A Playful DIO Play:

Getting Away With Non-Murder

From Topless Queen To Feckless Armada To Godless Resurrection

Dramatist - Poet - Atheist - Spy

Christopher Marlowe Scripts Own Ingenious Escape from Fatal Star Chamber Torture And Then: Transforms Into Shakespeare Two Weeks Later
Preface

The play you are about to read grew out of DIO’s investigation of long-simmering doubts regarding Shakespeare’s authorship of the works published nearly 4 centuries ago under his name.

That analysis, BardBeard, can be found at www.dioi.org/ji00.pdf, DIO Volume 18. (Delineation of this effort’s approaches: at p.26 below.)

One need not read past the raw, uninterpreted facts compiled at BardBeard’s p.3 to realize that Christopher Marlowe probably wrote the works of “Shakespeare” — but the rest of the investigation provides enlightening details regarding the history of the works as well as that of the passionate, often ridiculous warfare over the true author’s identity, a confusion originally and deliberately triggered (as you will see within) by the besieged Marlowe himself, ironically enough.

DR’s mother, Barbara Brooke Dennis Rawlins Avirett (1910/11/10-1990/1/24), was a gifted novelist (Hear the Cock Crow Dodd, Mead & Co, New York 1949) and a prominent Maryland poet, admired by no less than H.L.Mencken. Would she had lived to know her elder son’s briefly flickering historical-literary advent. During his 9th decade.

Though the play is inevitably speculative in part, we hope you will enjoy DIO 26’s variously evidence-anchored reconstruction of the tense, bloody, epochal, and brilliantly serpentine reality behind the most successful and enduring of literary hoaxes.

Warning

The play is not primarily literary, but exploratory: in unequal shares detection, satire, probe, frolic, logic, goofiness, takeoff, revelation — featuring occasional iambic pentameter. Shamelessly inconsistent in style, gravity, and historicity. Do not take all of it too seriously. Nor its centuries-belated vindication of Marlowe too lightly. [2021/1/14]
Kit’s Perfect Crime

A 1586

A1 Fotheringhay Castle, England, October

Mary Stuart, formerly French royalty and Queen of Scots, now Queen Elizabeth’s prisoner:

[Kneeling at prayer]

Sir Francis Walsingham [of England’s ruling Privy Council, funder and chief of Europe’s ablest espionage ring, a spiery inspired by Elizabeth’s guiding brain, Lord Burghley (Wm.Cecil), including London’s top playwright Christopher “Kit” Marlowe (1564-1623) & primo-spy Robert Poley (both out of Cambridge University, as was Cecil), as well as Europe’s smartest cryptographers; entering Mary’s chamber, ecstatically preparing to throat at his ring’s having just busted the code of her loyalists’ Babington Plot, which aimed at putting Mary on Elizabeth’s throne]:

My lady —

Pray you in code? You do conspire in same.

Mary [startled, but settling into chair with forced calm]:

Lord Walsingham, my only prayer remains to know the jealous demon behind your latest scheme to sever my ever loyal head.

Walsingham:

Your prayer is right promptly half answered, Though it is your scheme that I speak upon, Since your degenerate life of deceit Has at the last ensnared your Romish soul.

Mary:

My soul?! Thanks be you credit a Catholic may have one. But speak you unmetrically of your mission.

Walsingham:

Heartily will I: know then that your spies’ and assassins’ code is broken. As thus your perversely-regicidal royalty’s pretense to innocent piety. As indeed your very life.

Mary:

It is a comfort in my impotent dotage that Your Lordship’s years of implications do surely echo as reliably and as tediously as ever.

Walsingham:

Your co-conspirator Babington is undone, as therefore is Your Highness — your very former highness. Of late years, Oxford & Cambridge — you’ve heard of them? — have bred the cleverest agents and brightest code-masters that ever ran craft through. Know you now that these have intercepted and deciphered your missives of late — which leave no doubt of your share in papists’ tireless plots at murdering our divine monarch. The only comfort I offer is assurance that the headsman’s blade is painless — and sufficiently imminent that tidium will be the least of My Lady’s woes.

Mary [aroused]:

My dear esteemed sovereign and cousin Elizabeth surely cannot — cannot do what you hope to fright me with, sir. Not . . . not with my own son James standing next in succession to Her Majesty.

Walsingham:

Revert to knee-work superstitious,
At last reduced to no weapon besides,
O’er-gloomed by Asrael’s penumbral doom.

[Exit.]

A2 Rose Theatre anteroom, following premiere of Marlowe’s Tamburlaine

Playwright Robert Greene:

Henslowe, why this orgy of overpraise upon the child Kit Marlowe?

Rose Theatre Manager Philip Henslowe [to all]:

If celebrity actor and play-paymaster Ned Alleyn compensated Greene better, he’d be less green.

Greene:

A pun ’neath even you. I grant little Kit’s try-outing play, Tamburlaine, has bits of astonishing verbal magic. But our would-be play-wrighter and upstart crow Ned Alleyn ought not forget his old reliable word-masters, without whose gifts his shake-scene bellows die.

Henslowe [as Christopher Marlowe enters]:

Kit Marlowe! Your Tamburlaine is the rage of London! acclaim from pits to nobles — War! Gore! Prose that flows so past prosaic Into poesy like unto music! Grandeur! Humbly born Tamburlaine come to Parthian glory! — and so like yourself, mere cobbler’s son — [to all] your launching blank verse onto our nation’s stage is an epoch in the ’story of our calling! And [aside to Marlowe] — we’ll mundanely exploit to the top our sensation’s fiscal gain.

Christopher Marlowe [aside]:

Fret not — even now I balance and shape Tamburlaine Two at your insistence, though I look and long beyond, out onto vast new pastures of versal verse, already contemplated. For the wages of Attic weakness, there’s satan-toy necromancer Faust, who dreamt of Trojan Helen from time afar:

Was this the face that launched a thousand ships
And burnt the topless towers of Ilium?

Forget not boy-enthralled Edward II,
And bentback boy-garroter Richard III.
If seek thee tragedies incarnadine,
There be a wealth of murdered majesties:
Caesar, Macbeth, Richard II, Henry VI.
Richard III. Edward II. hapless Hamlet.
Their scheme-flush palaces shall be my homes.

