

The logo features a central dark blue circle with the letters 'UIC' in light blue. This circle is surrounded by a yellow ring, which is further enclosed by a red ring. Four thick lines radiate from the center: a yellow line pointing up and to the right, a red line pointing up and to the left, a yellow line pointing down, and a red line pointing down and to the right. The background is a solid light blue.

**UIC**

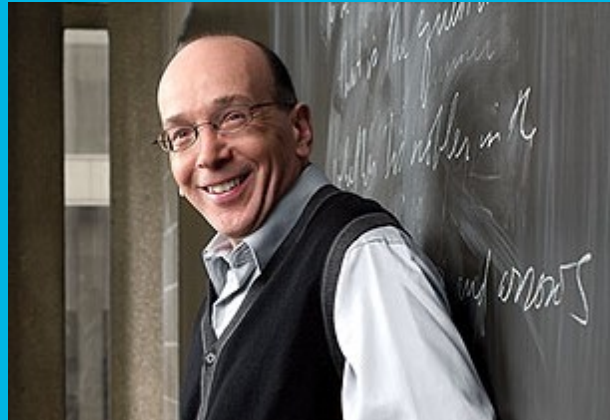
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# Gary Buslik, BA '68, MA '74, PhD '07 Proud UIC Alumnus



"Rare photo of Professor Buslik smiling."

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# “Anti-Stratfordian Theory” or Shakespeare's Authorship Question



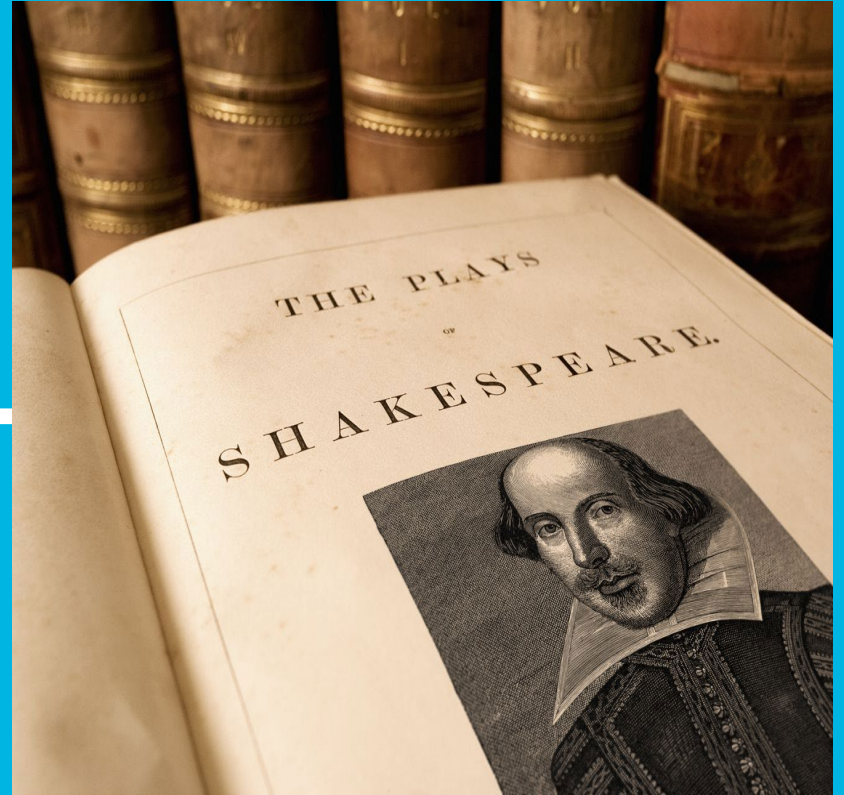
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# When Doubting Got Rolling...

