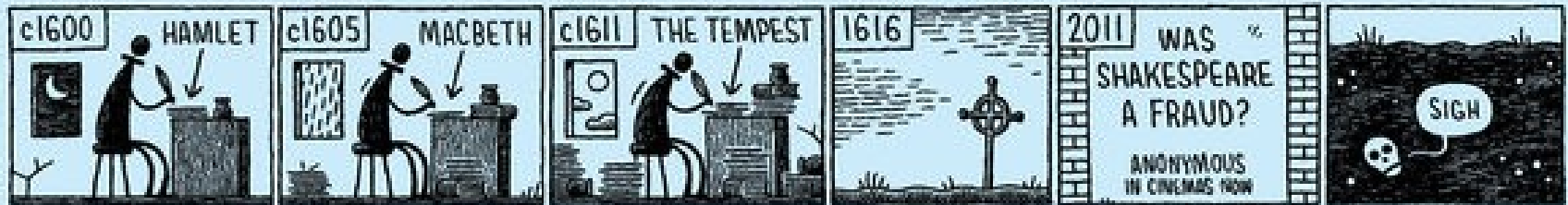# Stratford versus Oxford – Who penned *Shakespeare's Works?*

David E. Thomas
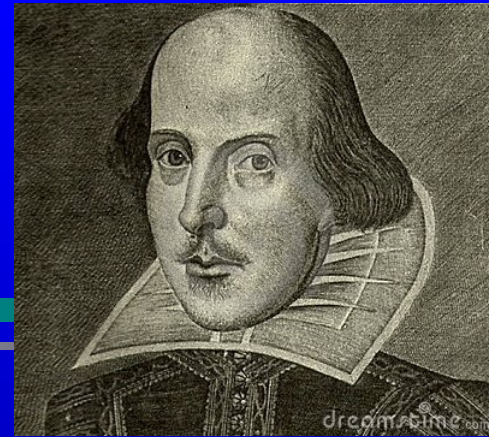
Friendly Philosophers

May 21st, 2012

nmsrdave@swcp.com

Roots of the Controversy

- **Shakespeare's humble origins *said* to be incompatible with poetic skill, genius...**

- **Lacked aristocratic education...**

- **Lacked aristocratic sensibilities...**

- **Lacked familiarity with Royal Court...**

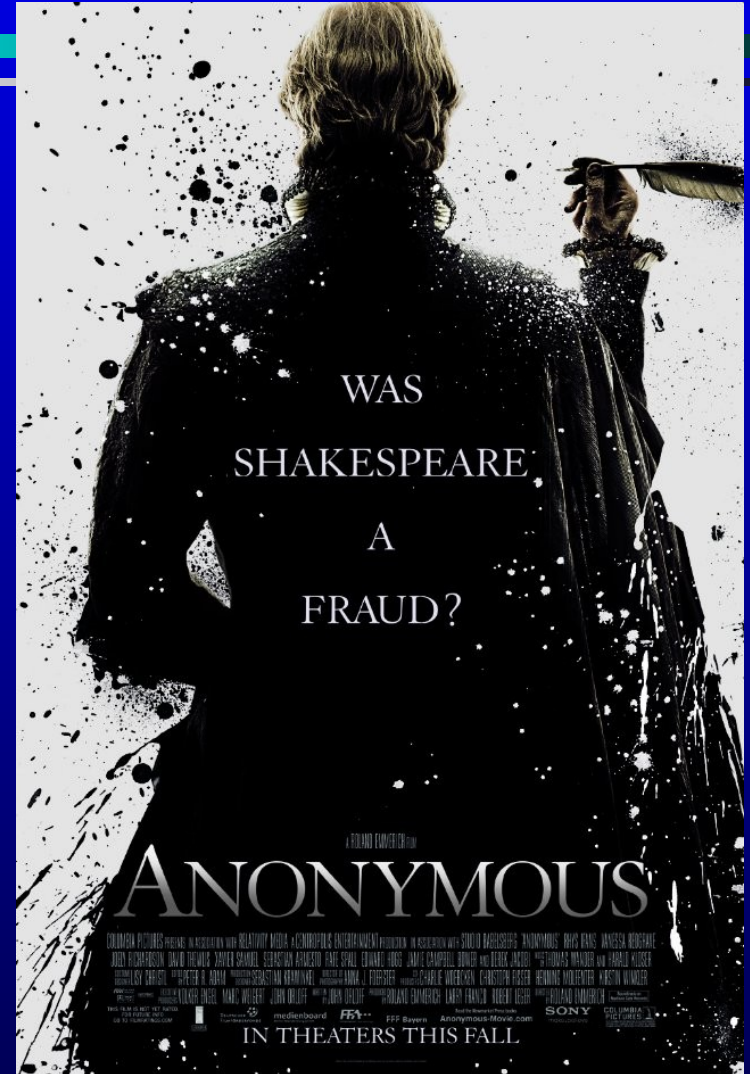- **Lack of records... part of a Conspiracy?**

Roland Emmerich Sets the Stage

- **Roland Emmerich**

  Stargate (1994), Independence Day (1996), The Patriot (2000), The Day After Tomorrow (2004), 2012 (2009), Anonymous (2011)

  Trailer: "10 reasons..."

WAS SHAKESPEARE A FRAUD?
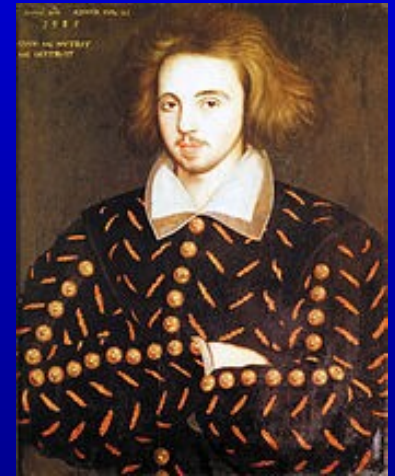
ANONYMOUS

IN THEATERS THIS FALL

Some Anti-Stratfordians

- **Mark Twain**
- **Walt Whitman**
- **Helen Keller**
- **Sigmund Freud**
- **Charlie Chaplain**
- **Orson Welles**

Some Candidates

- **William Stanley, 6th Earl of Derby**
  - **Christopher Marlowe**

- **Sir Francis Bacon**

- **Edward de Vere, 17th Earl of Oxford**

Oxford (de Vere)

- **Oxford's authorship hinges on supposed similarities between events in Oxford's life and those in Shakespeare's plays, sonnets and poems;**

- **Parallels of language usage and sentiments between Oxford's letters and Shakespeare's works;**

- **Several marked passages from Oxford's Bible appear in some form in Shakespeare's plays;**

- **Talented poet, playwright, knew theatre scene, long-term relationships with Queen Elizabeth, knowledge of court life ;**

Oxford (de Vere)

- **J. Thomas Looney's <u>Shakespeare Identified</u> (1920) brought Edward de Vere, 17th Earl of Oxford, to the fore.**

- **1952, Charlton and Dorothy Ogburn published the 1,300-page <u>This Star of England</u>, which included the Prince Tudor theory (Elizabeth and Oxford were lovers and had conceived a child);**

- **October 2011, Roland Emmerich's film <u>Anonymous</u> is released by Sony Pictures: the film "*presents a compelling portrait of Edward de Vere as the true author of Shakespeare's plays*";**
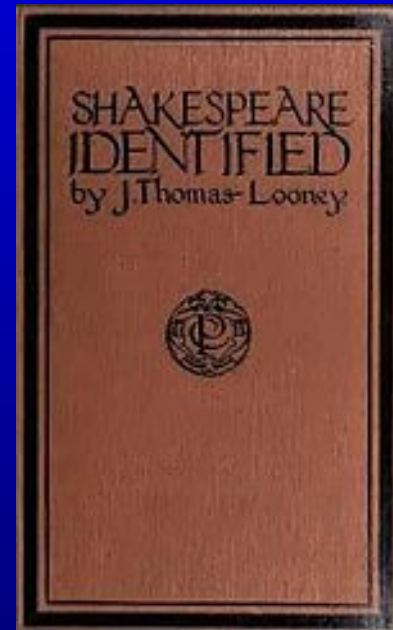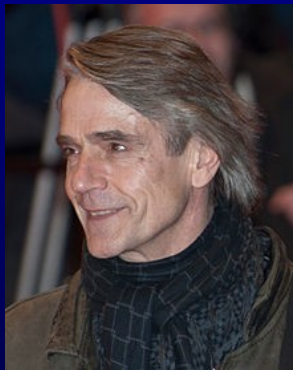
Meet the Oxfordians

- **Michael Chiklis**
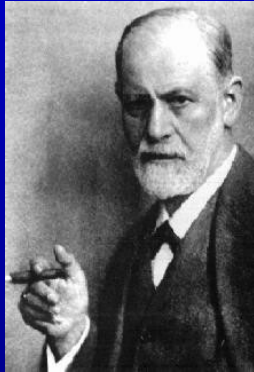
- **Sigmund Freud**

- **Sir John Gielgud**

- **Jeremy Irons**

Meet the Oxfordians

- **Antonin Scalia**

- **Michael York**

- **Roland Emmerich**
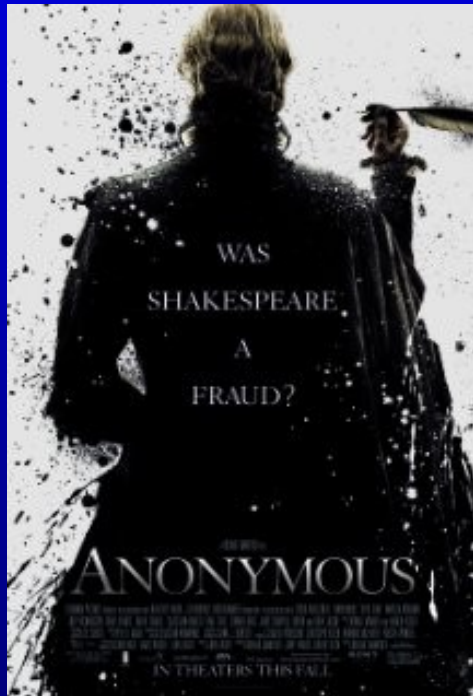 Stargate (1994), Independence Day (1996), The Patriot (2000), The Day After Tomorrow (2004), 2012 (2009), Anonymous (2011)

Anonymous (2011)

Rhys Ifans as Edward de Vere, 17th Earl of Oxford; Vanessa Redgrave as Elizabeth I; Roland Emmerich, Director; Joely Richardson as Young Queen Elizabeth I; David Thewlis as William Cecil.