Greene:

Though your morals and religion offend my senses, Kit, I confess uneven Tamburlaine

1 “Asrael”, the Angel of Death, was the title of the 1907 tragic 2nd Symphony Op.27 of Josef Suk, which mourned — most affectingly in its memorable finale — the recent successive deaths of the two most irreplaceable souls of his life, Antonin Dvorák and his daughter Otilie, Suk’s wife. Though never again composing at quite the same lofty plane (as in his opp.24-27), Suk lived past those shocks, ultimately winning the music competition at 1932’s Los Angeles Olympics, for his march “Towards a New Life” — a title apt to both his and Marlowe’s survival.

2 Early Marlowe considers (Richard II 3.2): “. . . sad stories of the death of Kings! How some have been depos’d, some slain in warre! Some haunted by the Ghosts they have depos’d, Some poyson’d by their wives, some sleeping kill’d! All murther’d. For within the hollow Crowne? That rounds the mortall Temples of a King/ Keepes Death his Court. . . .”
hits masterful word-musical moments that augur well — if you will but leash your appetites, and passion for heretical risk.

Henslowe:
Music, yes, but first Kit must soar to the heights of the depths — to be the Jove of the pits.

Marlowe:
There’s tomorrow and tomorrow and tomorrow for that. But for the present, I debauch this very eve — for he who loves not tobacco and boys is a fool.³

Greene:
To my last syllable, I’ll stay the fool. [Exeunt.]

A3 London Pub: Spies Extraordinaire: Rob’t Poley, Nicholas Skeres, & Marlowe

Marlowe:
As playwright, I must draw from Master Robert the apprenticeship of his Cambridge years. Acting, perchance?

Robert Poley:
Sardonically bait me as you will, I’ll not play the modest genius. Would you had been on scene with me to share the look upon the Catholic schemer Babington’s visage, when MY treason upon HIS confronted him full, redeeming thereby all my prison years in London’s Tower, playacting at pious fellowship among the papists who plot to slay our Queen upon her throne, to place the Romanist pretender thereon. Even when struck with my confession to his face, Babington staunchly spurned it with that dear immunity from reason’s disturbance so endemic to his faith.

Nicholas Skeres:
Now that our Lord Walsingham’s agents and his supremely gifted code-piercers have outspied Mary’s spy-legions, will our too merciful Queen agree to her shortening at last?

Poley:
Shortly methinks. It’ll need all Lord Cecil’s intimate guile upon her —

Marlowe:
— to come to a head.

Skeres:
Royal blood spilling its like — but who better to spur the deed than Burghley, the Prince of Guile?

Marlowe:
Mightn’t his Lordship kill her with pamphlets abroad the nation, as with Norfolk? — to raise another Hurly-Burghley toward the axe?

Poley:
Aye, Cecil, web-spinningest spyder of the realm. And Mary’s end by Poley’s deft devices elevates my unpercieved soul onto the remotest cloud of the precious elite, those singularly clever if physically feeble channellers of the course of history’s unfeeble torrent, like unto Homer’s guiding gods, but greater yet for their unmythic tangibility. That none will ever know of our heroic daring, only perfects Poley’s unsurpassed genius at darkest intrigue, which is life itself to me — as playwroughting is life’s cor to that unique everbrother who has honored us this eve by quaffing at our very table. [Exeunt.]
tall before his subjects will add “Local Pope” to his titles. Ere long, you’ll be merely another church among a potpourri of popery, equivalently insulted as no more than “bishop of Rome” — and our business, as just the “Roman church”.

 Pope: Has slumber captured God Himself? Mary Stuart murdered! Elizabeth’s pirates fleecing our fleets? We tire of waiting on Britain’s self-reform. Our merciful patience is strangled to its end. Our wronged Spanish Emperor good Philip was&is rightful king of England, as was church-blessed Conqueror William the First, who invaded by sea to slay King Harold at Hastings, proving England’s capture can be effected — by one imbued with pious legitimacy. We will grant good Philip all holy and lethal assistance he desires! Alert the money-changers and en-trance our most ambitious nobles by lure: their common felicity in henceforth advancing by lawful magic — indeed a leap above alchemy — necromancing a modest gold investment into a large English estate and a peer’s title.

B4 Spanish Court

*Sire, our tactics triumph! — behold the foraging fleet aflame! Our sneak surprise succeeds, the enemy retires in chickenyard chaos — most running, a few enfeebled stragglers yet firing, to little effect.

Drake: Our pony fireships’ve frightened and lighted the Spanish force. It lies now beneath our mightiest guns. Rapid reload be our English cannons’ hallmark. Answer the brigands’ sateless hunger! — Let them eat cannonballs! Ram them with fire! Burn the flamers to the waterline! Cannon-blast the rest and see how well the papists savour the other end of a massacre!

[Exeunt.]

C 1588

C1 Summer, Calais Coast: HMS Revenge Dares Confront the Armada

*Seabattle based on Drake’s non-existent “lost” fanciful rendition*

Sir Francis Drake: These bloody Spanish locusts aim to steal our wares and lands, undo our reborn Christian Church of England, and enslave all they do not murder — slaughtering as notoriously as their Romish brothers at the Paris Massacre, when thousands of protestant Huguenots, not at sanctuary in Walsingham’s embassy, were murdered by Mary Stuart’s cousin Guise. Should some amongst us fall that England may thrive, our English dead and our cause will live forormore in legend. To the ends of their spars, the heroes who survive will be — like unto those at Agincourt — the envy of all unlucky Englishmen who missed the passion of our sea-history’s fiery pinnacle raging now before us. Where the Spanish fleet’s front

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*Bloody Mary’s nuptial negotiator Egmont was later captured during a Spanish invasion of Holland, when he couldn’t get-outta-town fast enough. Executed, he was posthumously transformed by Goethe’s Egmont & its 10-part musical Beethoven dramatization, into a hero of religious freedom. Dedicated to an appreciative Goethe, the music was exceptionally composed without fee by Beethoven, its Overture an especially intense triumph of his legacy.*

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Dennis Rawlins 2021/1/14  DIO 26  Christopher Marlowe’s Perfect Crime

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Christopher Marlowe’s Perfect Crime DIO 26  2021/1/14  Dennis Rawlins
Drake:
— a theme that Jack had best not duel upon. My worthy crew comprised bold and liberated slaves — in our ever-glorious Panamanian liberation of Philip’s stolen galleon-bullion.

