

FRANCIS BACON

SECRETS OF THE GOLDEN AGE PRINCE

APPENDIX F

SHAKESPEARE AUTHORSHIP SKEPTICS

Despite what the Stratfordian school of thought proclaims, there are many who have studied the Elizabethan period and the works of Shakespeare who have decided it was not the actor who wrote the plays.

This topic can often be an emotional one for lovers of the plays. People hold dear to their belief that a poorly educated actor could write the greatest plays in English literature.

Those who doubt this scenario are often attacked as “elitists.” The problem with such an attack is that these “Shakespeare skeptics” do not doubt the Stratford theory because they think a poorly educated person could never have innate poetic genius, they doubt it because the internal evidence of the plays shows an in-depth understanding of English law and Neoplatonic philosophy, and a fluent understanding of Latin, Greek, and many other languages. The actor from Stratford simply did not have the opportunity to learn *all* of these things.

Stratfordians often use Ben Jonson as proof that Shakespeare could know Greek and Latin and not have gone to Cambridge or Oxford. Ben Jonson himself was a brick layer’s son and had no higher education, yet was clearly well-versed in Latin. This may answer for proof that Elizabethan grammar schools taught Latin. The author of the Shakespeare plays, however, had to have not only known Latin but also specific events that happened in Cambridge and terms used by students there as well as the intricacies of English Law and inside jokes from Gray’s Inn. He had to have traveled abroad, lived as a courtier in not only the English court but European ones as well, been a part of the Virginia Company council, studied the works of the Neoplatonic

philosophers in their native Greek and been aware of scientific discoveries and theories that were as of yet unpublished.

In 1916 Judge Richard S. Tuthill of the Chicago circuit court, who was known to judge well and wisely, ruled that Francis Bacon wrote the Shakespeare plays.

The decision dissolved an injunction issued on the petition of William N. Selig, motion picture manufacturer, to restrain George Fabyan, publisher, and others from completing publication of books supporting the Baconian theory.

The court held that the name Shakespeare had been used simply as a disguise....

Judge Tuthill said: "That William Shakespeare was born April 23, 1564; that he went to London about 1586 or 1587; that for a time thereafter he made his living working for Burbage; that he later became an actor in Burbage's theatre, and in traveling theatrical companies; that he returned about 1609–1610 to live in Stratford-on-Avon, where he engaged in business to the time of his death, on April 23, 1616, and that Shakespeare was not an educated man, are allegations which the court finds true.

"The court further finds that Francis Bacon was born January 26, 1560; that he was educated not only in English, but in French, Latin, Italian, German, and had a general education equal or superior to any one of his age; that he was the compiler of a book of 1,560 axioms and phrases selected from the greatest authors and books of all time; that in his youth literary people were frowned upon in England, but in Paris—literary people were in the favor of the reigning powers and literature was having a renaissance. Bacon went to Paris in his early youth and spent several years in this atmosphere.

“The court further finds that by the published and accounted works of Francis Bacon there is given a cipher which Bacon devised in his early youth when in Paris, called the Biliteral cipher; that the witness, Elizabeth Wells Gallup, has applied that cipher according to the directions left by Francis Bacon and has found that the name and character of Shakespeare were used as a mask by Francis Bacon to publish facts, stories and statements contributing to the literary renaissance in England which has been the glory of the world.”

The court further claims that: “The claim of the friends of Francis Bacon that he is the author of said works of Shakespeare, and the facts and circumstances in the real bibliography of the controversy over the question of authority and the proofs submitted herein, convince the court that Francis Bacon is the author.”ⁱ

The judge was forced to “set aside” his judgment and send the case to another judge. The whole event was swept under the Stratfordian rug, but the proof still remains.

Below is a partial list of public figures who thought someone other than the actor wrote Shakespeare. Many think the true author was Francis Bacon, others believe it to be Edward de Vere, the 17th Earl of Oxford, who was in fact part of the circle that financed and helped Francis. Some on this list have only expressed their belief that it wasn't the actor from Stratford.

