

Is That True? Shakespearean Explorations

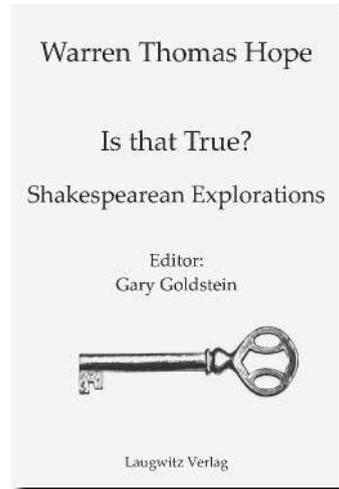
Reviewed by Michael Delahoyde & Don Ostrowski

Is That True? Shakespearean Explorations. By Warren Hope. Verlag Laugwitz, Germany, 2024, 200 pages (paperback \$12.00).

In addition to “learned and valiant,” one character in *Twelfth Night* is said to be “In voices well divulged,” meaning praised by many. The same may be said of both Shakespeare and Warren Hope, but with the additional subtler meaning that these latter two express themselves in a number of diverse voices, coming from single consistent perspectives. We can find this in the collection of Warren Hope’s writings, published here and covering half a century of original research and scholarship: articles, reviews, and other writings.

After concisely dismissing Shakspeare of Stratford and establishing Edward de Vere, 17th Earl of Oxford as the logical author behind the adopted name “Shakespeare,” Hope sheds Oxfordian light on a wide variety of topics such as identifying the inspiration behind Shakespearean characters, situating Shakespeare in the context of other writers of his time and later, and giving sound consideration to the *Sonnets* and their reception as both personal and published poems.

Hope appreciates others’ insights and scholarship too—historical, literary, biographical, even fictional. He also appreciates the others themselves,



offering admiring, informative, and touching obituaries for late Oxfordians. To our delight, in another tone of voice, he nevertheless pulls no punches when exposing Stratfordian misrepresentations, politics, and “fakery”; self-important academic empty jargon; or cheesy sentimentalism among commentators on Shakespeare.

Unifying all these divergent pieces is Hope urging us, inspiring us, to follow him in a love of the poetry and of the monumental accomplishments of the real Shakespeare.

Michael Delahoyde *is Professor of English at Washington State University.*

This compilation of eight articles and twenty-five reviews is an impressive selection of the epitomes of the published work of Prof. Warren Hope, who spent 50 years exploring and writing about the Shakespeare authorship question as a scholar of the English Renaissance.

Hope brilliantly lays out his literary evidence for concluding that the 17th Earl of Oxford (Edward de Vere) was the author of the works attributed to William Shakespeare. The articles in Part I of this collection demonstrate his reasons for arriving at that conclusion. While his reviews in Part II of books by those who support the conventional view and by those who support the Oxfordian view, as well as by those who try to circumvent the authorship question, are incisive.

The entire collection is complemented by an informative introduction, not only about the academic achievements of Hope, but also about the nature of the Elizabethan theater. All in all, *Is That True?* is a worthy contribution to the growing Oxfordian scholarly literature.

Don Ostrowski *is a History Lecturer and Research Associate at Harvard University.*