Howard:
Talk of real gold near pyrites-infamous⁵ Frobisher is tactless — and unbalanced on the day of his share of our lives’ most immortal success, which will sure set a knighthood atop England’s memory of his discoveries of land in the arctic New World —

Hawkins:
— and Frobisher Bay. But the Armada we’ve repelled must leave a stain. It will so quake England, you may count upon a protestant version of persecuting heretics. Not only Catholics, but atheists, Puritans, perverts — dissenters will mute their tongues to keep them. Persecutions will roll. With heads beside.

Drake:
As to your fearful prospect, I cheerily contend: the more we buccaneers splinter the Earth’s empires and churches, the more’s the prospect one’ll someyear prize unchannelled speech — o brave new world!

C4 Rome in Gloom
Pope:
Was this the farce that lost a thousand ships
And spurned the powerless powers of Brit’ium?

Their navy was but a quarter ours. all of you predicted: what-could-possibly-go-wrong!
Cardinal:
Only everything.
Pope:
Be not arch, but lay forth the grim details: How? How?
Cardinal:
Thanks to schismatic Continental Protestants, English bribes, negotiations, agents, and spies, the soldiers due at Holland never fully came aboard, harried by sudden English raids. Storms scattered our ships, whilst theirs proved swifter, nimbler — and tinier targets.
Pope:
Failure will be my monument —
Cardinal:
— yet take heart, more holy tortuous paths to English power are even now explored; schemes along many multiply even as we confer. And at least god’s Armada frightened the schismatic devils, so trust that Elizabeth’s monopolistic owners will turn the screws upon dissent as she ne’er did ere. From said panic’s spying, persecution, and torture, trust that yet more plots will fester. I leave your Holiness with the comfort that between these and the fear of yet further invasions, the bastard usurper’s crown will rest upon a skull ever-beehive-buzzy with nightmare hauntings. [Exit.]

C5 1589 August 1: French Army Camp Outside Paris, Preparing Occupation
King Henry III of France:
As our army rests, I hear yet again that a Romish clique remains displeased that the Duke of Guise died by our command of late. Know they not that his massacre of protestant Huguenots degraded the glory of France?
Courtier:
Your majesty, a friar, Jacques Clément, beseeches your royal audience to discuss the very point.

Henry:
Have the good friar approach that we may hear his desire.
Clément [approaches slow, then rapidly]:
I protest the murder of Guise — thusly [lungs & stabs Henry].
Courtier:
Guards! Quick! [Bodyguards immediately kill Clément.]
Henry:
I am just scratched — but — cannot stand. [Collapses.]
Courtier:
The king faints — hang leery of the blade on chance of poison. No — the king is — dead.⁶ Clear the palace of all but peers and bloody guards. And — that it may step back from Paris — alert the army forthwith of our regicidal dis-aster. Damned stars! [Exit.]

⁵ Dramatic license: Henry III took hours to die.

6 The party who nearly assassinated Napoleon on 1800/12/24 later became a Roman church priest in the U.S. Stauffenberg was a member of the same church when he tried to kill Hitler on 1944/7/20. That Roman church people made the most serious attempts at eliminating Europe’s two bloodiest modern tyrants (both nominally Catholic themselves, of course) is a credit to the church that has been neglected.

During his earlier Canadian explorations, Frobisher became known for bringing back to the queen tons of fool’s-gold.
D 1593

D1 January, Marlowe at Thomas Kyd’s home

Marlowe:
Dear Kyd, who chose to live with me and be my love in kind-remembered past, know you that I dream upon a drama of the Guise limb of Mary Stuart’s unkillable killer-family-tree, which does yet seethe in hot frustration at failure of Ridolfi’s bungled plot to launch an early armada for enthroning Mary in our queen’s stead. Sixteen years past, the Duke of Guise murdered good protestants by the thousand at Paris and about — the Huguenot Massacre, inspiring our late cyanosed Francis Walsingham to swear his eternal oath that papism would never foul this precious stone set in the silver sea, this bless´ed plot, this earth, this realm, this England — a paean I must surely place into one among my British histories.

Kyd:
Unsurpass´ed bard, snuffless star to be, embodiment of dangerous indiscretion, your courage undoes me. Following Philip’s near miss, our perturb´ed lords spy and herd all. Since jealous Greene hinted at your circle’s atheism five years past, rumors multiply of Marlowe’s scoffing at religion and sundry service to the crown as to double that. Yet there is on Earth no bottomless well from which to draw infinite immunity.

Marlowe:
I thank you, Kyd, for your love’s concern, but know you that, being leagues ahead of my dull detractors’ wit, I a’ready ... Sir Francis Walsingham witnessed close, when Paris’ fortunate few unmurdered Protestant Huguenots sought refuge in the English embassy?

Kyd:
Would that Sir Francis had lived to see that bold salvation resurrected — for enlightenment of papists in the pits.

Marlowe:
I change a fragment of the bloody tale, 
For a cause which may long lay unperceived: 
King Henry will murder his murderer. 

Kyd:
Being unarm´ed, how would Henry kill? 

Marlowe:
In the brief moments left him on this Earth, 
He’ll strip Cl´ement of his envenomed blade, 
Heroically dispatching the papist, 
By the very device of his perfidy. 

Dramatic purpose to history’s wrenching. 

Kyd:
Not my sole intent. But, enough shopchat; 
We loving playwrights now trade drama for dream. 

D2 April, Marlowe’s Home

Marlowe:
Thanks to rumors birthed by the late Greene’s envy, whiffs of my heresies waft yet further abroad. Pursuant to escape from attendant dangers, I’ve counterbirthed an unfathomable plot, and am even now registering my greenest poem, Venus & Adonis, anonymously, as launch of that design. Be patient — you’ll soon perceive the purpose.

Kyd:
Why suspend your own lover’s curiosity? 

Marlowe:
All in good time. 

But the worlds you conjure ensure your name’s immortality!

Kyd:
I remind you: What’s in a name? Why fret o’er the bubble, Reputation? It is my inimitable spirit that shall reign immortal whatever the name.

Marlowe:
What scheme you, that thy name is now of slight account? 

Kyd:
All in bad time. 

[Exeunt.]

D3 April. Raleigh&Marlowe Ponder Immigration, World Economy, & Atheism

Sir Walter Raleigh [doing tobacco]:
There’s waxing general hubbub on the heresy of our circle, and your verbal indiscretions trigger tremors to undo you. It is an essential of survival to learn that governments permit free speech only so long as it’s ineffectual. Take public action against their schemes, and you’ll quick learn more of actual liberty in England than you’ll want to know, or I can impart or shield.

