare" (1593). /3. No one at the time, nor for nearly 200 years, ever suggested that there was a reference to Shakespeare. /4. In 1776, Thos. Tyrwhitt, a noted scholar and commentator, speculated in a letter to George Steevens, that perhaps Shakespeare might have been the target of Greene. /5. Despite the above indisputable facts, Sir Sidney Lee in his Life of Shakespeare, quotes Chettle's apology as saying, inter alia "because my selfe have seen his (i.e. Shakespeare's) demeanour no less civil etc etc." The parenthesis is not Chettle's, but an un-warranted insertion by Lee to mislead the reader. Sir George Greenwood says "In no other biography but "Shakespeare's" would such methods be consistent with common honesty." Our modern worthies now disregard the parenthesis and tell us boldly and barefacedly, that Chettle apologised to Shakespeare.

This subject will be covered fully in the next N-L. For the time being let me say the 'Study' and use of the computer, was made by Prof Warren S. Austin, of Stephen F. Austin State University, Nacogdoches, Texas. His report of findings are on file with the Office of Education. I have read it. The proof is incontestable that it was all a forgery by Chettle. When Greene died in 1592, Gabriel Harvey (enemy) could not wait to dance on his grave, but his friend-Chettle- was more practical. This late 16th Cent. procurer of Clifford living, hit the streets in 17 days with his forgery, and profited handsomely.

Col. Joseph C. Hart's "The Romance of Yachting". 1848 Harper & Bros. New York. This is the first book (as far as we know) in which the authenticity and validity of the attribution of the authorship of "Shakespeare's" Plays to William of Stratford is questioned and its implausibilities pointed out.

"Be thou as chaste as ice, as pure as snow, thou shall not escape calumny."

Readers of our March 1971 News-Letter in which S. Schoenbaum's "Shakespeare's Lives" was reviewed, may recall that we said something to the effect that it was the slander, or more technically libel, against J. Thomas Looney and his memory, that we resented, and intended to show up as arrogant aspersions of a paid professional calumniator; and, to a smaller degree, the attack on the memory of Col. Joseph C. Hart. The exigencies of time and space prevented us from going further on this last year, but now we have the opportunity.

S. Schoenbaum knows little or nothing about Col. Hart, except what he could get from a brief reference to him, by Wadsworth-who knew little more- in his "The Poacher from Stratford", in which a reference is made to him as U.S. Consul at Santa Cruz. But S.S. did know all he needed to know, viz; Hart doubted the Aubrey-Stratford Attribution and therefore, automatically and per se, must be an ignorant snob of unsound mind. Let's see what he says about him in his book; pgs 547-50, 551, 556.

"Hart was a New York lawyer, an officer of the National Guard and U.S. Consul at Santa Cruz; he was also a priceless eccentric. (Italics are supplied) In that year of revolution (1848) Hart did his share by publishing "The Romance of Yachting"... Nowhere is he more idiosyncratic than on the subject of gentle Shakespeare.... (Ed. Note. No exception is taken to the following paragraph. It is an excellent and succinct statement of how Hart came to discuss Shakespeare in this book on pages 207 to 240.)... In the Romance of Yachting Hart describes a voyage aboard the J. Doolittle Smith from Sandy Hook to Cadiz. Thence Hart found his way to the banks of the river Guadalete, whose name (he speculates) is a Moorish corruption for the classical Lethæ. By a process of association he moves from Lethæ to the Hesperides. Were the fabled gardens, he wonders, in Andalusia or near Tangier? The question brings to mind a saying of Purchas, who being an Elizabethan, in turn recalls Shakespeare; and Hart is launched.. (End good para.) It is one of the misfortunes of literary history: that, in his thirst for biographical information, Hart should have stared upon the notorious life in Lardner's Cabinet Cyclopaedia. The effect on an untutored and volatile mind is predictably mischievous: from the Cyclopaedia derives Hart's scurrilous portrait of the Shakespeares. The poet's father was extremely poor and hopelessly illiterate-"so says Lardner and he proves it beyond dispute" The family procured its coat of arms by fraud. As for William "he grew up in ignorance and viciousness, and became a common poacher-and the latter title he carried to his grave".....Strange thoughts can come to possess a man in the isolation of Santa Cruz, surrounded by the Sulu Sea..... Apart from his public repudiation of Shakespeare, which insures Hart everlasting anti-Stratfordian fame, his principal contribution lies (as Wadsworth has remarked) in his hectoring tone, so unlike the mild apostasy of Wilmot, and in his ferocious application of snob values to the authorship question: what is of value in the plays must be denied the Stratford barbarian. Both the tone and snobbery would characterize later Baconian polemics, but it is difficult to see Hart as furnishing the lead. A book entitled the "Romance of Yachting" is not calculated to reach literary students. It apparently sold poorly (it is today scarce) and in England seems to have been unknown even to seafaring types."

Here endeth S. Schoenbaum's snidery directed at Col Hart.

Col. Joseph C. Hart, Contd. Fact versus Fiction.

Instead of being the "priceless eccentric" with a "volatile and untutored mind" as Schoenbaum would have us believe, Col. Hart, a native New Yorker, was a highly cultured and versatile man of letters who had won distinction in several discrete fields, among others, as a geographer and author of many text books that went through a number of editions, which were taught in the New York schools for at least 25 years and perhaps longer. The Library of Congress lists his first book on geography in 1824, when he was about 25 yrs old, with numerous revisions and enlargements from 1827 to 1857. He was evidently an enthusiast on sailing and navigation, and the title of one or two of his books suggests that he may have made one or more voyages on a whaler. "Miriam Coffin, or The Whale Fisherman, a tale," was published simultaneously in New York and Philadelphia in 1834, a second edition by Harper & Bros. New York 1835. A new edition of "Miriam Coffin" was published in San Francisco, in 1872, 17 yrs. after Hart's death.

Among the dozen or more listings under Hart's name in the Lib. of Cong. Index is "The Romance of Yachting, Voyage the First" by Joseph C. Hart, New York, Harper & Bros. 1848 382 pages, 20 1/2 m. A discussion of the authenticity of Shakespeare's Plays. p. 208-242. Vocabulary of sea terms, or nautical phrases p. 306-382.

1. Yachts and Yachting. 2. Shakespeare, William, Authorship 3 Naval art and science-Dictionaries. 4. Spain. Descr. & travel. I Title.

