

DIO

Science Applied to the Arts

Marlowe

Created Shakespeare

Press' Unholy Strat-Jacket on
Two Stunning Central Realities

Marlowe "Died" 12 Days After
Star-Chamber Torture-Prospect

Author "Shakespeare" Debuted
Fully Mature Two Weeks Later

100,000-to-1 Odds Against Tiny
Intervals' Random Occurrence

Why Not Inform the Public and
Not Make Up Its Mind FOR It?

BardBeard

Actor Shakespeare = Christopher Marlowe's Front Why Do DIO's Scientists Care¹ More Than Strat Literati Re Whether or Not the Most Immortal of Poets Was Persecuted for Religious Heresy and Forced to Hide in Exile 'Til Death?

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The present *DIO* volume is not our first adventure⁰ in bringing math & science to bear on wider culture. E.g., proving that “key-Liberated” 12-tone music is actually 29 times less free than tonal: www.dioi.org/mus.htm#trc.

We start Dennis Rawlins' *BardBeard* with a raw compilation (§A1) of nothing but generally-agreed-to *FACTS*, unadorned with *DIO* interpretation. (An approach suggested by the eminent astronomer Myles Standish of CalTech & *DIO*.) This immediately shows:

[1] Nothing more is required to make the Shakespeare mystery's solution self-evident.

[2] Marlowe is the sole authorship candidate whose case's power can be made clear in merely a single paragraph, *because Marlovianism's central evidence is clear & spare, while those of Stratfordians & other cults are opaque, complex, & sprawling.*

⁻¹See §G12 for *NY Times* chief drama critic's selective curiosity. See §T17 for US press in general.

⁰Giza Pyramid orienting star & Alexandria Lighthouse height: www.dioi.org/cot.htm#wkpf&#szsx. Interpreting Christmas Star tale as court Chaldeans' horoscope snuffs geographical anomaly: fn 94.

A Raw & Undisputed Marlowe-Case FACTS Speak for Themselves

A1 The two most lionized names in Elizabethan-era drama were [1] poet and spy¹ Christopher Marlowe, and [2] businessman-usurer-actor² Shakespeare. On 1593 May 18, Marlowe was arrested³ for atheism, facing torture⁴ to extract names of fellow heretics, the warrant seeking him at the estate of the Walsinghams, one of the three most dominant families in England & funders of a vast espionage ring.⁵ He was bailed on May 20. The most detailed testimony against him arrived at May's end. A day or so later, 3 ultra-slippery⁶ Walsingham employees swore that a messy dead body⁷ they produced was Marlowe, killed instantly by a forehead-stab (which doesn't⁸ kill, much less quickly) in their exclusive company at the port of Deptford, during a dagger-brawl where Marlowe had attacked one of the 3, who'd *then grabbed the weapon & killed Marlowe with it*. (In the final scene of the last play Marlowe scripted before his “death”, he rewrites⁹ the bodyguard-rubout of French King Henry III's dagger-assassin so that Henry himself grabs the dagger from his attacker & kills him with it.) Over the Deptford body's deformed face, blood¹⁰ had flowed from a deep wound to the forehead. Whether the body was Marlowe's is regarded as unsettled¹¹ on Westminster Abbey's Marlowe Memorial. Marlowe's fellow Walsingham-ring spies Rob't Poley & Nicholas Skeres, the era's most potently¹² devious espionage agents, were only Brawl “witnesses”. (WS' *Measure for Measure* features¹³ a substitute-body scheme.) Less¹⁴ than 2 weeks later, *Venus & Adonis* appeared, prefaced by Shakespeare's statement¹⁵ that this is his 1st work. The pure-chance probability of Marlowe's arrest occurring 12^d before his “death” AND Shakespeare debuting no more than 13^d later is mathematically calculable¹⁶ as about 100,000-to-1. Neophyte WS' earliest plays are¹⁷ astonishingly mature, and in the blank verse style pioneered¹⁸ on the British stage by Cambridge-graduate Marlowe. Academically-vitaless¹⁹ Shakespeare's exceptionally detailed will mentions not a single book or manuscript or any other hint of a literary²⁰ person, so major authors (Twain, Hawthorne, H.James, Whittier, Dickens, Emerson, Whitman) & Supreme Court Justices (Holmes, Brennan, Stevens) have long suspected that this professional actor was putting on an act, fronting for a playwright with a compelling²¹ reason for anonymity, and able to create plays demonstrably²² much like those staged as WS' (all delivered to the actors in pristine²³ copy) and later published by *Marlowe's* literary executor in the famous 1623 *First Folio* also under the name of Shakespeare, who'd died litworld-unmourned 7 yrs earlier.

¹See §§M11-M12. In 1633 playwright T.Heywood deemed Marlowe “the best of poets in that age”.

²Some skeptics discern (fn 58) surprisingly sparse evidence of WS as actor. On the stage.

³Chronology at §M5f.

⁴§§M5&S23. Colleague T.Kyd's recent fatal ordeal (§M7) made torture a quite tangible prospect.

⁵§M11. For the Walsinghams' epochal rôle in world history, see below at §Z7.

⁶Extensive details provided & more cited at §§N2&S19.

⁷Possible actual identity: fn 122.

⁸§E12.

⁹§O5. Marlowe resorted to switched-blade turnabout-kill fiction for yet a 3rd time in *Hamlet*: §O6.

¹⁰Discussion at §Q.

¹¹§F3.

¹²See §N2 (& D84); three spy-ring pals (Poley, Skeres, & “killer” I.Frizer) were sole body-identifiers.

¹³§E16.

¹⁴Admitted even by #1 antiMarlovian Nicholl: fn 30; see §§D7, E17, T13; fn 45. Thus §Z1.

¹⁵Declaration by “Shakespeare” that *Venus & Adonis* is his 1st work: §S2. Strat assent: fn 30.

¹⁶Simple math: §C2. At §F19, watch this probability slaughter its feeble Strat odds-competition.

¹⁷See §S3 for top Stratfordian's assent to this.

¹⁸See, e.g., *EncycBrit* at §J10.

¹⁹Strats insist (fn 173) WS completed school, only by wrongly thinking no *disproof* exists: §I3.

²⁰§I5.

²¹§§I19&L12.

²²§§J8&U16.

²³§T26.

A2

WHY IT MATTERS

Did the passionate youth who immortally composed [Marlowe *Hero & Leander*]

Who ever loved, that loved not at first sight?

and dreamt of Trojan Helen from time-afar [Marlowe *Doctor Faustus* 5.1]

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

later invent²⁴ “playwright” Wm.Shakespeare and project his own suicidal damned-exile²⁵
despair into the entreaty of a dying prince? [Hamlet 5.2]

O good Horatio, what a wounded name
Things standing thus unknown,²⁶ shall live behind me!
If thou didst ever hold me in thy heart,
Absent thee from felicity awhile,
And in this harsh world draw thy breath in pain,
To tell my story.

B Solution by Detective Induction or Religious Heritage?

Before getting into the (quite literally) intriguing details behind our opening paragraph §A1, we confront what is likely to be the 2nd question (after [§G11] does-it-matter?) many readers will have: why is a *science* journal presuming to evaluate the Shakespeare mystery?

B1 Literati are naturally the most passionate commentators on the Shakespeare Controversy, a circumstance which has had the unfortunate consequence of ensuring that they virtually own it — in big-firm books, the press, encyclopedias, & coffee-table paper-weights. Nearly all are (or had-better [§T6] profess to be) “Stratfordians” or “Strats”, i.e., those who support the authorship of Shakespeare of Stratford-on-Avon. (Sure that their nose for style shows Marlowe couldn’t have been WS.) So what are scientists doing, invading their turf? How can a scientific approach (§X) contribute to solution of the Shakespeare controversy?

B2 Inductive Police & P.C.Police. The answer is — as we’ve already seen in just one compact paragraph (§A1) — that there are here enough data of a non-literary nature — historical documents, medical and probabilistic matters, testimonies, dated²⁷ events — as to render the Shakespeare authorship issue, generally speaking, *a police mystery more than a literary one* (§X30). Also: a philosophy-of-science puzzle (§E35) — where an ingenious (non)murderous fraud has long been suspected to have occurred, as well as *heresy-persecution of an immortal writer* because of much-ahead-of-his-time heresy on religion & maybe (§P5) for promoting gov’t-verboden views on immigration & ethnicity, issues that still (in today’s yet-proscriptive P.C. world) inspire intolerance of free speech.

B3 When a painting is stolen from a museum, who is phoned first²⁸ to solve the crime, artists or cops? I.e., the WS mystery is a Detective case, too-long misfiled under Literature.

B4 Such considerations reflect the attitude of *DIO*, a journal of scientific history — which has already successfully detected and (www.dioi.org/hoa.htm#jptm) undone more historical science hoaxes than any journal, ever, thereby restoring deserved credit to true creators (www.dioi.org/jus.htm), what *DIO* sometimes calls: doing justice to ghosts.

²⁴Fn 136.

²⁵ §U22. On suicide, see iconic *Hamlet* (3.1): “To be, or not to be”.

²⁶ For Marlowe’s ruined reputation: §§L6&M6. On his secrecy’s permanence: fn 202.

²⁷ At §P4 we detect the toppe anti-Marlovian scholar misdating Marlowe’s final theatrical premiere through his own calendaric naïvete, thereby undercutting the theory he bases on it.

²⁸ Though, of course, listening to contributions from every side is not only fair but wise.

DIO will not stoop to the Stratfordians’ practice (e.g., §§T3&U14) of suppressing, censoring, and harassing dissenting material — and will be grateful (e.g., §§E17&T13) not partisan for what scholarly contributions (e.g., §§E17&N15) Stratfordians have made and will continue to make to the controversy.

C No-Contest Odds-War: Are Strat Style-Noses 99.999% Reliable??

C1 A stark example of scientific thinking vs cultist insensitivity-immunity to (or innocence of) probability-math is central to the Marlowe-Shakespeare controversy, so we present it right up-front. *Which is the more unlikely proposition of the two that follow?*

[1] A powerfully-connected, brilliant fictionist-schemer-spy (§J7) found a way to escape highly imminent torture & death? Or [2] It’s nothing but a pair of coincidences that:

[a] During Marlowe’s maturity (c.3000^d) his arrest & “brawl” were (§M5) 12^d apart, and [b] During the c.9000^d (1586-1611) when CM or WS wrote, the gap between CM’s vanishing and WS’ debut (by V&A’s publication) was also less than 2 weeks: 13 days (§S1).

C2 Segue-Squared. Simple division (3000^d/12^d, 9000^d/13^d) shows that the odds against each of item [2]’s coincidences are several-100s-to-1. Equally simple multiplication (standard probability-computation)²⁹ shows their JOINT odds to be roughly 100,000-to-1. I.e., the probability of the three key 1593 Spring events’ mutual rapid-fire occurrence by mere chance is less than a 10th of a percent **OF** a percent. Another way to put this: it is **99.999%** certain³⁰ that the slimness of the two time-gaps between those three key events just cited (arrest, “death”, WS-onset) *is not accidental*. (In 1973, DR expressed [*Peary at the North Pole: Fact or Fiction?* p.263] similar disbelief at a flock of temporally-overtight coincidences in Richard Byrd’s pat official report of his 1926 “North Pole” flight. The 1996 finding of Byrd’s diary data verified fraud: see *DIO*’s verdict at *N.Y.Times* 1996/5/9 p.1, & www.dioi.org/vols/wa0.pdf [*DIO* 10 (2000)], co-published with Univ. of Cambridge.)

C3 Besides ongoing media-dominant pseudo-confident papal-bullowing, how can the Church of Latterday Stratfordians fend off its End-Time by convincing the sane fractions of academia and the general public that the odds are higher than 100,000-to-1 against [a] Marlowe’s survival, and-or [b] the possibility of unreliability in delicate, semi-arbitrary (§U13) word-frequency-tests that for decades have attempted gauging the relation of WS’ & Marlowe’s writing styles? How can either Stratfordian argument even begin to compete with §C2’s plain, *uncomplicated* 100,000-to-1 coincidence, which any educated person can understand for himself (without resort [§Z6] to choosing or having to trust purported experts), and whose unlikelihood we sense even before doing the high-school math of fn 29?

C4 Likewise for the haughty opinions of current orthodoxologists (contra the WS-doubts of several leading experts [§§D6&U22], eminent jurists [§§A1, F3, J2; fn 56], & world-class authors [§J1], before cultism terrorized lit-circle dissent into silence [§T6]): does anyone seriously contend that these herdable scholars’ alleged discernment of Marlowe-vs-WS style-differences is 99.999% certain? Given the foregoing comparison of probabilities, is this even a serious contest of odds? Hardly. Rather, it’s precisely what the familiar phrase “No-Contest” was invented for. Further odds-contests below: §§F17, I11, I17, K6.

C5 The Zaniest Theory of Them All. Since the Strat center’s chant (§T3) is that doubt of WS’ authorship is kook (see §W for who’s really nuts in the WS war), we will isolate the craziest of all Shakespeare-controversy assumptions, namely, that the Walsinghams — ultimo (§Z7) agile-spy-masters, rich and (§§J7&S19) shady operators at the power-pinnacle (fn 107) of the realm, patron, friend, and (§M12) boarder of Marlowe — would have simply sat idly by, while he, the greatest playwright and poet on Earth, was destroyed forever. Equally ridiculous: that a person as clever and well-connected as Marlowe would just sit still (relax-&-enjoy-it?) and make no attempt to escape looming Star Chamber torture.

²⁹ Odds: (3000^d/12^d)-(9000^d/13^d)-to-1, or ordmag 100,000-to-1 (www.dioi.org/cot.htm#rdmg).

³⁰ Further extreme-probability discussion at §R2. Odds-strengths compared at §§C4, C8, K6, K11. Nicholl admits (E29) the “apparent chronological neatness” of the 2nd time-gap (5/30-to-6/12), but fails to realize (E34) that the 1st (5/18-30) doesn’t add but MULTIPLIES odds, and is cause by-itself for suspecting a *necessarily immediate* escape: the immediacy is undeniably consistent with Marlovian theory. Which Nicholl attacked decades before the 13^d gap’s recent surprise-realization sandbagged his cult. (See §E17.) Why apply “apparent” to hard dates & self-evident odds? Because he knows that, if the data are true, he’s buried himself irrevocably into the improbable (§C2) side of the controversy?

C6 Prior Priesthood's Perception & Understanding of the Situation. Among the Strats, those who swear unwarranted Stratflat certitude that the plays were written by William Shakespeare of Stratford-on-Avon, the very few who happen to be aware of the foregoing *hard* facts (§A1) are reliably and cementally immune to them. Most Stratcultists are uninterested in serious evidence, believing their superior perception of the *soft* subtleties of writing style — discrimination exceeding that of nobodies like Swinburne (§J8) & Robertson (fn 167; E247) — blocks forever any potential solution-rôle for hard data.

C7 Evidence You Just Might Want to Take More Seriously Than Cultist "Authority"? E.g., such solid facts as: Marlowe's looming date with torture (§M7); defaced body (§Q1); ultra-shady (§S18) & partisan (§Q10) witnesses to both the Brawl and the patently crucial matter of the Deptford body's identification; the Marlowe→Shakespeare 13-day-segue (§S1). Despite all, Strats' self-elevation leaves them in 100.000% (fn 179) certitude that Shakespeare and Marlowe CANNOT³¹ be the same person.

C8 Immediately-After Venuses: Adonis' & Hesperos'. However, eons ago, human civilization wasn't quite so smart & discriminating as it got later, when evolution ultimately crested by issuing forth preternaturally subtle Stratfordian experts. (Wiser than doctors about medicine [§E12], even knowing better than *Shakespeare himself* [§S] the year of his 1st work.) E.g., primitive man would watch the "morning star" — Eosphoros in Greek — in the east before sunrise for some months; then it would disappear,³² and a few weeks later there would appear in the west after sunset an "evening star" — Hesperos in Greek — of curiously similar brilliance & appearance. It's been said that the early Greeks didn't³³ realize both were the same object: the planet Venus (§Z2). Instead, the morning & evening stars were Stratfordianly proclaimed *separate animate deities*, Eosphoros & Hesperos.

C9 Eosphoros Marlowe & Hesperos Shakespeare. Earlier priesthoods couldn't admit the 2 were really 1 body, Venus, synodically swinging back&forth across the Sun — visually hinting that the base, morality-corrupting heliocentrist heresy might actually be true. Intolerable to the geocentrist goo-roos who for centuries dominated astronomical discourse by whatever force proved necessary to defend a cosmology known today (and to Aristarchos & Archimedes: 3rd century BC !) to have been embarrassingly dumb.

C10 So it may've been as late as the middle of the 1st millennium BC that Venus' unity was 1st recognized in Greece (§Z3). Did that convert geocentrist priests to heliocentrism? No, ever-dodgy (§D7) geocentrists, e.g., the Serapic religion's top astrologer-mathematician Claudius Ptolemy, 2nd century AD, henceforth alibied that Venus merely *looked like* it circuted the Sun: actually, it (like Mercury) *circled a point between us & the Sun*. That crackpot sleight (see DR's "Figleaf Salad")³⁴ held sway for over 1000 years of uninterrupted geocentrist dominance. Meanwhile, only a few "fringe" (fn 35), impious outcasts (www.dioi.org/cot.htm#hckf) promoted the obviously "fantastic" (§R1) idea that the Earth went around the Sun, contrary to convincing but superficial indicia (§X27).

D Outta-Ink Newspapers & Outta-Think Academics

C.Hoffman (H10) justly saw Stratfordianism as a religion of essentially *a priori* mentality. But what are the wellspring & motive behind the heresy-stomping passion³⁵ of Stratfor-

³¹Everyone is welcome to his opinion, but when literati fake (§G3) such ludicrously-TOTAL surety, they remind one of talking-in-the-tongues congregations, where each participant is faking — out of desire to belong to the babbling bund — unaware that everyone else there is doing the very same thing.

³²During 2012, Hesperos was brilliantly visible in the west after sunset (sometimes even during full daylight) until disappearing in May, ere briefly reappearing in June (fn 216) crossing the Sun's face.

³³E.g., Hugh Thurston *Early Astronomy* 1994. Springer pp.21&110.

³⁴Invited paper, American Astronomical Society: www.dioi.org/vols/w11.pdf (DIO 1.1 [1991]) ¶7. (Galileo's sight of gibbous Venus finally snuffed Ptolemy's desperate try at figleafing heliocentricity.)

³⁵ See §§T5, §U13, V1. Strats have, e.g., tried to twist to their liking the original Peter Farey 2008 "Marlovian Theory" Wikipedia page (especially its summary-preface — hoping to discourage readers from even reading on), drenching it with amusingly redundant current-litwit-headcounts and

dians? — who have distorted public perception by censorship and by typical establishment-lobby corruption of Wikipedia, where, in all controversies, Wiki-truth is strictly that of the party that fields the biggest edit-war army. Several factors have turned Strats into cultists: **D1** Worship of the works inspires passion. As with most religions, ultra-dedicated Stratfordians have grown up with their faith, surrounded (www.dioi.org/rel.htm#gppj) by fellow believers — whose very unanimity is mis-taken as effectively evidential — routinely scoffing at outlanders, thereby creating an investment in one's religion being the Right One. The attendant invincible immuneness to evidence is thus assured: after all, who can face having wrongly condemned the truth *and its bearers* for decades?

D2 The top Marlowe documents appeared long after cultist cemental-hardening (§J7).

D3 "Shakespeare" is a money-cow brandname. Change would be costly & messy.

D4 Marlowe is suspected³⁶ of a life-style English profs have not wished to attach to their favorite literary corpus. However, as homosexuality and atheism have lately become more fashionable, those aspects of Marlowe's life may become a partial plus for his rehab.

D5 What does it say about the Expertise of the gods of the literary world, if most literati have been successfully hoaxed for 4 centuries? — rigidly rejecting the very possibility that Marlowe's personality actually IS embedded in the works he published under WS' name. Who amongst The Experts is going confess he never noticed?!

D6 Just as Han van Meegeren's widely hosannahed 1938 fake Vermeer painting (§T23) put permanent quotes around the term "art expert", so the unsubtle strength of the case for Marlowe has put similar quotes around "literary expert", in the eyes of anyone who has checked and rationally weighed the strength of the Marlovians' logic — not merely because of that strength but because of Experts' unwarranted, fanatical over-certainty in their faith. Naturally, the more unwarranted, the more fiercely fanatical, as if faith's strength can make up for evidence' weakness. Typical religion. It must be added that some of the very best writers — e.g., Colin Wilson (§X32) & Ros Barber (§D8) — and the well-informed & fearless advisors who convinced Westminster Abbey to put a question-mark beside Marlowe's death-date (§F3) are less easily fooled by Will's front, less herdable (fn 152) by orthodoxologists, and less divertable into the eternally-wheel-spinning frustration of the "Oxfordian" cult (whose authorship-candidate is a murderer [E40&45], the Earl of Oxford).

D7 Even while flexibly (fn 183, §§S3&W20) clinging to inflexible opinions, over 90% of the supposedly (§V1) unanimous-for-Stratism scholars have never heard of (§T17) — or won't speak or write (§R3) or investigate — the simple, compact evidences summarized at §A1. This, because no centrist book (§S38; until E29) or newspaper (§§G10&T15) could find room to tell readers that Shakespeare appeared right after Marlowe disappeared. E.g., the 2 top current charge-leading Strat-warriors, James Shapiro & Stanley Wells, even while (S237 & E74) noting R.Stonley as an early buyer of WS, fail to tell readers that Stonley's 1593/6/12 purchase of *Venus & Adonis* (fn 45) was just 13^d after Marlowe's exit, the crucial, historic 1st known appearance of WS as author! Nicholl did better at E29, but neither he nor anyone else in E notes that WS' *Venus & Adonis* explicitly *says* it's his 1st *work* (not just his 1st-*published*), thereby gutting the pre-1593 WS-play fantasies that litter E (§W10).

D8 Nicholl's *NYTimes* 2013/1/27 review of Barber's magnificent 2012 book (uncited throughout E) was sterilized of the veriest glimpse of Heresy's solid evidence. And he calls *Marlovians* disingenuous (E37)? (Like E227, which also deems skeptics "predatory"!)