Marlowe [matching Raleigh’s smoke]:
I’ve discussed with profit said danger with our spiery’s guide and benefactor Thomas Walsingham, who is like unto god in his goodness, power, and invisibility, differing solely in the mere detail of actually existing, a chance diversion stirring theological inquiry: Raleigh, how take the unearthly unmirthly? Such as [mock sotto voce] conveniently-invisible eternity of Christian heaven, said to follow our puny mortal century, when blatantly, were it real, by the o’erwhelming temporal ratio, we are infinitely more likely to be gloriously situate in its ethereal expanse than pinched within our proportionately zeroic span upon this frantic earth.

Raleigh:
And why are the faithful, seeing the world’s evil, so prone to admit unsure, humble puzzlement at God’s-Plan — ever-unfulfilled, millennium-after-millennium — while yet on like evidence so unhumbly, arrogantly, insistently, sure there is a god?

Marlowe:
How else maintain poor ragged knaves’ religious thrall, to gold-adorn´ed princes’ unthralled dreams of wealth and empire? — absent just that flagrant contradiction in logic. Why else must governments invent and reinvent ecclesial mythology? — armedly proclaiming each successive version the infallible one at last — thus lethally shielding their fragile holy jests from the satan of reason, rendering doubt so villainous that men, who cannot in logical battle defend their faith therefrom, continue yet believing in and cleaving to the indefensible. Raleigh, if there be more a obvious fraud10 than religion, I would be enlightened by your naming it.

Raleigh:
Are such off-the-cuff sacrileges inspired by taking the divinest of the New World’s tobacco deep?

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8 See www.dioi.org/vols/w80.pdf, DIO 8 §5 ¶L3.
9 That Marlowe thought Moses, Jesus, churches, etc, were frauds is part of spy-colleague Richard Baines’ 1593/5/27 testimony to the Privy Council. See §E1 below.
Marlowe [starting yet another smoke]:
My robust health continues, inspired by your rich American bounty.
Raleigh [lighting up own next smoke]:
Our exalted — and exorbitantly profitable — drug we import from 'cross the sea, while the ever avaricious mercantile forces now capturing England’s Privy helm do instead import foreigners from neighbor Holland, though of suspect loyalty to my Lady’s Church, and enfeebling to native labor’s wages.
Marlowe:
Hollanders have dike-blocked floods for centuries, yet cannot sense our apprehension while flooding us with scabs?
Raleigh:
Why am I alone the Privy Councillor sensing danger in the worker wave from Holland?
Marlowe:
Beyond their own years, our gain-grabber merchants care not for the future of the realm —
Raleigh:
— or even the future they leave their own offspring.
Marlowe:
Nothing slays a dear land of plenty swifter than unbridled labor plenty —
Raleigh:
— slyly cheating the very lure of wealth that lights our workers’ energy — by injecting into England foreign workers
Marlowe:
— swordlessly surrendering an isle not otherwise invaded with success since our Norman forbears. Little surprise the Council suppresses atheism, hoping under-rewarded workers envision wages after death from Jesus’ justice.
Raleigh:
Amongst the Privy Councillors the pinnacle of risibility is their oft-parroted mercantile lament that our nation’s finances will collapse without alien labor.
Marlowe [laughing]:
If otherwise no enterprise may rise,
Then it must follow as the night the day:
The world entire’s economy must swoon
Absent desperate workers from the Moon!
Raleigh [guffawing]:
The economic theory of the sky!
Yet when will Holland’s scabflow-tide be dammed?
Marlowe:
When one will risk forever to be damned.

Dungeon Rackmaster [torturing Kyd for information]:
Dutch church doors littered asudden — with threats against our new Dutch labor, frightening through spectre of Parisian Huguenots’ ill fate — the documents signed Tamburlaine, title of the premier play of your colleague and once-bedmate, who cuddled close in bestial sin.

Rackman:
I swear by all holy that I know nothing of the Dutch Church Libels.
Rackman:
Wrong song.
To your blasphemous ilk, nought is holy.
Kyd [alternately fainting & screaming]:
How can I speak when pain does blank my mind?
Rackman:
The lever eases. Reward my kindness.
Kyd [chorlty-scoffing bitterly]:
Yes, yes — ’twas Marlowe wrote the threats — as you’ve a’ready divined, allaying guilt for informing at the last.
But I spill too late.
Kyd: My body is now broken for all time.
Rackman: The realm and its boys are safer for that.
Kyd: So now you’ll sully forever my name? [Faints]
Rackman: My guild isn’t known for guilt or for shame.

E Cloak&Dagger: The Star Chamber

E1 Privy Council, Bloodlustling Archbishop: end of May [Meeting of Privy Council, incl. England’s actual ruler, English spiey’s originator, Robert Cecil]

John Whiteyng, Archbishop of Canterbury:
We have some days past issued warrants for arrest of blasphemer, atheist, & buggerer Christopher Marlowe, and have found him hiding at Thomas Walsingham’s estate. Supported by today’s guest Essex, Councillor Robert Cecil insisted — incomprehensibly, given that atheism is treason against god’s earthly pontiff Elizabeth — that Marlowe be bailed for the nonce. Against the chance of freedom, he has been severely warned to keep daily attendance upon our Lordships. We continue to collect full enough evidence to ensure his ensnarement and execution — after sufficient torture to flush out names of fellow degenerates. Baines, his spying companion last year in Holland, will now provide a round of justifications.

Richard Baines:
As a former co-spy I can testify to your Lordships as to Marlowe’s iniquity most foul. Within mine, Greene’s, & others’ hearing he has scoffed at god, Elizabeth, the Afterlife, & our Church of England — even calling Moses a mountaintop chiseler & Jesus a carnival magician, and teaching young men that religion is a fraud imposed to cow men thus to bend them to their rulers’ uses. He has diseased our young men’s morals and now by his Dutch Church Libels arrogantly imagines he may interfere in matters of commerce and of labor.

Lord Robert Cecil:
Was not your fellow slanderer Greene starved to misery by miserly userer and Shake-Scene-actor Ned Alleyn? — and thus deceased last year? So of what account be his witness today?

Archbishop [undeterred]:
Marlowe’s heretical infection must be more than blunted. It must be reversed, sent fleeing, expunged — punished so overwhelmingly, so hideously as to warn other blasphemers of the hellfire fate awaiting corruptors of youth.

Rackman: The realm and its boys are safer for that.
Kyd: So now you’ll sully forever my name? [Faints]
Rackman: My guild isn’t known for guilt or for shame.