Directly below in the Index is listed "Hart, Joseph Coleman. Design for parish churches, in the three styles of Eng. Church Architecture with an analysis of each style, a review of the nomenclature of the periods of Eng. Gothic arch. & some remarks introductory to church building, exemplified in a series of over 100 illustrations. By J. Coleman Hart, New York Dana & Co 1857." (Ed. Note. This may, or may not, be by our Col. Hart. While published in 1857, two years after his death, it may have been from notes that he was working upon before he died, and edited by his son. J. Coleman Hart may have been used as a variant from Jos. C. of the marine stories. On the other hand this may be the son, who chose to use "J. Coleman" to avoid confusion with his father's books. In either case, the subject and the treatment thereof, give an indication of the cultural level of the family.) Of course, which of these surmises is the correct one, is susceptible of being resolved by resourceful research and intensive investigation. For my own part, I prefer to give priority, with my limited and ever-diminishing time and resources, to trying to locate original "Shakespeare" MSS and documents which could solve the Authorship Question.

Practically all references to the "Romance of Yachting" 1848, identify the author as "United States Consul at Santa Cruz", nothing more. Last year, disgusted with Schoenbaum's smears, I determined to find out what I could about the author. The logical first place to look was his dossier in the State Department. Telephone inquiries to the State Dept, after innumerable referrals to some other division or bureau, including history, records, archives, consular affairs, etc. brought forth that there was one lady who might know where to find this, but she was away that day, but if I would leave my name and phone number she would call me. This she did. I told her I was interested in Jos. C. Hart, Consul at Santa Cruz in the 1840's. That I assumed that, as he was obviously an Hispaniophile, that the Santa Cruz, was probably Santa Cruz de Tenerife, in the Canary Islands. In about an hour she called back that the records showed that in the 1840's there was no U.S. Consulate in Santa Cruz de Tenerife, nor at any Santa Cruz, anywhere in the world! After a brief pause to recover my breath, I asked her if St. Croix, in the Virgin Islands, had not been originally Santa Cruz (discovered by Columbus) and if it may not have been referred to by its old name. She confirmed this, and that we did have a consulate there in the 1840's. I also found that consular records and correspondence was now on micro-film at the Archives Building.

The next morning I went to the National Archives in the Federal Triangle. One of the consultants in the Reference Room looked up the indices of the micro-films from 1789 to 1850 which showed that there were letters from the U.S. Consul at St. Cruz in the 1840's. In the index Santa Cruz was in parentheses after St. Croix, confirming my postulate. Several hours of reading the letters on the micro-film enlarger and reader disclosed many letters from the consul to the Dept., but unfortunately, he turned out to be one man, Townsend, I think, No Joseph C. Hart. I then checked the special micro-film index in that room. No Santa Cruz anywhere during this period. If this was not a dead end, it would do until a better one turned up. Back in the reference room I completed my application for a permanent card and number for access to the Archives Records, received same, and chatted awhile with the consultant telling why I was interested in Col. Hart, in connection with my research on the Authorship Question. She seemed interested and asked a few questions about Oxford.

The phone rang.

The following day around ten o'clock, it was the lady's voice asking for Mr. Horne. When I identified myself she said, "Mr. Horne, we have found your man! He was consul at Santa Cruz, Tenerife, but from 1853 to 1855. The way we know this is that there is a letter from a sea captain who went into the consulate to have some ships papers attested, and found the consul unconscious, slumped across his desk. He was taken to the hospital where he died shortly afterwards. He is buried in the English Cemetery there." I thanked her profusely, but when I went down in person to further express my appreciation and leave her some of our News-Letters, I found she had gone on her vacation.

I remembered that my good friend, Mr. Carleton Healy of Grosse Pointe, Mich., a loyal member of the Society, was spending part of the winter at Las Palmas in the Canary Islands. I got off an air-mail letter to him, suggesting that if he had occasion to visit the other island, he might check on the church records for the entry of Col. Hart's death and burial. That the wording, and/or a copy or rubbing of any plaque would be of historical interest to us. Not long after I had an air-mail from him on the mainland saying that my letter was forwarded to him by the hotel. That he had not gone to Santa Cruz that year, but would the next. In fact since receiving my note he had made a reservation for 1972.

This winter I had another note from Mr. Healy, saying that he and Mrs. Healy were leaving for the Canaries shortly, and to write him just what I wanted him to look up in Santa Cruz. I sent him the details. In March I had a hand-written note from Santa Cruz saying that after some difficulty he had located the grave and the records, but would send me full details as soon as he had access to a typewriter. On March 23 he sent a detailed account from Las Palmas which will appear somewhere below in this News-Letter. It is being reproduced in full, both for its merit and interest. Also to show our members that while conjecture and supposition may be easy, it takes plenty of persistence and perspiration to prove a fact.

Since his return to Michigan, Mr. Healy has had his film developed and printed, and has sent the Society seven 3½x5 beautiful color prints of the monument and scenes of the cemetery. His letter of March 23rd appears below.

Hotel Santa Catalina
Las Palmas, Gran Canaria
March 23, 1972

My dear Horne:

Presumably you have my March 15 letter from Santa Cruz de Tenerife but here is a repeat of the records relating to Col. Hart.

(Continued next page)

The English Cemetery would be related to an Anglican Church but the Tenerife telephone directory divulged no likely name. The hall porter at Hotel Menoey, as do all hall porters, has his secret documents, from which he supplied a number, then another. Neither evoked an English voice. The British Consulate, however, was helpful and I reached the rectory of St. George's. Then followed the establishment of the validity of GBS's statement that England and America are divided by a common language. The fault, let me hasten to say, must have been mine throughout. Shall I continue?

After explaining that I sought the grave of a man believed to be in the English Cemetery since 1855 I was told that the ground was full and that I would have to be accommodated in the Cementerio Municipal, as though I were trying to dig myself in. A reprise of my purpose brought forth the further warning that I would have to climb many, many steps to the Protestant Corner, presumably carrying my own remains, and at the top there would be a book wherein, it was surmised, I should register myself and cargo.

This municipal cemetery I found to be out of town, near Santa Cruz's handsome new hospital, both well stocked with bodies, and sure enough there was a fearsome flight of steps. But the man at the main portal could not direct us to the Protestant Corner nor anything else English-related. This conversation caught the ear of a decent looking fellow idling at the gatehouse and he proposed that we try the Cementerio Municipal Antiguo in the city, near Central Market.

Near Central Market the driver made many inquiries before locating the hiding place of the old municipal cemetery. There we learned from a neighbor that a gardener would be on the job from seven to eleven next morning, with a key. Next morning we were there.

This part time attendant spoke only Spanish and only spoke Spanish (which syntax I offer for study in word juxtaposition) hence he could not write down the direction he was trying to give us orally. A taxi driver, however, got the idea and took us to St. George's Church.