Anonymous (2011)
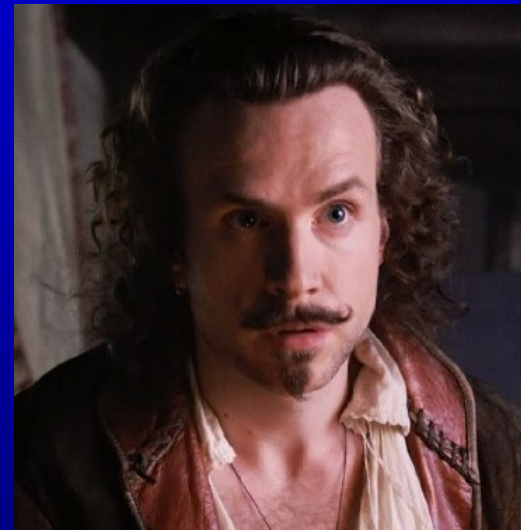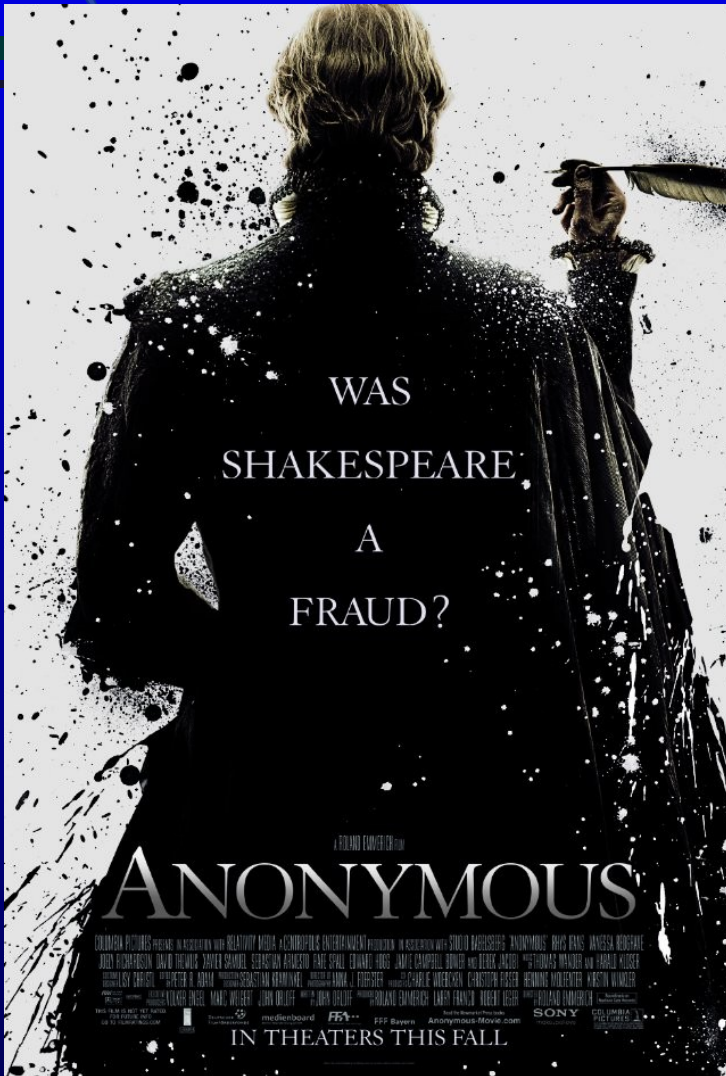
Oh yes, and Rafe Spall as William Shakespeare

Meet the Oxfordians

1987, Moot Court Debate with justices Blackmun, Brennan, and Stevens, found in favor of Shakespeare. Stevens: "...the Oxfordian case suffers from not having a single, coherent theory of the case."

- **John Paul Stevens**

Meet the Oxfordians

2009, Wall Street Journal article on Stevens' turnaround. Stevens: "Where are the books? You can't be a scholar of that depth and not have any books in your home. He never had any correspondence with his contemporaries, he never was shown to be present at any major event – the coronation of James or any of that stuff. I think the evidence that he was not the author is beyond a reasonable doubt."

- John Paul Stevens

Meet the Oxfordians (Cryptographic Clique)

- **Leroy Ellenberger**

- **Albert Burgstahler**

- **David Roper**

Hidden Messages are Real…

Code-Key Cryptography

Gus Simmons, SNL, Spoke to NMSR on "Zero Knowledge Proofs" (How to prove you know something without actually saying what it is.)

Was Shakespeare really the Earl of Oxford?

To the Reader.

This Figure, that thou here feeft put,
  It was for gentle Shakefpeare cut;
Wherein the Grauer had a ftrife
  with Nature, to out-doo the life :
O, could he but haue drawne his wit
  As well in braffe, as he hath hit
His face ; the Print would then furpaffe
  All, that was euer writ in braffe.
But, fince he cannot, Reader, looke
  Not on his Picture, but his Booke.

B. I.

Skeptical Inquirer Nov/Dec '11

Nickell's Conclusions...

- "The fact that Marlowe was killed in a tavern fight before the majority of the Bard's plays had been written did not faze the Marlovians."

- "The Loonies adopted 'Oxford' as their standard bearer even though he had died before King Lear, Macbeth, Antony and Cleopatra, and several other plays were performed."

- Much evidence WS was the author: records of birth, marriage, baptisms, and more.

- Science mistakes in the plays:for example giving Bohemia a seacoast, and noting clocks in ancient Rome.

Bohemia near the Sea...

Winter's Tale, ACT III, SCENE III.

Bohemia. A desert country near the sea.

Enter ANTIGONUS with a

Child, and a Mariner

ANTIGONUS

Thou art perfect then, our

ship hath touch'd upon

The deserts of Bohemia?

Clocks in Rome...

The Life and Death of Julius Caesar , ACT II, SCENE I.

BRUTUS

   Peace! count the clock.

CASSIUS

   The clock hath stricken three.

TREBONIUS

   'Tis time to part.

Wiki: "The word clock (from the Latin word *clocca*, 'bell'), which gradually supersedes 'horologe', suggests that it was the sound of bells which also characterized the prototype mechanical clocks that appeared during the 13th century in Europe."

Shermer, SciAm, 2009 Conclusions...

- **"Yet the plays make many allusions to the grammar school education that Shakespeare had and not to the university life held so dear by the skeptics; instead of Cambridge masters and Oxford dons, Shakespeare routinely references schoolmasters, schoolboys and schoolbooks."**

- **Shakespeare's father was a middle-class landowner, estate valued at ₤500 (₤50 could purchase a modest home), social standing as high as Marlowe's or Ben Jonson's;**

- **Hundreds of examples of literary and historical documents bolster Stratfordians, see book <u>The Case for Shakespeare</u> (Scott McCrea, Praeger 2008)**
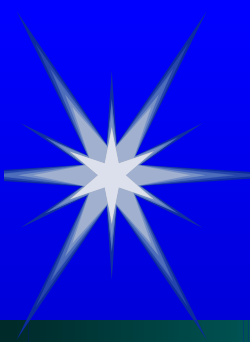
NY Times, Oct. 11th, 2011

"Wouldn't It Be Cool if Shakespeare Wasn't Shakespeare?" by Stephen Marche

"'Was Shakespeare a fraud?' That's the question the promotional machinery for Roland Emmerich's new film, 'Anonymous,' wants to usher out of the tiny enclosure of fringe academic conferences into the wider pastures of a Hollywood audience. ... First they came for the Kennedy scholars, and I did not speak out, because I was not a Kennedy scholar. Then they came for Opus Dei, and I did not speak out, because I was not a Catholic scholar. Now they have come for me. ... Thanks to 'Anonymous,' undergraduates will be confidently asserting that Shakespeare wasn't Shakespeare for the next 10 years at least, and profs will have to waste countless hours explaining the obvious. ..."
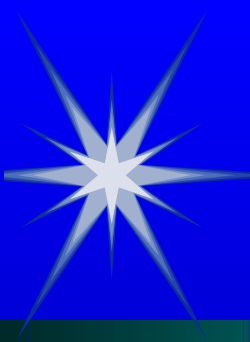
NY Times, Oct. 11th, 2011