[Exit.]
Lord Robert Cecil:
Marlowe is like myself of common origin and now a multilingualist through Cambridge University. He is indeed heretical, yet the whole Raleigh circle is so but nevertheless is genially tholed. Marlowe differs in his revolutionary passion for action which by his vision would uplift men and protect the realm. True he has, against Raleigh’s advice, far overstepped proper bounds in public discourse, but Essex and I — who accord on little else — do ask for consideration of Marlowe’s learned and unprecedentedly beautiful literary contributions, to this nation’s lastering grandeur.

Rob’t Devereux Earl of Essex:
Just a passing thought: since Marlowe’s atheism is — as we all do solemnly swear — assuredly false, why not refute him instead of racking him?

Archbishop:
Is it not safer for the realm if both medicines are brought forth against the illness of doubt?

Essex:
I know not what came over me. Unguarded speech in Elizabeth’s England?! — What was I unguardedly thinking?

Archbishop:
A cautionary rhyme to certain overcertain sarcastic lords — from an amateur and professional politician:
those of careless tongue
lose their heads ere longue —

Council:
[muffed snickers at wannabe poet]

Archbishop:
— I quake when I sense in this very company the slightest zephyrs of mercy towards that satanic libertine, who cannot merely burn but first must be tortured long, to shake names and blare emphatic humiliation for his sins, impressing the wages of heresy upon our realm’s infirm. Let us retire for the day on the instance of this vile apostate, but determined that our next conclave must demand

a swift start to his unswift end.

Council:
[unambivalent sniggers, safely inaudible, at Whitgift’s stumbling fling at iambic quadrameter: just another couplet-flop] —

{for quadrameter’s pinnacle: enjoy Walter Scott’s nobly anti-deceit 1808 Marmion}

Essex [aside]:
A divine whose rhymes would be hooted from a nursery — fixed at lowing the highest poet of the world. 

[Exeunt.]

E2 Shortly After, Theatre District Pub

Publisher Edward Blount:
Kit! — Thanks be, for you yet remain at large.

Marlowe [puffing-exhausted from sprinting unrecognized through slum alleys to meet Blount in secret]:
Dodging through darkways, tripping o’er my tongue
(a turn of phrase I’ll turn again to gain). {Hamlet 3.2.}

For ignoring Raleigh’s many warnings,
My time upon this English earth is short.
The Privy Council meets to doom my voice,
Thus let me quick impart what Blount needs know.

Blount:
Count me in as long promised, dear valued friend, unequalled creator. You’ve asked that Venus be published right away under shadowy userer Shakespeare’s name, with your just-concocted and politic dedication to young Earl of Southampton, protege of powerful Essex,

old Walsingham’s son-in-law.

Marlowe [handing ms to Blount]:
This my unpolished but long-promised play

Massacre at Paris, I leave with you.

Blount:
But, as you wish, your plays beyond must be anonymous for the nonce. And if the veriest rumor of your salvation airs a few years hence, fellow Cantab Francis Meres stands alert to overnight ascribe the lot to Shakespeare, while of equal sudden George Chapman releases your completed pseudo-incomplete poem Hero & Leander to remind all that Marlowe is sure dead. We’ll trust the confluence is not over-stark. 

Marlowe [still breathless]:
On the morrow, east of London, at Deptford port on the Thames’ south bank, after appearing in town, I’m to flee by conveniently closeby vessel. I connive in the soon-after sham-shame wreckage of my name. I may never return to my home, my family, my friends. And my loves. But my craft I’ll not abandon, if you but help as we agreed. Walsingham will fund scribes, thus the plays I’ll send from the Continent will go pristine to the players absent trace of my hand. Of my latest play, Massacre at Paris, I ask that you retain a leaf in my hand as a last token of the real Marlowe — trusting Massacre to be staged anon, rendering credible tomorrow’s like-scripted blade-reversal game — and to clue remote posterity to my most deadly play, Marlowe’s own Deptford demise! Though roughly hewn, Massacre will succeed on Protestant rage and synergised mayhem.

Blount:
Your Greek slithers among your English.

Marlowe:
Another play I think upon is the oft-told tale of Denmark’s Hamlet. My Hamlet will be Marlowe’s apogee! — bearing my grandest soliloquies, and as a touch, it will end in yet another blade-trade, akin to Massacre’s final scene, as vengeful assassin Laertes’ poisoned fatal foil deals death to Hamlet — then is scuffled to the hand of the doomed victim, who with same delivers quietus to his would-be-slyer slayer. Future poets must ultimately perceive that our thrice-tapped blade-flip device was as fictional at Deptford as for Massacre & Hamlet.

Blount:
If parallels are not perceived at first, they’re sure to be ere the end of man.

Marlowe:
Years hence when final revisions crown plays of my dying days, dear Walsingham and our newfound dark rich friend have put funds ahead for release of all in folio, with you as publisher. If danger has passed for present agents of my flight, my name goes upon the folio cover — else put my front upon the front. By then, I will be he.

Blount:
As I now prepare to settle your estate, I must inquire: is it too transparent that said

15 Massacre’s unfinished state is discussed for its significance at www.dioi.org/ji00.pdf, DIO 18 §P2.
16 The play’s complete messiness makes no sense if it was staged in 1593 January as anti-Marlovian Nicholl believed. The correct 1594 January date is obvious to a calendarist: idem.
17 The confluence came to pass 5 later, in 1598. See www.dioi.org/ji00.pdf, DIO 18 §§L5-L9. [Note added 2020/9/19. An unanticipated advance produced by the Marlovian solution: The long-notorious confusion, regarding which First Folio plays were or weren’t really Shakespeare’s, now evaporates upon realization that the collection was prepared by the author himself, Marlowe evidently consulting with his executor Blount (www.dioi.org/ji00.pdf, §§37), preparer of 1623’s First Folio (well after Shakespeare’s 1616 death): ALL 36 PLAYS were exclusively by the same proud creator — and grateful debtor to Shakespeare’s crucial fronting&funding.]
immortal volume be arranged and published under the eye of the accrédited Marlowe’s executor, myself? Shakespeare’s unremarkability, and his debut right upon the heels of your banishment-vanishment, are clues which more than suffice to reveal the dangerous truth in time. Why tie a skyrocket to these?