D9 How does a Reputable Forum reject a theory without even hinting (§S39) at its central startling evidence, e.g., cozy witnesses, 13-day Deep-Bench transition to WS'

(fn 185) "fringe-theory" smears, none of which constitute evidence. These serve only to reveal how feeble Stratfordians themselves realize is their upfront-Wikipedia string of detections of alleged differences which Expert orthodoxologists claim to perceive in the works of Marlowe vs WS — ultra-fine discrimination which they, in their delusional self-importance (ironic considering Stratfordian accusations [§V2] that skeptics are insanely self-deifying!), regard as more compelling (§§C4&Z4) than mere documents, probability, medical science, & logic.

³⁶Barber suggests a theory of partial mitigation: Q119&419.

mature debut, etc? And (§G9) US forums do so *every time*. (Does such *invincibly-reliable* filtering arise from inexcusable universal journalist-ignorance and-or from newspapers' drama departments' cult-mission to protect [§T14] the *presumably* heresy-vulnerable public from itself?) This, though we've just seen that the essential data suggesting Marlowe's authorship can be summed up in a very few lines (§W28). Marlowe is plainly the superior alternate candidate (as creator of the "Shakespeare" corpus) on several central bases. Among the serious candidates, he alone has the crucial attributes and *distinctive* features (§T12) which we now list:

D10 [1] Very — nay, the *ONLY* — convincing reason (yet put forth by any side) for the author hiding forever in anonymity (§H12).

D11 [2] Track-record of writing plays arguably³⁷ very much like WS'.

D12 [3] No time-line problems (§S29) — a neat CM→WS bridgelet instead (§S1) — by contrast to the chronology-difficulties of Stratfordians³⁸ and Oxfordians (§J4).

D13 [4] Marlowe was as lowborn as WS. So, among the major parties to the controversy, Marlovians alone cannot sanely (§T4) be deemed elitist.

D14 [5] Provocative evidential foundation summarizable in a paragraph (above at §A1), Marlovians are distinctively unprone³⁹ to fall for fantastic and tottering ornate (§H6) speculation-piled-on-speculation compost-heaps, a resort which is naturally standard for competing cults who (§T13) have no documents to compete with the force of those backing the Marlovian case, e.g., those (§M5) which prove that the Star Chamber was pushing Marlowe towards a desperate & swift choice between torture-death or escape back into an alias-anonymity that was not entirely new to one who (§A1) was already part of a spy ring.

D15 [6] MOST IMPORTANT OF ALL: the preferability (§E35) according to Occam's Razor of a simple, plausible, predictive (§E), and unifying theory which solves the Shakespeare case's many outstanding mysteries simultaneously (§X1). Contra the obviously improbable, Rube-Goldbergian theories of cults who have wasted decades vainly scrounging for the hard evidence they (rightly) sense is required to miraculously make credible their otherwise-uncompelling (§H8) pet theory's truth, *this is a case where no direct documentary proof for any contender's authorship is likely ever to be found* (fn 98). (Though recent bombshell-realization that WS succeeded Marlowe by just days is a shock-vindication [§E17] that's closer to proof, than anyone a decade ago had ever expected to appear.) Which (§X) is why Occam's Razor is the appropriate scythe for eliminating baselessly complex theories, leaving us with the most likely answer to the former (§Z1) authorship mystery.

D16 Marlowe had the connexions (D85; §Q10) — and definitely the motive — to escape imminent (§M10) torture-death. And if he escaped he became Shakespeare (§R3) — immediately (§E17), and just as maturely (§S3) as his former self.

³⁷See §§J7&U1.

³⁸ See fn 146. A particularly naïve, abusive, and suspiciously unoriginal (§T10) 2011/10/24 *Newsweek* film-review (echoing T2:212) conjures-up pre-1593 WS plays ("Marlowe . . . [was] killed before the greatest of Shakespeare's plays appeared") thereby — without telling the reader — rejecting WS' own (§S2) chronology-testimony that ALL of his works began appearing at a date that happens to be just when Marlowe vanished. The review thereby continues an apparently uniform journalistic policy of preventing the public from learning of the startling 13-day seam (§S1) that is one of the most powerful jumpstart-alerts to the strength of the Marlowe case. (But, of course, that is exactly why orthodoxologists don't wish the wider public to be Confused by facts of such plain implications as those at the head [§A1] of this article.) As any student of propaganda knows: *this is how it's done*.

³⁹Through the numerous historical reconstructions in her 2012 *The Marlowe Papers*, Ros Barber boldly climbs out (in contagious iambic pentameter)

onto more limbs than came to Dunsinane

— but her speculations have two key differences vis-à-vis the Oxfordians:

[i] they are clearly speculations of varying strengths (some exhibiting remarkable, plausible detective-work by several dedicated Marlovians — herself prominently included), &

[ii] the Marlovian case does not rise or fall on their detailed validity (§W1), since the prime strength of Marlovianism lies elsewhere: §A1.

E Practical Epistemology: Unsong Vindications and a Glovely Fit

At each stage of the centuries-old Shakespeare controversy, reasonable challenges to Shakespeare's authorship have been proposed, and then have repeatedly (e.g., §§E9&E11) become supported by later new findings (§X3).

E1 *Scientists recognize such success as how a theory becomes progressively validated.*

E2 Contra Stanley Wells (E87), doubt of Shakespeare's authorship can be traced as far back as the 17th century (see §L16) and perhaps re-appears (though see S11-13) in the 18th.

E3 Later growing awareness of WS' education-blank increasingly supported such doubts.

E4 In the mid-19th century, examination of Shakespeare's will *independently* (§H21) confirmed⁴⁰ said blank, & a possible (E1 vs §E2) prior proposal that WS wasn't an author. Suspicion that Marlowe wrote Shakespeare began no later than the end of the 19th century.

E5 In 1895, Wilbur G. Ziegler (in a novel summarized at Hxiii) noted the Marlowe→WS 1593 temporal segue (though the time-gap's extent was then but roughly known) plus their similarity of style — and naturally wondered why Marlowe would hide.

E6 On the thinnest of evidence (Z291; §M8) and without access to most of the documents we now have, Ziegler nonetheless guessed (Zx): "some tremendous fear . . . what else but the fear of arrest and capital punishment for some crime could have kept him silent?"⁴¹

E7 To appreciate Ziegler's prescience, keep in mind (fn 205) that neither arrest-warrant nor coroner's report (found in 1925: §N15) were known in Marlowe's time or Ziegler's.

E8 Nor in 1916, when Twain's friend H. Watterson floated a loose fantasy (*Pittsburgh Gazette Times* 1916/4/16) that saw Marlowe behind Shakespeare. And noted a solid Twainism: if WS' genius was accepted by informed contemporaries, why were so few biographical data re WS' literary life sought after by anyone in the decades after his death?

E9 In 1923, Archie Webster (even in innocence of the Marlowe→Shakespeare switch's precision) added to the growing strength of Marlovians' case by pointing out in the *Sonnets* passages suggesting biographical parallels to Marlowe (but not Shakespeare or Oxford).

E10 Parallels such as exile (§U23; N75), especially the 29th sonnet,

When, in disgrace with Fortune and men's eyes,

I all alone bewep my outcast state

(Later authors [W, H111, B259] noted sonnet #74's "coward conquest of a wretch's knife".

Marlovian investigation of the *Sonnets* was the subject of A.D. Wraight's 1994 opus.)

Recall also our opening (§A2) quotation from *Hamlet*, lamenting a "wounded name".

E11 Next vindication came soon after Webster's 1923 article: the 1925 finding of the arrest warrant stunningly confirmed Ziegler's hypothesis of "some tremendous fear".

E12 **Why the Lie? Neither Marlowe Nor the Substitute-Body Died of Stabbing.**

Further confirmation of the suspicious nature of the Deptford "killing" came with the 1925 recovery of the coroner's report, which said (T1:156): "mortal wound over his right eye . . . of which mortal wound . . . Morley then & there instantly died", which — medically — is virtually impossible.⁴² So, by rejecting non-stab death, Strats again (§I11) insist upon arrogantly (§C8) spurning the probable in favor of the improbable — in this case the effectively-impossible. The Brawl-participants' misreport here takes us down one or both of two fruitful logical staircases:

⁴⁰ Manuscript-bare Stratfordians have been on the coulda-happened alibi-defensive ever since: fn 167. (Akin to other cults in their waning days: www.dioi.org/vols/w73.pdf [DIO 7.3 ¶8 (1997)] fn 35 & www.dioi.org/vols/w50.pdf [DIO 5 (2009)] fn 22.) Their pathetic evidential offense is now reduced to putting over on the public insistence (§U17) that Shakespeare's style proves he's not Marlowe, while preferring (instead of debate) the more effective nakedly-unevidential offense of insult (e.g., §T3), politics (fn 190), shunning (§V1), & the like. Again: *do those with a convincing case behave so?*

⁴¹ The analogy to modern critics' silence, in fear (§§V1&W20) of professional damage for Shakespeare-doubt-heresy, is too obvious for extended comment.

⁴² See N18's disagreement, apparently based upon converting the outrageously-improbable-but-possible into factual history by the circular magic of just bootstrap-presuming that Marlowe certainly died — so the stab *must've* been instantly fatal.

Logical StairCase [1]: They didn't stab any (live) person in the forehead, or they would have learned from experience that a frontal lobotomy doesn't kill. Thus, the body produced was already dead when stabbed (§§N13&Q1). There would have been no point in stabbing a dead body if it were Marlowe's. So it wasn't.

Logical StairCase [2]: To explain a planted bloody body found in Eleanor Bull's guest-house, without unfixed witnesses' involvement, the story had to be: [a] one quick blow (more would weaken a self-defense plea), **and** [b] instant death.

Either of these simple lines-of-argument ([1] or [2]) indicate the likelihood that the superficially-bizarre longtime Marlovian substitute-body theory could be true, after all.⁴³

E13 The 20th century recovery of the coronor's report also (publicly for the 1st time) identified the witnesses to the "death", who turned out to be (fn 12, §S21) *the most gifted liars in all of England*, which meant that even the body's very identification was far from sure — obviously suggesting that *another person's body had been substituted*.

(*Why else the need for wall-to-wall topnotch & tight-circle fabricators?*)

E14 The warrant's 1925 recovery added 2 *previously-unknown* (fn 30) data: spy-ring & royal connexions (fn 107), backing the theory that Marlowe fled a "tremendous" threat.

E15 In the context of 1955 suspicion that a body was substituted for Marlowe, it is remarkable that a few decades later David More (then Editor of *The Marlovian*) revealed that the prominent Puritan pamphleteer John Penry (only slightly older than Marlowe) had just *the evening before* been hanged (he had no high connexions) with unexpected suddenness, very near Deptford. It must be emphasized (§Q8) that the body's being stabbed once (only) quite deeply into the forehead is very peculiar for a brawl but is consistent with the body-switch theory in that blood-flow — and possibly facial-distortion from a split skull — would of course be desired if such a scheme were being carried out. Once the oddity that the damage to the body centered upon the face is noted, all but the dullest (§X25) observer would wonder whether evidence of identity had been deliberately obscured.⁴⁴

E16 On that point: others have remarked (e.g., F, B305&337) that *Measure for Measure* (4.2) features a planned (§O4) body (head) substitution, but it's objected (in the play) that the gullie knows both persons, so it can't possibly work. Reply: "O, death's a great disguiser; and you may add to it." (Q210&391; Peter Farey [F] picks up on add-to-it: like, maybe, a stab in the face?) All obviously relevant to the identification of the body produced in 1593 by Marlowe's fellow spies, yet far less startling than the fact that *a body switch is used* in a play suspected by Marlovians to have been written by one who *used that very ploy* to add escape-artistry to the many other remarkable accomplishments of his amazing life.

E17 The Thirteen-Day-Segue. Once it had been modernly realized (D84-85) that Marlowe's style and substance were similar to WS', it was noted (e.g., H3-4) that the 1st appearance of Shakespeare as a writer was suspiciously soon (at 1st it was thought [by Hotson, Hoffman, & Blumenfeld] to be 4 months: H4n) after Marlowe's disappearance. Only very recently was it remembered, due to a modern *Stratfordian* (§T13) recovery of a 1593/6/12 diary passage (originally discovered in 1794 but later long-forgotten) that the 1st known appearance of a work published under Shakespeare's name was less than 2 weeks (§S1) after Marlowe's disappearance. So early nascent suspicion (§E5) of connexion between Brawl & V&A (suspicion based merely on the 4 month gap between the former

⁴³ Hoffman adds (H79f) several common-sense suspicions, including wondering (H81) at the curiously large inequality (§Q4; H91) of the wounds. Note: alleged attacker Marlowe should have had full-windup strength of strike, while defensive-stabber Frizer's knife would likely (contra N85's odd scenario) be thrashing-about with him off-balance (*legs squarely trapped twixt table&chair and* §N11) *Poley&Skeres*, obviating the possibility of stride-windup) during the plainly-brief supposed Brawl. Also: for obvious evolutionary reasons (related to hunting & combat), the front of the skull is particularly strong. (Further: try mock-stabbing someone in the forehead — and it immediately becomes obvious that the knife will just skid off to the side absent almost perfect perpendicularity.)

⁴⁴ A clever and compelling alternate theory put forth by Barber (Q210) is that the eye-wound would be so horribly yukkie (fn 123) that jurors wouldn't want to look too closely at the corpse's face.

& 1593/9/28 registration of the latter) now suddenly *is super-vindicated by the shocking true proximity* of CM-exit to WS-debut. (Blindsiding Stratdom, which [fn 30] for decades ducked [not listened to] less crushing but nonetheless strong evidences, treating them as pests *rather than helpful warnings of future embarrassment*. Similarly: *DIO 10* pp.83-84.)

E18 The span of Marlowe-WS works being c.9000 days, the probability of writer-Shakespeare materializing by pure chance just 13 days or less later is mathematically calculable as 13/9000, or about 1 1/2 TENTHS of a percent. (In 1998, DR used like probabilistic span-math to challenge the theory of eternal afterlife: www.dioi.org/cot.htm#lmtt.)

E19 And the *also-improbable* prelude to this Deep-Bench (§G4) miracle: "death" follows 5/18 arrest and 5/20 Star Chamber appearance-terror & release by less than 2 weeks.

E20 This mutually-enhancing PAIR of coincidences compounds improbability to almost comically fantastic heights (computed at §C2): arrest→Brawl immediately succeeded by the Brawl→"invention" (§S2) of Shakespeare.

E21 Nicholl (N315) and Barber make the sensible suggestion that Marlowe's high connexions are indicated by his bail-release, but Barber (with Farey) explicates the natural thought that both the bail & the high friends (D85) made escape possible.⁴⁵

E22 The obvious suggestion from the foregoing *double-miracle* is that Marlowe's "death" was a planned fake, and this has for many years been Marlovians' contention. Pure speculation?⁴⁶ No, it is not pure speculation that Marlowe's Deptford end was planned:

[a] We've already learned (§E12) that the witnesses' ignorant lie of instant lobotomy-death leads us logically to suspect that another party's body was indeed produced for the coroner. [b] Below (§O5), we find that the most recent (other) fiction which Marlowe had concocted before the Deptford "death" was the last scene fictionalizing an incident actually occurring only 4^y previously) of his play *Massacre at Paris*, in which the Deptford event's bizarre main feature was written by him *before* Deptford: the play ends when (as there) *a dagger-attacker is killed by the attackee with his own wrestled-away dagger*.

E23 Question 1: In light of the evidential items provided here (§A1) at the outset, is there any other way to maintain rigid public acceptance of WS' authorship than by conniving to inhibit (§T15) their mass-dissemination? E.g., shunning (§W20), non-citation (§D7), fantastic falsehoods (fn 38), exile-threat (§V1) to silence public apostates, goo-roo-echoing (§T9), and (§F17) rigid, non-engaging,⁴⁷ dismissive scorn. Only in a fear-dominated field would one have to say aloud what courageous Ros Barber concludes her 2009 article with (D106): "it is my contention that to continue to resist the exploration of the Shakespeare authorship question goes against the spirit and purpose of academic enquiry."

E24 Question 2: In an internet age (§F8), how much longer can orthodoxologists' long-successful omertà (§W20) continue to be effective? Especially when the accumulated evidence has now become so overwhelming (with the realization that "Shakespeare"

⁴⁵ She also cites (Q425) Peter Farey's further provocative suggestion that Marlowe's escape "would be unlikely to succeed without official sanction", leading to Farey's speculative proposal that Marlowe's fate was decided *in camera* at the highest level of gov't by a compromise deal between those (e.g., mutual enemies Cecil & Essex) who valued Marlowe's creativity and those (primarily the Archbishop of Canterbury) who insisted on the educational value (§M6) of prominent punishment for atheism. (Hints in favor of Farey's theory: Some Marlowe histories were TudorProp, e.g., *Richard III*. The earliest known purchaser [§E17] of a copy of *Venus & Adonis*, Richard Stonley, worked in the service of Cecil & the Queen: D85 & S237. Farey has also shown [F] that at the time of the Deptford event, Poley was working "in her majesties service".) Robert Blecker's recent learned (and moralistic) book *The Death of Punishment* (2013 p.28) notes a parallel trend in both traditional & modern retributivism: "Classical utilitarians such as Bentham and Cesare Beccaria have long since claimed that a rational society should design punishment to appear harsher to the public than it feels to the criminal."

⁴⁶ Only to one who cannot fit theory to evidence and so (fn 194) believes nothing not told him by a goo-roo, a pol, or a sacred book.

⁴⁷ In communities with evidence for their orthodoxy, such resort-to-force isn't necessary. E.g., those physicists — Wilson, Chauvenet, Dingle, etc — who resisted Einstein's relativistic theories, were not threatened. The orthodox just put their trust in ever-accumulating evidence instead.

appeared so ultra-immediately [§E17] after Marlowe vanished) that **one need no longer be an expert to discern the truth.** That is, the average person encountering even a brief summary of the evidence will sense⁴⁸ there is a credible case for Marlowe's authorship.

E25 Several of the above-condensed items were summarized in the opening pages [H3f] of the epochal 1955 book by US poet Calvin Hoffman. Marlovian pioneers Ziegler & Webster, & especially Hoffman should always receive prime credit for substantially and convincingly breaking through the fog formerly surrounding the Shakespeare mystery — thus launching the Marlovian revolution now growing through current high scholarship and dedicated detective work, repeatedly adding crucial unexpected clarifying detail (fn 122). Also, Diana Price (non-committal on who is the best candidate) should be recognized for her unequalled analytic & meticulous 2001 quietus (§§I5&I14) to any rational basis for accepting that Wm.Shakespeare ever authored anything. Rodney Bolt's 2005 fantasy-novel added to Marlovian momentum. Blumenfeld 2008 inspired DR to involvement. Ros Barber's 2012 fantasy bravely re-created Marlowe's style, escape, & free spirit. One hopes that the above efforts, along with those of dedicated but balanced present&future researchers such as Peter Farey will ultimately quake&break Strats' inertial grip on public discussion.

DIO's main independent (possibly-original) contributions are:

E26 [1] Illustrating Stratfordian orthodoxy's ample menu of resemblances to the very creationist (§W) and geocentrist (§C10) kookery which irony-immune orthodoxologists unceasingly charge Shakespeare-skeptics with. (Note also parallel to UFOlogy: §I12.)

E27 [2] Discovering (§O5) that Marlowe included the strikingly odd & improbable mechanics of his upcoming "murder", right at the end of his last acknowledged play (& later in *Hamlet*) — on the subject of religious persecution (fn 117) — this, at the very time he realized that he likely would very soon require an escape from his own religious persecution.

E28 [3] Logical demonstration from medical considerations (§E12) that body-substitution is not "far-fetched" (§§G&K7) but evidentially implied. (And, for desperate deft spies, an obvious⁴⁹ & compelling option.)

E29 [4] Explaining (§§N12-N13) why Marlowe had to stab with another's dagger.

E30 [5] The hitherto-overlooked possible significance (§K4) of Shakespeare being an actor — what better choice could there be for a devious front?

E31 [6] Computing for the 1st time the shockingly high 100,000-to-1 odds (§C2) against chance occurrence of 1593's rapid-succession of Marlowe's arrest, his Death, & WS' debut.

E32 [7] Producing several evidences (§§I3, K1, K6) that whether WS was adequately educated is not, as commonly thought, a case where there is no evidence at all, pro or con.

E33 [8] A time-travel experiment (§J6), asking which candidate original WS-skeptics would have chosen as most likely WS-corpus-author, had Marlowe been thought alive.

E34 [9] Proof (§§S34&W31) Greene's "Shake-scene" can't have written the WS plays.

E35 [10] Highlighting the Occamite advantage of the Marlovian theory, through its compact (§W28) & smooth-timeline (§D12) simplicity, predictivity (§E3f), & productivity (fn 128): the *fruitfulness* factor, especially appealing to a detective and-or (§X30) scientist.⁵⁰

⁴⁸ All the more reason, Stratfordians realize, that such evidence best be kept from the public. For its own benefit. (Take the time to trace, e.g., the censorial history of Wikipedia's Marlovian Theory article, at the hands of ever-watchful hairtrigger-Stratfordians.) Nonetheless, the article is quite useful for raw data (thanks largely to Peter Farey), the usual main merit of Wikipedia pages.

⁴⁹ An especially obvious option for the presumed author of *Measure for Measure!* See above at §E16.

⁵⁰ This (plus scientists' & detectives' bigotry-shrinkage from repeated experience with theory-contradiction by data) explains the irony of the possibility of such observers (§X32) perhaps being on average more likely (than too-many literati) to recognize from the available evidence (most of it unearthed by lit-scholars, note well) the truth of the Shakespeare-authorship *literary* controversy. (I.e., *evidentially*, it's more a detective case than a lit one: a **non**?murder-mystery.) Also, no detective or scientist risks his career for literary heresy (§F14). For similar reasons, one frequently finds

E36 Hoax-Busters. The dispute, now 2 centuries old, over whether Shakespeare wrote his plays, has been carried on by every sort of relevant journal but one: a periodical with a long and successful⁵¹ track-record (§Z1) in fraud-detection.