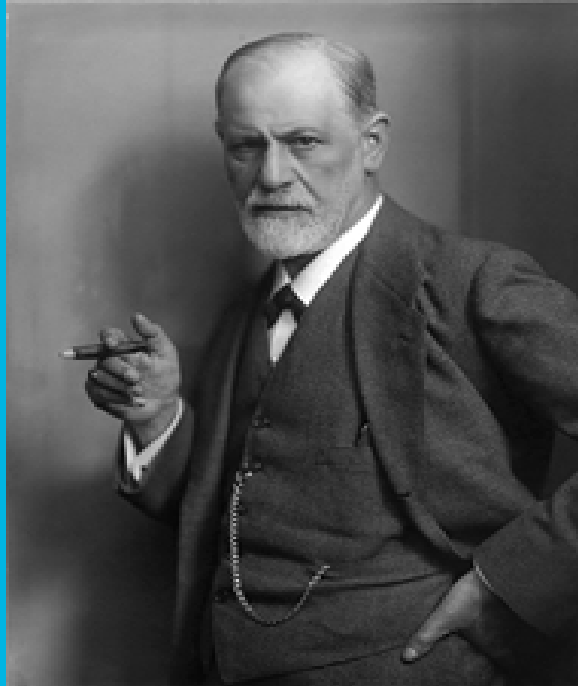
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# When Doubting Got Rolling...



# Famous Doubters...





# Famous Doubters...



# Famous Doubters...



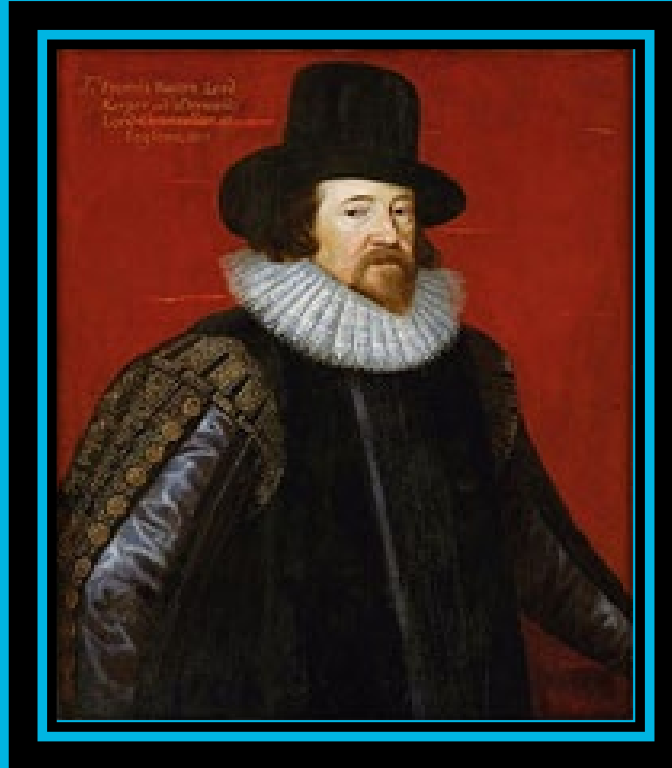
# Elitist Theory

The basic premise of the anti-Stratfordian theory is an elitist one: The plays so brim with expertise that they can't possibly be the work of a single, lightly educated provincial.

# Specific Candidates: Arguments Pros & Cons.

- Christopher Marlowe
- Francis Bacon
- Edward de Vere (the 17th Earl of Oxford).

# Arguments For Francis Bacon



# Arguments For Francis Bacon

A	aaaaa	00000
B	aaaab	00001
C	aaaba	00010
D	aaabb	00011
E	aabaa	00100
F	aabab	00101
G	aabba	00110
H	aabbb	00111
I, J	abaaa	01000
K	abaab	01001
L	ababa	01010
M	ababb	01011

Bacon Invented The First Cypher System

# Arguments For Francis Bacon

In Ouija-board fashion, using tortuous systems involving prime numbers, logarhythms, square roots, capital and lowercase letters, and other arcane and self-serving devices to "guide" them, devout Baconites got to work finding hidden messages in the texts.