"Wouldn't It Be Cool if Shakespeare Wasn't Shakespeare?" by Stephen Marche

"'Anonymous' subscribes to the Oxfordian theory of authorship, the contention that Edward de Vere, the 17th earl of Oxford, wrote Shakespeare's plays. Among Shakespeare scholars, the idea has roughly the same currency as the faked moon landing does among astronauts. The good news is that 'Anonymous' makes an extraordinarily poor case for the Oxfordian theory. ... Mistakes are plentiful and glaring. In an early scene, Shakespeare's contemporary Christopher Marlowe watches a new play, 'Henry V,' which supposedly happens on the same day that Lord Essex departs for Ireland. But Marlowe died in 1593, while Essex left for Ireland in 1599. ..."
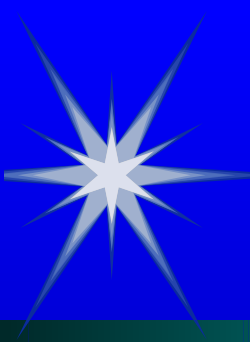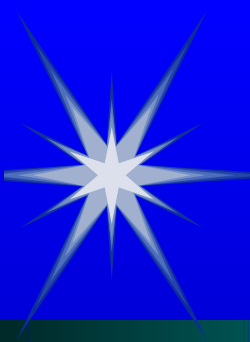
NY Times, Oct. 11ᵗʰ, 2011

"Wouldn't It Be Cool if Shakespeare Wasn't Shakespeare?" by Stephen Marche

"The theatrical censor responds with shock to the idea that in Shakespeare's version of 'Richard III,' the king is portrayed as a hunchback. But Shakespeare did not invent that idea. In the influential 'History of Richard III,' by Thomas More, written around 1516, Richard is 'little of stature, ill featured of limbs, crook backed, his left shoulder much higher than his right.' ... The craziest idea in 'Anonymous,' however, is that Edward de Vere wrote a version of 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' 40 years before its performance at court, putting the composition of the play somewhere around 1560. ... You can't write a hip-hop masterpiece before hip-hop has been invented. And you can't write 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' until English secular comedy has come into existence. ..."

NY Times, Oct. 11th, 2011

"Wouldn't It Be Cool if Shakespeare Wasn't Shakespeare?" by Stephen Marche

"It's the best of both worlds for Emmerich: he gets to question hundreds of years of legitimate scholarship without any need to be consistent with basic chronology, because, after all, it's just a movie. And if you take 'Anonymous' as just a movie, it may not even be that bad. ... the fatal weakness of the Oxfordian theory is chronological, a weakness that 'Anonymous' never addresses: the brute fact that Edward de Vere died in 1604, while Shakespeare continued to write, several times with partners, until 1613. 'Macbeth' and 'The Tempest' were inspired by events posthumous to the Earl of Oxford: the gunpowder plot in 1605 and George Somers's misadventure to Bermuda in 1609. How can anyone be inspired by events that happened after his death?"

The gunpowder plot in 1605

Guy Fawkes and The Gunpowder Plot 1605

August 10th, 2011   admin   0 Comments

by Alejandro_Cortés

On every November 5th 1605 we in England and all over the World including New Zealand, Newfoundland, South Africa, parts of the Canada and Caribbean and the British Overseas Territory of Bermuda celebrate the failed gunpowder plot by Guy Fawkes and his fellow catholics with a bonfire and the burning of an effigy called a "Guy" and the exploding of Fireworks. The failed plot involved the blowing up of the Houses of Parliament and the murder of the elite of England including the King James I, Princes, Lords and Parliamentarians.

Parallels: attack on a defenseless, busy, tired, weaponless King. (Macbeth's succeeded)
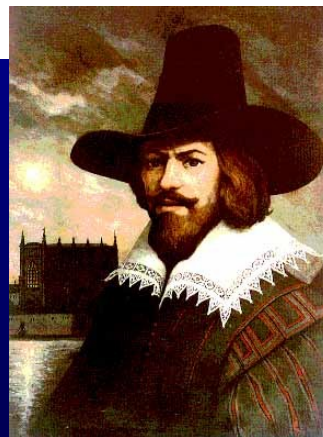
WE ARE ANONYMOUS

NY Times, Oct. 11ᵗʰ, 2011

"Wouldn't It Be Cool if Shakespeare Wasn't Shakespeare?" by Stephen Marche

" So, enough. It is impossible that Edward de Vere wrote Shakespeare. Notice that I am not saying improbable; it is impossible. ... Besides, no argument could ever possibly sway the Oxfordian crowd. They are the prophets of truthiness. 'It couldn't have been Shakespeare,' they say. 'How could a semiliterate country boy have composed works of such power?' **Their snobbery is the surest sign of their ignorance.** Many of the greatest English writers emerged from the middle or lower classes. Dickens worked in a shoe-polish factory as a child. Keats was attacked for belonging to the 'cockney school.' ... Unfortunately, the nonquestion of Shakespeare's identity is now being asked on billboards all over the world. It will raise debate where none should be. It will sow confusion where there is none. Somebody here is a fraud, but it isn't Shakespeare."

I Get Mail...

• Leroy Ellenberger

Subject: Really Proving Shakespeare
Date: Sat, 29 Oct 2011 11:59:18 -0700 (PDT)
From: Leroy Ellenberger <c.leroy@rocketmail.com>
To: kendrickfrazier@comcast.net
CC: Dave Thomas <nmsrdave@swcp.com>, James Shapiro <js73@columbia.edu>, scott.mccrea@purchase.edu, mshermer@skeptic.com, david.morrison@nasa.gov, wstansfi@calpoly.edu, jeoberg@comcast.net, rtc@skepdic.com, root@davidroper.eu, Albert Burgstahler <awburg@ku.edu>, spittle@es.co.nz, hhbauer@vt.edu, sturrock@stanford.edu

Ken, I regret to inform you that Joe Nickell's article "Did Shakespeare Write 'Shakespeare'?" in Nov/Dec Skeptical Inquirer is fatally flawed by ignoring the recently discovered PROOF that Edward de Vere was the author of the sonnets and plays attributed to William Shakespeare.

When Nickell writes "The fact is that there is no proof (innuendo and coincidence and mystery mongering are not proof) that 'Shakespeare' was written by anyone other than William Shakespeare" he assumes the role of another indignant, self-righteous "skeptic" who lacks command of the relevant literature.

I Get Mail...

• Leroy Ellenberger

In 2008, David Roper published <u>Proving Shakespeare</u> in which he reveals that Ben Jonson's inscription on the Stratford Monument contains a cryptogram in the form of an equidistant letter sequence (ELS) Cardano grille whose UNIQUE solution declares Edward de Vere to be the author the works attributed to William Shakespeare. Here is a brief description of this cryptogram from Albert Burgstahler's recent address in Washington, D.C.:

• David Roper

• Albert Burgstahler

Burgstahler: "The most detailed and compelling example of an ELS grille containing veiled contemporary testimony that Shakespeare was de Vere is undoubtedly that discovered by David L. Roper in the famous Stratford monument inscription dating from about the year 1620. Opening with: 'STAY, PASSENGER, WHY GOEST THOV BY SO FAST? / READ IF THOV CANST . . . ,' the six iambic pentameter lines in English following the opening two lines in Latin of the inscription clearly suggest the presence of a hidden message. Using a simple arithmetical trial procedure to decipher the six lines in English, Roper found a unique plain-text message concealed in a 34-column ELS grille ..."

I Get Mail...

Ellenberger: The decrypted message, signed at the end with the upward reading initials BI (I = J) for Ben Jonson (1572--1637), declares: SO TEST HIM, I VOW HE IS E DE VERE AS HE, SHAKSPEARE: ME, B. I. (SLIDE -- Figure 5) Later, Dr. Bruce Spittle in New Zealand spotted the clue for the 34 ELS array by the offset indentation of the 34-letter second Latin line of the inscription. The uniqueness of the 34-column grille is also attested by the fact that the 220 letters of the inscription in the order of their appearance, when set out in 51 ELS trial grilles ranging from 55 columns with 4 rows to 5 columns with 44 rows, only the 34-column grille contains a plausible vertical-reading message giving the name of a possible candidate, E. de Vere."
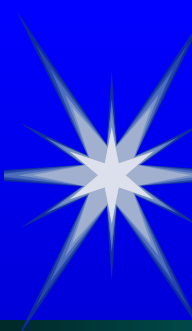
I Get Mail...

Ellenberger: This cryptogram cannot validly be dismissed on the grounds that it is just another "Bible code" exercise because its solution meets the criteria for literary codes set forth by the Friedmans in the 1950s. The Cardano grille cryptogram in the Stratford Monument is not alone, for other examples by de Vere and his associates asserting the identity have since been discovered, as Burgstahler reported in his October address. It is interesting to note that ALL of the cryptograms discovered to date concern Edward de Vere, to the exclusion of any other candidate such as Bacon and Marlowe. …