E37 The analysis which follows here will make a start at filling that fault. It is published (originally posted in HTML 2010/6/14, repeatedly augmented since) by a periodical run by scholars most of whom are experienced (www.dioi.org/hoa.htm#jptm) in evaluating hoaxes, *DIO: The International Journal of Scientific History* (www.dioi.org), a well-known more-than-occasional investigator of historical fakes and cranks, both⁵² inside and outside academic establishments.⁵³

We now prepare to switch — from our brief summary of evidential clusters — to the extended fine-tooth remainder of the present work.

E38 A novel feature of the following analyses is the placing of the Shakespeare-authorship controversy into larger contexts:

E39 [a] Drawing wisdom from similar episodes not just in literature (§T25) but: classics (§T25), exploration (§T27), art (§T23), war (§F1), religion (§§N4&T28), philosophy (§T3, fn 191), music (§§T24-T25), architecture (§T29), evolution (§§V14, W4-W5, W19, fnn 60&143), geography (fnn 191, 196, 201), astronomy (§§C8, C10, L11, Z4, fnn 97, 161-162, 191, 202); even pseudo-sciences, astrology (§§C10, I16, T28) & UFOlogy (§I12).

E40 [b] Gauging advancement-toward and proximity-to truth by the semi-methodology of intellectual progress (§E1, fn 194): fertility (§X29), adventurous-gamble hypothesizing (§X2), filtering-testing-fitting (§E42), predictivity (§§E3-E17) and simplicity (§L34).

E41 [c] Exploring the art and history of deception (§N3), fronts (§F18), cranks (§T), plagiarists (§§T26&T28), ghostwriting (§§I16, T20, T28), forgery (§T23, fn 154), hoaxes (§T24-§T25) — as well as (§W13) their victims' oft-ineducable cults.

E42 Shakespeare's will alone (§I5) proves positively that he was not a writer. So, to learn who wrote the plays that appeared under his name, we must look for (§J5) a contemporary who meets at least the following two requirements (§X24):

E43 [1] He is known to have written plays similar to (§J8) those credited to Shakespeare.

E44 [2] He had such a powerful reason (§I19) for anonymity that he was forced to relinquish credit for literary history's most famous corpus.

E45 It is a triumph of establishmentarian cultism that the public has been largely protected from awareness

[a] that a wellknown Elizabethan figure, Christopher Marlowe, provides a glovelly fit on both counts, and

[b] that official 16th century documents strongly supporting the case for his candidacy have been on the published record for ordmag a century.

that outsiders add a useful element to a controversy. See, e.g., www.dioi.org/vols/wa0.pdf (*DIO 10* [2000]) ©20, and *DIO's* collection of cases in which classicists made crucial contributions to *scientific* controversies: www.dioi.org/vols/wb2.pdf (*DIO 11.2* [2003]) p.2. Similarly, in the context of our present scientific probe, it must be emphasized that the brightest of the literati&co have exclusively (fn 81) been the daring explorers who long ago blazed the anti-Stratfordian trail and discerned the Marlovian truth *before anyone else, from any other field*, Ziegler & Webster, amazingly doing so without even benefit of the documents that have by now made inevitable a decision in favor of Marlowe's authorship. And, today, most serious Marlovians are literary folk who have kept alive the truth's flame, and have of course not let the controversy diminish their love of the plays & the poetry.

⁵¹ See, e.g., <http://tierneylab.blogs.nytimes.com/2009/09/07/who-was-first-at-the-north-pole/>; as well as sources cited at §C2; also *DIO's* numerous vindications: www.dioi.org/vin.htm.

⁵² Inside, <http://www.nytimes.com/1996/05/09/did-byrd-reach-pole-his-diary-hints-no.html>; and www.dioi.org/vols/wa0.pdf (*DIO 10* [2000]) ©1; outside,

www.nytimes.com/1998/11/26/nyregion/author-says-photo-confirms-mt-mckinley-hoax-in-1908.html

⁵³ *DIO* challenges establishments' fakes since: [a] they matter more than outsiders'; [b] few dare to.

F Elusive WMDs, Woody Allen, & Stratford's Loch Ness Monster

F1 Recall Dembo *Tom Tomorrow's* deft cartoon on the oil-lobby's brushoff of the embarrassment of 2003's casusbell-lie that nuke-WMDs were hidden in Iraq? As the oil-cartel army⁵⁴ failed to dig up a single Iraq nuke, *TomT* satirized the industry's fallback position:

Whether we find the presumed WMDs really doesn't matter.
Unless we find them.

F2 Fast-backward to the parallel but far longer failed-search for any direct proof that William Shakespeare of Stratford-on-Avon was more than adequately literate. (His entire extant manuscript output is two words, "by me" atop-signature in his will.) The non-existent mss of *the most famous supposed writer in all history* are the WMDs of literature: Will's-Manuscript-Data. Yet despite its bare cupboard, the Shakespeare Industry — aka the "Stratfordian" contingent of the Shakespeare Controversy — continues to try (S5&8) banishing doubt of Shakespeare's authorship of "his" plays and (transparently projectively) slandering such skepticism as nutty. Pretty ironic, considering the mentalities (§§T&W) that people the Stratfordian church's alibi-upholstered pews (§S3).

F3 But all such efforts have lately served only to fan skepticism's watershed (fn 60) internet-metastasis — and appear rather desperate considering that Poets' Corner at Westminster Abbey has since 2002/7/11 displayed a memorial window in Marlowe's honor, with his death date written as "?1593", accepting via the question-mark that there are indeed legitimate questions as to the reality of Marlowe's supposed 1593 death. Mass-slander is ever the last resort of cornered establishments, who (www.dioi.org/fff.htm#qxbv) never anticipate how ludicrous and vicious the tactic inevitably looks when highly respected agnostics (and outright converts) start taking the rebels seriously. I.e., who but a blind fanatic would carelessly emit slander that results in his effectively calling Mark Twain a loon, Westminster Abbey a kook institution, a recent Poet Laureate (§U22) deluded, the artistic director⁵⁵ of the Globe a fool, and (§A1) several Supreme Court Justices nuts?! In 2009, it was said (<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB123998633934729551.html> & S212) that no more than 2 of the 9 active justices were Stratfordians [one of them quoted more against Oxford than for WS], while 3 others just no-comment the issue.⁵⁶

F4 The tourist towns, Stratford-on-Avon (UK) and Stratford (Ontario), greet these developments with the same jaw-grinding seethe as the Loch Ness community displays towards debunkers of its own tourist-fetcher, "Nessie", aka the "Loch Ness Monster", which has somehow — who'd have guessed? — proven just as durably elusive as Shakespeare mss. (In 1959, at Stratford, DR saw Robeson & Mary Ure bring to life [& death] Marlowe's *Othello*: wickedly clever deceit, mundane jealous passion, heavenly word-music [§J9] — not to mention that fiendish *does-hanky-prove-panky?* plot.)

F5 So the Stratfordian cult is subject to a question paralleling *TomT's* barb (§F1): what was the point of centuries of intensive searches for Shakespeare proof if the resultant blank doesn't matter?

F6 Are we to accept Stratfordian dream-world-logic: that finding Shakespeare mss only matters if-we-find-them? That is, location of WS mss would help the Stratfordians; but the search's real-world blank cannot be admitted to help the skeptics *in the slightest degree*. (Parallel: www.dioi.org/bes.htm#bbqg; & see below under double-standards: §F13.)

⁵⁴Oil-cartel army aka US Army & satellites, aka Coalition-of-the-Killing, bane of cartel-profit-endangering oil-blackmarketeers like Sadaam & ISIS.

⁵⁵Mark Rylance: <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/show/muchado/fine/>.

⁵⁶John Paul Stevens may be an Oxford-sympathizer (much more cautiously agnostic than cultists), but his comments are to the main point (*Time* 2011/10/31 p.92): "I think there are good questions about a man who never seemed to have any correspondence with his contemporaries about the plays. When he passed, there were [P148] no eulogies to him, and when you visit his home and look around for evidence of a scholarly person, there are no books in the house." JPS-doubts also at *NYTimes Book Review* 2014/4/6; 4/17 *NYTBR* Letters reaction: strictly-Strat dumb&dumber (incl. usual ad-hominem).

F7 Indeed, the long search for WS mss has been so intense for over a century that (S26) several forgeries have been successively welcomed with (passing) joy: fn 163.

F8 How revealing that Shakespeare-worshipping orthodoxologists are eager to hype skeptics' past follies, in order to denigrate all doubt by association. Yet there appears no equal or contextual stress on the reality that repeated promotion of dubious WS-manuscript "discoveries" (§F10) and even outright forgeries (S18-26) indicates that mayhap Stratfordian loyalists suffer their own shortcomings in the area of rationality.

Note J.Shapiro's admirably honest parallel revelation at S195.

F9 And be grateful as well for the encouragingly skeptical reaction of some, to the latest (fn 163) "Shakespeare"-ms pseudo-discovery (§F8): *International Herald Tribune* 2013/8/13 p.1.

F10 Yet also notice the implicit degree of balance in forums that reach the public: this worthless wisp of a speculation is placed on page-one of leading newspapers. (As also other such irrelevancies & diversions: §T15.)

F11 Yet even the mere fact of the swift Marlowe-WS sequence (§A1) is systematically (§U14) non-presented to the same newspapers' readerships.

F12 The Stratfordianly-felicitous result is inevitable (§D9): *even this simple, striking, tantalizingly pregnant datum is known to very, very few people*. (As DR has found from several years of wide sampling-by-conversation.) With similar balance, Stratfordian J.Shapiro paints (S201) skeptic Hoffman as a "self-promoter" nutcase by mentioning a single⁵⁷ failed 1956/5/1 mss-search by him.

F13 Meanwhile, Shapiro (whose book's aim [§H19] is primarily psycho-sociological, not evidential):

[a] doesn't juxtapose this with hundreds of failed tries at finding WS mss, and

[b] doesn't quote for his readers any of the devastating content of the Elizabethan documents (warrant & coroner's report) which Hoffman *has* successfully adduced.

But, then, when cultish establishments circle wagons around a Shakey sacred moneycow, double standards are the single standard.

F14 A Stratfordian calling Hoffman a "self-promoter" is a classic case of aggravated calumny. After all, why did Hoffman have to promote his theory at all? Because it was&is usually met by silence or kneejerk rejection instead of rational discourse (§V) — a cohesive intellectual crime which FOREVER ROBBED Hoffman of the in-his-lifetime public acclaim he had validly earned for *the most important detective-achievement in the history of literary studies*. Since Strats freely shrinko-analyse skeptics (e.g., E225&227), we have the right of guesswork-reversal: the theft of Hoffman's credit may be due largely to careerist priorities (fn 190) of English profs who sense professional danger if suspect of even entertaining (much less preferring) heresy on this sensitive issue. Thus: mass mental inertia that would disgrace an intellectually serious community (fn 47&191).

F15 Bluster's Last Stand? Columbia English&CompLit Prof. James Shapiro's book, *Contested Will* (NYC 2010) and Edmondson-Wells' *Shakespeare Beyond Doubt* (Cambridge U 2013) are the latest Stratfordian books, extending a long tradition of attempts to dispel all doubt by bluster, since there is no hard pro-Shakespeare evidence to work with.

F16 From the 1957 film *Sweet Smell of Success*, recall another classic showbiz-mini-malist-art promoment (§W18), as agent Sidney Falco girds-up to conjure maximal sales-patter out of nothing (§V16): "Watch me run the 50-yard dash with my legs cut off."

F17 Shapiro's pervasive question-begging attitude, throughout (§F20) his perverse exorcism-exercise, is based merely upon the uncontended fact that Shakespeare existed and claimed authorship.

⁵⁷ Though Hoffman was of predominantly Jewish background, AP's 1956/5/2 squib, on his failed-gamble Walsingham-tomb search for mss, places him in NYC while calling him "African". (Error? Or can he be placed high up on the roster of greats who are of black heritage?) A few years later, while spoofing Oxfordianesque clue-imaginings, Dora Hamblin (*Life* 1964/7/10) ended with a gleeful swipe at Hoffman's minor misfire but (like Shapiro) ducks trying to answer his numerous solid arguments.

F18 S225f (vs M370 & §G): “once you begin to put Shakespeare back into his own time and place, the notion that he actively conspired to deceive everyone who knew him or met him about the true authorship of the works that bore his name seems awfully far-fetched.”

F19 Question: if Shapiro thinks the Marlovian theory is improbable, can he seriously claim it is more improbable (§§A1&C2) than the appearance of “Shakespeare” only a few days after Marlowe’s vanishing?! Or (§E12) of Marlowe insta-dying from a lobotomy? Clue to the clueless: fronts are not a “far-fetched” fantasy — they’re positively *to be expected* in times of persecution of heresy, such as Armada-scared 1590s England and Cold-War-scared 1950s US; see, e.g., the historically-based 1976 Woody Allen film, *The Front*, bringing to hideous life the Red-menace terror — an episode parallel to the Marlovian case, which had occurred during the post-Armada persecution of religious dissent in England.

F20 Note that bootstrappy-go-lucky Shapiro is just assuming (§F18) that Will couldn’t pretend, though **that’s the entire question at issue**.

G Deep Bleep→Deep Bench. An Actor Couldn’t Put on an Act?!

G1 Defending Shakespeare by Insulting His Own Craft. Moreover, given that acting is an artistic profession which Stratfordians acknowledge Shakespeare pursued, we can sum up the central argument of the Shapiro book (which the worshipful Forces of Orthodoxy are treating [§I28] as a last-word lock): skeptics are ignorable loons because (§F18)

IT IS ZANILY “FAR-FETCHED” TO PROPOSE THAT A PROFESSIONAL ACTOR COULD PUT ON AN ACT

G2 We haven’t encountered such deliciously straightfaced unintentional folly since 1990 when Corbin Bernsen blurted out a plug for Tom Berenger (www.dioi.org/pro.htm#zcmj): “He’s a wonderful actor.⁵⁸ And there’s no pretense about him.”

(Our comment⁵⁹ at the time: “Hey, didn’t Reagan already pull that one on us for 8 years?”)

G3 Is an academic establishment *really* prepared to adopt, as a central argument, rigid insistence that a professional dissembler — and the Elizabethan-era equivalent of a loan-shark — was incapable of deceit? If so, English Dep’ts’ Stratfordian OrthoDoxies may inspire questions about how much thespianism goes into their own long-running traditional pose (§C7) that they have an INFALLIBLE, 100.000000000%-irrefutable case for WS’ authorship. (A standard establishment-sham: sham less in the belief itself, than in the winked-at-for-public-consumption-pretense that it’s rock-solidly founded.) For interlude-entertainment, let’s take orthodoxologists’ standard history — starting from the time Marlowe got into deep-bleep — and measure it by its lamentably neglected implications (§E19):

G4 These amusing implications begin with Tenet#One, namely, that Marlowe was 100% surely dead on 1593/5/30. But, then, we must believe that the English-writers guild instantly pulled off **THE deep-bench miracle in all the history of literature**: Marlowe — the Cantab literary giant, the most popular playwright of the day, and the immortal pioneer who’d introduced blank verse to the English stage — was replaced in a two-week-jiffy by a comparably mega-gifted blank-verse writer of extremely (§Z4) similar style and, most felicitously surprising for a SELF-STATED neophyte (§S2), immediately of *the same spectacular maturity as Marlowe* (§S3): William Shakespeare. But let not good fortune blind us to bad: there was only one such towering literary figure before May 30 — and only one such after. A devoutly-to-be-wished overlap-period — during which London might be

⁵⁸ Diana Price (P31-42) has raised reasonable objections to the common belief that WS did very much acting. (Outside fronting.) See also §S33. His connexion to the acting company Lord Chamberlain’s Men (or King’s Men) is primarily based upon a 1595 reference, which does not specify whether he is actor or shareholder (P31, Q417). But none of this affects the amusing contradiction in orthodoxy we are teasing here in §G.

⁵⁹ See www.dioi.org/vols/w11.pdf (*DIO 1.1* [1991]) ¶2 fn 3.

simultaneously blessed with two ultra-genius writers — narrowly never quiiiiite happened: miracle & anti-miracle. (If only Hegel had got hold of this. . . .)

G5 It has been argued that the collapse of the Age of Faith began with Aquinas, who made the epochal mistake of attempting a massively elaborate reasoned argument to defend a position that neither arose from reason nor could be successfully defended by reason.

G6 Will the Shapiro book’s similar (& shamefully Oxfordian: §§H14&W29) confusion of prolixity with rational impact, end up signalling the Aquinas-Moment⁶⁰ in the history of the Shakespeare Controversy?

G7 As a successful⁶¹ veteran of numerous oldboyperson-upsetting controversies, *DIO* (like many before us) is familiar with standard evolution in such decades-long face-investment bubbles: deny as long as possible. (Which invests ever-more faces. Ever-deeper. A folly parallel to the US’ ever-postponed debt-reckoning.)

G8 And then (§F5), when it’s realized that the Big Guys are gonna lose the debate in the long run — given the laughable-transparency (§A1) of the Marlowe→WS quick-change act — just pretend it never really mattered in the first place (www.dioi.org/cot.htm#fssn).

G9 So: is the dawn of the endgame presaged (not only by Shapiro’s Aquinian [§G5] book and Westminster Abbey’s integrity [§F2], but) by *New York Times* critic Ben Brantley’s frontpage *International Herald Tribune* (now *International New York Times*) 2011/10/29-30 article which yawn-claims that he doesn’t care who wrote the plays? (Question-in-passing: If it doesn’t matter, why shun [§V] anybody?) Marlovian hypothetical aside: think Brantley’d yawn (§F1) if Shakespeare mss surfaced? Until that imaginary day, Brantley has concocted a curiously original defense: ain’t it GREAT that we know so little about Shakespeare! Lucky us. . . . (Think this is a joke? Well, if it is, *DIO*’s not the joker.) Look it up at *idem*. This FRONT-PAGE article follows the tactic of ALL⁶² Free Press reaction in the US to the film *Anonymous*: it informs the public of no facts of dissenters’ cases.

G10 Instead, the *IHT*’s article wastes column after column detailing BB’s personal feelings (§D7) about the plays. (Another profitless lost-opportunity to provide the public the few simple lines of fascinating Marlowe-suggestive facts we started with: §A1.) This is NEWS-fit-to-print? And on **page-one**? Brantley’s is just the most extreme example of the blatant shyness centrists have of debating⁶³ Marlovians. Strats’ debate-aversion carries the obvious implication that the cult *itself* knows that its present opinion-dominance

⁶⁰ Or are we experiencing the Bishop-Temple Moment? It was Temple who headed off the danger of the Church of England’s over-committing itself against Darwin. As Andrew D. White’s classic 1896 *History of the Warfare of Science with Theology in Christendom* put it (pp.77-78&82): “While everything was done [by religious forces] to discredit Darwin, to pour contempt upon him . . . while his followers were represented . . . as charlatans and dupes, there began to be in the most influential quarters careful avoidance of the [original 1859 reactive] argument that evolution — even by natural selection — contradicted Scripture. The defection of Lyell (§F2) had . . . started the question among theologians who had preserved some equanimity, ‘What if, after all, the Darwinian theory should prove to be true?’ Recollections of the position in which the Roman Church had found itself [for centuries, up to the 1830s] after the establishment of the doctrines of Copernicus and Galileo naturally came into the minds of the more thoughtful. . . . [Ultimately], Temple, Bishop of London, perhaps the most influential thinker then in the Anglican episcopate, accepted the new revelation” as (www.dioi.org/rel.htm#tnpm) more progressive than the biblical idea of instant creation by god. (Did Strats learn their flexibility [§D7] from such survivors?)

⁶¹ See fn 51.

⁶² All but *Time*’s courageous dissent: §T14.

⁶³ As longtime orthodoxy (among a came&went cult of math-challenged historians), that Ptolemy first-hand outdoor-observed (not stole) the Ancient Star Catalog, was in its last stages of collapse (fn 187; www.dioi.org/cot.htm#dstc), cult goo-roo N.Swerdlow prominently urged (*Journal for the History of Astronomy* 23.3:173-183 [1992 Nov] p.182) a shutdown-“moratorium” against the point even being debated, since the controversy was now “almost entirely historical”. This, *in a history journal*. . . . (How do you spoof what already reads like unexceedable spoof?) Full delicious story elsewhere: www.dioi.org/det.htm#cpes.

is worn as uneasily as Marlowe wrote of *Henry IV's* head (Part 2 [3.1]): if debate is meant to change opinion, there's no other direction for Stratfordianism but down. *New York Times* chief theatre critic Benjamin Brantley's 1st sentence concludes: "I don't care who wrote Shakespeare's plays." He suggests this may be bold "heresy". No: it's just an unimaginatively-all-too-typical (§G7) last-ditch burp of a frozen orthodoxy gradually melting under sunlight. But (as later at §S14) there's an unanticipated problem here: Brantley's very next (2nd) sentence mentions Christopher Marlowe as among the three top serious longterm contenders for authorship. Hmmm. Does BB's claimed (§G12) narrowness extend to ignoring logic, too?

G11 Because — unlike any other Shakespeare-authorship contender — Marlowe *left an attributed corpus of mostly topline dramas*, still read & performed today. So (§L5): Does Brantley seriously mean⁶⁴ that no one should care (§A2) whether or not the Marlowe and "Shakespeare" plays were *written by the same man*? If so, what grade would Columbia University's *Comparative Literature* Dep't give the *New York Times's* chief theatre critic?! To follow Hoffman (H136) in quoting Marlowe's (Stratfordian) biographer Bakeless:

"The exact relationship of these two major figures is the chiefest puzzle of literary history."

G12 On the plus side for Brantley: he is wise to the phonicness of alleged Shakespeare bios, evidently aware that rearranging (§J2) chunks of the plays into such merely apes the Oxfordians' fave fallacy. But to say Who-Cares to one of the grand mysteries in the history of civilization simply makes the commentator look like he's either posing (for career-convenience) or shamefully narrow. (Of course, specialists in the arts actually *are* too-often afflicted with cultural narrowness, a limitation which some mirrorless literati too readily and falsely impute to scientists.) This is especially unconvincing, given that Brantley says (emph added) he "can't get enough of *figuring out and arguing about*" Shakespeare's words. I.e., *he is fascinated by some*⁶⁵ *mysteries but finds it prudent*⁶⁶ *to duck The Big One*, where curiosity could genuinely (§G10) bring upon him a serious and ultimately expensive charge of heresy. Rising to the grand journalistic political heights which Brantley has achieved, requires an unerring instinct for such judicious caution⁶⁷ — plus an ever-ready talent for justifying it. Yet again (§F13), *double-standards are the single standard*.