At St. George's the big oaks were locked but we heard the organ. After a gardener admitted us we enlisted the organist, who was practising against the coming visit of the bishop, from Gibraltar. Organist and gardener located the parish records but none had dates prior to 1922. Further search, however, unearthed a plot plan of English Cemetery (labeled Cementerio Britanico). And just then appeared Maj. C. E. Bellamy, retired British veteran of both world wars, now living at Santa Cruz, the place of his birth. Inasmuch as his parents and a nephew lie in the English Cemetery he knew the situation thoroughly. Moreover, the gardener at the church had served similarly at the cemetery when there had been funds for its maintenance. The major traced the useful part of the plot plan and the gardener guided our driver the couple of miles to the cemetery, for which the gardener had the key.

To our amazement we discovered the English Cemetery immediately alongside, and sharing a wall with, the old municipal cemetery, which we had visited only an hour earlier, when the caretaker had tried to tell us as much but that the key was at the church. But why so hard to find?

The approach is a narrow alley almost impossible to traverse even by foot because of junked packing cases, laundry, pen after pen of food pigeons, a few caged parrots, and a fierce dog guarding the property. The dog's owner restrained the dog for his old friend the gardener and we got by. The condition is scandalous, as is the condition within.

Once inside the cemetery there was no trouble locating the ^{Hart monument.} ~~grave~~. It is second from the gate. An obelisk on a plinth, the whole stands about five feet tall. The plaque was loose but lay at base and the gardener pegged it back in place, at least temporarily. Line for line, the inscription reads:

COLONEL JOSEPH HART
US CONSUL
AT THE
CANARY ISLANDS
BORN IN NEW YORK, USA
APRIL 25, 1799
DIED AT SANTA CRUZ DE TENERIFE
JULY 24, 1855.
ERECTED BY HIS CHILDREN.

Now I'll set off to find the devere manuscripts.

Sincerely

Carlton Realy

The dates of the consulship (1853-55) show that Hart's was an appointment of Pres. Franklin K. Pierce. There was no civil service in those days. All jobs in the foreign service, major and minor, were presidential patronage. As the U.S. had no system of poet laureates, pensions, or sinecure offices whereby to honor its distinguished literary men, or provide them a measure of economic security while continuing their writing; there had grown up a custom of giving them positions in the foreign service if they so desired. Witness Washington Irving, James Fenimore Cooper, Nathaniel Hawthorne, Jos. C. Hart, Bret Harte, and many others. Hawthorne, a friend of Pierce's, and who wrote his campaign biography, was made U.S. Consul at Liverpool in 1853, the same time a consulate was established at Santa Cruz and Hart appointed the first consul, probably at his request. Outside of his literary distinction, there may have been a personal friendship with Pres. Pierce growing out of a military association. Pierce was a brigadier general in the Mexican War. Or a political one. State Militia, or National Guard were elected by votes of the men

in their units. Col. Hart was also a lawyer, and may have played a part in swinging the New York delegates behind Pierce, a dark-horse, who was nominated by the 1852 Democratic Convention after it had been deadlocked for 48 ballots. Any one of the above three reasons is probable, and all may have played a part.

"Strange thoughts can come to possess a man in the isolation of Santa Cruz, surrounded by the Sulu Sea." Why this? S. Schoenbaum's "Shakespeare's Lives" tells us absolutely nothing about Shakespeare or his life, but it does tell an attentive reader, such as I like to think I am, a great deal, unintentionally, about the author himself. I feel that I now know his style, his M.O., the essential meanness of spirit, so much that the character of what he will say about any Anti-Stratfordian, though not the exact words, can be safely foretold. Col. Hart was born and reared in New York; lived there when not travelling; wrote his books there, published them there, and had had as much connection with, or relation to, the Sulu Sea as you or I; perhaps less, if any of you served with the U.S. Navy in the South Pacific in WW II. I think I can tell you "why?". The Sulu Sea lies almost within the Philippine Archipelago, with the large islands of Mindanao on one side, and Borneo on the other. On Mindanao dwelt the savage Moros who are noted for becoming crazed, and running amuck (amok) in their frenzy. The natives of Borneo, of course have also been famous for wildness. Who has not heard of "The Wild Man from Borneo"? Every*knows the strong effect of environment, especially upon an untutored and volatile mind! (*one)

Get it? Isn't that cute? Just too, too precious for words! I can visualize the smirk on S.S.'s face as he penned this masterpiece of subtle innuendo and denigration. The Spanish and Portuguese navigators and explorers being all devout sons of Holy Church, scattered Sans, Santas, and Saos all over the maps of five continents; like confetti. Gazetteers give over a dozen Santa Cruzs. Schoenbaum, or more likely, one of his malicious mentors, just took a chance there was a Santa Cruz in the Sulu Sea, (there is none) and that readers would presume intellectual integrity in a book of a "Shakespearean Authority" so "superbly informed" and "richly readable". Anything goes. The end justifies the means. Motiveless malignancy is not an explanation, for there is a manifest motive, money! To me, there seems something obscene in the patronizing of, and besmirching the memory of, decent and honorable men like J. Thomas Looney and Col. Jos. C. Hart, by the likes of a Schoenbaum. It would take an Alexander Pope to do the latter, justice.

If he, or his principals, or those who are heaping awards and praise upon him, think the above explanation absurd or unjust, we will give a \$25.00 U.S. Savings Bond, Series E, to anyone of them, as a reward, for a more believable explanation or excuse, for the Sulu Sea Slur. (This offer void where prohibited by law.)

Warning. There is one stipulation or reservation to this offer, however, to wit: Claiming that S.S., an English Lit. Ph.D., himself a native New Yorker, should not be expected to be able to distinguish between the waters of the Hudson and East Rivers, and Long Island Sound and New York Bay; and the Sulu Sea, will not be acceptable as "believable".

Shakespeare Manuscripts. June 1972 Issue of "Harpers" Magazine.

We have been advised that the June issue of "Harpers"-monthly, not Bazaar, will have an article by Charlton Ogburn, Jr. on the missing "Shakespeare" manuscripts, with a suggestion where they may be found. We recommend that our members read it. Over the years Mr. Ogburn has been a frequent contributor to Harpers, but this is the first time he has been able to get an article on the Shakespeare Authorship Question accepted. Maybe this is an omen of a better climate to come.

The Shakespeare Oxford Society

September 1972

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



Dear Fellow-Members Shakespeare Oxford Society:

Within this issue, or as a supplement thereto, we are reprinting an address given to the Shakespeare Club at Stratford-on-Avon on Apr, 13, 1971. This received some comment in the English Press though, in my opinion, the reporters seemed to have missed the point. I have no idea as to Mr. Powell's position on the Authorship Question, or if he has ever taken one, but the conclusion was inescapable, to me at least, that the application of a little more of this lucid logic and reasoning would take the applicant miles away from the Stratford Myth. Accordingly, I wrote and asked for his permission to reprint it for the benefit of our members. This permission was promptly and generously given. The suggestion that it would be courteous to get the consent of the Secretary of the Shakespeare Club, Mr. Pringle, suggests that there might have been an honorarium involved.