Was Shakespeare really the Earl of Oxford?
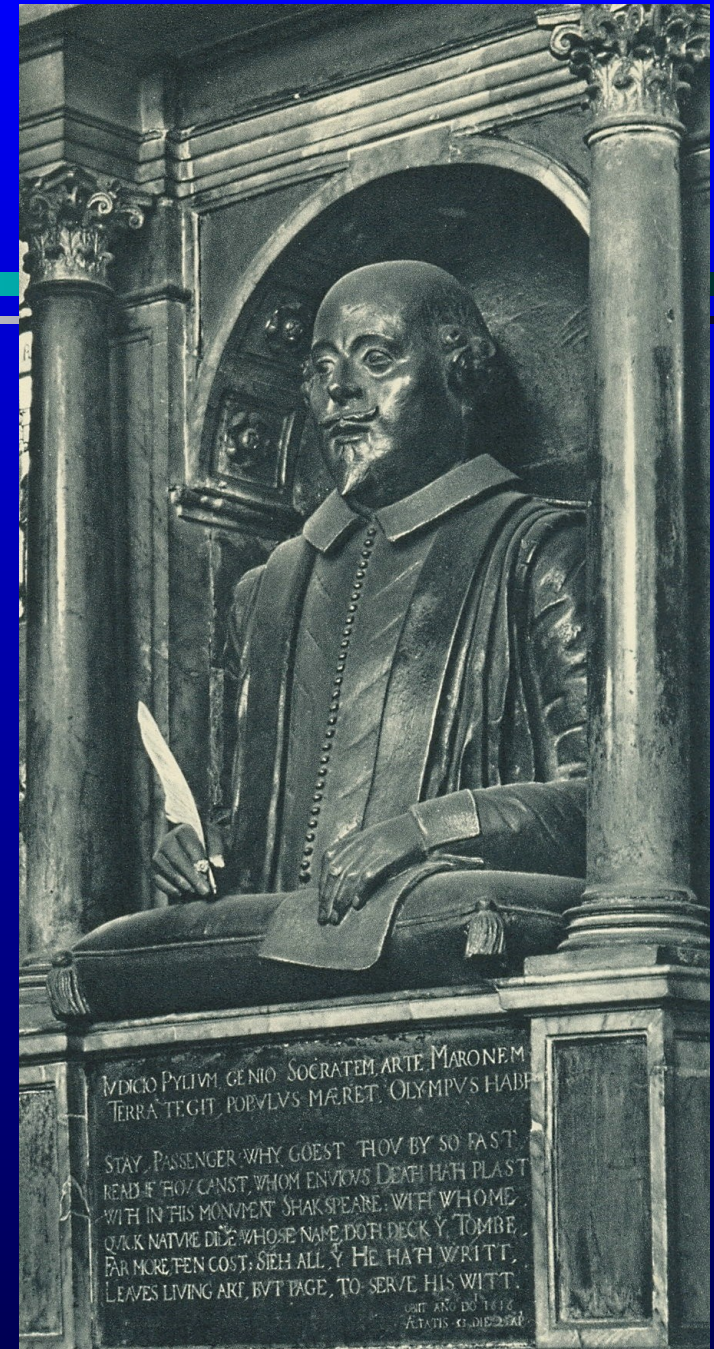
Was Shakespeare really the Earl of Oxford?

IVDICIO PYLIVM, GENIO SOCRATEM, ARTE MARONEM,
TERRA TEGIT, POPVLVS MÆRET, OLYMPVS HABET

STAY PASSENGER, WHY GOEST THOV BY SO FAST,
READ IF THOV CANST, WHOM ENVIOVS DEATH HATH PLAST,
WITH IN THIS MONVMENT SHAKSPEARE: WITH WHOME,
QVICK NATVRE DIDE: WHOSE NAME, DOTH DECK Y TOMBE,
FAR MORE, THEN COST: SIEH ALL, Y HE HATH WRITT,
LEAVES LIVING ART, BVT PAGE, TO SERVE HIS WITT.

OBIIT AÑO DO 1616
ÆTATIS ·53 DIE 23 AP·
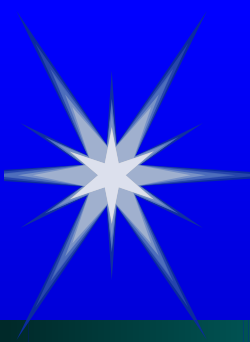
Roper, "Ben Jonson's Vow — Edward de Vere Is Shakespeare"

Roper : Having tested the names Bacon and Marlowe without success, I tried Vere. This resulted in a positive outcome, and immediately directed my attention to a 34-column grille. Upon drawing this grille and entering the letters of the sixaine in each cell, I quickly located the vertical alignment of the letters VERE, only to discover they were accompanied by 'E' and 'DE'. Admittedly 'DE' was immediately adjacent to VERE, and not in a direct line with his name, but since the 220 letters in the sixaine, when divided into 34 columns, result in 6.4 lines, it was easy to see there was insufficient space to place it in line with E VERE ...

Heads I Win, Tails You Lose...

Anything that *reveals* the "Message" must have been put there on purpose, to *transmit* the hidden information...

Alternatively, anything that *obscures* the "Message" must have been put there on purpose, to *conceal* the hidden information...

Was Shakespeare really the Earl of Oxford?

```
S T A Y P A S S E N G E R W H Y G O E S T T H O V B Y S O F A S T R
E A D I F T H O V C A N S T W H O M E N V I O V S D E A T H H A T H
P L A S T W I T H I N T H I S M O N V M E N T S H A K S P E A R E W
I T H W H O M E Q V I C K N A T V R E D I D E W H O S E N A M E D O
T H D E C K Y S T O M B E F A R M O R E T H E N C O S T S I E H A L
L Y T H E H A T H W R I T T L E A V E S L I V I N G A R T B V T P A
G E T O S E R V E H I S W I T T
```

David L Roper © 2011: "Clustering is the mark of a genuine cipher. When these clusters are read in the numerical order of their cell number, they produce:—

"SO TEST HIM, I VOW HE IS E VERE DE: AS HE SHAKSPEARE;ME I.B"

Roper, continued

It can be seen from the following grille, which is quite typical of those formed without intelligent design, that short words will inevitably appear by chance. These are randomly spread across the grille, but without making any meaningful sense when viewed together; hence, *idiot chatter*.

31 Columns

```
S T A Y P A S S E N G E R W H Y G O E S T T H O V B Y S O F A
S T R E A D I F T H O V C A N S T W H O M E N V I O V S D E A
T H H A T H P L A S T W I T H I N T H I S M O N V M E N T S H
A K S P E A R E W I T H W H O M E Q V I C K N A T V R E D I D
E W H O S E N A M E D O T H D E C K Y S T O M B E F A R M O R
E T H E N C O S T S I E H A L L Y T H E H A T H W R I T T L E
A V E S L I V I N G A R T B V T P A G E T O S E R V E H I S W
I T T
```

Was Shakespeare really de Vere?

The "Grille" is similar to the Bible Code

Matrix Display for stratford_monument.txt (313 char)   (VERE, 1 matches; Set 2, 0 matches)

```
                                                I V D I C I O
I C I O P Y L I V M G E N I O S O C R A T E M A R T E M A R O N E M T E R R
T E R R A T E G I T P O P V L V S M A E R E T O L Y M P V S H A B E T S T A
T S T A Y P A S S E N G E R W H Y G O E S T T H O V B Y S O F A S T R E A D
R E A D I F T H O V C A N S T W H O M E N V I O V S D E A T H H A T H P L A
H P L A S T W I T H I N T H I S M O N V M E N T S H A K S P E A R E W I T H
W I T H W H O M E Q V I C K N A T V R E D I D E W H O S E N A M E D O T H D
O T H D E C K Y S T O M B E F A R M O R E T H E N C O S T S I E H A L L Y T
L L Y T H E H A T H W R I T T L E A V E S L I V I N G A R T B V T P A G E T
A G E T O S E R V E H I S W I T T O B I T A N O D O I A E T A T I S D I E A
D I E A
```

Cardano Grille? Step=22...

HEATED PELT HIT ELTON, HOT SOOT ACT, HATE CAME, NASH SHOT, YEAH, SHOD LAME WHO? MALE ELVIS, LIVING MEAT IN TREE

Cardano Grille?

BCN: **Marlowe:**
Step=12 **Step=28**

Roper: "Having tested the names Bacon and Marlowe without success, I tried Vere. This resulted in a positive outcome ..."

Ben Jonson?

To the Reader.

This Figure, that thou here seest put,
    It was for gentle Shakespeare cut;
Wherein the Grauer had a strife
    with Nature, to out-doo the life :
O, could he but haue drawne his wit
    As well in brasse, as he hath hit
His face ; the Print would then surpasse
    All, that was euer writ in brasse.
But, since he cannot, Reader, looke
    Not on his Picture, but his Booke.

B. I.

IVDICIO PYLIVM, GENIO SOCRATEM, ARTE MARONEM,
TERRA TEGIT, POPVLVS MÆRET, OLYMPVS HABET

STAY PASSENGER, WHY GOEST THOV BY SO FAST,
READ IF THOV CANST, WHOM ENVIOVS DEATH HATH PLAST,
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FAR MORE, THEN COST: SIEH ALL, Y HE, HATH WRITT,
LEAVES LIVING ART, BVT PAGE, TO SERVE HIS WITT.

OBIIT AÑO DO 1616
ÆTATIS 53 DIE 23 AP.

Cardano Grille?

A good example of a Logical Fallacy:

Relativist Fallacy: The Relativist Fallacy is committed when a person rejects a claim by asserting that the claim might be true for others but is not for him/her.

Special Pleading : a fallacy in which a person applies standards, principles, rules, etc. to others while taking herself (or those she has a special interest in) to be exempt, without providing adequate justification for the exemption.

The Oxfordians Reply

Oxfordian David Roper wrote about my article in the April 2012 NMSR Reports, saying
1.   The grille containing the decryption was not shown to the reader, although D.T. made sure his grilles were shown.

The Oxfordians Reply

2.   D.T. omitted or was unaware of William and Elisabeth Friedman's criteria. They "agreed unconditionally to accept as valid any cipher that fulfils two conditions: that its plaintext makes sense, and that this plaintext be unique and unambiguous - that it not be one of several results." The sentence (D.T. refers to it as a phrase) "So test him, I Vow He Is E. De Vere As He Shakspeare: Me I.B." is unique and unambiguous as to its meaning, and it comments upon the inscription's opening challenge – "Read If You Can . . . " It is noteworthy that D.T, did not alert his readers to the important fact that the decryption was a response to that challenge, and therefore should have been treated as such.
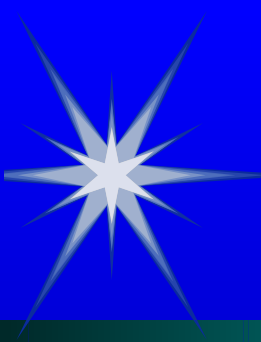
The Oxfordians Reply

3.   D.T. was anxious to relate the decryption to the Bible Code, yet this was a seventeenth century use of a Cardano grille, in popular use at the time, centuries before the Bible Code came to public notice.