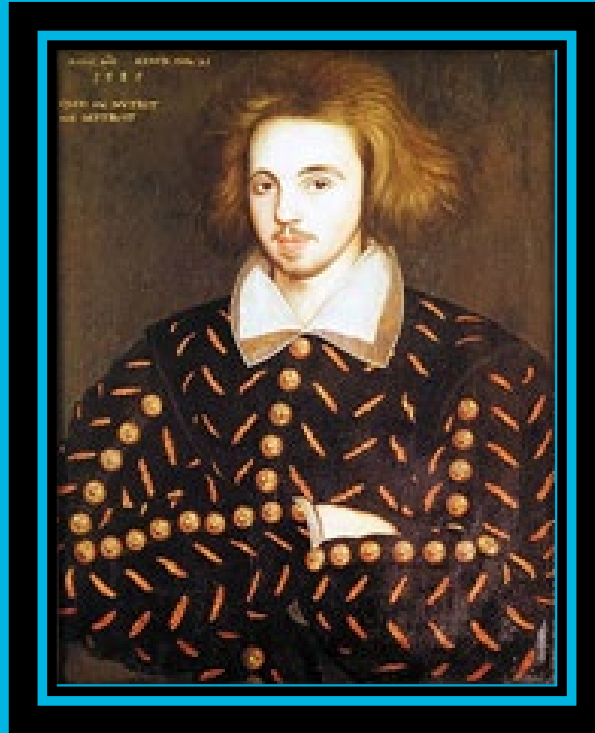


# Arguments Against Bacon...

- How the heck would he find the time to write at least thirty-seven popular plays and over 150 glorious poems?
- Bacon was known to have an extreme dislike of the theater and attacked it as a "frivolous pastime."



# Arguments For Christopher Marlowe



# Arguments For Christopher Marlowe

- Some scholars believe that if Marlowe, a notorious anti-authority troublemaker, had lived to even middle age, the significance of his work might have kept pace with Shakespeare's.
- The anti-Stratfordians who advocate for Marlowe being the true author of Shakespeare's plays theorize that Kit, knowing that a warrant was out for his arrest and inevitable torture, cunningly faked his own death and escaped to Italy, where he spent the rest of his life writing what we now know as Shakespeare's "Italian" plays (of which there were at least ten).



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# Arguments Against Christopher Marlowe

- The evidence for Marlowe being murdered is virtually incontestable.
- There is not a shred of real evidence that Marlowe did, indeed, hole up in Italy after his allegedly faked death.
- As for Shakespeare never having been to Italy, we don't know that at all. For the seven years between the time he left Stratford and showed up in London, we have no idea where he went or what he did."

# Arguments For Edward de Vere



# Arguments For Edward de Vere

- Indeed, there are—at least on the face of it—a few intriguing (though not quite compelling) arguments for the Earl of Oxford's case.
- De Vere was (unlike Francis Bacon) a regular playgoer, a lover of the stage, a patron of the arts, and himself an unabashed (if not especially talented) poet and court playwright.
- Unlike Stratford's Shakespeare, de Vere was university educated. He was clever, well-traveled, spoke Italian, and moved in the kind of courtly circles that were the settings of much of Shakespeare's works.

# Arguments For Edward de Vere

- His nobleman's coat of arms depicts a lion shaking a broken spear.
- He spent a lot of time in Italy, the locale of many of Shakespeare's plays.
- He inherited the title Lord Great Chamberlain of England, suggesting that he named Shakespeare's acting company (The Lord Chamberlain's Men) after himself.
- De Vere's father died when he was twelve, and his mother quickly remarried...suggesting a principal theme of *Hamlet*.

# Arguments Against Edward de Vere

- While, curiously, the 17<sup>th</sup> Earl of Oxford is a current leading candidate as the real "Shakespeare," in many respects his candidacy is the easiest to demolish.
- For starters, de Vere was known to be arrogant, petulant, financially irresponsible, widely disliked, and given to outbursts of violence (at the age of seventeen, he murdered a household servant).
- Why would a man of boundless vanity like Oxford seek to hide his identity in the great plays and poetry but not his own mediocre ones?
- What's more, de Vere was patron of his own acting company, The Earl of Oxford's Men. Why would he write "his" best work for The Lord Chamberlain's Men, a competing troupe?