To anticipate the inevitable snide sneering and disparagement that can be expected from Trustees of the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust and their henchmen in this country, such as : "What does a rabble-rousing politician know about Shakespeare? Why doesn't he stick to his last, and leave matters of scholarship to us Shakespearean Authorities?", let me say that, contrary to the impression that might be created in shallow minds by the scanty references to him in the American Press on Britain's immigration problem, The Right Hon. Enoch Powell, M.P. is generally considered, by political friends and opponents, alike, as well as the informed public, to have , or be, "The best brain in all Britain". That he can learn any language in a month was told me several times by people in diverse walks of life. One instance cited was that he learned Urdu, and made a speech in their own language to his Pakistani constituents at Wolverhampton. A titled barrister, prominent in the higher echelons of leadership in the Conservative Party (Tory) said to me: "you can question his judgment, but never his knowledge, integrity, or outstanding ability." Mr. Powell, though formerly in the Cabinet, now occupies a sort of maverick status in his party. The reference to him in Who's Who is appended, as well as a reproduction of his letter.

POWELL, Rt. Hon. (John) Enoch, P.C. 1960, MBE 1943, M.A. (Cantab) M.P. (c) Wolverhampton S.W. since 1950. B. 16, June 1912 s. Albert Ernest Powell and Ellen Mary Breese, m. 1952 Pamela nee Wilson , two daugh. Ed. King Edwards, Birmingham, Trinity Coll. Cambridge. Craven scholar 1931, First Chancellor's Classical Medalist 1932. Porson Prizeman ; Browne Medalist, 1932 BA. (Cantab) Craven Travelling student 1933, Fellow Trinity College, Camb. 1934-8. MA (Cantab) 1937. Professor of Greek in the University of Sydney, N.S.W., 1937-39. Pte and Lt. Royal Warwickshire Reg. 1939-40 Capt. Genl. Staff 1940-1, Major, Genl. Staff 1941, Lt. Col. Genl Staff, Brigadier 1944. Dipl OAS. Parliamentary Secty, Ministry of Housing & Local Govt. Dec 55- Jan. 57; Financial Secty to the Treasury 1957-8, Minister of Health July 1960-Oct. 1963. Publications: The Rendall Harris Papyri 1936; First Poems 1937; A Lexicon to Herodotus 1938; The History of Herodotus. 1939. Casting -off and other poems 1939; Herodotus (translation) 1949. Herodotus Book VIII, 1939; Llfyr Blegywrd 1942; Thucydides Historia 1942; Dancer's End and the Wedding Gift (poems) 1951; The Social Services, Needs and Means 1952 (jointly); One Nation (with Angus Mande) 1955; 2nd Ed. 1970; Great Parliamentary Occasions; Saving in a Free Society 1960. A Nation not Afraid 1965; Medicine and Politics 1966; The House of Lords in the Middle Ages (with Keith Wallis) 1968; Freedom and Reality 1969, Numerous political pamphlets. Address 33 South Eaton Place SW1. (01) 730-0988. Club Carleton.

From: The Rt. Hon. J. Brooch Powell, MBE, MP.



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

7th July 1972

Dear Mr Horne,

Thank you for your letter and enclosure of 4th July. For my own part I have no objection at all to your publishing my address to the Shakespeare Club, Stratford-on-Avon, of 13th April 1971, and I enclose a copy for your convenience. It would however be courteous if you obtained the agreement of the Shakespeare Club which I am sure would be forthcoming from their secretary, Roger Pringle, Hall's Croft, Old Town, Stratford-upon-Avon.

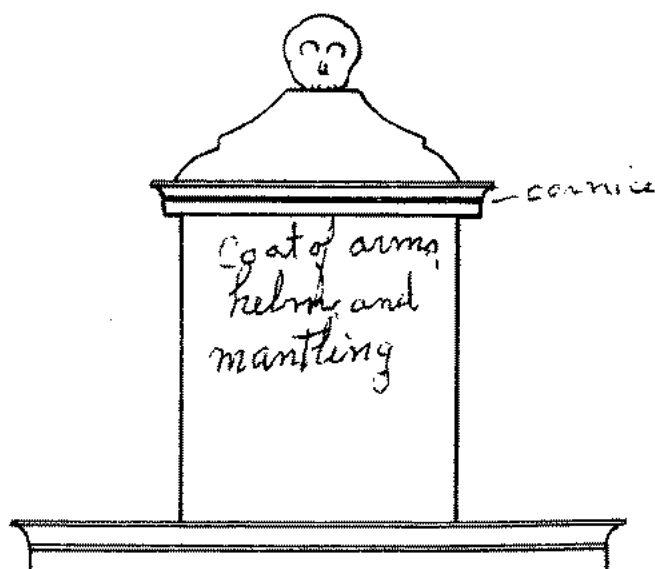
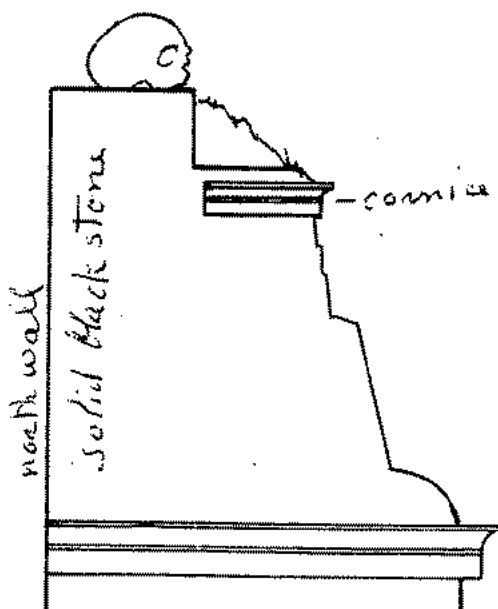
I may add that I am much more doubtful than when I wrote the paper as to whether there is any connection between the author of the plays and the person referred to by Greene as "Shake-scene".

Yours sincerely,

J. Brooch Powell

R.G. Horne, Esq.,
Hotel Westsheaf,
Grainthorpe, Essex.

I agree to the
reproduction of your
Powell's address
if you wish.



New Light on the Box(?) atop the Stratford Monument.

By now readers may have noticed two pages of illustrations in this News-Letter; one with a reproduction of the title page of Lambard's *Archaeologia*, courtesy of the Folger Shakespearean Library, plus a reproduction of the "deposition signature, added by us; and on the obverse, a reproduction of Mr. Powell's letter of July 7th, together with two crude sketches of a front and side view of the Bogus Bust in the "Shrine" viz; Holy Trinity Church in Stratford-on Avon. It is with the latter this is concerned, for thereby hangs a tale.