Marlowe:

Merely more clues left to posterity, enlightening those who follow wise William of Occam in the path of reason and discovery. Yet the Privy Council’s documental secrecy and our Deptford guile will leave no tangible trail, thus the mass of those impoverished minds who require such instruction will forth-wit be noised by our genius into accepting the extinction, guided into petrification from mere evidence, improbability, inconsistency, and logic against it, whatever gifted detectors may unravel in centuries to come. Just as we wish! — for now keeping all snug from inquisitors’ sanguine maws, ’til long past our fraternity’s flight to the grave’s eternal security. If Council’s usual privynance holds, few or none will relate Marlowe’s exit to Shakespeare’s entrance. But if — as likely — Archbishop Whitgift imparts the slightest glimpse of Council’s lately doings to his holy colleagues for their glee and pulpit fury, my public demise becomes as solid as it were tombstone.

Blount:

Then Shakespeare’s credit may be fixed for all time.

Marlowe:

I’ll not forget your advice and partshare, in our ennobling of the souls of our epoch, and past same. Keep you well — and hope and look for my return. [Exit.]

F Dagger&Cloak of Blood: The Perfect Non-Murder

F1 May 29 Night at Eleanor Bull’s Guesthouse: Poley, Skeres, Frizer

Poley [ectastically swelling]:

So — our Walsingham ring to the rescue yet again. Like unto prior grand deeds! And this job’s quicker — a few hours work instead of years. And far easier, just a standard cloak&dagger bit: saving a single person from the Church of England — instead of a whole nation from the Church of Rome. But . . . whom we rescue for the ages is one I’m proud to own as fellow Cantab, colleague, and friend — the sublimest poet that was ever on this Earth. And is not Poley the most bleséd spy in all sneakdom’s annals? — that Fate should DOUBLY grant grand spy-enterprise? My prior pride in saving England yields now to greater glory yet, in saving works that will outlive the British empire, enduring “for all time!”18 — wrought from dream to substance through our spymate, nonpareil creator Kit Marlowe.

Skeres:

And you fill my cup of pride with thanks as well, for I entered life lower than Poley and am even yet a mere errand-errant. Thus will my felicity at celestial elevation be the greater.

Poley:

Now down to it. Skeres, you have the dagger, hammer, and body that I ordered be brought?

Skeres:

As reliably as ever was.

Poley:

Recall we thought first of sampling corpses from the resurrectionists, but with plague o’erwhelming London, the notion died. Instead, sufficient invisible coin from on high in apt invisible hands, has produced the corpse of like-agemé and like-persecuted John Penry, 18 Ben Jonson’s preface to the 1623 First Folio (The First Folio of Shakespeare, prepared by Charlton Hinman, Norton, NYC 1968, pp.9-10) p.10. [DIO’s copy of this reproduction was left to us by our late lifetime friend R.L.Smith. The present play’s several quotes from Marlowe are verbatim from the First Folio. (Editions of the plays that are commonly read today exhibit occasional divergences from the 1623 original.)] (Question-in-passing: what do you call someone half as bright as a half-wit?)
Skeres:
But isn’t facial damage’s purpose too obvious? — who stabs someone in the face? We should balance the head-blow with a flock to the torso.

Poley:
The blow must be but one,\(^{22}\) for Frizer to dodge indictment for killing an unarmed man. One blow be forgivable hot passion, leaving accident credible. More speaks vengeful murder. For that symmetry of blows you rightly seek, slight sanguine scarring on Frizer’s crown will suffice.

Frizer [grumpily]:
So now I’m to bleed, too? For symmetry? —

Poley:
— even if coroner Danby hasn’t been turned by coin of Walsingham or other, consider: as thousands of plague-stilled corpses flow daily past, he’ll not pause a minute over any one among them. Have courage and take comfort from the omen of Marlowe’s bail-freedom — signifying his high friends o’reesing these epochal events. For surely the least likely part of Marlowe’s scheme is not our present corpse & tools but the bailing of a traitor — yet it is already done. Our simple successes must follow that impossible success.

Skeres:
Impart the simulation Kit has scripted.

Poley:
We’ll report a wrangle ’twixt Frizer and Marlowe over a bill of fare, and Kit asks that his own rôle in it be as humiliating as we can devise. Both in order that it satisfy the archbishop’s bloodthirst — and that it seem incredible Kit would conspire at so fatally and vilely destroying his name.

Frizer:
Such as it is.

Skeres:
Was.

Poley:
A nice touch is his advice to report that his own\(^ {23}\) dagger was left at home, so only one blade be in play, which ensures the match of Frizer’s to the wound. Having stolen backturned Frizer’s dagger, Marlowe will be damned for stabbing an unarmed man from behind, multiplying disgrace by disgrace. Then, following his latest (other) play’s regal precedent at \textit{Massacre at Paris}’ end, Frizer will seize the dagger from Marlowe’s hand and stab him once in the brow.

Skeres:
How can one stab atop the face be passed off as fatal? — especially wih Frizer’s headblood so trifling.

Poley:
True, the brow is hard; but blood-flow and brain-ooze from there will mask already-shattered face beyond cognizance — and the hanging’s ropeburn beyond notice. A belated truce must occur in a trice; for after we bellow thespian horror, witnesses unbribed may quick invade our play. And an unbribed man can never be trusted.

Skeres [smugly chuckling]:
I ponder several score pounds further insurances of our trustworth.

Poley:
Now’s not the time to bargain — enough that Walsingham will love you for this. And forever.

Frizer:
I know my lord is true. I am entigered.

\(^{22}\) See www.dioi.org/vols/wi0.pdf, \textit{DIO} 18 §E12 [2].
properly placed among outed successes, become famous as the most durably impenetrable crime ever wrought!

Marlowe:
You sully my soul even while felicitating same with pride’s corrupting joy. Yet alas it is time I slip to ship, though my tears of happiness — at breathing yet — are braided with those of melancholy. Will ever I set eyes upon green England more? When shall we four meet again? Shall we ever, indeed? Farewell, perhaps forever, as I trade Winter’s dreammare of incipient extinction through all eternity, for Spring’s fresh prospect of freedom secure to conjure dramatic poematical flights, at last realizing the hope of unhindered and munificently sponsored retirement from ungrateful mundanity, taking passage to my own creative heaven’s gate. This by good assurance of noble lovers of pioneer fashioning of the English language, Walsingham — and a newfound benefactor, a leader who’s been around the theatre, and whose name might even acquire a minum of passing recognition from our venture. You’ll know it soon enough. Eternal parting thanks to my boldest saviours, those who’ve leaped jointly high to outdo god himself, to out-Jesus Jesus. I, atheist Christopher Marlowe, will rise from death.