H Frankfurter&Mustard Vs. Wizard of Ostrich: Evidence-Weights

As elsewhere here (§T), we spy symptoms of the unself-conscious nuttiness of a cult that has made it a tactic to projectively regard all outside the cult as nuts.

H1 Supreme Court Justice Felix Frankfurter is said to have observed that: to some lawyers, all evidence is equal. But a balanced and non-bound mind will distinguish between evidences' differing weights. E.g., the lack of surviving WS play-mss is suggestive but not

⁶⁴Doubtful. More likely BB just didn't realize the implicit consequence of his dodge.

⁶⁵The starkly-selective curiosity-contrast here reminds one of other mass-religions, where the Problem-of-Evil (e.g., thousands of sinless babies dying together in a tsunami — along with thousands more *foetuses*, thereby aborted by god) is ritualistically "answered" by a selectively-*agnostic* pseudo-humble plea of ignorance as to god's Big Plan. This, even while the very same aprioristhood unhumly & rigidly (too-often outright aggressively) insists it is simultaneously un-ignorant enough to know (from the very same data-set!) — *and to an unsullied certainty* — that god exists. Invisibly. (*DIO*: What's the difference between a believer in god and a believer in Santa Claus? One is 365 times crazier than the other.)

⁶⁶It is only right to note admiringly that BB does not repeat the now-canonical snob-smear (§T8) common to anti-Stratfordians, which virtually all other commentators copy from each other. (See at §V3 & P251f for exposure of this line of irrelevancy: §T7.) Which is consistent with his claim that his views are his own, thus hopefully countering some speculations on him hereabouts.

⁶⁷See www.dioi.org/vols/w13.pdf (*DIO 1.2* [1991]) fn 66 for another case of transitional establishment-caution in hoax-recognition. (Transition now complete: fn 187.)

absolute negative proof, as few mss pages of plays of that era have survived.

H2 Shakespeare's title-pages are positive evidence for his authorship but (as we will see below: §W9), they are very far from firm proof of it. On the skeptics' side: WS' few extant signatures' uneven scrawl [photos: P126] hardly suggests an experienced writer (but some can be alibied as perhaps from illness), and his 3 signatures on his will show he signed his name with 2 different spellings *on the same document, in the same minute* it would take to sign the 3 pages: S228. (For legal reasons alone, one might prefer to be consistent.)

H3 The non-survival of any letter (§§K8-K10, X5) from a celebrity of Shakespeare's renown and royal acceptance (§W25) is even fishier — *since no one person could be responsible for suppressing all of WS' hypothetical letters* — but still short of rigorous proof of non-authorship. (Although all the preceding items *in-combine* come pretty close.)

H4 But, as Mark Twain realized long ago: by far the weightiest and patently unalibiable (§K7) piece of evidence (on either side) in the Shakespeare debate is Shakespeare's will.

H5 The fact that this highly detailed document never mentions his books or disposition of mss (several of the plays weren't yet published: P173) — or *anything at all related to scholarship* — is *alone* enough to prove that Shakespeare did not write the plays.

H6 When faced with the above unambiguous contradiction of their position (a point gainfully exploited by Blumenfeld: B230), Stratfordian heads dive for ostrichian sand.

H7 Which, incidentally, puts them in no position to scoff at equally sand-headed Oxfordians for their own impenetrabilities: [a] to the obvious impediment that their candidate, the Earl of Oxford, died in 1604, and [b] to the fact that their various, increasingly (§W24) wild explanations for his anonymity can never be accepted outside a cult where rigid articles of faith only survive⁶⁸ through (Stratfordian-level) inertia, repetition, & cultist insulation.

H8 Shapiro understandably delights in detailing what happened when Oxfordianism couldn't convince anyone much, by the stylistic and bio-parallel arguments that had originally launched it. Namely: cranks' classic never-say-die attitude towards evidence jarring with their theory, evidence (such as inexplicable anonymity & time-line difficulties) which would convince non-cranks that their theory is so weak that there are surer bets — *for how one spends the rest of one's life* — than obsessively pursuing a probable chimera. See parallel comments at www.dioi.org/vols/wa0.pdf (*DIO 10* [2000]) ☉2.

H9 Predictable result (§H11): devolution into schizo-schismatic fantasy-contestland.

H10 S196: "The argument that Oxford sought anonymity because of the usual aristocratic misgivings [§K12] about print only went so far. There had to be a better explanation for why the greatest of poets suppressed his identity. The answer was soon found: Oxford was Queen Elizabeth's secret lover and their union produced (§L4) an illegitimate son, the Earl of Southampton. The argument, first advanced by Percy Allen in 1933, came to be known in Oxfordian circles as the Prince Tudor theory and proved deeply appealing to skeptics already convinced that conspiracy and concealment had defined Oxford's literary life. Looney [the virtual founder and St.Paul of Oxfordianism], while valuing Percy Allen's

⁶⁸With some justice, Stratfordian James Boyle describes (S207) the Oxfordians in a fashion that puts one in mind of the Velikovsky cult (fn 146): "The Oxfordians have constructed an interpretive [*DIO*: one might say psychological] framework that has an infinite capacity to explain away information . . . all the evidence that fits the theory is accepted, and the rest rejected." (E.g., suppose an Oxfordian reads [T2:208&213] that Marlowe's "relation to Shakespeare is clearer than any other . . . The abundance of Shakespeare's quotations, echoes, and allusions [to Marlowe] is especially important because he lets his other literary contemporaries severely alone." [See similarly at N72-73.] Instead of taking this as supportive of Marlovianism, Oxfordians will of course conclude that *both* men were secretly Oxford. See S196f.) The most central Oxfordian rejection is the failure to face the impossibility of finding *evidence* with documentary-strength equal to Marlovians' (§M5) — not *ad-hoc*-made-up-scenarios like *Anonymous*. That is, evidence that credibly explains anonymity. Is there such a psycho state as "ImpediMentalism" (§L24)? If so, Oxfordianism exemplifies it. Again: the out-of-control (§H9) fantastic flowering of the theory arises directly from cultists' pathetically ever-wheel-spinning mission of getting past the ever-towering-before-them impediment of explaining & explaining Oxford's *anonymity*. All the cult's dementia flows from this one awful and ineradicable bar.

loyalty, loathed his Prince Tudor theory and feared that it would ‘bring the whole cause into ridicule.’ Freud [a fervent Oxfordian (note §U6)] hated it too, and even sent a chastising letter to Allen. To this day it has deeply divided Oxfordians.” (Allen resorted to ESP: E39.)

H11 Said divisive (§H9) Prince Tudor theory is now enshrined in the film *Anonymous*, the very (impedimental) title of which clued *DIO* to its slant the moment we 1st heard of it.

H12 Comparing Oxfordians’ shaky (§W24) presumption-alibis to the Marlovians’ lethal explanation (§M) for anonymity is just another (§§C4&K15) no-contest.

H13 The initially-exploratory and formerly-useful Oxford cause has increasingly become a sad impediment to resolution, draining-away skeptical idealism & energy into a patently incredible cul-de-sacrosanct of rigidly-held but logically-weak alibis for anonymity, which can only assist Stratfordian orthodoxologists’ diversion-tactics. (The public’s gullible fascination with an endless succession of baseless proposed authors leads E3&50 to a gleeful, albeit false calculation: “Mathematically, each time an additional candidate is suggested, the probability decreases that any given name is the true author.” Including Shakespeare?)

H14 Thus, Shapiro delightedly cites Oxfordian (and Baconian) arguments in extenso. But not (§X33) those of the Marlovians:⁶⁹ This, even WHILE Shapiro predicts (§T12; S217) that presently-ascendant Oxfordianism may ultimately give way to Marlovianism. Stratfordians have big-event debates with Oxfordians (S205; E229). Seldom with Marlovians. From this contrast, it’s easy to discern which skeptical case Strats inwardly fear. And, from the present analysis, it’s equally easy to see why. The situation reminds one of US elections: the pseudo-two well-established parties aren’t getting us anywhere. So we can hope for resolution via 3rd party. Shapiro unconsciously follows the Napoleonic dictum that sheer numbers (§W29) win wars — while forgetting that no matter how many zero-evidences one brings to bear on a case, they still add up to zero (§W26).

H15 His divert-and-conquer response to skeptics is: page-after-page-after-page, he piles onto the reader a string of lightweight pro-WS arguments (parallel to also massively [§T12] refuting just-as-lightweight anti-WS arguments) — arguments none of which would even begin to cut the mustard with Frankfurter or any other data-weight-conscious judge.

H16 Shapiro devotes long chapters — 67 pages each — to the irrational excesses of Baconians & Oxfordians, successively.

H17 By contrast, his occasional (fn 128) scattered remarklets (S7, 201, 212, 217, 230, 316, etc) on the rational Marlovians add up to maybe a page or two.

H18 And (§I20) he transmits not one word from the convincing documentary basis of their case. (Though, he does creditably cite Marlovian websites in an appendix: S316.)

H19 I.e., he knows (§H14) where the weightiest threat to orthodoxy actually lies. Shapiro says (S9) his main aim is to show *why* doubters doubt, so his failure to supply dozens of pages of Marlovian wackiness (parallel to his hefty doses of Baconians’ & Oxfordians’) betrays the awful unspoken truth: the Marlovian case alone is conspicuous for not breeding nutty theories or advocates.

H20 Yes, contemporary references⁷⁰ to Shakespeare (S223f) as a playwright survive (Shapiro’s & Terry Teachout’s idea of skeptic-snuffer data); but, given that his name was on the title-pages of popular published plays from c.1600 on, this is hardly remarkable. (Alfred Hitchcock’s name is commonly spoken of in connexion with numerous films. None of which he wrote. Company procurement of plays is analogous: P298, S225.)

H21 The title-page issue (§H2) is parallel to the Wizard-of-Oz’ pretense: *what was BEHIND the title-page curtain?* What evidence exists that the title-pages were not adorned with the name of a front-man? The question’s burden-of-proof inversion is justified by a hitherto-unemphasized consideration: we have (§§I3&I13; fn 197) not one but three quite

⁶⁹E.g., www.marlovian.com, http://marlowe-shakespeare.blogspot.com, www.marlowesghost.com.

⁷⁰ Ben Jonson, awed by Marlowe’s gift for the “mighty line” (T2:173f), wrote a preface to the 1623 *First Folio*, lauding Shakespeare, perhaps primarily sales-hype (P170, 184) — given that Jonson&co were totally silent (P148, 154) at the real Shakespeare’s death. On Jonson vis-à-vis WS, see fn 181; P140, 195f, Q417.

independent and mutually-confirmatory⁷¹ evidences of WS’ level of schooling:

[A] His detailed will’s failure to hint in any way at literary inclination. [B] His Latin’s smallness (§I3). [C] WS’ totally blank record of education, especially university (P235). Price places this in context (P234): “Most men of genius . . . left records of their education Even the geniuses who precede Shakespeare by a century or two In the company of those dating from the Renaissance onward, [he] stands alone as a presumed literary giant with no visible means of educational support.”

I Occam & Mutual Confirmation

I1 Solution of the foregoing is a classic instance of Occam’s Razor, which asks: what is the *simplest single* theory that simultaneously explains the available *multiple* evidences? Answer: WS’ literacy was inadequate to the creation of the plays. By contrast, Stratfordians require three *separate* speculative explanations for [A] will (fn 84), [B] little Latin (§I3), & [C] education-blank (§K), and must contend in effect that the *obviously consistent* implication of evidences [A]-[C] is just *another* amazing coincidence⁷² — like §C2.

I2 Belief that Shakespeare had sufficient education to write the plays is evidentially unsupported (fn 182), so Strats routinely claim (§K & fn 173) that the Stratford Grammar School was almost as good as college! NB: The Stratfordians’ and Folger editions’ “proof” that he indeed even went that far in school is simply: there are no school records proving he didn’t. Which efficiently transmits a measure of Strat-logic’s rigor. (And ignores §I3.)

I3 Strat scholar C.Rutter stresses that at this era’s grammar schools, Latin (E135 emph added) “was the core curriculum: the key qualification, *THE LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION*, the default setting for the transmission of human knowledge”. But the glaring problem here (Strat-alibied by charging bias: fn 181) is that Jonson reported (P187&211) that WS had “small Latin and less Greek” *which of course tells us that WS could NOT learn much at the Stratford Grammar School*, if indeed he went there at all. (Marlowe, even as a Cambridge undergrad, was already a gifted translator of Latin authors Ovid & Lucan.)

I4 More than any other piece of evidence, the will gives us a firm answer: Shakespeare wasn’t the literary scholar the plays reveal their author to have been, but acted as a mask for one who was. Hoffman took the trouble to compare Shakespeare’s will to that of wealthy contemporaries, finding (H26) that WS’ is more detailed than any Hoffman saw (§I10).

I5 Price’s discussion of the full revelations (§K7) of the will is must reading (P19, 146f).

I6 Standard Stratfordian retorts on the theological Problem-of-the-Will (S50) follow: The existence of a (now-lost) inventory of WS’ possessions, which is — on no evidence — [a] presumed (*though uncited*⁷³ *in the will*) to be a supplement to the will. (Though it’s more likely just someone’s later bare list of its items, or even just a copy of the whole will.) [b] Thus the (lost) Shakespeare inventory coulda-shoulda (§I11) contained a list of WS’ (also now-lost) putative books&mss. A classic apology-dance: drool (§§I2&I12) over the

⁷¹Likewise, two completely independent evidences are consistent with the theory of a body-switch: [1] The sudden (fn 122) execution of John Penry near Deptford only hours before Marlowe’s “death”. [2] The *forehead*-placement of the stab-wound on the body being such as to maximize (§Q2) the area of downward blood-flow over the face.

⁷² Like I.Newton accounting for both planets’ & comets’ motion, while Cartesian vortices explained only the former. Also the recent simple revelation (fn 191) of the single common source for the ancient Greeks’ 2 remarkably-discrepant (*ibid*) adopted Earth-radii (www.dioi.org/cot.htm#ncdk): *one* spare theory neatly explained *both* (which formerly had 2 differing *ad hoc* explanations).

⁷³ See similar conjuring-up — by the waning defenders of R.Byrd’s fake 1926 North Pole flight — of supposed now-lost supplementary mss containing his Real data from the trip to alibi the fact that the handwritten sextant data in his flight-diary (which [like §I6] speaks of no other data-records) put him 150 statute miles south of where the Missing-data mss are hypothesized to place him, to rescue his now-moribund North Pole-claim: see www.dioi.org/vols/wa0.pdf (*DIO 10* [2000]) §L7 & fn 108. For a like example from the Peary wars, see National Geographic’s imaginary data-triplets from an equally imaginary “time-sight”: “Sic Transit the Paid Piper” §§B1&D1 at www.dioi.org/sict.pdf.

dream of finding the Lost-List — even *while* dancing the minimalist-minuet of projecting (§F1) that the lack of it (and ALL Shakespeare mss) means nothing.

17 Schoenbaum inventively tries (C305) to confuse WS' unmentioned alleged books with his son-in-law's library of medical books.

18 Master Stratfordian-defense strategist Jonathan Bate arouses his conversing-largely-with-each-other cult's self-gratifying passion to be vindicated, by citing (§I9) two literate (less wealthy) WS-contemporaries whose (smaller) wills listed no books: poet S.Daniel & divine R.Hooker, a diversion which Twain gutted (§I14) over a century ago with a just guffaw at the implicit relative value to WS of his will-cited 2nd-best-bed versus the will-uncited mss of the 1st-best plays in the history of English drama, or their creator's library.

19 And see P147, summarized below (§I14), adducing facts omitted from Bate's will-argument, thus quite demolishing it (which may be why Shapiro [S50] doesn't cite Price's response to Bate) namely that Daniel specified his publisher as his executor (leaving no doubt that he was a writer), and Hooker's will attached an inventory referring to his books.

110 Such Stratfordian argument from others' bookless last testaments might have some slight force if the party had the same will-detail (§I4) as wealthy WS; and the same need, as the author of the plays (as against poems), for access to plenty of books (S224; P242f).

111 But the easily-missed, typically (Stratfordianly) unnoted sub-problem here is the same as throughout the rest (§I6) of the Strat case's woulda-coulda alibi-fest, in which *the inherently improbable is consistently preferred to the probable*. (F.Crews *Memory Wars* NYRB 1995 p.37 remarks Freud's parallel "rashness in always preferring the arcane explanation to the obvious one", noting also [*idem*] his revealing "habit of napping while his [victims] were on the couch".) E.g., §§E12, I1, §K6, L36, S24, L5, S28, U9-U17, W16, fnn 42&189. All in order to alibi one oddity or bio-blank after another: Marlowe "death" method, WS' books, mss, vita (§K6), letters, eulogies at death (even court-reference [P148-149], etc). For each oddity Strats must speculate-invent the key evidence its theory requires but massively doesn't have, especially as regards WS's bio (P14-19) & education (§K), where his grammar-school attendance is circularly proven (fn 173) from the very "Shakespeare" oeuvre in question. A précis of tenet-evolution here: so Will Shakespeare shoulda→coulda→*musta* gone through the Stratford school. (Though Ben Jonson's testimony [§I3] shows he did not.) For similar cult-think in another arena (likewise inventing non-existent documents to fend off skeptics, while discounting real ones): see fn 73.

112 Shapiro's frustration (§I6) is palpable (S50): if *ooooonly* we had Shakespeare's supposed list of books, we'd win! But: it's just as gone-missing as his educational record, letters, etc. Hey, doesn't this serial-letdown remind one of the flying-saucer freaks, who keep explaining&explaining&explaining&explaining why no advanced-civilization items are ever left by aliens at the sites of supposed UFO encounters and-or kidnappings?

113 Stratfordians are immune to noticing the simple (§H21) firmness (of the obvious conclusion from the will's non-literary cast) — the *mutually-confirmatory* consistency with WS' entire lack of educational record.

114 Price notes (P146) that even actors left books in their wills; that Shakespeare remembered with sundry gifts several among his actor friends, yet not a single writer; that nothing in the will relates to scholarship, but rather to colleagues (and their relatives) in his actual professions: acting, business,⁷⁴ & usury. His will is so detailed that it even includes (S9) Twain's favorite bit: WS specified that his 2nd-best bed⁷⁵ went to his wife.

115 It takes but a few minutes to read and ponder Price's summation of the will's evidential impact. Its weight is textbook Frankfurter: it overwhelms all evidences on both

⁷⁴WS evidently had no sense of the immortality of the plays he got from Marlowe. He at best treated them with just as much awe as he showed his grain: a mere product of commerce.

⁷⁵Shapiro deserves a radical-cheek medal for photographically reproducing — as his (delightfully-titled) book's page-one frontispiece — the line of WS' will that designates the recipient of his 2nd-best bed, the line Twain made famous as reflecting the root problem in accepting WS as an author. Schoenbaum also is not reluctant to draw attention to it: C303.

sides. (Other than §C2's 100,000-to-1 math.) It leaves effectively-zero wiggle-room in proving that Shakespeare could not have written the plays. This is a virtual certainty which we of course cannot expect to quite achieve in identifying the true author; though, by elementary induction, we will arrive at an answer with surprisingly high surety.

116 What does it say of the English-teaching profession that it has taken it over a century to (not) understand the logic? The same pattern (fn 187) of defending-to-the-last-ditch a shaky grant-cow icon went on for a few decades among historians of astronomy regarding plagiarist and data-faker astrologer-geocentrist Claudius Ptolemy. But even Ptolemy's least-numerate defenders eventually caught on, and it's now a dead controversy outside pop-sci pseudo-scholars.

117 Indeed, once we consider eliminating Shakespeare as author, the central question that requires confrontation is: who would want to hide behind a front and why? Clearing away extraneous matters to get to the probabilistic nub here, we confront a fulcrum-question. Which is more improbable: [a] That the will of the genuine author of the plays would at great length fail (§I5) to exhibit literary or scholarly interests? or [b] That the real playwright would wish to be anonymous? (Even Baconians & Oxfordians have solved this question.)

118 Since we have yet to detail the gov't's persecution of Marlowe (§M5), each option initially seems inherently improbable. Yet one must be true. And the probability of option [a] is flat zero, leaving option [b] as valid. (A.Doyle *Sign of Four* Chap.6 [emph in original]: "when you have eliminated the impossible, whatever remains, *however improbable*, must be the truth". Similarly in *Hound of the Baskervilles* Chap.3.) Aside from the suppressive influence (S5) of academe's cultist sniggers, the failure of option [b] to catch on in academe is partly from failure to [i] explicitly ponder the comparative likelihoods of [a]&[b], and [ii] explain the true author's excellent reason for anonymity — a failure which has led (§U27) to what Shapiro understandably calls (S7) "endless trench warfare."

119 What is particularly odd is that there is one famous figure who had (§E44) the only powerful anonymity-motive among the top candidates — an undeniably valid reason for staying out of sight. (The same reason that was featured in *The Front*.)

120 Yet most of those (both believers & skeptics) interested in whether Shakespeare wrote plays are unaware of this. (Shapiro [§H16] just skips it. And not a single one of the dozens of enraged 2011 reviews of *Anonymous* mentioned it.) We will shortly (§M) provide the evidence establishing the writer's cause for disappearance; but we pause first for some sociology & background.

121 Comment in passing, regarding academic-establishment-think. If for decades an entire academic field (English&CompLit) is unable to follow Price's simple, irrefutable reasoning from Shakespeare's will, one wonders about the validity of what its scholars do for a living: *just how reliable are CompLit&co's complex, speculative readings of influences&symbolisms in(to) the works which lit-Experts claim to interpret for us?*

122 Would you seek solution of a calculus problem from a student who can't add two-plus-two? Should one expect a hole-in-the-wall Tijuana clinic to cure cancer, if it can't do the simplest surgery?

CompLit's problem in this controversy is similar to the gov't's Beltway mentality: insularity and BS' normalcy, which doesn't work its magic so reliably outside its own tight, lynch-threatening clan; thus the necessary resort to non-rational means (mainly censorship, shunning, & snobbish insult) for fighting enemy ideas.