I had written Mr. Powell a note asking his permission to reproduce his speech given at Stratford in 1971, and was hoping that if he replied, it would be before I had to board the plane on July 12th. While I was enjoying a delightful English Breakfast at my hotel in Braintree, around 8:15 the morning of July 9th, the landlady came in with Mr. Powell's letter. I was so pleased with it, that I decided to take a chance on finding Mr. Pringle in Stratford on a Saturday afternoon, explaining why his permission was wanted, and getting it then and there. If negotiations had to be carried on by mail from the U.S., difficulties and delay, at the best, could be expected. I had a British Rail "pass" good for unlimited 2nd class travel until July 10th. Though it was raining, within 30 minutes I had my hat and raincoat, and had caught the shuttle train to Chelmsford, where I transferred to a through train to London's Liverpool Street Station. Paddington Station, from which the Western trains leave, is across the city from Liverpool St., accessible by Underground. At nearly all Mainline R.R. stations there is a walk of nearly two blocks, via escalators, corridors, etc. before you reach the departure gates. While it is not a natural "law", human experience is that almost invariably, you find that your train has just left, and the next one is not for an hour or so. Not so, this day. There was one on the track ready to leave in fifteen minutes for Leamington Spa, where you have to wait around 40 minutes or an hour for a shuttle train to Stratford on week-days. On Saturdays service is much curtailed. My luck still held, and by a few minutes after Two, and taxi, I was entering Hall's Croft, one of the many tourist traps, where admission is charged. The lady in charge was smiling behind the table, where visitors register and pay tribute. I beat her to the draw by telling her I had been in several times before; but today wanted to ask if she knew where I could get in touch with Mr. Pringle. She beckoned for me to follow her across the room. She opened a door to what was evidently a tea room, and spoke to a young man at a table next to the door. He came out, shook hands, and I told him Mr. Powell had suggested if he had any objection to our reproducing the speech given before his club last April, I should ask him. When I mentioned Mr. Powell's name his face lit up. "Are you a friend of Enoch Powell's?" I explained the circumstances. He said I was welcome to use it. I had the note with me, and got him to write his permission at the foot of it. After a few pleasantries, we shook hands and parted. It was now exactly six hours since I had opened the letter. It was like driving through a big city, and have the traffic lights all turn green as you approach. Experience, prudence, and common sense, dictated that I hurry back to the R.R. Station, catch the same train I came in on, so as to arrive at Liverpool St. before 9:30 p.m. when the last train with Braintree connections left. But I was in such a state of euphoria caused by incredible luck, that I decided to go over to the Church, a few hundred yards away, look in and see how business was holding up at the "Shrine", and then go on down to the station, despite the fact that it was still raining.

There were two or three motor coaches drawn up outside, but only a small group inside, and they were gathered around the sales stalls for souvenirs, post-cards etc. in the rear of the church. The vergar was at the foot of the choir to

collect the money from those who wanted to get a few yards closer to the graves and monument. I called him a vergier, but he may be the sexton, or porter, or attendant, or watchman, or whatever. He wears a black robe or cassock, and while certainly the lowest in rank in the establishment, he is the only one with whom the pilgrims come in contact and can ask questions. He has a ready and confident answer to any question, usually untainted by learning or logic. Several years ago, I asked him if the "thing" on top was a box, or hollow, or solid. "It's a solid block." I wondered how he could tell. Are you sure, or doesn't it just look that way to you? "I know. It is a solid concrete(sic) block, because we take it down from time to time to clean it." (Note. Concrete, as we know it, was not known until the 19th century. I doubt very much if the monument has been off the wall, since around 1750, when it was reconstructed into its present form.) He was alone, when I approached with my two shilling coin (10p) held out to him. He gave me one of the flyers or hand-bills, and I asked him, for no particular reason, just for fun, if there was any record of when and by whom the Monument was erected. Oh yes. Three years after he died. Three years after... You wouldn't expect them to put it up before he died, now would you? He looked around smugly to see if anyone was close enough to appreciate this witty sally. Unfortunately, we were still alone. I looked appropriately abashed, admitted he had made a good point there. But don't kid me, man, is there really a record showing it was put up three years after Shakespeare's death? (From the cinema, and old re-runs on the Telly, he recognized this as real American talk.) Genially, and with amused and good-natured tolerance, he assured me they did have such a record. I thanked him and was turning away, when he volunteered; "but the record is not here." Where is it? "At the office of the Birthplace Trust." (Note; For any readers who are not familiar with the facts surrounding the mystery of the Monument, let me say there are no records anywhere throwing any light on by whom, and when, the thing was erected in the church. The assumption, and a logical one, is that it must have been before 1623, because in the First Folio is a verse attributed to Leonard Digges, which says, inter alia, "when that stone is rent, and Time dissolves thy Stratford Moniment.)

The choir and apse were in a murky gloom. There was no artificial lighting on, with the exception of the floodlights a few inches from the floor in the chancel illuminating the plaques over the supposed graves of the Shaksper family and a copy of the rude verses on his slab. It was still drizzling outside, and no sunlight was pouring in from the stained glass windows to throw deep shadows around the monument, as is usually the case. For some reason, of which I was hardly conscious then, but later on reflection, caused by my remembrance of Mr. Charlton Ogburn's recent article in Harpers and several hours of pleasant conversation I had had recently with Mr. Francis Carr of London, who considers the Stratford business a great fraud, I felt an impulse to try to get a side view of the top of the monument. From the front, and in all pictures, a skull seems to be sitting on top of a box, or block, whose front has the coat-of-arms etc. Accordingly I went back as far as I could, and scrouged against the North Wall, and looked up. The skull is not on top of the "box" but back of it on the stone, with discernible light between it and the "box". I rubbed my eyes, polished my glasses, and looked again. No doubt about it! Furthermore, what looks like a lid on a box from the front, is just an ornamental cornice, placed in ledge, chiselled out of the large block of stone, and only runs a third of the way on the side. The crude sketch, not to scale, will illustrate this. No; it was not a mirage, or "illusion of the second sort". By this time there were two adults, and two half-grown children admiring the exhibits. I told them my eyesight was not so good (no lie), and got them to look and tell me what they saw. They saw what I did.

By Permission The Folger Shakespeare Library.

Permission The Folger Shakespeare Library.