4.   D.T. was probably unaware that the decrypted sentence was in response to a separate encryption which stated: "I Am de Vere By Birth". Had he been so aware, he would have better understood the impact of the second encryption, which not only vows this to be true, but urges that de Vere be tested.
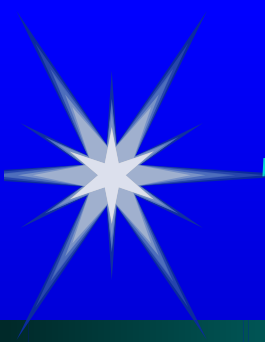
The Oxfordians Reply

5.   D.T. made no mention of the 'fine-tuning' contained in the lettering: without which, the decryption would not have been possible. It is curious that D.T. did not wonder why the words Shakspeare Monvment had been transposed to read Monvment Shakespeare , or why the German word Sieh had been inserted into a piece of English text, or why whome[e] has been spelt in two different ways - to name but three. There are actually 7 anomalies in the text, all of which are necessary to produce the decrypted message. As David Kahn wrote in his Codebreakers "the method's chief defect [Equi-distant Letter Sequencing] of course, is that awkwardness in phrasing may betray the very secret that that phrasing should guard: the existence of a hidden message."

The Oxfordians Reply
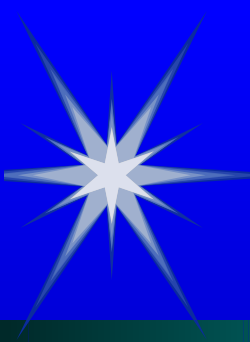
6.   D.T. made no mention of the fact that the line preceding Jonson's six lines of verse is the only one that has been inset. Had he counted the number of letters – noting that the letters spelling maeret had been reduced by one to mæret, and that Mount Olympus (the home of the gods) had replaced Mount Parnassus (the home of the Muses), he would have counted 34 – the key to the 34-column grille that reveals the decrypted message.

7.   D.T. makes much of the fact that 'de' is set beside 'E Vere'. Once again William and Elisabeth Friedman allowed this; viz: "This tactic is acceptable to the professional cryptologist only if the exceptions do not exceed a certain maximum." **One small exception is certainly allowable, is it not?**
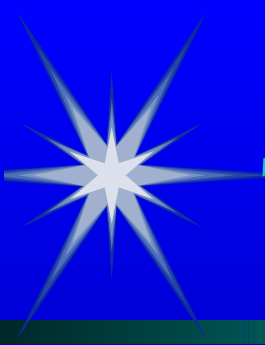
The Oxfordians Reply

8.   In an effort to demonstrate that the encryption is a chance occurrence, D.T. constructed his own grille, by adding extra letters to the 220 which contain the encryption. With 327 letters to play with (just 3 short of a 50 percent increase in the letters of the original), he first inset it by 8 squares, then cherry-picked his way across his grille, to make up a piece of gibberish. **Needless to say to the educated, a strict analogy necessitates that 220 letters be adhered to, that any message be limited to 3 clusters, and that an appropriate key, equivalent to the one that exists for the 34-column grille, must accompany any suggestion of a disproof.** D.T.'s analysis failed at every point.

Is the Inscription the Original?

Good evidence indicates that the "Stay Passenger" inscription has changed over the years, and that the current inscription is the result of a renovation that *altered the original text.*

See THE S H A K S - P E A R E MEMORIAL EPITAPH: HISTORY OF A FRAUD (2012)
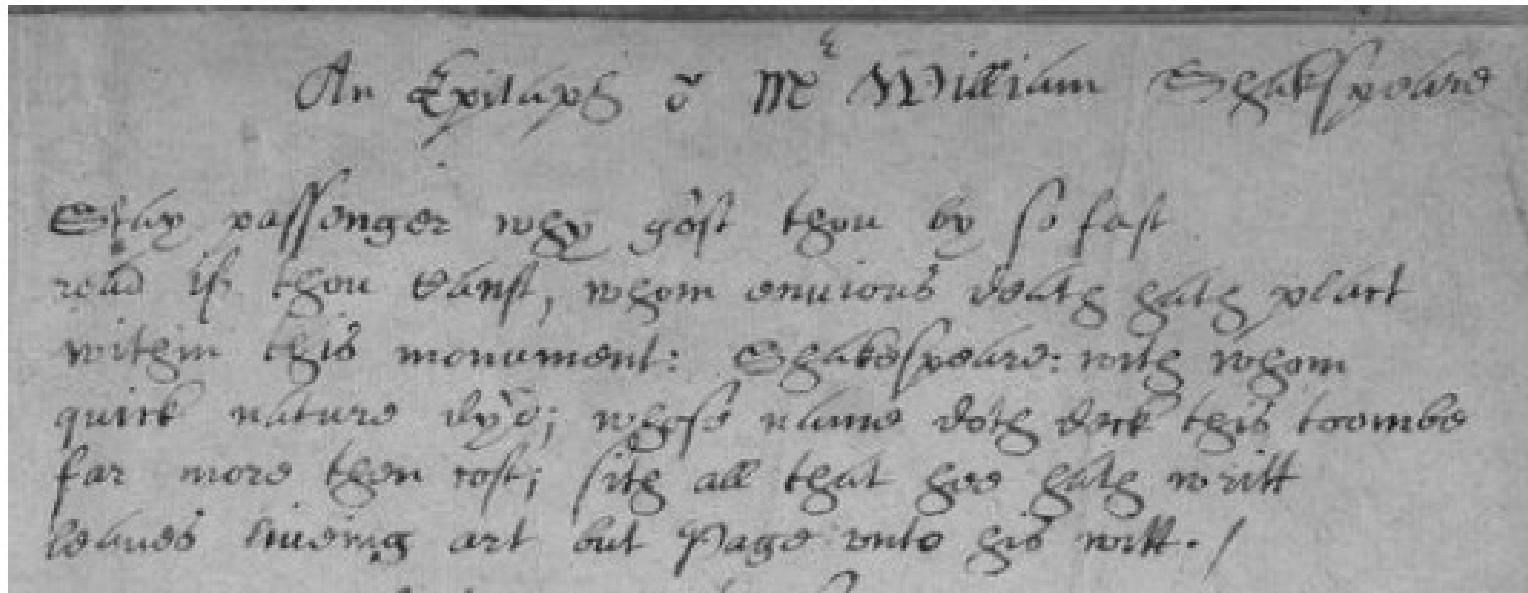
By Eric L. Miller, ericmillerworks.com

"This basic MR Due Diligence Report was undertaken as MR's pro bono response to a query regarding the work of Mr. David Roper, who claims in his writings and recently published book, Proving Shakespeare (2009), to have discovered and solved a hidden cipher implanted into the text of the original epitaph plaque on Shakespeare's Stratford Monument."

Is the Inscription the Original?

Oldest Record of the Inscription: "About 1625"

Secretarial inscription, hand-writing experts of the era fix its date at "about 1625." (this dating & reading may be subject to review)

Is the Inscription the Original?
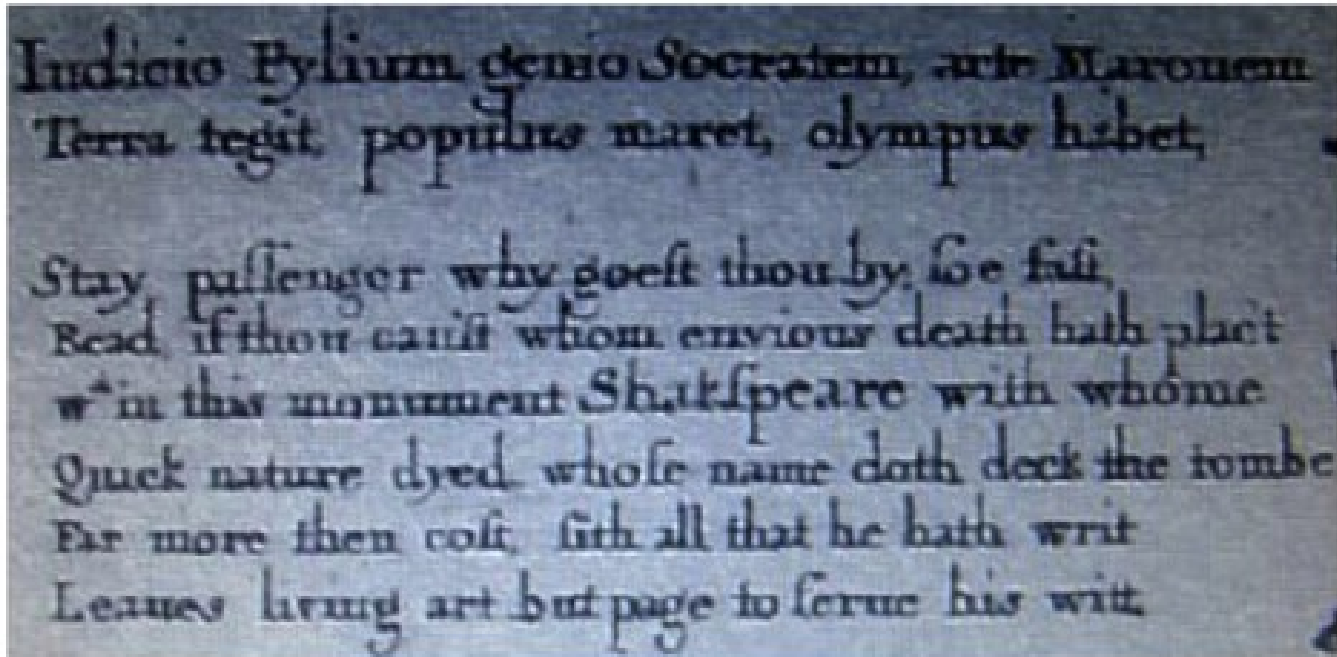
Oldest Record of the Inscription: "About 1625"

Stay passenger why go'st thou by so fast
read if thou Canst, whom enuious death hath plact
within this monument: Shakespeare: with whom
quick nature dy'd; whose name doth deck this toombe
far more then cost; sith all that hee hath writ
leaues liueing art but Page vnto his witt.