123 Note that when the shockingly new discoveries of Darwin, Einstein, Bohr, Rutherford were announced, they were adopted by most scientists within a decade, often much quicker. The contrast to the present case ought (fn 81) to embarrass the stubborn upholders of English-Dep't orthodoxy, given that the case for Shakespeare's non-authorship has been obvious for well over a century and Hoffman's thorough Marlovian evidence has been published for over half a century.

124 Irony: when the Hoffman theory is finally accepted, it will be a belatedly-much-cited comfort to the CompLit community that he was (§E25) one of their own: a poet, not

a historian or scientist. Likewise, both of the earliest assertive Marlovians — Ziegler & Webster — were men of English. Similarly for most current Marlovians.

I25 Part of the reason *DIO* has few misgivings about issuing the foregoing blunt — but generally *accurate* — remarks (on English Dep'ts' common sense) is:

[a] it is a matter of international academic import; and

[b] the targets have themselves long since settled into an un-reexamined pattern of using too-broadbrush (§I28) smears to repel doubt of Stratfordian orthodoxology by stigmatizing it as zany, an approach which is not only revealingly overdone-nasty (“paranoid” [E13], “parasitic” [E227]), but turns out to be ironically, even amusingly, inverted (§W). As ever: The universe's richest mudmine is a controversy's last ditch.⁷⁶

I26 Typical Strat and Folger Shakespeare Library comments on skeptics (S202): “the sheer volume of heretical publication appalls . . . voluminousness . . . matched only by its intrinsic worthlessness . . . lunatic rubbish” and requiring “the capacity to climb into a soap-bubble and soar away into Cuckoo-land”. StratCult's 2010 antiThoughtCrime-broadside volume, the (already-cited) James Shapiro book, *Contested Will*, is refreshingly more temperate, and produces a detailed survey of dissent's excesses which is of considerable historical value — a credit to Shapiro's dedicated & meticulous scholarship.

I27 But, as an argument for Stratfordianism, it is a logically failed mega-diversion, an orthodoxy of too-broad portrayal of skepticism as crazy, accomplished by the ploy of leaving out (§L29) explication of reasonable skeptical arguments, while super-detailing a succession of over-speculative searches in defense of hopeless candidates. The hitherto-unrealized natural origin of these unfortunate forays will be revealed below (§§J1&L26).

I28 On 2010 April 17, the *Wall Street Journal's* Terry Teachout reviewed the book, titularly implying (following Shapiro's halting hint: S8) that doubters are not only kooks but are mentally akin to Nazi-apologist concentration-camp Deniers: “DENYING Shakespeare” (caps added). We will examine below who's really a crackpot (§W) and who's a nutty denier (§U19) in the Shakespeare controversy.

I29 Just as censorially, Teachout deems Shapiro's book to be all-you-need-ever-read on the matter. But the unambiguous (§S25) pro-Shakespeare data Shapiro provides are merely (S235f) contemporaries' acceptances of his claim that the plays were his (a ploy long drearily familiar to skeptics: §H20; P112), circularly assuming the very claim at issue: that ACTOR Shakespeare was not conning these witnesses.

J Thought-Experiment #1: Healing the Incomplete Crippled Ballot

J1 In the 19th century, the persistent, peculiar and unique (§H21; P301f) lack, of direct evidence that Shakespeare was highly literate, drove major writers (§§A1&V1; Hxii) such as Mark Twain, Walt Whitman, Nathaniel Hawthorne, and Henry James (P9) to doubt that Shakespeare ever composed anything of literary note. So far, so sane. And (except to The Industry) so clear&simple. But nothing else about the general public debate since has ever been that simple. Once Shakespeare was debunked, the natural next question was: then who *did* write the plays? Skeptics looked about for especially literate contemporaries *other than the presumably-dead Marlowe* and settled on a few favorites primarily because (§L31, S6&142) they were highly educated.

J2 In the absence of extant plays by Oxford — a weakness in anti-Stratfordianism that applies *to all alternate candidates but Marlowe* — advocates tried correlations of events in Oxford's life with the event-packed texts of the dozens of plays in the WS-corpus: travel, style, level of education, even (Mxxvii, 190f) specific events and, e.g., Oxford's Bible (M381f vs S214-215). (See A.Nelson's amused E45 quote from *Henry V* 4.7.) The arguments were often adorned with supposed veiled allusions (fn 98; D.Roper *Shakespeare: To Be Or Not to Be* 2010 p.152) and cryptograms allegedly embedded (placed even years after Oxford's death) into a motley array of publications (e.g., M365-367; Roper *passim*) —

⁷⁶From www.dioi.org/vols/wa0.pdf (*DIO 10* [2000]) fn 172, or www.dioi.org/bes.htm#rmmn.

though (§L32) with little evident awareness of the statistical insignificance⁷⁷ that is typical of these sorts of juggling sweeps across *vast*⁷⁸ *and unordered* (§G12; vs §O5) reservoirs of potential coincidences. And permutations. Such manipulation appeals to the public. And has even fooled actors Derek Jacobi & Orson Welles (Mxxiv&xxvii). But it didn't fare well in a mock trial before a few Supreme Court justices (S205f). Professional statisticians⁷⁹ regard such long-familiar stuff rather as entertainment than serious research. (But a godsend for helping “psychics” prove their *one-hundred-percent* accuracy. In predicting the past.)

J3 Practitioners of this brand of investigation discern detailed predictions of the entire history of the world in, e.g., the Bible or Nostradamus. (Prominent Oxfordian author D.Roper also wrote *Nostradamus: The Truth*, promoted thusly [www.nostradamus.org.uk]: “All His Prophecies Between 1555 and 2009 Have Come True, Despite Claims to the Contrary. FACT!” Only predictivity in evidence here: DR 1st posted the foregoing Nostradamian comparison 2010/6/12, 8 months ere learning of Roper's book & mentality.)

J4 Oxfordian Chaos was thereby assured. And imaginative alibis for key non-fitting evidence abounded, such as (M360; Roper p.196) for the inconvenience of Oxford's 1604 death, years before the Shakespeare plays (in which some discern post-1604 references: S179; E43) stopped appearing, c.1611. The *Sonnets* were 1st published in 1609. And why would Oxford (b.1550) start publishing “Shakespeare” plays only in his mid-forties?

J5 Yet a few factors do beckon as potential bases for solid induction. The author had to be someone extremely well versed in the classics (P243), presumably university-trained, and a brilliant writer. As already discussed (§E42): obviously, a candidate would be much more plausible if there were evidence that he [1] was a *consummate playwright* (M236; S177) and [2] had a demonstrably ironclad motive *for remaining forever creditlessly anonymous, even while he poured his life into creating the pinnacle of poetic theatrical literature*.

J6 Concentrating initially upon requirement [1] (§E43), let us now ask a hypothetical time-travel question which, incredibly, seems never to have been previously posed by anyone. Over a century ago, when the search for the true author started, what would have happened (§§J6&L25) had Christopher Marlowe been on-the-ballot?

J7 I.e., if at the outset of the serious controversy, it had been believed that Christopher Marlowe (then thought to have been killed in 1593, before Shakespeare's name had been attached to any published literature) were actually alive during the time-range of all the plays and thus in the running for a vote among Shakespeare-skeptics: *is there any doubt that he would have been experts' near-unanimous 1st selection*?⁸⁰ (See fn 68 & §J8 for

⁷⁷Leading Oxfordian journalist M.Alexander had (M411) 7 years university education in physics & astrophysics. But (as *DIO* readers know all too well) such a background carries no guarantee of statistical expertise or instinct. Oxfordians who have cultishly-isolated themselves from non-Oxfordian sources may be surprised to learn that the Marlovian movement has produced its own biographical-correlations (B *passim* & A) & cryptography (B261&337). Some of these seem (to us) less unconvincing than the Oxfordian parallels. Indeed, the biographical hints in the *Sonnets* are shown by Webster to fit Marlowe's fate & exile (§E10) better than any other candidate's. But the basis for firmly identifying the plays' author lies in the direction of less alibi-able (fn 80) sorts of evidence. A measure of the shakiness of stylistic analysis for firm induction is provided by the case of Marlowe's *Hero & Leander*, placed (T2:99) by some scholars at the start of his career; by others, at the end.

⁷⁸See www.dioi.org/vols/w80.pdf (*DIO 8* [1998]) ¶5 §G6. For the reverse situation — torrent of correlations cascading from tiny data pool — see www.dioi.org/vols/wb1.pdf (*DIO 11.1* [2002]) ¶1 §C; or DR at *Alter Orient und Altes Testament* 297:295-296 (2002).

⁷⁹Supercomputer specialist Dennis Duke (*DIO* Editor 2006-2012) sees the future better than Nostradamus, via 2011/2/7 vision: imagine what's going to happen when the crypto-obsessives start putting thousands of Elizabethan texts into *computers*, sifting inevitable zillions of permutations. . . .

⁸⁰The many similarities of WS' style and (esp. *Edward II*→*Richard II* [e.g., T2:4]) structure to Marlowe's are not argued, but it is alibied that WS is just stealing from his predecessor. Yet we know that Marlowe was a regular stealer from himself even before (T2:70) his disappearance. Afterwards was of course easier and slyer: see what Blumenfeld rightly spots as a self-plug (B36) in Marlowe's *Hamlet*, the brass of which has since been exceeded only by Peary-biographer Fitzhugh Green: see

academe's awareness of Marlowe's unique connexion to Shakespeare.) His vote would likely have exceeded 90%. This thought-experiment points up the historical tragedy of the crippled-ballot — that ultimately drove skeptics to the Sisyphan madness of Oxfordianism, starting bigtime in the early 1920s. *A further crippling was evidential*: non-access (until 1925) to knowledge of Marlowe's terrifying arrest and the body-identifiers' professional slyness. And oft-forgot: until 1925 none knew of a vital key to figuring escape's likelihood: *Marlowe's relation to the royalty-connected-spyring Walsinghams*. By the time uncripplings finally occurred, the Strat & Ox factions were locked into their positions. Today, with Marlowe widely overlooked, the two most popular candidates are Shakespeare himself and the Earl of Oxford. But Shakespeare was inadequately educated and not provably more than ordinarily literate. There survive a few comments of praise for Oxford's writing, and from these seedlets the Oxford movement (believing them mere glimmers of much else) was probably born, though said praise may be little more than a few kissings-up to a rich noble. He unquestionably died in 1604 (well before the "Shakespeare" plays ceased coming out).

J8 The very existence (M236, S177) of such praise suggests that Oxford's hypothesized secrecy was either very slipshod or a fantasy. Anyway, of the putative plays his fans think the praises were admiring, none has been thought worthy of preservation (unless one circularly attributes the "Shakespeare" corpus to him: Roper p.87), and the long-frustrating (fn 98) lack of direct evidence that Oxford could write great plays is similar to the Stratfordians' situation. Yet Marlowe, born 1564, christened March 7 (H37) by our Gregorian calendar (February 26, Julian), wrote under his own name several extant, still-performed plays (much in the style of "Shakespeare": §§J11-J13). E.g., *Doctor Faustus* (Richard Burton in the 1967 film), *Edward II, Massacre at Paris*. Both's plays are in the blank verse style of which Marlowe was the acknowledged establisher in English drama.

J9 See, e.g., the judgement of no less than Swinburne, who (like J.M.Robertson: H125) viewed WS as virtually plagiarizing Marlowe (Zix), and who writes of Marlowe (*EncycBrit*): "the first English master of word-music [§R6] in its grander forms. . . . The place and the value of Christopher Marlowe as a leader among English poets it would be almost impossible . . . to overestimate. . . . He first, and he alone, guided Shakespeare into the right way of work; [in] his music . . . there is no echo of any man's before him . . ."

J10 Swinburne continues: Marlowe "is the greatest discoverer, the most daring and inspired pioneer, in all our poetic literature. Before him there was neither genuine blank verse nor a genuine tragedy in our language." (See also T2:176n7.)

J11 Summing up the Marlowe-WS link, Swinburne concludes: "After [Marlowe's] arrival the way was prepared, the paths were made straight, for Shakespeare."

J12 See also the *EncycBrit* on Marlowe suffusing *Henry VI*; even Stratfordian A.Rowe agrees (B265). See also T1:98, 2:211, 217f — and 222, where biographer Bakeless reflects how speculation of the purest baselessness becomes Tradition (emph added): "It is usually agreed that the admission of the three *Henry VI* plays to the Shakespeare canon has at least *something* to justify it, if nothing more than a final revision by Shakespeare's pen."⁸¹

J13 The similarity of style is so great that 2 centuries ago, it was even proposed (S195, 312) that Marlowe's works must have been written by Shakespeare.

www.dioi.org/vols/wa0.pdf (DIO 10 [2000]) fn 18 (also fn 20!) [p.16].

⁸¹ And see Blumenfeld's amused comments on the matter: B158. C.Wilson (W147) on the early *First Folio* plays: "*Henry VI, Richard III and Titus Andronicus* are so like Marlowe [§U2] that it is generally assumed that he had a hand in the writing of them". See Hoffman's extensive quotes (H133-136) from *Stratfordians* who detect Marlowe in early "Shakespeare" plays. (And see Stratfordian Bakeless' lists & rejoinders: T2:224-226, 246-247, 254-255, 261-263.) Also the Yale Shakespeare's Editor re *Titus Andronicus*' authorship: B247. (Further: §§L18&L33.) These expert stylistic detections, & the fact (fn 50) that all early Marlovians were literati, will happily serve as shame-ameliorators in case (§I24) Marlovianism's ultimate victory triggers overbroad post-game snickering (§§I21&I25) at ComplLitwits. Also, English teachers F.Crews & C.H.Ward, and O.Villarejo, outdid scientists in pioneer exposures of shams by Freud & oedipal Peary (both born 1856/5/6), and E.K.Kane, resp.

K Universities' English Dep'ts RoboDeem Themselves Nonessential

K1 The Marlowe and "Shakespeare" plays show a love of Ovid, of whom Marlowe was actually a translator (T2:166f; B31) during his years at *Cambridge University*. By contrast to such a plain record of Marlowe's education (§W4) and *thus rare intelligence* (not everyone went to Cambridge): beyond circular arguments from the plays themselves, there's no evidence that Shakespeare was educated at all. Teachout & Columbia University's Shapiro scoff at the idea that this is relevant, since it is claimed (§I2; S239&276) that a high-school education then was adequate for the plays' author (as good as a university education today). Price demonstrates otherwise (P236-237, 242f) in convincing detail, adding that Shakespeare's children Susanna & Judith were (like his own family: P234) far from fully literate (P237-238), though Susanna could at least (like dad) write her name.⁸²

K2 Price (P211-212, 240) and Shapiro (S239) discuss evidence that WS struck some acquaintances as not particularly well-educated.⁸³

K3 Such evidence each has a different take on. (At Q102-103, Barber skillfully develops this into a delicious comic scene, reminiscent of films such as 1979's *Being There*. Only much funnier. *Without a Clue* [1988] is better competition.) WS had the same problem as Woody Allen in *The Front*, when fielding Andrea Marcovicci's innocent questions about "his" writings, except that — despite the above-cited glimmers of the truth — obviously-gifted actor WS hid it well. (Barber [fn 145] reasonably suggests that WS stayed out-of-sight & out-of-town so much because it allowed him to duck questions about his writing and-or requests for re-writes.)

K4 Marlowe was wiser than *The Front*'s black-listed 1950s writers in that he chose a front who was an *able actor*.

K5 Note that — presuming he knew for-whom he was fronting — William Shakespeare was a hero not a villain of this history, in that he was (even if for presumably generous Walsingham compensation) risking his own life to save that of one of the most able artistic creators who ever lived. And at least likewise (since they knew the score) for Rob't Poley, Nicholas Skeres, & Ingram Frizer. Note: William Shakespeare's front is the only hoax DR ever probed that was not harmful but beneficial — magnificently so.

K6 In any case, Shapiro's high-school-is-enough-education dodge evades the question of whether the obvious extra-ordinary intelligence of the plays' author — not just his degree of exposure to classics — might perchance be *probabilistically* correlated with the odds that he'd go to university. So, we find that orthodoxy-cling typically (§W16) requires opting for a barely-possible but *a-priori* improbable notion instead of the obvious. How could academic cultism get any funnier than the nonpareil self-cornering delight that *universities* around the world boast English Dep'ts who must defend their religious attachment to Shakespeare's authorship by *arguing against the import of a university education*?

K7 As already noted above (§E42), WS' otherwise detailed will notoriously left no books and no mss (S9, P146, Mxxix), a POWERFUL, SOLID rock of evidence for which Shapiro can only offer (S50, 224, 275-277) alibi-fluff speculations, at least as "far-fetched" (S212&225) as any he attacks in his heretical targets. His main alibi (e.g., WS must've just thumbed through books at bookstores[!]: S275f) is so feeble that — *presumably to avoid triggering astonished snickers* — it is not even identified as an answer (to the will's shocking booklessness), and is presented hundreds of pages distant from his early-on

⁸²C71 claims that university was primarily for professions, not literature (though Marlowe went a common route, pursuing classics & theology: B33), while admitting that some of the best writers did indeed go to Cambridge or Oxford. (E.g. Raleigh, Greene, Marlowe, Marston.)

⁸³See §I3. Note oft-cited (e.g., P212, S239, E84) evidence that Shakespeare didn't know geography: *The Winter's Tale* refers to Bohemia's seacoast. DR wondered at first if possibly this was Thebes' Boeotia, misprinted. But Mark Anderson (a leading Oxfordian) provides a brilliant alternate explanation (M86), insufficiently recognized: during the period 1575 to 1609, Bohemia's King Rudolph II (in whose employ astronomer Tycho Brahe died in 1601) ruled a tiny chunk of seacoast on the Adriatic.

passing acknowledgement (S9) of the will's non-mention of books.⁸⁴ (Like dodge: §S34.)

K8 Shapiro's Teachout-touted chapter, using Shakespeare's fame as an argument for his authorship, only raises (§§H3&X5; S2, P114&301) the question of why no one would have preserved a single letter by the most prominent man of English letters. But, then: did any ever exist?

K9 There is an addendum to this issue. Shapiro cites (S224) George Buc's written note that (to his inquiry) Shakespeare attested that a minor 3rd party play was by an obscure minister: Buc "knew Shakespeare well enough to *stop and ask him*" about the matter (emph added). But why does Shapiro (like his source) assume the exchange was verbal and not written? Is even Shapiro aware of the obvious answer to the question concluding our previous paragraph? Note that this is Shakespeare's *only surviving comment on authorship*, raising two revealing questions: [1] Why is it about someone ELSE's plays? [2] And in someone ELSE's hand? — a situation as glaring as a skyrocket, advertising Stratfordian evidence's scrawniness.

K10 Of course, most of the skimpy surviving documentary information about WS has to do with money-lending. Even *there*: no WS letters. This is obviously peculiar. Even more so in the case of his debtor Richard Quiney, who wrote a 1598/10/25 letter TO loan shark Shakespeare, which survives today in the Quiney papers. (Photo at C239.) But the same archive contains no letter FROM his famous lender in connexion with the same transaction, nor any other. (The file contains plenty of letters-received: E125. But none from WS.)

K11 Diana Price highlights the unevadable point and places it in lethal context (P149 [& P230]; her emph):

All of [WS'] undisputed personal records are non-literary, and that is not only unusual — statistically, it is also a virtual impossibility [on the hypothesis that he was a writer].

Over seventy personal records survive for [WS] but not one reveals his supposed primary professional occupation of writing. Indeed, the only evidence that proves [WS] wrote anything is six shaky signatures. [His] documentary evidence further suggests that he was ill-suited to a literary career. He is a man of no recorded education. He appears to have been uncomfortable using a pen.⁸⁵ His documentary trail is bookless, and his will has not a trace of literary sensibilities in composition or content.

K12 Escaping Cult-de-Sacred DeadEnd. Now to requirement [2] of §§E44&J5: motive for anonymity. Oxfordians and others have devoted much advocacy "creativity" to justifying and getting the popular debate ever-deeper into their shared&now-canonical hypotheses.

K13 Author-anonymity explanation-jests (§W26) include: [a] fear of retribution for veiled critical portrayals of lords (Mxxxiii); [b] shyness of mundane publicity (P133, 218,

⁸⁴ The huge separation in Shapiro's book between Problem-of-Booklessness (S9) and its biographical Solution-Alibi (S224) is particularly funny because WS' will is central enough that it's in the (wonderfully clever) title of his book! — *Contested Will*.

Note that at one place Shapiro argues (S50) that Shakespeare did own books (& falsely claims that skeptics contend [contra P234-235] WS was illiterate), while elsewhere arguing (S224, 275-277) that he didn't need to. Where there's no evidence, a theologian will cover all bases.

Price notes (P129, 302) that Ben Jonson's personal library ran to hundreds of books. As his excuse for why WS (richer than Jonson) had to browse bookstalls (!) to read his sources, Shapiro claims (S224): "Shakespeare must have been a familiar sight [there], browsing through titles — for he could not possibly have owned all the books [see P242f] that echo through his plays." (See also S275.) Again, dream-up-Evidence-as-needed-Shapiro's main (amusingly ironic: §S3) put-down of alternate theories is that they are too speculative (§F18). . . . (And don't miss the Shapiro speculation's sleight: WS couldn't have owned *all-the-books-used*? No, the issue is whether he owned *ANY* books.)

⁸⁵ §L15. Note some Strats' resort even to graphology (E92f), despite the Shakey basis.

222; S196) or [c] association with the plebeian theatre world. *Marlovians alone constitute the skeptical faction that neither buys nor needs any of this.*

K14 History knows of numerous cases of persecuted authors hiding behind pseudonyms or fronts, but how many did so because they'd poked fun at a fictional character designed to resemble a real potentate? Even mass-murderous Czar Nicky 2 didn't have Rimsky⁸⁶ executed for his *Golden Cockerel*'s King Dodon (thinly disguised Nicky as dodo-bird): the Czar simply impeded the opera's production. (Note S177 on Tudor-era censorship.)

K15 The whole point of criticizing in *fiction* (oft via jesters) is to evade a persecution which Oxfordians must ahistorically *assume* Oxford feared, for serious plays they *assume* he wrote, while Marlovians have thoroughly (§M12) *proven* their man's persecution on charges that are documented, not assumed.

K16 Shapiro makes (S226) a trenchant point against the Oxfordians' central fear-of-persecution-for-dramatic-insult explanation of their candidate's supposedly needing a front. Shapiro asks: why bother? — why not just publish anonymously (§P9), as most plays of the era were?