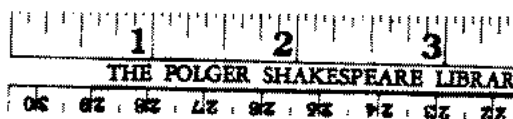
APXAIONOMIA,
SIVE
de priscis anglo-
rum legibus libri, scilicet nonne An-
glico, veritate antiquissima, aliquot ab-
hinc seculis conscripti, atque tunc
denum, magno iudicio, &
auctoritate antiquitatis omni-
um commode, & tenebris
in lucem vocati.
Gulielmo Lambardio interpres.
Regem qui has Leges, & consuetudines
tenet, Et quod praeceps accepit, alie-
na ministrata pagenay
LONDON
An. 1508
ex officina Joannis De-
VIC. GRATIA R.
Regis Majestatis

Title-page
X 2

Title-page area
X 2

Deposition "signature"

Shakespeare Oxford Soc., Inc.
913 "F" St. N. W., Rm. 612
Washington, D. C. 20004



Handwritten signature: W. T. ...

In hoc opere continentur,
Leges { Ina, Occidantur Saxonum Regis.
Alfredi, totius Angliae Regis.
Fodius, & Gulielmi Regum.
Edwardi, & Gulielmi Regum.

Verso of Title-page

11 - 56 - 11
In hoc opere ci

Verso of title-page
X 2
Negative reversed

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Verso of title-page
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Negative reversed

Professor Knight's "Discovery" of the "Million Dollar Dot" and the New Shakespeare Signature.

Readers may recall that in our January 1972 News-Letter there was some reference to the above which had considerable play in the national press in August 1971, and which we rightly, in my opinion, denominated as a last year's bird-nest and a last generation's mare's nest. In the same N-L we reproduced a release of the Folger Library on it, together with a dim and unsatisfactory picture of the Archai-onomia. We also promised more on it later. However, as there was nothing more in the press, and though Prof. Knight said he was going to read a paper on it at the upcoming First World Shakespeare Congress in Vancouver in August 1971 in which it would be discussed by scholars; we have seen nothing on it nor have found any of those who attended who know anything about such a discussion, if it did occur, so we decided to drop it, to make room for more timely and important matters. Nevertheless, several have written that they are looking forward to it- our comments- and Prof. Knight has been quoted in an interview in the Associated Press as late as March. 19, 1972, as having made some "discoveries" which authenticate(?) the "signature" and proved the close relationship with Wm. Lambarde and Wm. of Stratford; we will do the best we can, for your information. It may also throw some light on the quality and depth of present research by "Shakespeare Authorities".

Professor Knight's claims and findings are taken from direct quotes attributed to him in the New York Times, the Christian Science Monitor, the Washington Post, the Washington Evening Star, et al. As these stories carry a by-line by various reporters, and closely correspond with each other, I can but assume they are correct, and truly reflect his position, especially in the absence of any demurral from him.

For convenience, and to save time and space, and money, the salient points made by Prof. Knight are summarized below and designated by letters of the alphabet, i.e. (a, b) etc, and will be commented upon sequentially. The comments are categorical and dogmatic, for the sake of brevity, but can be supported by proof, if challenged. Speculation, when it occurs, will be identified as such.

a) Identifies the Wm. Shakspeare penned on title page of "Arch". as corresponding to "deposition" signature and says it sheds new light on poet's expertise in law. b) Giles Dawson of Folger in 1941, said it was not a forgery, stopping short of positive identification, because autograph appeared to be too fragmented. c) In March 1971 he found, by use of ultra violet ray, a dot in the loop of the W, a characteristic of Shakespeare autographs. d) Wm. Lambarde was a distinguished Judge of the Chancery, England's highest court; was one of the four Judges of Chancery; a Master of Chancery was the equivalent of a U.S. Supreme Court Justice; Lambarde was master of Lincoln's Inn. e) Found that L. and Shp. would have been in the same room, the same day, perhaps talking to each other. In all likelihood Shp. borrowed the book from the author, which would account for the presence of the autograph.

The meeting took place in 1596 at the Court of Chancery. At the time L. was one of the four Judges. At the time Shakespeare was served with an injunction sought by Wm. Gardener, a notorious Justice of the Peace, who complained he had been ridiculed in the character of Shallow in the Merry Wives of Windsor. f) Lambarde was master(sic) of Lincoln's Inn, which means he selected entertainment for the students, hence must have known Shakespeare as author of the plays. g) These fragments of the scholarly jig-saw puzzle have led Dr. Knight to conjecture(only use of the word) that the association with Lam. who enjoyed Q. E's confidence, may have saved Shp. from prison or even execution, over Essex rebellion. h) Cites an obscure notation on vellum cover of Lam's. book, indicating that Shp. lived in Westminster near the law courts between 1588 and 1592, concluded that the bard was earning his livelihood as a public notary, writing plays at night.

Categorical Comments on Claims.

a) and b). Dr. Dawson did not authenticate "signature" as genuine. (how could he?) Expressed his opinion it was not a forgery, because it did not resemble others, and believed known forgers, such as Ireland or Collier, would have tried to have it resemble one of them. Dr. Knight says it is genuine and authentic because of the close resemblance to the "deposition" signature! When doctors disagree etc! Turn to the reproductions, and see for yourself how closely the S and the lower-case h and a resemble each other. c) The dot in the loop of the W is not a characteristic of "Shakespeare Signatures". Where the "William" appears, it is in a handwriting markedly dissimilar from the that in the attempts to spell the surname, and suggests the handiwork of a clerk or scrivener. In the "Secretarie Alphabete", or copybook for scribes in the 16th Cent., there were sometimes dots or parallel short lines, horizontal or vertical, used to fill up empty spaces in the capital C, D, O, Q, and T, and sometimes the last whorl in the W. This was for symmetry or decoration. Professional or clerical writers or copyists used them occasionally in fancy writings or headings of documents, but in practice they were inclined to narrow the spaces in these letters and drop the ornamentation. But, nowhere in any document, or example of 16th or 17th Cent. autographs, have I been able to find any signature of anybody whose first or last name began with a "W" who put a dot in the W. This includes all the signatures in "Dr. Greg's Lit. Autographs of 16th and 17th Cents"; examples from the B.M. and Essex County Records, etc. Furthermore no expert that I consulted, knows of such, and in fact the Archivist of the Essex County Record Office, gave as his opinion, that I could safely make the above statement without fear of successful contradiction. Ironical, is it not? d) Wm. Lambarde, the Historian of Kent, was a distinguished antiquary, and historian, but never a judge of any court, much less of the Chancery, or anything corresponding to a U.S. Supreme Court Justice. He was not a Master of Lincoln's Inn. I have never heard there was such an office. He was a Benchet of Lincoln's Inn, by coaptation on Feb. 9, 1578-9. The same year he was appointed a Justice of the Peace in Kent. At one time one of the Judges, no doubt a friend of his and probably from Lincoln's Inn, did designate him as a Master in Chancery. This is not, and never was, a judicial officer. It is an administrative, or clerical office, ranking below clerks, bailiffs, etc. The master in chancery, like similar appointments on the law side, performed such odd duties as the court assigned from time to time. Many times he took testimony as to the facts in dispute, wrote a report for the Court, who then decided the law in the matter, based on the testimony. We have Masters in Chancery in some states in the U.S. whose duties are similar to a Notary Public in presiding over the taking of depositions in pretrial proceedings. In England, a barrister told me that Masters have been referred to as "the scullions of the court." There is nothing dishonorable or base implied, but is a form of petty patronage a judge can throw to a friend, relative, or needy attorney, such as a conservator, trustee, guardian, etc. whose fee can come from the costs of a suit assessed against the loser, or beneficiary of the services performed. Describing this as equivalent to a high judicial one, is strictly from ignorance. e) This is high-class "finding", such as is seldom encountered nowadays. If the good Dr. has found what he says he has from the "dot" and authentic signature, the day that Lam. and Shp. actually met, that Gardiner had complained he had been ridiculed etc. and had sued Shp. etc.; then he has the qualifications to find the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow, whose discovery can be expected any day now. Meanwhile I will suspend my skepticism, and await the "discovery" of the historical tragedy-"Vortigern." g) Lambarde did not enjoy Q.E.'s confidence, as the entry in his diary, of a meeting he had with her, two weeks before his death, clearly implies. h) Obscure notation?: this is the plainest writing on the copy of Archaionomia, next only to the printing on opposite page. It is so plainly a "springe to catch woodcocks", that my surmise that it was just another of the pranks of George Steevens, who delighted in playing practical jokes to embarrass the pompous pundits and pedants, is still appealing, to me at least; though deferring to the judgement of Mr. Barrell and Mr. Roderick Eagle, I have to concede that the "sign-

