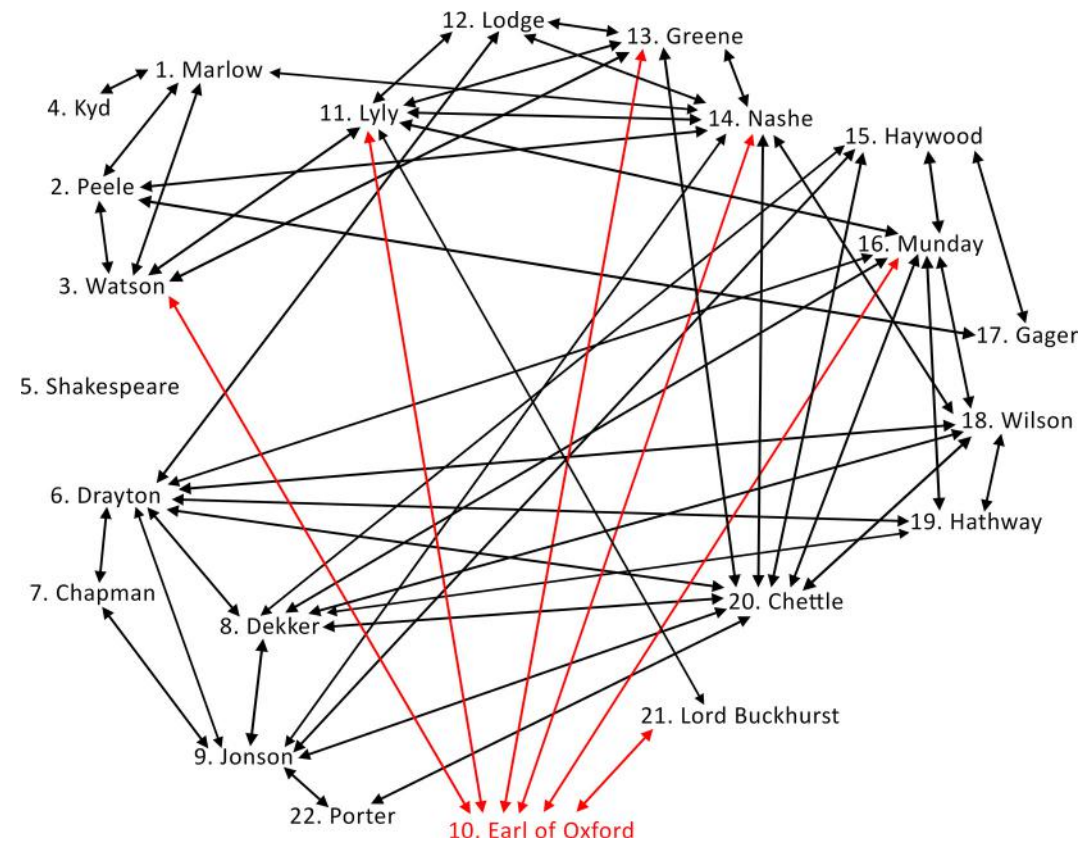




The actual evidence of social network theory and documentary records show **Michael Drayton** surrounded by numerous friends and literary colleagues, honoring them in many contexts, including public exchange of letters of friendship with Ben Jonson, and his poem to Reynolds.

This illustration (by Alexander Waugh) shows the true discrepancy manifest among all the Elizabethan writers mentioned in Francis Meres’s *Palladis tamia* in 1598. While Drayton is connected to his contemporary writers, it is **Shakespeare** who inhabits an “empty space”, with no documentary evidence of any links to his supposed peers.

—Roger Stritmatter



THE OXFORDIAN 24



Venus & Adonis, Titian’s interpretation of Ovid’s *Metamorphoses*