# Arguments Against Edward de Vere

- At least *ten* of Shakespeare's plays, including *King Lear*, *Macbeth*, and *The Tempest*, are known to have been written after 1604 (they make references to, or were influenced by, actual events that happened after that date). Why is that significant? Because Edward de Vere, 17<sup>th</sup> Earl of Oxford, definitely, without a doubt, absolutely, and once and for all, incontestably *croaked* in 1604.

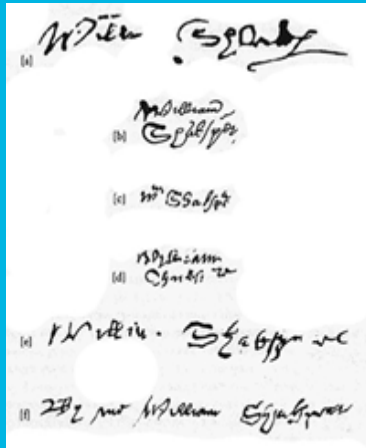
# Other Various Candidates...

Queen Elizabeth must have been the real Shakespeare because the greatest characters in the plays are women.



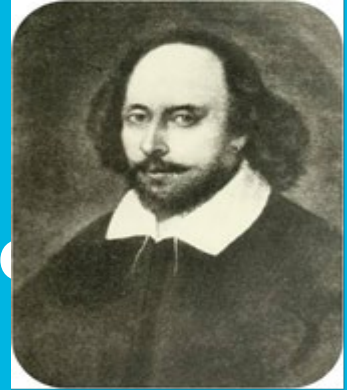
# Doubters' General Arguments/Trashed

- Shakespeare's upbringing was unsatisfactory for such brilliant authorship.
- Then how could a country boy, even with a decent grammar school education, possibly have incorporated in his work so much knowledge and expertise of so many different fields—e.g., court life, military, medicine, etc.?
- We know very little about Shakespeare's private life, and what we do know is clouded with mysteries and contradictions.
- The name on Shakespeare's birth certificate and other references during his life are of various spellings, suggesting different people.
- Shakespeare's known signatures are the laborious scrawlings of a borderline illiterate.





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# Doubters' General Arguments/Trash

- Of the few known documents in which Shakespeare is named, not one refers to him as an author.
- There's no reference in Shakespeare's will or otherwise that he owned any play scripts or even any books.
- Unlike less famous contemporaries, there were no portraits of Shakespeare painted in his lifetime.



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# Doubters' General Arguments/Trashed

- Using various deciphering methodology, we find hidden messages in his plays and poems revealing that the author was not the man from Stratford.
- Shakespeare never took legal action against pirated editions of his work. What was he afraid of?

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# Doubters' General Arguments/Trashed



- Shakespeare's death entry in his parish registry doesn't mention him as an actor or dramatist.
- While the death of Shakespeare's famous acting colleague Richard Burbage was met with a great outpouring of grief in London, Shakespeare's death passed virtually unacknowledged until the first collection of his work, the First Folio, appeared seven years later.

# In Conclusion

# Chicago Connection/ How Shakespeare Helped Us Win WWII.

- George Fabyan was an early-twentieth-century local textile tycoon, obsessed with the notion (thanks, Delia Bacon) that the country yokel from Stratford was not the real author of the greatest literature ever written.
- At Riverbank, his 300-acre estate in Geneva, Illinois, Fabyan created a private scientific laboratory, hiring experts to research such things as acoustic reverberations, the effects of the moon on crop growth, and, yes, secret coded messages in Shakespeare's plays proving that the supposed Stratford genius was a fraud. Fabyan's anti-Stratfordian obsession kick-started the field of *cryptology*.
- U.S. Army officers came to Riverbank and learned how to decipher secret messages sent by spies and foreign countries.





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# Thank You!

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