F3 Later Same Day at Bull Guesthouse
Skeres [yelling in panic to Poley]:
Robert, we may be undone — and headed for the headless! I heard rumor of Kit at the strand, espying embarking!
Poley:
Tremble not. Why think you we four earlier this day feasted at the pub aboard Drake’s circumglob’d ship, the Golden Hind, so happily retired to honoured display at Deptford? We scotch rumor by charging loose witnesses with wine-inspired confusion of one ship with another. I trow and will ensure that memory of immortal Marlowe, upon his final day of life, boarding the Golden Hind — not his true escape ship — will last through the centuries.

Skeres [thus calmed — and soon busy hammering dagger into Penry’s skull]:
How can the faithful go years, decades, whole lifetimes believing the Christian myth, while never pausing for two successive minutes, to ponder the obvious implications of its paradoxes?

Marlowe:
Do none wonder that among the disciples, Judas alone was so cast down by Jesus’ secret life of luxury, that the mere man Judas brought the Earth-god Jesus to apprehension, arrest, torture, and death?
Poley:
Was Judas not the turncoat of legend but rather he who truly loved mankind, asking why money spent on ointment dear for merry Mary massage might not be better devoted to alleviating poverty? — Judas ironically suffering perpetual calumny for a higher and more sympathetic ethic than the terrestrial god’s cold and ponderable plea [In 28] that poverty was eternal on Earth but he was not. And was Judas’ soon-after death any more voluntary than Penry’s? Or was it an enraged racket’s vengeance for loss of its plebeian magic-show’s premier attraction?

Marlowe [Socratically]:
Too-unconsidered points, good Robert, worthy of your agile Cantab mind — to which I owe as well my slipping torture, as the Christian god could not.
Poley [swelling]:
Enlightened skepticism is but part of Marlowe’s precious and thankfully undaggered brain. The privy privilege of friendship with and salvation of England’s sublimest mind, is Poley’s apotesis eternal — though here alloyed by Kit’s departure, and awareness that my life’s epochal but ever-hidden glories now crest, their highest deeds fulfilled.

Marlowe:
My creations hence arise from exalted fervor in memory of our fast and daring brotherhood, which saved England from Philip’s grasp and now preserves my font of poesy for enrichment of all generations to be. 

[Exit.]

The possibility that underworld-god Dis [Hades or Pluto] ultimately retained Jesus in the Earth is so anathema to Christians that the gospels explain Jesus’ post-resurrection public non-visibility as from his intimidation by the mortal gov’t. Odd for god. (Likely reacting to natural doubt on the point, the post-gospels book of Acts transparently tried to deny Jesus’ shyness after Easter. A bit late.)

See DIO §15[C2].


‡ Nathan Dews History of Deptford . . . Deptford 1883 p.124. (The 1797 mutiny-ship Hermione was pointedly memory-holed at Deptford c.1805.)

§ Bakeless 1:183. (The use of 2 fellow spies as witnesses to the fake killing of a 3rd is key to Graham Greene’s 1949 British film, The Third Man.)
Frizer:
Oh! — a hideous accident! — our dear friend Kit Marlowe lies wounded. He moves not. Summon help!

Bull [checking pulse]:
Wounded? He’s dead! Horrible! The worst. Just what a respectable innkeeper needs — a bloody scandal.

Skeres:
Real blood anyways —

Poley [in command]: — stiffe the pathetic jests, and get the bulls to Bull’s. [Exeunt.]

G  Prophesied Resurrection: Atheist Easter

G1 Coroner & Jury Gathered

Poley [quietly to Skeres & Frizer]:
Let me do the talk. Adding to jurymen’s aversion to vision of eyeball-horror, further distraction from the crux of identification to minutiae of brawl-mechanics will fog and slumber the court. Watch me and learn.

Coroner Wm. Danby [glowering — officially]:
How did the killing happen? Be brief.

Poley:
Your Lordship, this poor bloody vessel held once the soul of our friend Kit — that is to say Christopher Marlowe — who, inflamed over cost of our repast, did hotly pounce upon our friend Ingram Frizer who defended himself too well, to his sorrow. We bring the dagger that Marlowe snatched a sudden from Frizer’s sheath, ferally striking his crown. Bleeding Frizer was so pinned fore& aft ‘twixt table and bench, while blocked left&right by friends Nicholas Skeres and myself seated on either side, that he could not retreat; strong Frizer grabbed frail Kit’s blade and when pushing him away did accidentally strike without intent as to either place or part of dagger. By chance it happened that the point was forward and by further chance it struck at forehead near eye, with the sad and horrid result laid before us.

Danby:
Excess detail hardly answers our charge of brevity. Once Marlowe was disarmed, killing him was needless. Defendant Frizer’s several accidents seem improbable in series. I will have him held for further weighing of his story’s truth, though I see no sure proof of ill intent towards his friend. Bailiffs quick remove this rotting remnant ere it fouls the court more. We will preserve in script full tale of these gymnastic events at Deptford.

Poley [lip-motionless aside to Frizer, sotto-voce]:
Did not predict that diversion from the beam of identity-fraud to the mote of brawl-nits would succeed? You’ll be out in a month. And lifetime secure31 for it. [Exeunt.]

G2 June 12: Shakespeare’s Entrance 13 Days After Marlowe’s Exit,

Queen’s Servant Richard Stonley [browsing in London bookstalls]:
Storekeeper, who’s this fresh author? William something. Let’s see: William Shakespeare. Never heard of him, but browsing through his Venus & Adonis I am exalted by wordflight never approached but by Marlowe’s mighty line.32 How can one of no prior appearance — nor membership in any intellectual circle known to me in London — arise a phoenix from a vacuum? As steeply as suddenly, his verses soar in verbal music — and maturity! — at the

uranian heights of those vows safed by the most divine of all prior bards! And this, so strangely, appearing under two weeks33 after the hitherto-incomparable Marlowe’s death.

BookStoreOwner:
So lamented by our poets.

Stonley:
So huzzahed by our divines, who a’ready thunder to their flocks, savouring God’s awful vengeance upon scoffers at His power.

Owner [anachronistically]:
Marlowe’s woes trigger prelates to snigger

He died of a surfeit of just deserts.

The poem you peruse was registered without author last April but bears at outset a since-appended dedication, by our newfound poet Shakespeare, to Essex’ boy, Earl of Southampton, announcing Venus as Shakespeare’s first creation.