Is the Inscription the Original?

Dugdale Copy: "About 1634, Published 1656"

COPY #3: DUGDALE

Iudicio Pylium, genio Socratem, arte Maronem
Terra tegit, populus maret, olympus habet,

Stay passenger why goest thou by soe fast,
Read if thou canst whom envious death hath plast
w'in this monument Shakspeare with whome
Quick nature dyed whose name doth deck the tombe
Far more then cost, sith all that he hath writ
Leaues liuing art but page to serue his witt.

Is the Inscription the Original?

Dugdale Copy: "About 1634, Published 1656"

Iudicio Pylium genio Socratem, arte Maronem
  Terra tegit populus maret, olympus habet,
Stay passenger why goest thou by soe fast,
Read, if thou can'st whom envious death hath plac't
wth in this monument Shakspeare with whome
Quick nature dyed, whose name doth deck the tombe
Far more then cost, sith all that he hath writ
Leaues living art but page to serue his witt.

Obijt A.[o] DNI, 1616

aet. 53, die 23 Apri:

Is the Inscription the Original?

Vertu Engraving: "About 1725"

Shakespeare plays." (Roper, p. 7). Two years later, in 1725, his engraving was published in Pope's collection of Shakespeare's plays. Below is the text that we "copied" from Vertu's engraving of the epitaph plaque:

INGENIO PYLIUM, GENIO SOCRATEM, ARTE MARONEM,
TERRA TEGIT, POPULUS MÆRET, OLYMPUS HABET.

Stay Passenger; why dost thou go so fast?
Read, if thou canst, whom envious Death has plac'd
Within this Monument; Shakespear, with whom
Quick Nature dij'd, whose Name doth deck the Tomb
Far more than Cost, since all that he has Writ
Leaves living Art, but Page to serve his Wit.
Ob: Anᵒ Dⁿⁱ 1616, Ætat. 53, Die 23 Apr.

Is the Inscription the Original?

Virtu engraving: "About 1725"

INGENIO PYLIIEM, GENIO SOCRATEM , ARTE MARONEM,
TERRA TEGIT, POPULUS MAERET, OLYMPUS HABET.

Stay Passenger, why dost thou go so fast?
Read, if thou canst, whom envious Death has plac'd
Within this Monument: Shakespear, with whom
Quick Nature dy'd, whose Name doth deck the Tomb
Far more than Cost, since all that he has Writ
Leaves living Art, but Page to serve his Wit.

Ob: An(o) D(oi) 1616. AEat. 53 Die 23 Apr

Is the Inscription the Original?

Abraham Wivell: "About 1827"

COPY #7: ABRAHAM WIVELL

Inscription on the Mural Tablet under the Bust.

JVDICIO PYLIVM, GENIO SOCRATEM, ARTE MARONEM,
TERRA TEGIT, POPVLVS MÆRET, OLYMPVS HABET.

16   MONUMENTAL BUST OF

STAY PASSENGER, WHY GOEST THOV BY SO FAST,
READ, IF THOV CANST, WHOM ENVIOVS DEATH HAST PLAST,
WITHIN THIS MONVMENT, SHAKSPEARE, WITH WHOME
QVICK NATVRE DIDE : WHOSE NAME DOTH DECK YS. TOMBE
FAR MORE THAN COST ; SIEH ALL YT. HE HATH WRITT,
LEAVES LIVING ART, BVT PAGE TO SERVE HIS WITT.

OBIIT ANO. DOI. 1616. ÆTATIS 53. DIE 23. AP.

Is the Inscription the Original?

Wivell Published Book 1827

STAY PASSENGER, WHY GOEST THOV BY SO FAST?
READ IF THOV CANST, WHOM ENVIOVS DEATH HAST
PLAST,
WITH IN THIS MONVMENT SHAKSPEARE, WITH WHOME
QVICK NATVRE DIDE: WHOSE NAME DOTH DECK YS TOMBE
FAR MORE THEN COST, SIEH ALL YT HE HATH WRITT,
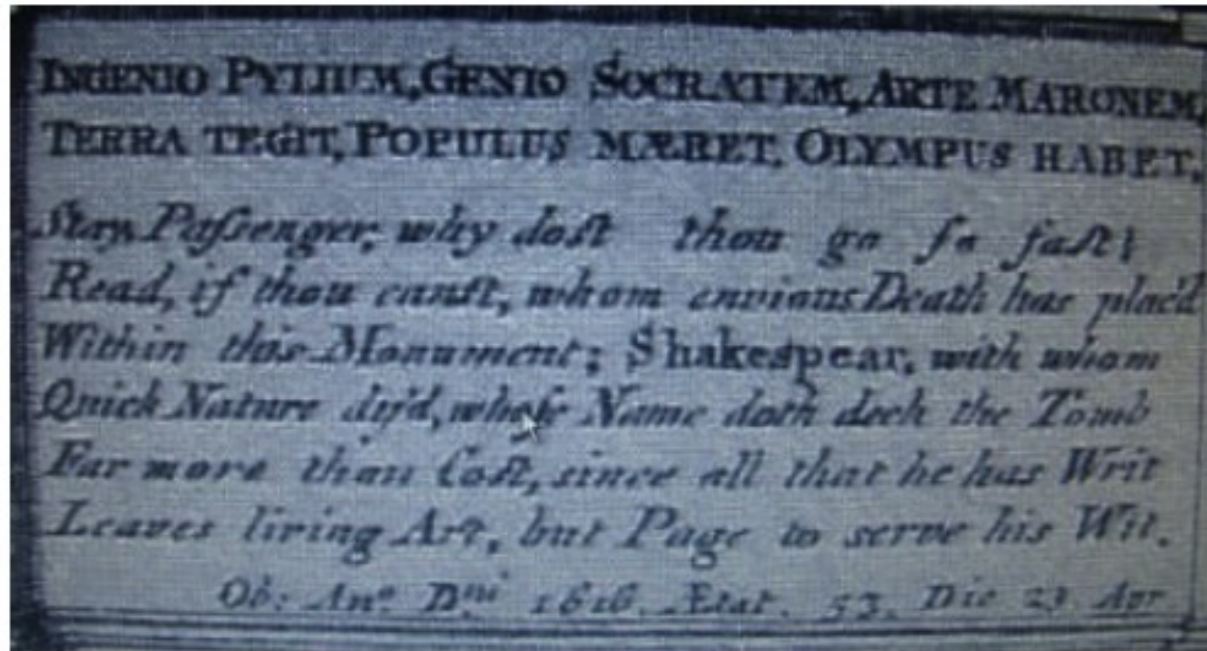LEAVES LIVING ART, BVT PAGE TO SERVE HIS WITT.

 OBIT ANO. DOI. 1616. AETATIS 53. DIE 23. AP.

"SO TEST HIM, I VOW HE IS E VERE DE: AS HE SHAKSPEARE;ME I.B"

Wivell Published Book 1827

Matrix Display for inscription-wivell-1827.txt (220 char) (VERE, 1 matches; Set 2, 0 matches)

```
                                                                    S T A Y
S T A Y P A S S E N G E R W H Y G O E S T T H O V B Y S O F A S T R E A D I
E A D I F T H O V C A N S T W H O M E N V I O V S D E A T H H A S T P L A S
P L A S T W I T H I N T H I S M O N V M E N T S H A K S P E A R E W I T H W
I T H W H O M E Q V I C K N A T V R E D I D E W H O S E N A M E D O T H D E
T H D E C K Y S T O M B E F A R M O R E T H E N C O S T S I E H A L L Y T H
L Y T H E H A T H W R I T T L E A V E S L I V I N G A R T B V T P A G E T O
G E T O S E R V E H I S W I T T
```

Matrix Display for stratford_monument.txt (220 char) (VERE, 1 matches; Set 2, 0 matches)

```
S T A Y P A S S E N G E R W H Y G O E S T T H O V B Y S O F A S T R E A D I
E A D I F T H O V C A N S T W H O M E N V I O V S D E A T H H A T H P L A S
P L A S T W I T H I N T H I S M O N V M E N T S H A K S P E A R E W I T H W
I T H W H O M E Q V I C K N A T V R E D I D E W H O S E N A M E D O T H D E
T H D E C K Y S T O M B E F A R M O R E T H E N C O S T S I E H A L L Y T H
L Y T H E H A T H W R I T T L E A V E S L I V I N G A R T B V T P A G E T O
G E T O S E R V E H I S W I T T
```

SO HE SHAKSPEARE

Vertu Engraving: "About 1725"

Matrix Display for inscription-virtu-1725.txt (216 char)   (no cool matches - text only)

```
                                                              S T A Y
S T A Y P A S S E N G E R W H Y D O S T T H O U G O S O F A S T R E A D I F
A D I F T H O U C A N S T W H O M E N V I O U S D E A T H H A S P L A C D W
A C D W I T H I N T H I S M O N U M E N T S H A K E S P E A R W I T H W H O
H W H O M Q U I C K N A T U R E D Y D W H O S E N A M E D O T H D E C K T H
C K T H E T O M B F A R M O R E T H A N C O S T S I N C E A L L T H A T H E
A T H E H A S W R I T L E A V E S L I V I N G A R T B U T P A G E T O S E R
O S E R V E H I S W I T
```