Note that, if aimed at Marlovians, the same argument is much weakened by the context of Marlowe's 1593 arrest: recognition (§M5) of his highly refined writing style (§M7) in heretical public material may have helped lead to his May 18 arrest, an experience that could have suggested post-"death" use of a flesh&blood theatre-world frontman, serving as a lightning rod to focus attention away from himself (§§P10&O3) and help squash simmering (§L7; D95&106) suspicions that *he was still alive* — a requirement peculiar to his situation. Obviously, such a concern applied *neither to Oxford nor to any other candidate for authorship of WS' corpus*, since their styles were publicly little-known.

L ShyShylockShakespeare, ChampCramp, Fosco on Crime-Will-Out

L1 The 4^y gap 1594-1598, during which we have no record of Shakespeare's name being publicly connected to any play (though his poems were noticed in 1594-1595: S235), is a minor mystery (fn 208) for all sides. Regarding plays, Marlowe adhered to Shapiro's simple plan (§K16) for several years following his 1593 exit. Possibly he hoped (Q388-393) during this period that he would receive a royal pardon.

L2 Shakespeare's name was not associated with any play until 1598, when *Love's Labour's Lost*, *Richard III*, & *Richard II* were published & promoted as his (S227).

L3 But why would allegedly pushy (§T21) actor and money-lender-Shylock⁸⁷ Shakespeare for years *forgo the sensational double-talent publicity and extra gate* he could (§S6) have gained by announcing his authorship of the very plays he was performing in?

L4 Shakespeare's 1593&1594 dedications of poetry (*Venus & Adonis* and *Rape of Lucrece*, resp), to the wealthy young Earl of Southampton (§H10), established a front-in-case-ever-needed (§§L8&S15). Webster hypothesized that the young earl's friendship was a comfort to Marlowe in exile. The 1594-1598 silence may simply reflect belated hermetic adoption of the plan Shapiro has suggested, after realization that the 13^d gap was a dangerously narrow giveaway (though only for the very few who knew the Brawl's date), which hopefully wouldn't be noticed until after Marlowe's death — when it would eventually help make the truth obvious.

L5 The 1598 re-appearance of WS' name may (B237f) relate to the same year's "posthumous" publication of Marlowe's "incomplete" (of course: he's dead, get it?) *Hero & Leander*. The soon-after (N69) "posthumous" completion of it by poet G.Chapman is suspected by some (T2:112) to evidence the hand of Marlowe (who is listed as sole author in the 1600

⁸⁶ And it didn't hurt Rimsky's position that he had in 1892 supplied young Czarevich Nicky a love nest for his paramour, the multiply-endowed prima-ballerina Mathilde Kschessinska. (See Rob't Massey *Nicholas & Alexandra* 1967 Ch.2 [Dell ed. p.23].)

⁸⁷ Was the *Merchant of Venice*'s money-lender Shylock a black in-joke portrayal of loanShakespeare? — portraits of whose head don't evidence alotta forelocks.

reprint: H159). Majority scholarly rejection of this judgement typifies the import (§G11) of arriving at a valid resolution of the WS-authorship controversy, because it is not unreasonable to suspect that the Marlowe-Chapman question is another case of textual analysis being powerfully influenced by Stratfordian insistence that Marlowe was dead in 1598. Bakeless is concerned (T1:185) by the issue: “A final puzzle is when and why Marlowe asked George Chapman to complete his poem, *Hero & Leander*. Chapman can hardly have talked to Marlowe after the stabbing” — so Bakeless speculates pre-death request. The more obvious explanation is of course off-limits.

L6 Also 1598: a book by Oxbridge-educated (S235) Francis Meres slandered Marlowe (T1:148) & simultaneously (B234, S235-236) launched the then-novel myth of Shakespeare having authored numerous plays: a dozen — though not a one had been attached to his name before 1598. So WS’ play-authorship totals: zero-to-12 overnight!

L7 It is a provocative coincidence that 3 key items all occurred⁸⁸ during the very same year, 1598:

[a] *Hero & Leander*’s publication,

[b] WS’ curiously belated public debut (allegedly [§S10] delayed 10⁹!) as a title-page playwright, and

[c] Meres’ sudden first public recognition of WS as not just playwright but prolific playwright for years past.

L8 Did a passing 1598 rumor-suspicion (that Marlowe had survived) abruptly require multiple-allaying? (Or did the 1598 alleviations just trigger each other, to some degree?) *H&L* reminded the public of Marlowe and his superlative style, right as plays in that very style were appearing anonymously in London — so a long-prepared (§L4) diversionary front may have seemed more necessary than previously.

L9 Or did the hypothesized rumor suggest the need for an “incomplete” poem’s publication to emphasize (fn 163) the perception that Marlowe was gone, thus he & WS were two separate writers? (This was also the time when the Earl of Essex’ rise against England’s ruling powers [the Cecils & Walsinghams] was unstably cresting, accompanied by a spat⁸⁹ with Marlowe’s mentor Raleigh. A possible factor independent of the foregoing speculation: an inferior completion (by H.Petowe) of *H&L* had appeared in 1598 (T2:109-111); perhaps Marlowe was so offended by this unexpected result of his fake death, that he (or intermediary) then asked Chapman to publish the extensive (Q433) real completion.

L10 In a particularly funny example of imperial arrogance, a Stratfordian goo-roo (whose comments are taken as if they constituted evidence, by the cultists devotedly [fn 133] dominating Wikipedia’s WS&Marlowe articles)⁹⁰ claims — contra the successful 3-century secreting (1593-1925) of the arrest warrant & coroner’s report — that there is no way that the secret (of a front) could succeed in “gossipy” London. (I.e., a plot’s existence can only be accepted [fn 198] if it leaks & fails!)⁹¹ When Wilkie Collins’ Count Fosco is told that crime-will-out, he replies:⁹² “Yes — all the crime *you* know of. And what of the rest.”

L11 Note the parallel Brit deepsinging — for over 1 1/2 centuries — of the file that proved that England had stolen⁹³ from France’s Urbain Leverrier priority-credit for the immortal,

⁸⁸ And Barber believes (Q413) the Bishop’s Ban of 1599 impeded works questioning who WS was.

⁸⁹ N295, 323; vs Q316, 368-369, 431, 436.

⁹⁰ Stratfordians determinedly harass-censor-control not only the Shakespeare WP articles but those of all other candidates, a situation which has by now (for all controversies) become typical of pseudopopulist Wikipedia in its inevitably-degenerate later life: www.dioi.org/mot.htm#mwvi.

⁹¹ Fn 198. By-the-way regarding gossip’s alleged inevitability (in a time when unapproved speech could be fatal): the connexion of Babington-plot-snuffer heroes (§N2) Poley&Skeres to Marlowe’s “death” remained secret for a third of a millennium — until the 1925 finding of the coroner’s report. Moreover, WS was notoriously litigious; calling him a fake could’ve proven expensive, even dangerous.

⁹² *Woman in White* 1859-1860 (Everyman 1962 ed. p.207; emph in orig); www.dioi.org/sur.htm#ftcc.

⁹³ See www.dioi.org/vols/w23.pdf (*DIO* 2.3 ¶9 [1992]), www.dioi.org/vols/w42.pdf (*DIO* 4.2 ¶10 [1994]), www.dioi.org/vols/w71.pdf (*DIO* 7.1 ¶5 §A [1997]). On J.C.Adams’ Brit-claim-killing 1846

near-magical 1846/9/23 perturbational discovery of the planet Neptune: position predicted to about 1° by brilliant mathematical analysis.

L12 Returning to our Strat goo-roo (§L10): he’s denying the possibility of secretion even WHILE for decades he&his have managed — despite the existence of a gossip or two in the modern western world — to keep a tight secrecy-lid on the publicly-unknown actual evidence (§C7) for Marlovian authorship. (The very passion Stratfordians exhibit in censoring and slanting coverage [reviews, encyclopedias, etc] betrays their private awareness [§Z3] of how dangerous Marlovianism is, when openly compared to Stratfordianism.) With equally sharp logic, the same Expert scoffs at the idea that anyone would give up credit for the plays — evidently expecting a man wanted-for-torture would crave glory more than his life. And his fingernails. (Similarly, Strats quote [E3&278] as evidence *As You Like It*’s 3.5 reference to Marlowe as “Dead shepherd”, evidently expecting a wanted man to write “Alive-shepherd, after all: come get me”?)

L13 Those who profess to (unreasonably: fn 91) rank gossip-leakage — which they’ve counted-on not to have occurred — higher than Occamite logic, for evaluation of mysteries, may be startled at the implications (however uncertain) of the following items:

L14 Given that Deptford is a Thames port on the Continental side of London, and that Marlowe had already (§M9) done Continental intelligence work, Marlovians reasonably propose (e.g., B219; Q4&218) that on 1593/5/30 he embarked on a ship for the Continent. Which renders tantalizing an item cited in no other current analysis: on that day, according to local Deptford legend, Marlowe accompanied some companions on a visit to a ship. (Nathan Dews *History of Deptford* . . . Deptford 1883 p.124.) Now, the legend does not recall it as an escape ship, but rather the famous *Golden Hind* (which he evidently had occasionally visited earlier as well, for banqueting) — Drake’s Earth-circumnavigation-vessel, by then retired as memorial & tourist-magnet, in dry-dock at Deptford. But one may try factoring-in oral centuries-old traditions’ notorious capacity for distortion.⁹⁴ In one potential direction: maybe the whole legend is false. But in the other: the mere fact that Marlowe&co are gossip-recalled as having been seen going onto a ship on the very day of his “death” is strikingly accordant with Marlovian theory.

L15 Another bit of gossip dates from c.1681, indicating that if anyone asked WS to write something down, WS pled hand-pain! The tale is relayed with proper caution in Price’s undeservedly obscure book (now happily less expensive), which fairly notes Stratfordians’ understandable preference for changing the actual punctuation in-the-record (wishing to interpret the recollection as WS’ *written* plea of illness whenever he was invited to debauch — this, though not a single *written* personal communication of his is extant). Price adds that the unaltered text’s implication is consistent with WS’ crude surviving signatures (§H2). The account can be read as describing WS’ virtue & shy modesty, including our play-writing champ’s cramps-of-agony — which came on whenever he was asked to wield a pen (P127): he was “the more to be admired [because] he was not a company keeper lived in Shoreditch,

Summer circular-orbit ephemeris, see www.dioi.org/vols/w91.pdf (*DIO* 9.1 ¶1 [1999]) Table 1 & its citation at *Scientific American* 2004 Dec (“Stealing a Planet”) p.98. Thanks to these researches, Leverrier’s primacy in Neptune’s discovery has by now been generally accepted at last.

⁹⁴ E.g., such Biblical transformations as: [a] Rhino into unicorn (e.g., Num.23.22, Deut.33.17). [b] Jesus nailed to a ‘T’, later becoming a cross. [c] Confused hybrid-occultist myth — mishmash of prophecy-fulfillment & more dreams than the rest of the New Testament — evolving into Matthew 2’s geographically-goofy Christmas Star tale (fn 0), a legend which weirdly has magi-from-east aiming at star-in-east. Speculative solution (since Chaldea was east of Jerusalem): magi-from-east were “Chaldeans” — common ancient synonym for astrologers (“magoi” in Greek) — presumably already in or near Herod’s court, thus no international travel involved. As for star-in-east: Greek for east is “anatole”, also Greek for the Ascendant, the horoscope’s holiest point — invisible, thus indoor-calculated, requiring professional astrologers. The other Greek word for Ascendant was “oroskopos”. Christmas Star ends up overhead: “mesouran” in Greek, which also means Midheaven, the other key invisible (calculated) horoscope point. (Marlowe knew both: fn 170.) Details: www.dioi.org/cot.htm#xssm; DR “Astronomy vs Astrology” (*Queen’s Quarterly* 91.4:969-989 [1984] pp.976-977).

would not be debauched, & if invited to writ; he was in pain.” (Watch Shapiro deftly skim this item at S50.)

L16 Finally: There survives a 2nd-hand recollection of an apparent leak of the secret of Shakespeare’s 1594 appropriation of Marlowe’s 1st (§S10) post-Deptford play. (This early in Marlowe’s anonymity, perhaps the eventual routine [see reconstruction-speculation at Q430] of Marlowe’s transmission of his plays had yet to be smoothened.)

L17 Edw.Ravenscroft, who’d in 1678 staged *Titus Andronicus*, billing it as by Shakespeare, recanted in 1687.

L18 Ravenscroft said (T2:259, emph added): “I have been told by some anciently conversant with the Stage that it was not originally his [WS’], but brought by a *private Author* to be Acted, and he [WS] only⁹⁵ gave some Master-touches (§S26) to one or two of the Principal Parts or Characters.”

L19 This interpretation might accord with Greene’s sneer at pushy “Shake-scene” (§S27) and perhaps at occasional ad-lib or pseudo-ad-lib “bombast” (*ibid*) by a playwright-wannabee (Q422) actor whose bombastic voice was *uniquely prominent* (“only . . . in a country”) for Shaking the scenery. (NB: Greene’s upper-case for “Shake-scene” does not have to refer to a proper name, since he nearby [§S27; H35] also capitalizes “Crow” & “Tyger” & “Player”.)

L20 Such interpretations are anyway less incredible than the now-orthodox Stratfordian position (§S24) that Greene was upset at hypothetical 1592 entirely-WS-composed plays’ competition.

L21 Oddly, Bakeless (*idem*) claims Ravenscroft’s reference to privacy eliminates Marlowe & others since they were well-known not private — forgetting that in 1594 Marlowe if alive was as private as could be.

L22 Understandably (S196), few scholars have been or ever will be convinced that anyone (who was not under the torture-threat that kept Marlowe hidden) would — on such bases as Oxfordians propose (§K13) — spurn credit for decades of dedicated artistic achievement, obviously *the center of his life’s enduring work*. If a hypothetical noble hypothetically eschewed the plebeian theatre, he could have his plays performed at that day’s several private patrician theatres. (§W25; M255, 275, 317; B86; R90; E44-48.) Some plays were even performed at court (§W25; Q294).

L23 Question: do Marlowe’s plays sound plebeian?! OK, they contained mayhem for the pits (and nobles likely enjoyed same, too). But the language, grace, and beauty contained in the plays are more consistent with a world far above the street. And who was backing Marlowe? — the Walsinghams, one of the richest and (T1:91) most cultured families in Europe.

L24 The common alibi that the author of the plays would have been ashamed (§K13) of their creation is one of the most ludicrous of the many alibi-myths that have been generated out of the several non-Marlovian cults’ fantasy-cornucopias (fn 68) for explaining their candidates’ shyness. (It has also been asked why an author would choose the name of a broker-moneylender⁹⁶ as his cover: S208.) And, if retribution-fear (§K12) was a factor, why would the non-*peera* actor Shakespeare be more immune from such?

L25 However, before unalloyedly condemning these arguments’ over-enthusiastic (e.g., §I27) promoters, empathize with and be grateful for those valuable pioneer revisionists (e.g., Twain), who had creditably perceived Shakespeare’s fraudulence.

⁹⁵This item naturally got Ravenscroft smeared as a liar (T2:259), yet it is consistent with a formerly common but lately less fashionable supposition (C153) that Robert Greene’s 1592 *Groatsworth* rage was at actor WS for tampering with his & others’ plays (§S25). (Q377 portrays Marlowe complaining of the same interference at other hands.)

⁹⁶Speculation: money-lenders (fn 87) need enforcers. Skeres&Frizer appear to fit the type. Was it they who originally linked the 2 parties? If WS was deeply involved in the theatre world, the hypothesis is superfluous. Another possible connexion: Farey has located Marlowe to Shoreditch in 1589 & 1592 (www2.prestel.co.uk/reyl/biog.htm), where Shakespeare also lived (§L15).

L26 Given the mistakenly-restricted spectrum of likely suspects, early skeptics — fatefully (§J6) but at-the-time-understandably skipping Marlowe — were simply going with what seemed the best explanations *possible at that time* for the true writer’s mysterious shyness. (See below for analogies in the sciences: §W22; also fn 196, where wise scholars *did not jump precipitously into a weak theory* merely because of [fn 140] passing lack of any better alternative.)

L27 In 1955, US poet Calvin Hoffman dropped a slow-acting bomb onto the debate by proposing that Christopher Marlowe’s death was just as fictional as those in several of the very plays we are discussing (e.g., *Romeo & Juliet* 5.3, *Winter’s Tale* 5.3). Hoffman’s was the 1st Marlovian publication to appear following the 1925 discoveries of the prime documents suggesting Marlowe’s survival: the arrest warrant and the coroner’s report. Thus it was the 1st Marlovian case that was so strong as to be irrefutable. But both sides were by then far too locked⁹⁷ into their long-established theories to listen.

L28 The political center scoffs that Marlovians’ faked-death idea is “far-fetched” (§F18; S212). Eliot Marshall comments (2014/5/3): how is a spy-ring conspiracy to save Marlowe improbable, when the same members of the same ring had already (§N2) pulled off the most important, delicate, & successful conspiracy in the pre-Enigma history of England?

L29 Shapiro personally denigrates Hoffman (S201), all the while *not even telling readers what Hoffman’s evidence is* (§D7; S212), though aware of it (§§F13, H14, S36; S227). And, perhaps sensing sudden danger from an unexpected quarter, the competitive Oxfordians generally won’t (even when mentioning the theory of fake-death: M274) mention Hoffman at all!

L30 Question: Why must Oxfordians be so SURE that Marlowe’s undeniably fishy disappearance was a murder not an escape? There’s no evidence that justifies such adamancy. And there are a flock (§P7) of obvious objections to it. But: Oxfordians’ blindness must be TOTAL to the Marlovian evidence — to the obvious implications of the (admitted: M274) oddities of Marlowe’s “death”, to the checkable similarity of his style to WS’ (against which the Oxfordians have nothing at all to put in competition), to the provocative neatness of the 1593 Marlowe→Shakespeare two-week segue. The rejection must be 100.00%, leaving *no room whatever* for doubt of Marlowe’s elimination. Why? Because (§R3): *if Marlowe wasn’t dead, Oxfordianism is*. (And so is Stratfordianism: §R4.)

L31 After all, the Oxford case has always been at bottom an obsolete-since-Hoffmann well-who-else-coulda (§J1) process-of-elimination, claiming Oxford had, more than other candidates (S6): “perfect background, really. He was clever, well educated, well traveled”.

L32 This and Looney’s ever-more imperialistic (§H7; S194f) style-arguments for Oxford constitute the actual longago origin of the Oxfordian movement, arguments so feeble and uncontagious that they necessarily in time became (*due to this very feebleness*) massively, cultishly encrusted with fanatically-compiled pseudo-evidences, ever more⁹⁸ tenuous

⁹⁷ An astronomical analogy: Wm.Herschel discovered Uranus in 1781 (the year George III lost a colony but gained a world) and on 1801/4/17 discovered the major Uranus satellite Umbriel. But after his huge telescopes’ retirement, no one else saw Umbriel until Wm.Lassell a 1/2 century later. Then, following the rediscovery, it took (www.dioi.org/cot.htm#ikqd) so long to establish Umbriel’s orbit well enough to back-compute its 1801/4/17 position accurately (to verify Herschel’s priority), that by then Lassell’s name had been attached for decades to the discovery. Such cement having long since solidly set, Lassell’s mis-priority is still occasionally listed in publications, even 40^y after DR’s orbit math had precisely (www.dioi.org/cot.htm#hwdu) established that Umbriel was right where W.Herschel reported it, while Mt.Palomar’s Charlie Kowal simultaneously verified for DR that there is no star of comparable brightness at the spot in question.

⁹⁸ From the beginning, it became increasingly obvious that the raw Oxford case was making few converts. Since as early as 1921 arch-Oxfordian J.Looney (pronounced “Loney” for obvious reasons) had in frustration (§J7) issued an expectation that was unrealistic for any of the vying parties (*which is why the controversy’s solution must arise from Occam’s Razor*: §W30), complaining (S194): “circumstantial evidence cannot accumulate for ever without at some point issuing in proof.” (Similarly, more recent Oxfordian-despair dream-hopes for [S201-202] “a miracle” or “some dramatic ‘break-

and statistically-naïve (§J2) supposed Oxford bio-parallels in WS plays.

L33 When the theory of Marlovian fake-death is pseudo-met by today's top Oxfordian, Hoffman is not cited (M274-275). Instead, we are told (with utter Oxfordian certainty) that Marlowe was killed not saved — this in a murky evidential context where *the only certitude is the lack of certitude* (§R2). Note in the following Oxfordian quote how close the writer comes to the obvious actual solution but out of preconception fails⁹⁹ to see it (emph added):

The murder was a hit job.¹⁰⁰ None of the [three Walsingham] agents was ever punished because they were only carrying out the orders of powerful forces who could have been brought low,¹⁰¹ had Marlowe lived long enough to complete his testimony for the Star Chamber. In addition to being a secret agent, Marlowe was also the only serious literary competition Elizabethan England could offer Shake-speare. . . . Marlowe's *Tamburlaine*, *Doctor Faustus*, and *Edward II* reigned¹⁰² above all other works yet produced for the London stage in popularity and acclaim. . . . [See also T1:190.]

On February 6, 1594, the London printer John Danter registered [anonymously *Titus Andronicus*], the first published Shake-speare playscript, a blood-and-gore fest worthy of Marlowe's nightmarish vision. . . .

Unknown forces, perhaps [Oxford]'s new and settled married life [DIO: the wedding was 1591, not 1594], perhaps¹⁰³ *the impetus of Marlowe's [1593] death had stoked [Oxford]'s creative fires*. [DIO: While attention is diverted to 1594's *Titus Andronicus*, no mention of 1593's *Venus & Adonis* following Marlowe's exit by only 2 weeks.]

L34 This, just a few paragraphs after citing (M274) Occam's Razor! — presumably the last principle which chronology-juggling Oxfordians would want anywhere in the vicinity when going up against Marlovianism's simplicity, unfudged chronology, and devastatingly solid documents (§§E13-E15 & T13).

L35 The openminded scholar lets the evidence teach him. E.g., www.dioi.org/vols/wk0 (DIO 20 [2012]) ‡1 fn 4. The foregoing quote is thus a textbook case of the very reverse.

