Percy Allen was the most brilliant of that intrepid band of independent-minded scholars who suddenly appeared in England in the 1920s–1930s to challenge the entrenched dogma held by professors of English that the uneducated William Shakspere of Stratford-upon-Avon was the great playwright and poet William Shakespeare. Building on the work of J. Thomas Looney who had recently rescued Edward de Vere from literary obscurity, and analyzing newly-uncovered evidence free from the restraints of authority and conventional wisdom, Allen showed that the principal author of Shakespeare’s works couldn’t possibly have been anyone other than de Vere, who was recognized in his time as the best writer in England of comedies and tragedies, an admired poet and the most active sponsor of other writers and poets during England’s remarkable renaissance in language and literature during Queen Elizabeth I’s reign.

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