Matrix Display for stratford_monument.txt (220 char)   (VERE, 1 matches; Set 2, 0 matches)

```
S T A Y P A S S E N G E R W H Y G O E S T T H O V B Y S O F A S T R E A D I
E A D I F T H O V C A N S T W H O M E N V I O V S D E A T H H A T H P L A S
P L A S T W I T H I N T H I S M O N V M E N T S H A K S P E A R E W I T H W
I T H W H O M E Q V I C K N A T V R E D I D E W H O S E N A M E D O T H D E
T H D E C K Y S T O M B E F A R M O R E T H E N C O S T S I E H A L L Y T H
L Y T H E H A T H W R I T T L E A V E S L I V I N G A R T B V T P A G E T O
G E T O S E R V E H I S W I T T
```

TE_T H_M SHAKSPEARE

Dugdale Copy: "About 1634, Published 1656"

Matrix Display for inscription-dugdale-1656.txt (222 char)   (no cool matches - text only)

```
                                                                    S T A Y
S T A Y P A S S E N G E R W H Y G O E S T T H O U B Y S O F A S T R E A D
R E A D I F T H O U C A N S T W H O M E N V I O U S D E A T H H A T H P L A
H P L A C T W T H I N T H I S M O N U M E N T S H A K S P E A R E W I T H W
I T H W H O M E Q U I C K N A T U R E D Y E D W H O S E N A M E D O T H D E
T H D E C K T H E T O M B E F A R M O R E T H E N C O S T S I T H A L L T H
L L T H A T H E H A T H W R I T L E A U E S L I V I N G A R T B U T P A G E
P A G E T O S E R U E H I S W I T T
```

Matrix Display for stratford_monument.txt (220 char)   (VERE, 1 matches; Set 2, 0 matches)

```
S T A Y P A S S E N G E R W H Y G O E S T T H O V B Y S O F A S T R E A D I
E A D I F T H O V C A N S T W H O M E N V I O V S D E A T H H A T H P L A S
P L A S T W I T H I N T H I S M O N V M E N T S H A K S P E A R E W I T H W
I T H W H O M E Q V I C K N A T V R E D I D E W H O S E N A M E D O T H D E
T H D E C K Y S T O M B E F A R M O R E T H E N C O S T S I E H A L L Y T H
L Y T H E H A T H W R I T T L E A V E S L I V I N G A R T B V T P A G E T O
G E T O S E R V E H I S W I T T
```

So Shakespeare

Matrix Display for inscription-1625.txt (221 char) (no cool matches - text only)

```
                                                                      S T A Y
S T A Y P A S S E N G E R W H Y G O S T T H O U B Y S O F A S T R E A D I F
A D I F T H O U C A N S T W H O M E N U I O U S D E A T H H A T H P L A C T
L A C T W I T H I N T H I S M O N U M E N T S H A K E S P E A R E W I T H W
I T H W H O M Q U I C K N A T U R E D Y D W H O S E N A M E D O T H D E C K
D E C K T H I S T O O M B E F A R M O R E T H E N C O S T S I T H A L L T H
L L T H A T H E E H A T H W R I T L E A U E S L I U E I N G A R T B U T P A
U T P A G E V N T O H I S W I T T
```

Matrix Display for stratford_monument.txt (220 char) (VERE, 1 matches; Set 2, 0 matches)

```
S T A Y P A S S E N G E R W H Y G O E S T T H O V B Y S O F A S T R E A D I
E A D I F T H O V C A N S T W H O M E N V I O V S D E A T H H A T H P L A S
P L A S T W I T H I N T H I S M O N V M E N T S H A K S P E A R E W I T H W
I T H W H O M E Q V I C K N A T V R E D I D E W H O S E N A M E D O T H D E
T H D E C K Y S T O M B E F A R M O R E T H E N C O S T S I E H A L L Y T H
L Y T H E H A T H W R I T T L E A V E S L I V I N G A R T B V T P A G E T O
G E T O S E R V E H I S W I T T
```
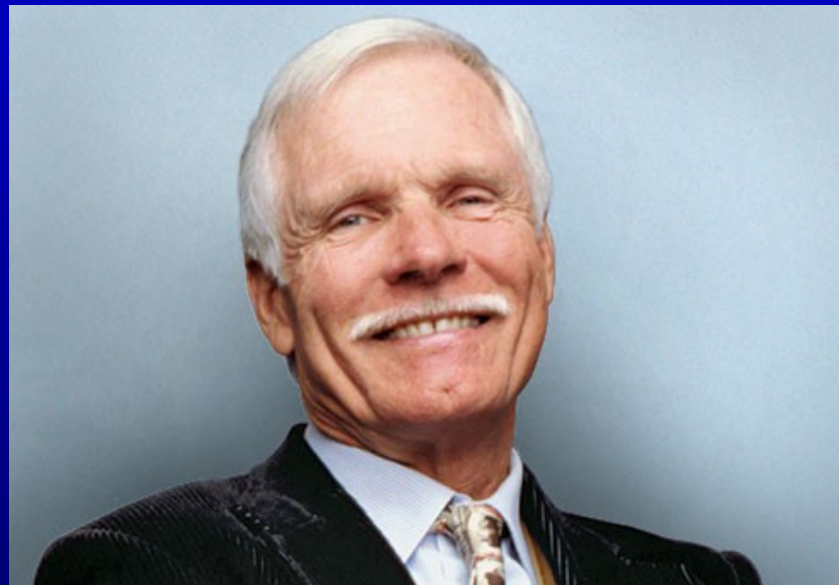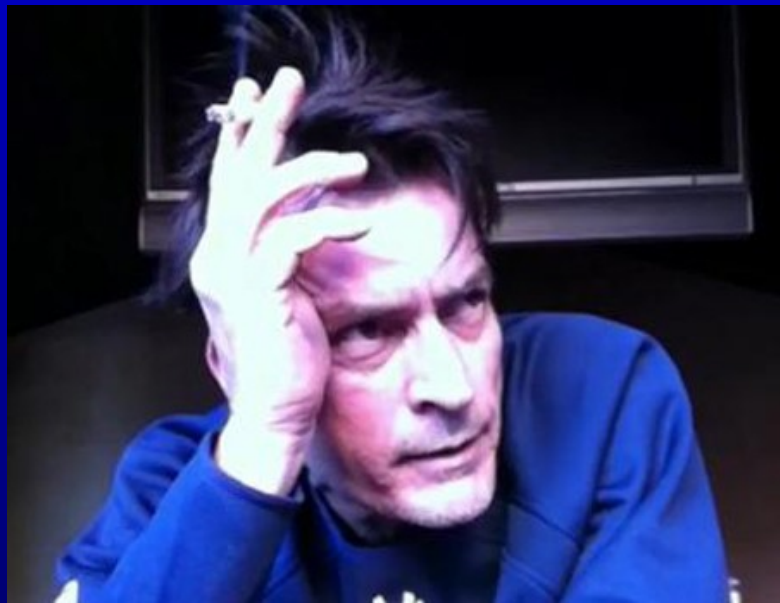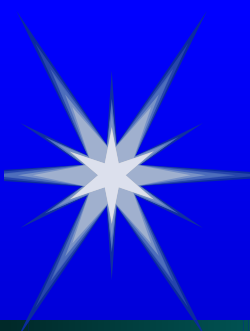
D.T.'s New, Improved Cipher

Now using only 220 characters, 3 clusters, etc.

ME, SHEEN FOSH HAS DEAR SHAKSPEARE AS TED T, IS SET HE.

D.T.'s New, Improved Cipher

Now using only 220 characters, 3 clusters, etc.
Here, a step of 21.

S	T	A	Y	P	A	S	S	E	N	G	E	R	W	H	Y	G	O	E	S	T	T
T	H	O	V	B	Y	S	O	F	A	S	T	R	E	A	D	I	F	T	H	O	V
V	C	A	N	S	T	W	H	O	M	E	N	V	I	O	V	S	D	E	A	T	H
H	H	A	T	H	P	L	A	S	T	W	I	T	H	I	N	T	H	I	S	M	O
O	N	V	M	E	N	T	S	H	A	K	S	P	E	A	R	E	W	I	T	H	W
W	H	O	M	E	Q	V	I	C	K	N	A	T	V	R	E	D	I	D	E	W	H
H	O	S	E	N	A	M	E	D	O	T	H	D	E	C	K	Y	S	T	O	M	B
B	E	F	A	R	M	O	R	E	T	H	E	N	C	O	S	T	S	I	E	H	A
A	L	L	Y	T	H	E	H	A	T	H	W	R	I	T	T	L	E	A	V	E	S
S	L	I	V	I	N	G	A	R	T	B	V	T	P	A	G	E	T	O	S	E	R
R	V	E	H	I	S	W	I	T	T												

ME, SHEEN FOSH HAS DEAR
SHAKSPEARE AS TED T, IS SET HE.