L36 Is Marlowe's post-1593 survival unmentionably far-fetched? Well, let us see — by examining the evidence which the most prominent cultists refuse to tell anybody about. E.g., *hard Marlovian evidence* — the fact that the sole *known* identifiers of the body were fellow spies and professional deceivers (§E13) — is met by *mere speculation* that the judge or the jury could not be fooled, though no evidence is produced showing that any of them knew Marlowe. See Nicholl's sensible observation at fn 171. One Strat coulda-reactionary even dreams that they would have dug up the body if anything were later suspected. (Taking time out from dealing with the thousands of bodies streaming past, as plague [fn 171] gripped London. . . .) The Strats' preference for speculation, shaky (§§S28&W16), and even contradictory (§W15) evidence is also evident elsewhere here (§I11). All of this is amusingly ironic in light of Stratfordian surety that its cult is solidly grounded, while Marlovian theory is mere "fringe" fantasy (Wikipedia's drumbeat mantra).

through' "). For a cause whose evidence had always been near-vanishingly thin, said call-for-proof set soldiers-for-Oxford upon their still-vibrant mission of searching for ever more parallels, even cryptograms (§J2), parapsychology (§H10; S197f), etc — all of it inadvertently testifying primarily to the weakness, over-complexity (S194f), and *a priori* implausibility of Oxfordianism's essential case.

⁹⁹Hardly unique. Some parallel examples *DIO* has encountered over the years in other controversies: www.dioi.org/vols/w11.pdf (DIO 1.1 [1991]) ‡6 §§H4-H5 [pp.63-64] and self-critical fn 34; www.dioi.org/vols/w21.pdf (DIO 2.1 [1992]) ‡4 §H7; www.dioi.org/vols/wg0.pdf (DIO 16 [2009]) ‡1 fn 7.

¹⁰⁰See §P8. Again (§E12): had Marlowe actually been hit-snuffed, wouldn't the killers have learned on-site that a stab in the forehead doesn't kill instantly, if ever?

¹⁰¹§M11.

¹⁰²Fn 202.

¹⁰³§L33.

M Thought-Experiment #2: Stripped-Down Survival-Odds

M1 Our next (§H12) thought-experiment (presumably not original with DR) can be an eye&mind-opener for those too-long insularly steeped in the mythology of any of several cults (P10) built upon inconclusive reasoning on the authorship question.

M2 Let's *start by forgetting about the Shakespeare Controversy*. Forget that Marlowe's survival has the attraction that it would (§X2) solve the greatest literary mystery ever.

M3 *Set that entirely aside*. And instead *just try independently gauging the odds on Marlowe's survival*, strictly in isolation, strictly on the biographical and documentary evidence which Hoffman and more recently (B211) David A. More and Samuel L. Blumenfeld have revealed. We are about to see that the likelihood of his survival is far from zero, a probability which we initially, temporarily and crudely, here set (for purposes of argument) at roughly 50%, an a-priori-shockingly high figure, but one which will (by the time we get to §N, and recall-ponder the significance of BAIL [§E21] on a **charge of treason**) seem reasonable, perhaps even too timidly conservative. *Of all parts of an escape-scheme, bail was by far the most unlikely, yet its reality is attested. And if it happened, anything could.*

M4 The key events all occur in 1593 May, in the context of the growth of the ill-fated (§L9; M273, 334; B202, 216) Essex challenge to the power (§L23, fn 107) of the Walsingham-Cecil circle around Queen Liz 1.

M5 On 1593/5/18 a warrant was issued (B216) for Marlowe's arrest (§I18) for atheism, A CAPITAL OFFENSE. (In the wake of the Catholic powers' near-miss 1588 Armada, England was paranoically sniffing out & snuffing out all religious dissenters.)

M6 E.g., after (§X39) Marlowe's "death", pastors issued vindictive, even gruesome sermons (T1:143f) on atheist Marlowe's much-deserved fate.

M7 Background: When in 1593 April seditious placards, the anti-immigrant "Dutch Church Libels" (B212), appeared around London, written in an extraordinarily literate style (with reference to Marlowe's output: §P4; S213), Marlowe's once-intimate friend, fellow writer Thomas Kyd was arrested 1593/5/12 (H60-61) and tortured (so horribly that he died in 1594), soon spilling¹⁰⁴ Marlowe-did-it testimony (B216) that was certain to get his colleague arrested. Marlowe is said to have appeared before the Privy Council on May 20 (H64). Damning testimony against him continued to come in, so if he didn't flee, he was now faced with certain torture himself — or execution or both.

M8 The most detailed indictment (quoted in full at H66-67) was by an implacable enemy (B200, 225-226), Richard Baines, accusing (N46, 57, & *passim*) Marlowe of promoting homosexuality and teaching that religion, Moses, & Jesus were frauds, etc. (Havelock Ellis' 1887 edition of Marlowe relayed a bowdlerized version. Did this trigger Ziegler 1895?)

M9 In Holland in 1592, Baines & Marlowe had been co-investigating (§R5; B200) or co-committing (T1:101) or co-dabbling in (Q90-164) counterfeit coinage. When caught, each had fingered the other.

M10 Baines' fatal testimony reached the Privy Council at the end of May — perhaps 5/27 (N47, 391), though Hoffmann (H66) makes it 1593/5/29. Immediately after receipt (5/30), Marlowe was "killed" in Deptford, at the guest-house (apparently transit-house)¹⁰⁵

¹⁰⁴Bakeless (T1:114) says Kyd only fingered Marlowe after his death, a sequence rendered unlikely by the latter's very arrest, and experienced torturers' skill. Given that the Libels were signed *Tamburlaine*, it's unlikely Kyd was the prime suspect; rather, he was to be squeezed to spill on Marlowe.

¹⁰⁵Shapiro (S7, 212, 230) scoffs at the theory that Marlowe fled to the Continent (at least temporarily). But Blumenfeld rightly asks (B219 emph added): What were Marlowe "and two of Walsingham's servants doing in Deptford, spending a full day in idleness and hours walking in a garden . . . at a *seaport* [east of London, on the Thames' south shore] where [Cecil]'s spies conveniently went abroad and returned and could freshen up at Eleanor Bull's safe house before making their way to London? . . . Shouldn't Marlowe have been at [T.Walsingham's estate], available for appearance at the Star Chamber in London at a moment's notice?" His constant availability to same was explicitly ordered in his presence and appears in the May 20 arraignment document (H64): he was "commanded to give his daily attendance on their lordships."

of Eleanor Bull (who, notably, had court connexions: F).

M11 Marlowe was a longtime operative¹⁰⁶ for the Walsingham family's spy ring. (Geoffrey Rush played all-powerful, resourceful Protestantism-guardian [§Z7] Francis Walsingham in the 1998 film *Elizabeth*.) Marlowe thus had friends (B200) who were wealthy & potent,¹⁰⁷ also routinely superdevious (§S20; T1:91). So: did they arrange a fake death, to protect Marlowe from torture that might (§Q10) reveal secrets that would endanger¹⁰⁸ his associates, as Kyd's testimony had already undone Marlowe?

M12 There is no question of Marlowe's relation to the Walsinghams. The May 18 arrest document specifies (H64, B216) that Marlowe be 1st searched for at Thomas Walsingham's estate. The temporal coincidence of his "death", so soon after his arrest, is at least provocative. (But to Shapiro, not enough to cause even a mention of any of this evidence.)

M13 Once we realize (from the will alone) that Shakespeare is out of the running, then: *if Marlowe is assumed alive*, an expert vote would be virtually unanimous for Marlowe, so the modest 90% value we floated earlier (§J7: Thought-Experiment #1) was set too far from 100%. I.e., the probability that he is the best candidate as WS-author is effectively equal¹⁰⁹ to the probability that he lived past 1593. We next turn to evidence that will likely convince many that our preliminary rough estimate (§M3) of said Marlowe-survival-odds (during above Thought-Experiment #2) was also considerably too low.

N Cloak&Dagger. Theory-Interlude on Marlowe's Purported Death

N1 Suppose you were arranging a fake stab-death of Marlowe. Step One: witnesses will be *reliable*. (As the saying goes: a man who can't be bribed, can't be trusted.) All three of the (§S18) slippery men in the room when the "killing" occurred were of the Walsingham circle (B218-219): Robert Poley, Nicholas Skeres, & Ingram Frizer.

N2 Poley & Skeres had been key (W146, N150f, M273, B42&70) in undoing the 1586 Babington plot by Catholics trying to overthrow Queen Elizabeth in favor of Mary Queen of Scots, whom Liz1 in 1587 ordered beheaded (for said plotting), triggering the 1588 Armada. As a reality-check here, it's worth asking: for schemer-spies of such awesome, delicate, and historic international ability **and courageous daring**, is it really "far-fetched" (§F18) to believe that they could pull off a standard cloak&dagger body-switch to protect their spy-ring? Interlude:

N3 Even the relative amateurs of the 1949 film *The Third Man*¹¹⁰ almost succeeded with a similar fellow-spies-witnessed fake-death-&-body-substitution ploy, masterminded by a hunted spy (Orson Welles in the film) desperate to dodge elimination. (The author of *The Third Man*, Graham Greene, was — like Marlowe — a combination of writer and spy.)

¹⁰⁶T1:159, 177-185; M274; B200, 202, 218.

¹⁰⁷Late spymaster F.Walsingham had been on the Privy Council: H65. His cousin, Marlowe-patron Thomas Walsingham, was often at the court of Queen Liz1, who (T1:91; B240) in 1597 even visited him at his estate.

¹⁰⁸Thus, Marlowe's hypothetical rescue might have been for more than preserving his creativity. (Though Hoffman argues that T.Walsingham was determined to save his lover.) Today, we see prosecutors "indicting up" a chain of offenders. The Walsingham power-clique may have feared that its enemies were *torturing-up*: torture A to get testimony on B, then torture B to get something on C, and so on to the top. Marlowe's "death" severed the prospective chain.

¹⁰⁹We later (§R4) show more directly that it is not even necessary to adduce the WS will (or compare Marlowe to other candidates) to show that, *if Marlowe survived, he wrote the plays*.

¹¹⁰Readers are encouraged when in Vienna to visit the Third Man Museum (<http://www.3mpc.net>), open only on Saturday afternoons, an entertaining & enlightening labor-of-love collection of memorabilia, including: the original zither that played the film's haunting hit song, weekly live demonstration of a projector of the period, 1950 movie-posters and record-sleeves from dozens of nations (reflecting the surprise international success of film&song), as well as photos, letters, & maps of mid-1940s Vienna including a US Army 1944 map (used for B-24 *Liberator* bombing of Vienna) displaying Adolf Hitler Platz & Hermann Göring Platz.

N4 A prior and more famous (though differently motivated) case of fake death is that of Lazarus, which also involved witnesses who were colleagues (www.dioi.org/rel.htm#fprv) of the "corpse". Less remotely ago: the centerpiece-plot in Puccini's 1900 *Tosca*¹¹¹ is a fake death. (Note that the opera's surprise-ending is possibly unique in the history of theatre, namely, a fake-fake death.)

N5 And pseudo-death plots continue in more recent fiction. The 1967 *Columbo* pilot "Prescription Murder" employs a substitute bod (which isn't even dead) for a fake suicide. In the 1973 film *The Sting*, Rob't Redford will never know peace (§P11) from the cops or the robbers; so: he fakes his death. Paul Newman does likewise, leaving us with two simultaneous fake deaths. (Both as convincingly humiliating as Marlowe's: §X38.) The marvelously clever 1986 cine-ultracomedy *Ruthless People* also ends with a neat version of a substitute-body fake death. In the pre-*Third Man* era: Agatha Christie's *And Then There Were None*¹¹² (1945) exceeded all those other tales in that, while a fake death is key to the plot, the story culminates in yet an additional fake death. And the plot-crux of 1944's *Laura* hinges on a body's misidentification from facial damage (unplanned in this case).

N6 Some will question the relevance of "mere" *fictional* fake deaths to this case, forgetting that the schemer at its heart *was a professional fictionist*. Anyway, faked deaths also occur aplenty in real life. (Farey has compiled a much fuller list than here: F.) On 2014/1/2, CNN carried news of the capture of banker-conman Aubrey Lee Price, who'd swindled victims of tens of millions, before pretending he'd suicided in mid-2012. In the mid-70s, glam-rocker Brian Slade disappeared and for the next decade was thought probably dead. (See the 1998 film *Velvet Goldmine*.) Militarily-stellar Marine SSgt Arthur C. Bennett, when about to be arrested for various crimes, faked his death near Las Vegas on 1994/2/3 by subbing a body in his camper-vehicle and then burning it up. As credulous (or lazy) as the Elizabethan police (who evidently thought that Marlowe had suddenly transformed from a violence-shy [§N15; N86-87] writer into a vicious aggressor,¹¹³ or possibly was seeking an inevitably-painful but unsure suicide-by-brawl), the modern Nevada cops for years deemed it credible that a suicide's preferred method would be roasting himself!

N7 Returning to 1593: which is more¹¹⁴ of a challenge? Saving-hiding a single private individual? Or (§N2) saving an entire nation? (Francis Walsingham's dedication to keeping the Catholic empire at bay was inspired by his 1st-hand witnessing the 1572 massacre of Huguenots in Paris, where he was stationed as England's Ambassador to France.)

N8 Let's list all the ingredients required for a scheme to (1) rescue Marlowe & (2) convince his enemies that he was dead so (§X38) they'd stop even looking for him:

N9 Witnesses that can be trusted by the spy ring (§N1).

N10 Marlowe cannot be passively attacked but instead must attack the killer, Walsingham-employee Ingram Frizer (B218). (This permits Frizer to get off on self-defense, which he did with remarkable swiftness — going right back to his employment by Walsingham. See *EncycBrit*; T1:157f, B240.)

¹¹¹Is it possible that Puccini knew of Ziegler's novel, then-very-recent (1895) Marlovian speculation (§E5)? (Puccini knew his "Shakespeare": *Tosca*'s Scarpia borrows [with credit] from *Othello*.)

¹¹²Aka *Ten Little Indians*. The last survivor among the victims is urged to commit suicide, by the argument that anyone found surrounded by 9 corpses will hang anyway. Hitherto-unnoted Slight-Problem with the Happy Ending when her boyfriend returns from the "dead": how does this answer the problem, since any couple found among 8 corpses might stimulate a mite of police skepticism, too.

¹¹³Marlowe was alleged by tailor Wm.Corkine to have attacked him with stick&dagger on 1592/9/15 in Canterbury. The incident was settled, so even Stratfordian Nicholl doesn't think it shows Marlowe was violent (N87). This incident can be interpreted at least 3 ways, e.g., [a] the violence is consistent with orthodoxy; [b] mutual dropping of the case (Q423) suggests its insignificance; [c] Marlowe already knew, earlier (§O1) than previously thought, that he'd soon need an escape-plot, so he was setting up the credibility of himself as a brawler.

¹¹⁴Note that this situation provides an inverse version of the disproportionality (§I22) encountered when comparing the difficulties of CompLit's challenges on WS' unobtrusive will vs subtle symbolisms, etc, which the field's celebs profess to discern in the world's literature.

N11 A seemingly minor detail of the coroner's report (§Q7; N17): Poley&Skeres seated on either side of Frizer. (Why the bunching? Didn't the table have more than one side?) Thus, "in no wise could he take flight" (N84). This, along with Frizer's back being turned to Marlowe, has the look of pre-planning for a (successful) plea of self-defense.

N12 A new question. *Marlowe carried a dagger* (H48, Q353), so: why (§Q7) did he need to grab Frizer's? Obvious answers: [a] Frizer must be daggerlessly defenseless at brawl-start; [b] the dagger to be produced for the coroner must match the shape of the terrible Deptford blood-flow wound (§§N12&Q1): 1 inch wide & 2 inches into the skull.

N13 But this had likely been hammered (§Q5) into John Penry's corpse — just before shouts of HELP-HELP — presumably by Frizer. *Thus, to match the wound and to disgrace Marlowe as an attacker of an unarmed man, only one dagger must be in-play at Deptford.*

N14 Yet all the foregoing requirements together force a two-stage (thus doubly improbable) scenario, namely, that Marlowe grabs Frizer's weapon and attacks Frizer (from behind), but Frizer *grabs it back* and kills Marlowe!

N15 A-priori-farfetched? Obviously. Yet, all four elements of our *required*-scenario are found in the official coroner's report (T1:156, H77-78, B219-220), which was recovered in 1925 (T1:151) by Hotson — who perhaps hoped thereby to squelch Webster's then-fresh 1923 public heresy (§U3)? As Stratfordians (e.g., T2:216) perversely like to pretend it did, though the very reverse has happened. (Likewise, when it in 1996 finally declassified Byrd's 1926 "North Pole" diary, the Byrd Polar Research Center at Ohio State University believed it would clear him of lingering suspicion. But, instead, it blew up¹¹⁵ in orthodoxy's face.) Hotson's 1925 find of the coroner's report (originally trumpeted as proof that — Hosannah! — Marlowe had indeed died at Deptford) simply fanned the flames of skepticism due to its many anomalies: e.g., the obvious falsehood that the Deptford wound would instantly kill, plus growing (Hotson-unanticipated) post-1925 realization of the dark associations & deceptive professions of the "witnesses". ALL sides now distrust the report to some extent, even the most anomaly-immune (§S18f) Stratfordian. So it's a triumph of invincible innocence that anyone (e.g., §U4) thinks the report *proves* Marlowe died in 1593.

O Playwright Proto-Scripts Own Switched-Blade-Brawl "Death"

O1 About the beginning of 1593 (fn 113), Marlowe was first reported (H58) to the gov't as a seditious (and [H58-59&67] all-too-convincing!) proponent of atheism.

(Rob't Greene had 1st made this accusation cryptically in a 1588 work: H58, B83.)

O2 Given his high political connexions (including perhaps having been tutor to a claimant to the throne: N340-342), Marlowe would immediately have learned of this and recognized the attendant danger to his very life. *Hero & Leander* anticipates (T1:185 & T2:114) his imminent death. (On pre-May awareness of looming danger, see also Barber's learned if inevitably delicate speculations at D100f.)

O3 It is possible (§S16) that Marlowe started seriously rush-prepping his WS-as-front scheme as late as May, when he suddenly saw trouble immediately ahead¹¹⁶ (perhaps acting definitely only from the 5/18 date of the arrest warrant), with the hope of releasing a "Shakespeare" work, *Venus & Adonis*, *before* disappearing (its brief dedication could have been written almost immediately) — to make the desired duality more convincing — but simply couldn't get it onto the street before a more-sudden-than-expected flight was triggered by his terrifying 5/18 arrest by an unsmiling Privy Council.

O4 Marlovians (myself included) have hitherto at least implicitly assumed that sneaky Poley&co (or the Walsinghams: Q198 [like Q258]) concocted the fictional scheme that saved Marlowe. But, wait a minute. Of the Walsingham spies involved here, which one

¹¹⁵E.g., fnn 51&52.

¹¹⁶From the writings of one of Marlowe's persecutors, Gabriel Harvey, Barber argues (D102-103) the possibility that he anticipated Marlowe's fake-death play a month before it was carried out.

was a *professional concocter of fiction*? Who else but the seasoned **playwright** of the lot: Christopher Marlowe himself! *Does anyone on any side deny that a plot-device pro like Marlowe could AND WOULD think up without help a scheme — an illusion — aimed at making possible an escape from imminent fatal torture?* (Though effecting it required resources made possible by his connexion to the Walsinghams.) After all, the plays are dense (B337) with schemes, switches (§E16), deceits, plots, poisonings (fn 120; B153, 275), fakes, betrayals. In a word: spymeat.

O5 Is it mere speculation (§E22) that Marlowe, on learning of his mortal danger, instantly began dreaming-up the details of his eventual fake-death's "brawl"? No, it's demonstrably not. The conclusion of the hastily (T2:70) semi-completed final play Marlowe produced under his own name, *The Massacre at Paris*,¹¹⁷ concludes with a device startlingly redolent of Deptford's events. The play's final scene depicts the recent 1589 death of France's King Henry III, whose army was on the verge of attacking Paris and who'd recently (1588) snuffed the Duke of Guise, chief 1572 Catholic mass-murderer of the Protestant Huguenots. Vengeance-bent Catholic friar J.Clément stabs the king with a dagger dipped in slow-acting poison, *but Henry grabs the dagger from Clément and stabs him to death with it*.¹¹⁸ Sound familiar? Of course! — it's the Paris edition of the fantastic blade-switch ploy of the Deptford "brawl" (§N14) — finally perfected&effected on 1593/5/30 to save Marlowe's life. But Marlowe isn't done with the blade-switch device, and all of us who have seen the last act of his *Hamlet* (c.1601) have watched it play out before us — without realizing¹¹⁹ that we are sharing a resuscitation of the grand moment when Marlowe's skill at fiction saved his life by seeming to write *its* last act.

O6 In *Hamlet*'s final scene, Laertes plans to murder Hamlet by perverting what was supposed to be a mere game of fencing: he uses a rapier that is secretly "Unbated and envenom'd" (unblunted and doused with slow poison, just like that which actually killed Henry III).¹²⁰ But, after he stabs Hamlet with it, *Hamlet seizes it during a scuffle and fatally wounds Laertes with the same poisoned blade*. I.e., Marlowe's 3rd use of his blade-switch device! — *Massacre at Paris*, Deptford, *Hamlet*.

(The same ploy is also used in the 1998 film *Shakespeare in Love*.)

P Arch-antiMarlovian Nicholl's Misdating & Marlowe's 5-Act Act

P1 *Massacre at Paris* was staged on 1594/1/30 (evidently for the 1st time), 8 months after Marlowe vanished. See T2:71, where biographer Bakeless shows better familiarity with calendar-convention (§P4) than B131 or (§P3) Nicholl, but worse arithmetic.

P2 The play was left unpolished (fn 121) by a suddenly-scraming Marlowe. Instead of the usual 5 acts, the play is in 20-some scenes. And this carries a valuable but hitherto-unperceived insight into his play-construction process. The strict rule for Elizabethan playwrights that all plays be in 5 acts was artificial! — or at least it was for the top playwright of them all. The fact that act-bounds were not set *as he wrote* shows that he was

¹¹⁷ *Massacre* brings to life the 1572 Catholic slaughter of Protestant Huguenots (by Mary Queen of Scots' relatives), a horror which F.Walsingham had witnessed up-close, as British then-Ambassador to France. The massacre goes a long way towards explaining why Walsingham would later go to extremes (§Z7) to keep England permanently Protestant.