Stonley:
Such deftness — as if he’d been writing for years!

G3 September 22: Stonley’s Mansion Stonley:
What make you of nature-gifted rustic Shakespeare’s lightning dawn?

Jonson:
Many wonder at Stratford’s enigma, Who keeps to self, and pens no missives, Pleads pain of hand whenever asked to write, Having34 smallLatin and less Greek, it’s said —

Weirder yet, he even shuns debauches.35

Stonley:
Venus’ creator must be deep steeped in the classics — but how, with feeble Latin and feeble Greek?

Jonson:
More to the point, how would Shakespeare be schooled at all while in the lack of Latin? — which be the common language of instruction36 at all our grammar schools.

31 The incongruity that quickly-sprung Frizer was quicker-rehired by T. Walsingham — despite having just killed his valued friend — has attacted notice by Bakeless op cit 1:157f, Blumenfeld p.40, even EncycBrit 14:925, 1961 ed.


33 The dedication that prefaces Shakespeare’s Venus&Adonis specifies it’s his 1st publication. That it hit the street under 2 weeks after Marlowe’s disappearance is acknowledged even by the Stratfordians’ leading anti-Marlovian, Chas. Nicholl (at Paul Edmondson & Stanley Wells, Eds., Shakespeare Beyond Doubt U. Cambridge 2013 p.29), who passes off the segue as just an “apparent chronological neatness”. But ungullible Ted Hughes (England’s Poet Laureate 1984-1998) perceives the obvious while commenting on creativity vs worldliness and celebrity: “The way to really develop as a writer is to make yourself a... is how Marlowe developed into Shakespeare.” (Quoted at Barber p.v.) Hughes is one of numerous authors and jurists who have realized for over a century that Shakespeare never wrote a play: e.g., Twain, H.James, Hawthorne, Whitman, and Justice Stevens. Hughes’ observation on word-music revolutionary Marlowe reminds one of Beethoven, whose isolation by near-deafness led to orchestral music’s prime creative revolution. (Similarly, an astonishing number of English words were born during the tense Elizabethan period.)

34 Jonson op cit [fn 18] p.9; Price op cit pp.187&211.


36 Carol Rutter at Edmondson & Wells op cit p.135. First connexion to Jonson’s Latin-Greek testimony (fn 34): Rawlins Bardbeard §3.
Stony:
Some divine a front though none explain it.
Why the creator’s flight into darkness?

Jonson:
How shall we ever know, when all are feared to publish doubt, Shakespeare being wealthy and famously litigious?

Stony:
Know you eeco-geography’s curiosity that the first precise extant measure of the girth of Earth appeared at the very time and place when and where Alexandria’s wondrous lighthouse was raised half a stade into the clouds above the harbor isle of Pharos? — a flame-capped pylon gargantually towering, to signal ships as distant as 202 stades at sea, whilst ingeniously yet yielding Earth’s radius from the square of that farthest37 of its light’s seallevel sightability. Is it not [winking at Jonson] a like wonder of time AND38 place that London’s blank verse pioneer39 Kit Marlowe’s lyric blaze, feared snuffed to eternity, has, in our selfsame town of London — within 4 miles and 2 weeks of where and when it died — reflamed to lofty metric life in an ere-unknown genius?
And he but a countrybred lucrelen!

Jonson [returning wink]:
True-blessed are we that shadowy entities let not our loss be longstanding. As we are uplifted by Shakespeare’s honeytoyngödu verse, it is transcendentally as if

We worship at a godless Easter fest
As dear dead muse Kit Marlowe resurrects.40 [Curtain.]

The above play’s words are Elizabethan-era almost exclusively, but the style departs at will. All quotes from Marlowe’s plays are directly from the original 1623 First Folio. DIO requests forbearance of occasional blatant borrowings from or takeoffs on Marlowe (whose gift for language we couldn’t even pretend to approach), all of which are easily recognized by experts. This is not just literature but (slightly loose) historical dramedy.

[See www.dioi.org/ji00.pdf, for DIO’s book BardBeard, contending Marlowe’s authorship of Shakespeare’s corpus, by the criteria of science & epistemological philosophy of science, with scrupulously detailed source citations and numerous cross-references.]

37 See Griffith Observer 2018 August (www.dioi.org/g828.pdf), or www.dioi.org/vols/we0.pdf, DIO 14 §1 pp.3-12, reconstructing architect Sostratos’ intent to build the Pharos exactly 300 feet (or 1/2 a stade) high, so that the square of its visibility distance, 202 stades, would yield Earth’s radius, 40800 stades (Greek-conventionally rounded to the nearest 100 stades). At first glance, this would sound dimensionally impossible to scientists, who ought to check the cited source’s equation 21 to understand how&why it works so neatly — and to see how atmospheric refraction would enhance the empirical result by 6/5, which is almost exactly the long-wheel-spinningly-debated error in the 195-high Sostratos-Eratosthenes-Strabo Earth-circumference. 256000 stades (Archive for History of Exact Sciences 26.3:211-219, 1982; Griffith Observer 82:9-16, 2018 Aug p.14). Airborn horizon-light’s inverse effect (5/6, not 6/5) on later ancient Earth-measure (by double-sunsets: Rawlins, Amer.J.Physics 47-126-128, 1979) produced an under-estimate, 180000 stades (attributed to Poseidonios, c.50 BC), which endured so long as to influence Columbus, over 1000 years later. Through the 1990s, the double-sunset method of Earth-measure was applied-physics example #1 in the standard physics textbook Halliday, Resnick, & Walker, with frontispiece sunset photo & generous credit to DR.


40Fulfilling Marlowe’s sacrilegious prophecy-boost above at §§F2.
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B. L. van der Waerden (world-renowned University of Zürich mathematician), on DIO’s demonstration that Babylonian tablet BM 55555 (100 BC) used Greek data: “marvellous.” (Explicitly due to this theory, BM 55555 has gone on permanent British Museum display.)

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Annals of Science (1996 July), reviewing DIO vol.3 (Tycho star catalog): “a thorough work . . . extensive [least-squares] error analysis . . . demonstrates [Tycho star-position] accuracy . . . much better than is generally assumed . . . excellent investigation”.

British Society for the History of Mathematics (Newsletter 1993 Spring): “fearless . . . . [on] the operation of structures of [academic] power & influence . . . much recommended to [readers] bored with . . . the more prominent public journals, or open to the possibility of scholars being motivated by other considerations than the pursuit of objective truth.”