The Shakespeare Authorship Coalition published “The Declaration of Reasonable Doubt About the Identity of William Shakespeare.” It has been signed by many notable names from literary, theatric, and academic spheres. If you'd like to read it and perhaps even sign it yourself, check out <https://doubtaboutwill.org/>

List of Skeptics

- William Henry Smith (1856, wrote a small book for private circulation on Bacon's authorship)
- Miss Delia Bacon (1857, first to publicly proclaim Francis Bacon as the author)
- Lord Palmerston* (twice prime minister of England in 1850s–60s)
- Appleton Morgan (two articles published about Bacon's authorship in "Appleton's Journal," president of the New York Shakespearean Society for 40 years)
- Judge Nathaniel Holmes (published a book on Bacon authorship in 1866)
- Samuel Clemmons "Mark Twain" (author, published an essay stating Bacon's authorship)
- Sir James Plaisted Wilde (1902, published pro-Baconian book)
- Sir George Greenwood (1908, published pro-Baconian book)
- Dr. Samuel Johnson*
- Samuel Taylor Coleridge* (poet, literary critic, philosopher, theologian)
- Georg Gottfried Gervinus* (author)
- Charles Lamb*
- Alfred Lord Tennyson* (poet)
- Ralph Waldo Emerson* (poet, philosopher, abolitionist)
- James Russell Lowell* (poet, abolitionist)
- John Greenleaf Whittier* (poet, abolitionist)
- Henry James* (author)
- George Moore* (author)
- Friedrich Nietzsche* (philosopher)
- Sigmund Freud* (neurologist)
- Walt Whitman* (poet, essayist, journalist)
- Orson Welles (filmmaker, theatre/radio/film star, author)

- William Comyns Beaumont (author, journalist, lecturer)
- Helen Keller (author, educator)
- Georg Cantor (mathematician)
- James Joyce (author)
- William Henry Furness (theologian, abolitionist)
- Charlie Chaplin (actor)
- Malcolm X (human rights activist)
- Hamilton Basso (author, journalist)
- Prof. William Y. Elliott (Harvard)
- Sir Derek Jacobi (actor)
- Sir Mark Rylance (founding director of The Globe, actor)
- Charles Champlin (former *L.A. Times* arts critic)
- Prof. Michael Delahoyde (Washington State University)
- Prof. Robin Fox (Rutgers University)
- John Paul Stevens (U.S. Supreme Court Justice)
- Anne Rice (author)
- Frank Cho (comic book author/illustrator)
- Robin Williams (actor)
- Richard Maurice Bucke (author)
- Joseph Adler (award-winning director)
- Prof. Peter Atterton (San Diego State University)
- Matthew Eliot Ball (principal dancer of The Royal Ballet)
- Sophy Burnham (author)
- Michael William Cecil (8th Marquess of Exeter, 17th Earl of Exeter, 18th Baron Burghley)
- Norman Cohan (director of the Karpeles Manuscript Library Museum)
- Prof. Jean Patrick Connerade, PhD (Imperial College London)
- Ron Song Destro (playwright, director)
- Gosta Friberg (author, poet, translator)

- Emma Frost (Emmy/Golden Globe nominee, TV writer, producer)
- Kirk Jones (writer/film director; BAFTA nominated)
- Tony Lee (#1 *NY Times* bestselling writer, film, TV, comics)
- Oliver Pookrum (founder of the Pookrum Playhouse and the African-American Theater Lab)
- David Rains Wallace (author)

*These names were found in Arthur E. Briggs article; “Did Shaxper Write Shakespeare?” *American Bar Association Journal*, 46, no. 4 (1960): 410–12. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/25721149>.

ⁱ “The Baconian Shakespearians” *The Journal of Education*, vol. 83, no. 19 (May 11, 1916): 511–12. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/42825450>.