nature" with the magic dot, is just another example of the handiwork of William Ireland (1777-1835), Sir Sidney Lee, in his *Life of Shakespeare*, 1917 Edition, tells us that this versatile solicitor's clerk, beside forging many legal instruments and parts of the plays, "also inserted copies of the dramatist's signature on the title pages of many sixteenth century books and often added notes in the same feigned hand on their margins." Numerous sixteenth-century volumes embellished by Ireland in this manner are extant in the British Museum, and in private collections."

In our Jan. 1972 N-L, we reprinted the fact sheet put out by the Folger re the possible "Shakespeare signature" in one of its copies of *Archaionomia* which said; "On the inside of the front cover is written in a late eighteenth-century hand; 'Mr. Wm Shakspeare Lived at No. 1 Little Crown St Westminster NB near Dorset steps St. James Park'". The "conclusion" that this offers evidence that Shakespeare was living near the law courts between 1588-92, earning his livelihood as a public notary, writing his plays at night, is ludicrous. It is also a bit sad that a Ph.D. in Eng. Lit, should have arrived at it. Why? 1) Streets were not numbered in London before the latter part of 18th Century (1764 is usually given as the date). 2) Nowhere on any map of London, or list of street names, can there be found a Little Crown St. 3) No record of any Dorset steps St James Park. An educated guess would place the time of this entry, as circa 1796, when Steevens and Wm. H. Ireland were active. I like Steevens for this hoax, because he, who was probably the ablest critic and scholar of "Shakespeare" in his time or later, would have known that streets were not numbered in the 16th Century in London, while Ireland would not, having been born thirteen years after numbering started. Steevens promoted the "Felton Portrait" with a twinkle in his eye; and once took a block of slate, etched some Scandian runes on it, then put it in a shop window in Kennington, from which he claimed it had been dug up, and said it was the will of King Hardicanute. This was accepted by the pundits of the Learned Societies, who wrote papers on it, until Steevens disclosed the hoax, and laughed at them.

"Small Latin and less Greek!"

At one time in this country, well within the memory of some now living, you could not get a Bachelor of Arts in the Humanities from any college, without having acquired a certain proficiency in Latin and Greek. Whether or not that is requisite now for a Ph. D. in Eng. Lit., I would not know. Certain positive statements attributed in the press to one of the learned doctors, does raise a doubt. "*Archaionomia*" was not compiled by Wm. Lambarde as a law primer, or source book for precedents in Anglo-Saxon law. It was compiled by Dean Lawrence Nowell, a noted historian, and clergyman, and Anglo-Saxon specialist. Wm. Lambarde studied history and Anglo-Saxon under him at Lincoln's Inn in 1556. Nowell had made a compilation of Anglo-Saxon laws, in manuscript, previously. At one time he gave his student the assignment to turn this into Latin, as part of his Anglo-Saxon studies. In England then there were probably five hundred scholars that could read Latin; to one, who knew Anglo-Saxon. In parallel passages it was an aid to the study of Anglo-Saxon. Lambarde performed this task so well, that he, or somebody else, had it printed in 1568, twelve years later. It may have been used in some instance, as a reference book by historians. But that it would have been of any use to a notary in 1596, or help a Stratford rustic to defend himself in a suit for libel or defamation, or to prosecute another suit his father had brought to get back a 400 acre farm, is a strain upon credulity. (All references to "Asbies" give Anne's inheritance as 50 acres. Just why Dr. Knight should feel it desirable to multiply this by a factor of 8, is open to conjecture.) But William Lambarde did compile and publish a law-manual in 1581. Written in a clear and unaffected style, this manual remained for a long time the standard authority. Blackstone recommended its study, it was reprinted seven times between 1582 and 1610."

The office of Justice of the Peace, or Magistrate, in England then, as well as now, is an un-paid one. The magistrate is not a lawyer necessarily, in fact seldom is, but appointed from the gentry, or prominent landowners of integrity and standing in the community. The office is one of honor, and performed as a duty owed to the community. At present a clerk, one with knowledge of law and procedure, is furnished to help the J.P., and gets a salary. City magistrates, or Police Judges give their full time and are paid salaries. Lambard "fulfilled his duties honorably, and expounded them in "Eirenarcha" or the Office of Justices of Peace" in two books, gathered 1579 and now revised and first published 8vo. London 1581."

"Arch" in Greek has two meanings- as it does in English. 1) First, old, or chief, when used as a prefix, and 2) ruler, usually at the end of a word. Archbishop, archaeology, arch-criminal etc. At the end; Monarch, patriarch, oligarch, etc. Eirenarcha is peace-ruler. A minor magistrate in Eastern Roman Empire was called Eirenarch. Irene (goddess of peace) + ruler. Archaismonia = Old laws (nomen + law).

I am surprised that a Ph.D. should confuse them, even if they do sound something alike, both having an "arch." Or is it a case of "Greek to me"? If so, it is too bad for our modern Casca, because the magic dot is in, or on, Archaismonia, and not on the law-manual Eirenarcha. Incidentally, when I was confirming my understanding that there had never been a "No. 1, Little Crown St." in Westminster, at the Middlesex Record Office, I was shown a copy of Lambard's Eirenarcha, which the lady in charge was getting ready to put on exhibition. It is much thicker than the Archaismonia, and well preserved.