FOSH = FO'SHO = For Sure

uRbaN DICTIONARY
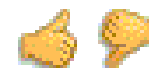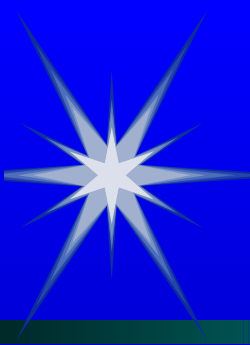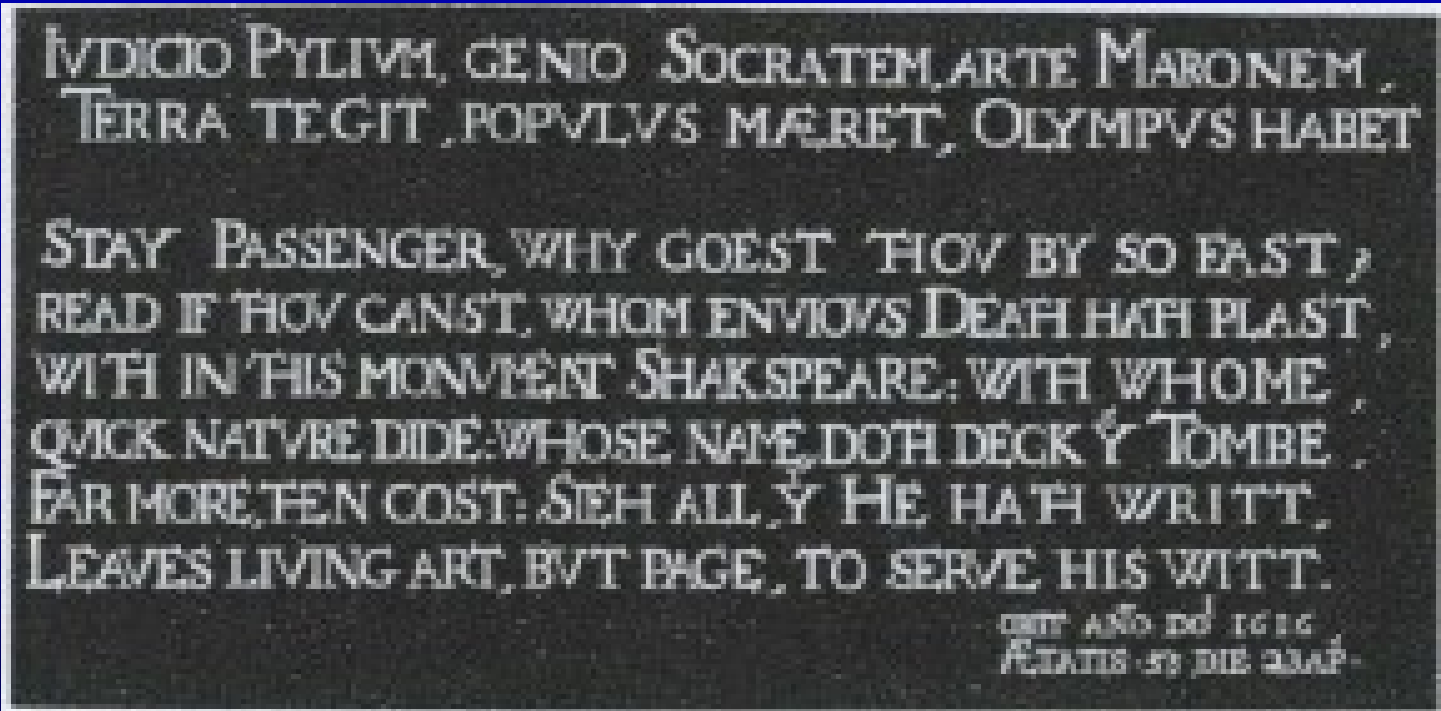
1. **fosh**

82 up, 38 down

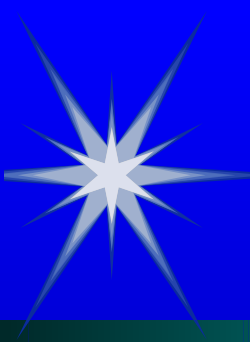the word is a derivitive of for sure. for sure turned into fo sho, then it was put together to form fosh.

fosh yo momma was good last night. Fiona is fosh a hotty.

How to get Step of 21?

Indented row: 34 characters, 3+4 = 7;

Three main Parts (Latin, Inscription, Date);

$3 \times 7 = 21$.

IVDICIO PYLIVM, GENIO SOCRATEM, ARTE MARONEM,
TERRA TEGIT, POPVLVS MÆRET, OLYMPVS HABET

STAY PASSENGER, WHY GOEST THOV BY SO FAST,
READ IF THOV CANST, WHOM ENVIOVS DEATH HATH PLAST,
WITH IN THIS MONVMENT SHAKSPEARE: WITH WHOME,
QVICK NATVRE DIDE:WHOSE NAME, DOTH DECK Y TOMBE,
FAR MORE, THEN COST: SIEH ALL, Y HE HATH WRITT,
LEAVES LIVING ART, BVT PAGE, TO SERVE HIS WITT.
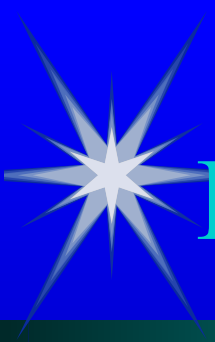
OBIIT AÑO DO 1616
ÆTATIS 53 DIE 23 AP

The Big Picture

Does my cipher prove that Charlie Sheen attested that Ted Turner was the One True Author of Shakespeare's works? *Of course not!*

More importantly, even if Ben Jonson *had* somehow purposely crafted such a cipher into the tomb inscription, would that prove de Vere wrote Shakespeare? *Of course not!*

In Addition: Acrostics

Ralph L. Tweedale, now Albert W. Burgstahler : diagonal alignments or acrostics of the four letters of the Vere surname extending downward or upward through four contiguous lines of print in some of the works of Shakespeare, especially his sonnets... in such a way as to form EO or EOX …

Was Shakespeare really the Earl of Oxford?

Although not obvious at first glance, and therefore ideal as a cryptographic identity device, these diagonal Vere alignments or acrostics (DVAs)... faithfully follow a very simple set of rules to form the name-revealing block letter initials EO or EOX. Besides the usual spelling of the name Vere, DVAs also make use of the alternative spelling Veer...

Was Shakespeare really the Earl of Oxford?

… the usual spelling of the name Vere, DVAs also make use of the alternative spellingS:

v-e-r-e, v-e-e-r, u-e-r-e, u-e-e-r, w-e-r-e, and w-e-e-r.

In addition, three further variations of the contraction E Ver (for Edward Vere) are also allowed: e-v-e-r, e-u-e-r, and e-w-e-r.

Was Shakespeare really the Earl of Oxford?

Facsimile of Sonnet 82 in Shake-speare's Sonnets (1609) showing ERd/LuOX block letters formed by 10 of the 15 DVAs

SONNETS.

82

I Grant thou wert not married to my Muse,
And therefore maiest without attaint ore-looke
The dedicated words which writers vse
Of their faire subiect, blessing euery booke.
Thou art as faire in knowledge as in hew,
Finding thy worth a limmit past my praise,
And therefore art inforc'd to seeke anew,
Some fresher stampe of the time bettering dayes.
And do so loue, yet when they haue deuisde,
What strained touches Rhethorick can lend,
Thou truly faire, wert truly simpathizde,
In true plaine words, by thy true telling friend.
  And their grosse painting might be better vs'd,
  Where cheekes need blood, in thee it is abus'd.

Was Shakespeare really the Earl of Oxford?

Example: U-E-R-E

I Grant thou wert not married to my Muse,
And therefore maiest without attaint ore-looke
The dedicated words which writers vse
Of their faire subiect,blessing euery booke.
Thou art as faire in knowledge as in hew,

Acrostics?
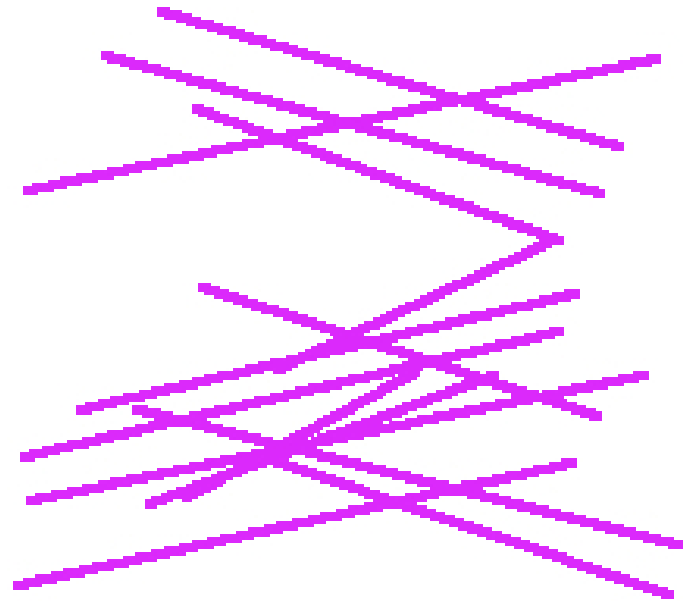
Without the subjective truncations, the message *vanishes*!

SONNETS.

82

I Grant thou wert not married to my Muse,
And therefore maiest without attaint ore-looke
The dedicated words which writers vse
Of their faire subiect, blessing euery booke.
Thou art as faire in knowledge as in hew,
Finding thy worth a limmit past my praise,
And therefore art inforc'd to seeke anew,
Some fresher stampe of the time bettering dayes.
And do so loue, yet when they haue deuisde,
What strained touches Rhethorick can lend,
Thou truly faire, wert truly simpathizde,
In true plaine words, by thy true telling friend.
    And their grosse painting might be better vs'd,
    Where cheekes need blood, in thee it is abus'd.

Conclusion

Are we skeptics ignoring the recently discovered PROOF(s) that Edward de Vere was the author of the sonnets and plays attributed to William Shakespeare?

No!