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Back issues of **The Oxfordian** may be obtained by writing to newsletter@shakespeareoxfordfellowship.org

Cover Photograph: Janice Jackson

Our front cover is a detail of the Norman Great West Door of Rochester Cathedral in Kent, England. The selection of the door-and-key motif for this issue was prompted by a statement by Charles Beauclerk in the documentary *Last Will. & Testament*, produced by Lisa and Laura Wilson:

No historian has penetrated, yet, the mysteries of the Elizabethan age. It's like going through a series of doors. We've got through three or four doors and maybe there are three or four to come. I've learned not to take anything for granted in the Elizabethan age and to never assume that you have the whole truth, and also never to be shocked by any of the revelations that might come out. (Beauclerk 1:00:56)

Acknowledgments

This volume of The Oxfordian owes it existence to the continuous support of the journal's editorial board who have reviewed submitted articles, advised the editor, and provided much supplementary support and enthusiasm.

Wally Hurst Tom Regnier Linda Theil

Ron Hess

Ramon Jimenez

Don Rubin

Lynne Kositsky Richard Waugaman

Jim Boyd

Justin Borrow

+ + +

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The editor thanks everyone listed above for their ongoing support, and additionally thanks readers of this journal, without whom, it would not thrive.



Cable of Contents

1. Honest Ben and the Two Tribes He Hath Left Us

by Gabriel Andrew Ready7

* Examines and critiques the publication in 2012 of the *Cambridge Edition of the Works of Ben Jonson.* * "I have long been aware of how the Stratfordian presumption skews Shakespearean scholarship. This article shows how it is also skewing Jonsonian scholarship." – Tom Regnier. * Fresh analysis and point-of-view to the manner in which Jonson presents himself in the prefatory material of the First Folio.

2. Knowledge Ill-Inhabited: The Subjugation of Post-Stratfordian Scholarship in Academic Libraries

* Outlines the influence of Library Sciences on the Shakespeare Authorship Question. * Reviews the cataloguing practices of the Library of Congress, the purchasing practices of modern libraries, and the relationships between English departments and their libraries in a university context. * Surveys the terrain for post-Stratfordian titles and Stratfordian titles, and comes to fascinating and chilling conclusions. * Discusses the politics of academic dissent, and shows how the placement of a book within a library system, can confer or deny meaning, with far-reaching consequences for Oxfordian theory.

3. Spinning Shakespeare

* Adaptation of a presentation given at the 2012 joint conference of the Shakespeare Fellowship and the Shakespeare Oxford Society. * Describes his experience at York University of lobbying for departmental approval to teach a course on the SAQ. * How he delivered such a course to 4th year undergraduates. * Includes appendixes such as an overview of the course materials, insights about organizing the SOF's Toronto conference in 2013, and the price paid by academics who speak openly of reasonable doubt about the man from Stratford.

4. A Nearly Forgotten Article by J. Thomas Looney

* A reprint of an article by J.T. Looney from 1922, published in the first issue of a

British journal called The Golden Hind. * In *The Earl of Oxford as 'Shakespeare': New Evidence,* Looney deepens our understanding of the negotiations over Anne Cecil's failed engagement to Phillip Sidney, and explores how her eventual marriage to Edward de Vere is itself explored in *The Merry Wives of Windsor* * Warren provides provenance for the Looney essay, and describes how he obtained an original copy of this issue of The Golden Hind.

5. Is Greene's Groats-worth of Wit about Shakespeare, or By Him?

Examines the possible relationship between Robert Greene, William Shakespeare, and Edward de Vere * Makes the thesis that neither Greene and Shakespeare existed as writers and that Robert Greene was a pseudonym created by Oxford and that "Shakespeare" was an allonym, undertaken through a connection to the Stratford man. * Examines linguistic parallels between Greene's plays and Shakespeare's; cites the many dedications attached to Greene's works that name relations of the 17th Earl of Oxford.

6. "A Mint of Phrases in His Brain" : Language, Historiography, and The Authorship Question in *Love's Labour's Lost*

A historical summary of critical opinions on *Love's Labour's Lost.* * Reviews the generally negative appraisal of the play over two centuries, caused by misidentification of the author. * Examines the way in which this play differs from other Shakespeare comedies. * Connects sources to the text, and argues its purpose for being written becomes less problematic, if readers can accept a court insider as the author.

7. Subliminal Chaucer in Shakespeare's History Plays

Addresses the few studies of Chaucer's influence on Shakespeare's writing, how they only make connections between Chaucer's *Troilus and Criseyde* and Shakespeare's *Troilus and Cressida* or between Chaucer's *The Knight's Tale* and Shakespeare's *The Two Noble Kinsmen.* * Connects many of Chaucer's lesser-known works to Shakespearean works. * Adds to our understanding of the writerly relationship between the two founding figures in the English canon.

8. The Rediscovery of Shakespeare's Greater Greek

by Earl Showerman 163

* Summarizes and updates Showerman's previously published articles on the ques-

tion(s) of Shakespeare's knowledge of Greek, his sources, and the literary and linguistic parallels between works by Sophocles, Euripides, and Aeschylus and Shakespeare plays such as *Hamlet*, *Macbeth*, *Timon of Athens*, *The Winter's Tale*, and *Much Ado About Nothing*.

9. Oxfordian Theory and Continental Drift

Compares the history of Oxfordianism, with the history of the theory of Continental Drift, first proposed by German geophysicist Alfred Wegener in 1915. * Outlines valuable insights for Oxfordians from the story of how continental drift was gradually accepted. * Surveys the issue of methodology in research, especially when belief systems are undergoing change or experiencing pressure to change.

10. My Oxfordian Bookshelf

An appreciative look at *A Question of Will*, a young adult adventure novel by Lynne Kositsky that dives into the essence of the Shakespeare Authorship Question. Inaugural column.