Now as to Latin. Dr. Knight is quoted in the "Times" of Aug. 19. 1971 as offering evidence that Shakespeare was a notary in Westminster. "The first contemporary references appeared in 1592 in works by Greene and Nashe, two authors in Westminster, who seem to seem to allude to Shakespeare as a "noverint", a coined Latin word for those who write last wills and testaments. (Italics mine). The allusion is strengthened, in Dr. Knight's opinion, by a subsequent satirical notation by Nashe: "There's a dramatist who has left the trade of noverint and produces whole Hamlets out of Seneca by candlelight." This is utter nonsense. The quotation from Nashe, is so garbled and changed as to suggest that Dr. K. had never read it, or if he has, that he is incapable of understanding it. (It is well-known to non-Ph.D's, and generally understood to be a "dig" against Thos. Kyd, whose father was a scrivener.) That it is proof that Shakespeare was a notary, is on a par with the delusion that there ever was a law-suit "Shallow v. Shakespeare or Shp. v. Shallow". Dr. Leslie Hotson, of Indiana Univ. wrote a book of imaginative fiction with such a title. Dr. K., who took his Ph.D. at Indiana U, may have thought it "for real". Citing such a "case" as evidence or proof of anything, is like a man with a grant to study law and equity, wanting to give an example, or a rule, of evidentiary procedure in Victorian England; should cite Queen of Hearts v. Knave of Hearts (larceny); Rex of H., Justice Presiding, A. in W. Chap. xii. L. Carroll Reports. The whole thing "Million Dollar Dot" does sound like "Alice in Wonderland". Or, perhaps more apropos, "Through the Looking Glass with Nicholas". (Knight's name Nicholas.)

Noverint Universi Per Praesentis. English translation: "Know all men by these presents". This was one of the best known Latin Law phrases, to lawyers and laymen alike, for it was the first four words at the beginning of writs, deeds, powers of attorney, etc, etc. A "coined word" forsooth! A first year Latin student would recognize it as a tense of nosco, novare, notus.

Assuming, and there is no reason not to, that Dr. Knight did find a "dot" by use of ultra violet ray, what kind of "proof" is that, and of what? The page is sprinkled with "dots", as you can see with the naked eye. A dot on a document could be a punctuation mark, a place where the point of the pen rested before beginning another letter, or, perish the thought!, a fly speck. There is an old Latin saying: ex ungulae leonem, sometimes ex ungulae bovem = to reconstruct the lion from a talon, or the whole ox from the hoof. Is it unkind to suggest we may have here, a case of EX MACULÄ MUSCÄ AD NIDUM EQUAE?

Random Reflections and Miscellany on "Million Doller Dot" Discussion.

Oxfordians may recognize that Dean Lawrence Nowell, was also a tutor employed by Sir Wm. Cecil, Master of Werds to instruct the young Earl of Oxford, in history, etc. When his pupil was only thirteen and a half years old, the scholarly dean wrote Cecil: "I clearly see that my work for the Lord of Oxford cannot much longer be required" and asked to be given some other assignment. Arthur Golding, his uncle, was his Latin Tutor around the same time. Some Oxfordians, of whom I am one, but not the first, think that it is not improbable, that Golding assigned the exercise in Latin of "Englissing" of Ovid's *Metamorphoses*, to his student; as did Dean Nowell five or six years before; that is, the Latinizing of the Anglo-Saxon compilation, to his then pupil, Wm. Lambarde.

This summer in England I found that the copy of *Archaionomia*, now Folger's, was bought by Mr. Roderick Eagle, a well known Baconian, from a junk shop in Forest Hill in the 1930's, for two shillings, six pence; 2/6. He says: "I well remember the 'William Shakspeare' signature but considered it to be a forgery, probably by Wm. Henry Ireland, who was a clerk to a lawyer towards the end of the 18th century, when he was active with Shakespeare forgeries which were clever enough to fool the 'experts' of his time. I lent the book to Mr. Wm. T. Smedley, a prominent Baconian who had a fine library of Elizabethan and Jacobean books. He never returned the book, and after his death a number of his books were sold at Sotheby's, - mine among them. The lot which included my book found its way to the Folger Library. I feel quite satisfied that by losing the book I am not the poorer by £400,000!"

(note. Mr. Roderick Eagle, a marine insurance appraiser, is now retired and living at Falmouth, Cornwall. He gave an affidavit in the Hopkin's Trust case, 1964, which we published in our News-Letter. Mr. Wm. T. Smedley sold his great collection of Baconiana to Mr. Henry C. Folger in 1922 through a San Francisco rare book dealer, Mr. Howell. It is now in the Folger.)

The Present Position of the Folger Shakespeare Library on this "Signature." Hearsay - sometimes second- or third-hand statements in the papers quoted above, can, and do, give an erroneous impression of the position of the Director of the Folger, on the authenticity of this "seventh Shakespeare signature". The London Telegraph in a despatch from America Aug 20 1971 says "A Washington Library believes it has the only signature of William Shakespeare known to exist in America. There are six in England. If it is genuine, says Dr. W. Nicholas Knight, an authority on the legal and literary life of Elizabethan England, it makes the book in which it was found worth at least 400,000 pounds. It was bought by the Folger Library at Sotheby's in 1941 for One Pound." The implication here is that Dr. Knight is speaking for Folger.

Dr. Knight made his "discovery" in the presence of Mrs. Laetitia Kennedy-Skipton Yeandle, the Folger's expert on English Secretary handwriting, in March 1971. As far as known, no public statement or release was given out by her, or Dr. O.B. Hardison, the Director, at that time or later, until direct questions were asked of the Director by reporters of the metropolitan press after Dr. Knight had succeeded in attracting its attention in Aug. 1971. Dr. Hardison gave the history of the book, as known to Folger, and that a study was made of it in 1940-1 by Dr. Giles Dawson, when Dr. J. Q. Adams was director. He has never made the claim, that this is a genuine signature of Shakespeare. While he and the Library would be tickled to death to have someone prove that it had something worth \$1,000,000 (as who wouldn't?), it has no official position on the matter and takes no sides, which is eminently correct and proper. Dr. Hardison stated then: "It is an intriguing situation. But the Library cannot make any claim one way or another. It is up to the scholarly world to examine the pros and cons in perspective." That is still his position, over a year later. Unfortunately, the "scholarly world" does not recognize its responsibility, and is ignoring it in a big way.

Sincerely yours for E. Ver,
Shakespeare Oxford Society by
Richard C. Horne, jr. President.