¹¹⁸ Entirely Marlowe's invention. In actuality, of course, Henry's bodyguard cut down Clément instantly. (Note that the assassination occurred only 4' before Marlowe's play brought it to stage-life.)

¹¹⁹ But did Ziegler sense (Z293) the *Hamlet* switch's Deptford echo?

¹²⁰ Both Henry III & Hamlet died from slow poison on the blade used. (In Marlowe's *Tamburlaine* 5.1, degraded Turkish ruler Bajazeth iamb-pentametrically ill-wishes Tamburlaine luck in upcoming-battle: "And every bullet dipt in poison'd drugs.") We note in passing that many Marlowe plays involve regicide (presumably reflecting England's awareness of the shakiness of Elizabeth's position), e.g. *Julius Caesar*, *Macbeth*, *Edward II*, *Richard II*, *Henry VI*, *Richard III*, *Hamlet*, *Massacre*.

adding said bounds **after not before** the planning and even (at least in the case of *Massacre*) virtual completion of his plays.

P3 The leading scoffer (§D8) at Marlovianism is Charles Nicholl, who wrote a valuable, deeply researched (if presumptive) 1992 book (rev. 2002) on the Deptford event.

P4 But at N41, 170, 225, & 286, he (§P1) mis-dates to 1593 January the 1594 Jan premiere of Marlowe's last play, *Massacre at Paris*, failing to understand that Philip Henslowe's reference to its performance on "January 30, 1593/4" (T2:71) means our 1594¹²¹ Jan not 1593 Jan. This error leads Nicholl (at N41&286) to propose that the (1593 April) Dutch Church Libels (signed "Tamburlaine", and ultimately leading to Marlowe's arrest), which cite the massacre, were partly inspired by a theatrical performance of *Massacre at Paris* (which inconveniently hadn't actually yet occurred).

P5 Note: If Nicholl is nonetheless right in his intriguing if speculative proposal that the play helped inspire the Libels' threat to treat Dutch immigrants as amiably as Paris treated the Huguenots, then their author had private access to the play. This would restrict the likely suspects to Kyd or Marlowe himself, promoting a popular cause: anti-immigration — of which Marlowe's mentor W.Raleigh was the sole prominent advocate in the gov't (N37&290-293, B213). Note that Martin Luther also nailed rebellion to a church door. And he did so at Wittenburg, Germany, which was (some decades later) the university of the real Prof. Faust, protagonist of the most prominent play in the acknowledged Marlowe oeuvre. And what German university was attended by Hamlet (1.2)? — protagonist of the most prominent play in the "Shakespeare" oeuvre.

P6 Given the pat story (§N8) of Marlowe's alleged Deptford demise, one can understand why Marlovians disbelieve the slippery 1593 Deptford "witnesses" (§S18) — and suggest (§E12) that the body seen by the coroner was someone else's.¹²²

P7 Oxfordians agree that the Walsingham spy-clique was indeed plotting, but propose that murder was a surer way to silence Marlowe. (This approach's logic must naturally dance carefully [e.g., §L33] to explain-away the coincidence of Shakespeare's immediately-after appearance!) But how effective would a spy ring be if its members were killing each other whenever danger arose?!

And why the big show (§N8), with witnesses, elaborate alibi-for-kill, coroner, etc? — when murderers could just disappear Marlowe (à la Pinochet's Argentina), or (even simpler) have an anonymous goon mug&kill him on a lonely pathway and leave him there — just as Banquo was done-in by Macbeth (3.3).

P8 As N328 realizes, forcing him to a quite speculative hit-conspiracy (§L33), which requires (see similarly at fn 45) merging enemies Essex & Cecil, etc.

P9 By contrast, the simplicity of an anonymous murder is parallel to one of Shapiro's best points (§K16).

P10 *The very fanciness of Marlowe's "death" has an obvious implication:*

P11 The disappearers' aim was to **end his persecution** (§N5) by falsely convincing the world that he was beyond the law's reach: POSITIVELY dead. And it worked for 362 years — until Calvin Hoffman brilliantly induced the full essential truth in 1955.

¹²¹ The loosely (§P2) structured state of the play as Marlowe left it is proof enough in itself that the 1st performance did not occur under Marlowe's supervision but after his disappearance. (Note: the Folger Library holds some contemporary mss material from a performance of *Massacre at Paris*, which some believe is in Marlowe's hand. No other mss survive from this Untouchable figure.)

¹²² Remarkable Marlovian speculative research by D.More has found (B211, 240) that a prominent Puritan (see his *EncycBrit* bio), John Penry, was (as already noted: §E15) hanged late on 1593/5/29 — on shockingly short notice, the evening before Marlowe's "death". Penry was pretty near Marlowe's age, and his hanging was only 2-3 miles (B218) from the place of the latter's 1593/5/30 "brawl". If it was desired to avoid wrenching Penry's neck, his death could have been a strangulation-hanging. Such as was deliberately used, e.g., by Czarist Russia to execute Lenin's brother Aleksandr on 1887/5/8. See Helen Rappaport *Conspirator: Lenin in Exile* 2009 p.xxiv. (The book's p.284 argues that USSR president Vladimir Lenin died of syphilis. Commies might call this: washing-dirty-Lenin-in-public.)

Q Dagger&Cloak. Weakest Link: Facial Bloodcover for Liar-Pros

Q1 The coroner's report said Marlowe died instantly of a 1 inch-wide stab-wound over¹²³ his right eye, entering 2 inches into the brain (T1:156, H78, B220). Skeptics and even some among the orthodox have long rightly emphasized that such a wound would not kill quickly if at all (T1:182-183, W146, B220) which hints that the body was already dead when the stab occurred. (Marklessly killing a man *after* enraging him by a stabbing, would be . . . difficult.) Indeed, such a wound is usually survivable, though it would handicap thought.

Q2 But a perhaps-hitherto-unasked question is: if one wished to substitute a freshly hanged body for Marlowe, wouldn't it help to stab it in the forehead,¹²⁴ *thereby cloaking the face with blood?* Obscuration, damage, and-or (§E16) death's rigmo could help fool an innocent coroner — or provide a fail-safe excuse for a nervous bribed one. (Recall: H.Poirot's noting the needlessly covered face of a supposed corpse was the solution-key in Agatha Christie's *Evil Under the Sun*.)

Q3 It is more than possible that the face was somewhat disfigured, given the violence of the wound: gossip in 1600 had it that some brains had spilled out of the skull (T1:147). Was the skull split, *distorting the face*, parallel to JFK's ugly death? (Which launched a nut-competition¹²⁵ as vigorous as anything discussed hereabouts.)

Q4 Let us now go further by asking: how likely is it that a dagger-stab would pierce the hard bone of a human skull? Especially 2 inches into it.

Q5 It seems doubtful (though not impossible) that a dagger would break the bone at all — unless it was hammered (§§E12&N13) into the corpse of a man already dead — deliberately splitting the skull, thus further enhancing facial unrecognizability.

Q6 This is just part of a larger question: whereas stabbing someone in the face (**and only in the face**) is an unlikely tactic for a genuine fight, it is perfectly consistent with the traditional Marlovian hypothesis (long since already independently arrived-at on other grounds) that the Deptford planners were pulling a body-switch. Obviously, blood-covering & messing-up a substitute body's face would be safeguard-desiderata against the chance of exposure. Strats deem Marlowe's death "one of the best recorded events in English literary history" (e.g., E2; echoed at Wikipedia), forgetting the maxim that a chain is only as strong as its weakest link (fn 171): *the Deptford corpse was identified by England's most skilled liars*.

¹²³ Some — including a courtroom-style mock hearing (now appended to the DVD of the 1991 film *Edward II*), E33, and R.Barber's brilliant & epochal work (Q2&68) — portray the stab as into the eye. (Which would support an attractive Barber theory: fn 44.) Quite possible. But the coroner's report (official version at least) has it "mortal wound over his right eye of the depth of two inches".

A minor oddity in Barber's work: torture-fleeing Marlowe's nocturnal arrival on the Continent is given (Q4&7) as when the Moon was seen at 3rd quarter and the Sun barely short of the Summer Solstice. (S.Solstice was at 1593 June 11 Julian, about 17^h Local Apparent Time.) This corresponds to conditions from about quarter past Local Apparent Midnight to dawn on June 11 Julian (England) or June 21 Gregorian (France). Did a wanted Marlowe really linger nearly 2 weeks before fleeing to the Continent? More likely, there's merely a calendar problem here. Having just "died", Marlowe would start across the Channel perhaps late on May 30 Julian, and might reach the Continent about the early morn of June 1 Julian or June 11 Gregorian. But the book's calculations were made for June 11 Julian. (It wasn't quite fully dark during Marlowe's Channel flight. Sun never more than 16° below the horizon, & a bright gibbous moon was 1/2-way from 1st quarter to Full.) In addition to a far less trivial instance here at §P, we find another parallel mixup (www.dioi.org/jha.htm#qthd) by the *Journal for the History of Astronomy* & the Royal Astronomical Society's Vice-President, revealed at www.dioi.org/vols/w11.pdf (*DIO 1.1* [1991]) ¶8 §G. Similarly: able Spitzbergen explorer Sir Martin Conway's confusion, about Henry Hudson's calendar, at Rawlins *Peary . . . Fiction* [1973] p.16.

¹²⁴ Curiously, the body was stabbed in a hard place: the skull. Murder-specialist Colin Wilson says (W145) a real attack would be more effective (and much more likely) at torso or neck. Were Frizer's 2 shallow scars in his own scalp pre-arranged to justify his required "counter"-stab to the head?

¹²⁵ See www.dioi.org/vols/w42.pdf (*DIO 4.2* [1994]) ¶8 [pp.72-76]: "The JFK Conspiracy Conspiracy. Professional Paranoid Clique Flunks Paranoia 101. The Warren Report Was Right."

Q7 A Disarming Consideration. Another question is obvious but seldom raised (H83): after grabbing the dagger, why would Frizer have to stab an unarmed man? (Especially with skull-penetrating super-violence.) Why kill him, thereby inviting arrest? This is a scheme-weakening but unavoidable consequence of the plotters' revealing restriction (§§N12&N13) to having but a single dagger in play. Others have also asked: wouldn't snugly-adjacent (§N11) Poley & Skeres have been able to intervene and calm-down the alleged fighters?

Q8 The most obvious of the several peculiarities of the Marlowe "brawl" has always been why Marlowe — & Frizer! — would be stabbed in the top of the head. Such questions are part of a classic case of inductive reconstruction.¹²⁶ The head-stab seems very odd for an actual brawl (doubly so when doubled); but when we entertain the theory that the face-altering brawl & death were staged as part of a scheme that substituted a body other than Marlowe's, it makes excellent sense. This is the way science advances: find the cohering theory that fits the formerly formless evidence. (See §§X1-X3&X28-X29.)

Q9 So Hoffman's claim that Marlowe survived isn't far-fetched at all. There is no sure (§X2) guarantee that the theory is true. But it's not kook, despite Stratfordians' insufferably snobbish (§T11) shun-attempts to paint it so.

Q10 Marlowe and his also-vulnerable (§L33) but also-agile fellow spies were presumably in a state of try-anything desperation, with him under the shadow of the Tudor rack.

Q11 But he was backed by powerful, rich allies and a raft of slippery co-spies, who were capable of brotherly teamwork to save one of their own preciously rare species.

So, were someone to ask whether his "death" was a classic espionage ploy for entering him into what we may dub a Nonwitness¹²⁷ Protection Program, most¹²⁸ of us would deem the probability far from low. As already noted (§M3), the odds are probably far better than 50-50, even before we get into the spectacular inductive profit (§X31) the theory will provide in the Shakespeare Controversy; which starts to segue us to a startling segue (§S).

R Cultists Need Marlowe Dead More Than the Star Chamber Did

R1 Advocates for other authorship candidates consistently betray their fears that Marlowe survived by over-faking surety that he didn't. Why do Strats keep calling the idea "absurd" (E2), "far-fetched" (§L28), "fantastic" (§S23), "preposterous" — pseudo-confident remarks identically translatable: he'd BETTER have died, or we're cooked. *Are all these chaps really this innocent* of what a resourceful espionage ring (Walsingham's was tops in the world: §Z7) and his fellows can pull off under emergency (§M5) conditions? Have they read nothing of the daring schemes that litter the history of politics,¹²⁹ espionage, & war? (Would they disbelieve the astonishing 1942 Doolittle Raid or Otto Skorzeny's improbable 1943 rescue of Mussolini if there weren't on-site film of each?) So: why the religious Stratfordian adamancy (even from mild Strats: §§U4&S23), *unqualifiedly* insisting that the obviously-at-least-possible is not merely improbable but flat-impossible?

R2 *What reason, other than I-can't-have-been-this-wrong-this-long pride*¹³⁰ *can explain Stratfordians' eternally immutable*¹³¹ *insistence that that an obviously non-zero, non-trivial*

¹²⁶Equivalent to solution of *Hound of the Baskervilles*' seemingly pointless double-theft of a single boot of Henry Baskerville. See §X24.

¹²⁷See §S23.

¹²⁸The worst of Shapiro's several (§H17) key misjudgements on Marlovianism is the astonishing claim (S211-212) that the sole reason anyone would believe in Marlowe's survival is just to make him into Shakespeare. The kindest interpretation of this charge is that Shapiro is confusing Hoffman's original impetus to check out Marlowe's fate, with the strength of the argument his seemingly-wildcatting curiosity ultimately developed so fruitfully (§X & fn 200). The case that Marlowe escaped obviously *now* stands on its own (quite independently of the motive for its 1955 unearthing), and stands much more strongly than Shapiro's "evidence" for WS' authorship.

¹²⁹Franklin Roosevelt: "Nothing in politics happens by accident."

¹³⁰See www.dioi.org/vols/w93.pdf (DIO 9.3 [1999]) §A2 [p.120].

¹³¹§R7.

*probability must be declared EXACTLY zero?*¹³²

R3 Obvious answer: All competing factions — including Stratfordians — know and thus fear the lethal conditional (which they all understand but never speak: §S31), one of several indicia (§H19) that Marlovianism is their secret nightmare:

If Marlowe lived on after 1593, then he created Shakespeare's plays.

R4 Anyone who's followed the authorship debate can check his memory: has he *ever* read a Stratfordian state: OK, so maybe Marlowe did get away — but, even if he did, he didn't write Shakespeare?

R5 No. Too ridiculous even for Stratfordians. Why would going incognito-via-alias halt Marlowe's creativity? It never had before, during his years of previous aliases for international espionage (§M9).

R6 As Barber empathetically emphasizes (Q211, 290, 374), Marlowe *LIVED*¹³³ to create the exquisite beauty, drama, & word-music (§J9) he had been granting humanity for years before 1593.

R7 Yet after 1593, we have not the miracle of two such voices. (If only!)¹³⁴ No, there is — immediately (and as maturely as ever: §S11) — still but one. (How things do stay the same. . . .) It is the obviousness of this point that elucidates the otherwise inexplicable passion various cults display in decreeing¹³⁵ Marlowe's non-escape and death to be *ABSOLUTELY CERTAIN*.

S Invisible Shakespeare — Defending Will by Contradicting Him

S1 The Neat Temporal Marlowe→Shakespeare Handoff. Once we start examining the foregoing in the Shakespeare-authorship context, Marlowe's survival appears less a speculation and more a perfect potential resolution (§X2) of that long-intractible mystery. Then, on top of the at-least-substantial possibility that Marlowe escaped, we learn that "Shakespeare" 1st appears publicly as a writer immediately afterwards: merely 13 days (or less) after Marlowe's "death" (C175-176n), issuing a dedication of *Venus and Adonis* which calls the poem his 1st work. (See S173. Slyly contradicted at S234-235, *over sixty pages distant — without alerting the reader to the conflict.*)

S2 The poet's exact words: "first heir of my invention".¹³⁶

S3 Further: this WS 1593 poem's creation (like plays following) is so obviously beyond a neophyte's ability that Shapiro — creditably evidencing his expert sensitivity to literature's sophistication — must hypothesize (S226) that Shakespeare had been *INVISIBLY* writing for most of a decade! (See §S10; and S235 refers to 1598 as "a decade into his career".) I.e., Shakespeare (secretly) started playwriting back in c.1588. Shapiro does not notice or mention that the 1st play Marlowe wrote unassisted was premiered in 1588: *Tamburlaine*.

¹³²Fn 135.

¹³³Active Stratfordians can empathize by considering how much Shakespeare-worship is their LIFE (§L10). I.e., if they were banished, would they stop reading the plays?

¹³⁴§Z3.

¹³⁵E.g., due to Stratfordian plants (www.dioi.org/jha.htm#cmvh) among the WP Administrators, the Marlowe page on Wikipedia was long edit-proof ("protected"). It is lately guarded by watch-list Strats who automatically eliminate analytical edits offensive to Stratcult dogma. The censorship is so immediate that it reminds one of the Center for Disease Control's swiftness in plague emergencies. After all, the longer heresy is posted on Wikipedia, the more likely it — godf'bid — could infect and corrupt some naïve, vulnerable reader who lacks the Higher Wisdom of his betters and thus might be led into the paths of Error. How like any faith. See historian W.E.H.Llecky at www.dioi.org/vols/w11.pdf (DIO 1.1 [1991]) ‡1 fn 17 [p.8]. NB: There is no question-mark beside Marlowe's official Wikipedia 1593/5/30 death-date, a 100.000%-certain declaration (contradicting a minor institution like Westminster Abbey) which — given the weird circumstances of the Deptford event — only a fanatic (§L33) could make.

¹³⁶Emphasized at §E20. Speculative aside: does "first heir of my invention" use the last word just in reference to alleged creativity? Or additionally to Marlowe's fabrication of a masterful front?

S4 Double-standards again (§F13): Stratfordians cannot accept Marlowe's escape partly because he was invisible after 1593 — even while its wholly-invented (and WS-contradicted) Shakespeare-the-invisible-1588 playwright seems as real to the cult as, well, as real as the virtually-invisible (§K3) post-1593 Shakespeare-as-playwright.

S5 Yet, in his super-ironically titled (and strictly Stratfordian) “Documentary” life of WS — which as for all WS “biographies” — recovers not a single *DOCUMENT* he wrote, S.Schoenbaum speaks of the period 1591-1592: “if the Queen’s [troupe] had Shakespeare . . . we do not know definitely of any plays he wrote for them.”

S6 Note that the §S3 speculation of 1588 writings by WS is Stratfordianly presented as fact; this, while *on the previous page* (S225) Shapiro accuses his critics of speculative zanity. He seems to imply that WS was trying to publish, but only by 1594 was his dramatic talent recognized with the anonymous printing of *Titus Andronicus*. Comments: WS was wealthy and (as a prominent sometime actor and theatre-investor) well-connected enough to get a hypothetical 1590 play half as effective as *Titus Andronicus* performed and published as his own if it were his. Are we being asked to assume (§§S14&L3) that WS spurned the potential extra publicity for himself (and the theatres he is presumed to have performed in) that would follow from announcing that he was author of plays he acted in?

S7 As usual (§L20), it is conveniently forgotten that Shakespeare himself said (§S2) that his 1st work was 1593.

S8 No evidence — public or private — survives, attaching any work to Shakespeare's name prior to 1593's poem *V&A*.

S9 Nor for any of twelve successive plays — until the retro-announcements of 1598 (§L2).

S10 Specifically: Shapiro is claiming (§S3) that WS was writing plays for **5-6 years** before 1st publication (anonymously) of *Titus Andronicus* in 1594 (§L17).

S11 Notice how close this estimate is to the 1587-1593 temporal extent (§L7) of Marlowe's acknowledged solo writing career! — i.e., “Shakespeare” (born same year as Marlowe: 1564)¹³⁷ appears out of the blue *with a style just as mature as Marlowe's* — and at the same time.

S12 A further welcome testimonial to Shapiro's literary expertise is that he senses the right quantity of time (5^y-6^y) — even if oblivious to the obvious conclusion from it. (In 1593, Marlowe had been writing plays on his own¹³⁸ for 6^y, having effectively completed *Tamburlaine* by 1587: B46. We note that Oxfordians [e.g., R87] propose that the WS plays of the 1590s were actually written much earlier: yet another of their time-line problems — being met as usual by *ad-hoc* alibypothesis: www.dioi.org/mus.htm#wnnv.)

S13 Shapiro smoothly passes off *Titus Andronicus*' anonymity as irrelevant to the authorship question. There was indeed plenty of anonymity in play-production at the time (though less so for plays of the rare quality Marlowe produced: B131), since most authors were selling plays for money not glory.

S14 However (§L3): Strats believe that WS sought glory in acting. So (paralleling §G10) there is an obviously-unanticipated consequent in Shapiro's (shall we say Far-Fetched?) explanation (§S6) of the earliest published WS plays' maturity: *are we supposed to believe that WS would turn down stage ultra-glory* from 1593 (or even [by Strat-think] 1588: §S11), all the way to 1598 (§S9) by refusing to admit that he was writing some of the plays he acted in?! After all, Strats contend (§S25) that Greene called WS a pushy “upstart . . . Tyger” whose “conceit” & “bombast” supported an inflated sense of his own uniqueness (§S27)!

S15 Anonymity left it open for a wealthy arts-patron or speculator to adopt material. E.g., *Venus & Adonis* was originally registered (B230) anonymously on 1593/4/18 (during

¹³⁷It's possible that Shakespeare's close similarity in age was a point in his favor when Marlowe was (if you will) casting-about for an ideal front, thereby obviating the possibility that a critic might sense that the poetry Shakespeare was publishing didn't fit the front's age.

¹³⁸*Dido Queen of Carthage* (1585-1586) was co-written with Thos.Nashe. We do not know of any more Marlowe collaborations. (See §U5.)

the period when Marlowe was planning [§O2] his escape into permanent anonymity) before *V&A*'s soon-after dedication claimed it for Shakespeare.

S16 Perhaps front-launch was supposed to occur prior to disappearance (and was too far along to be stopped when Marlowe was nabbed?), but the sudden swiftness of events in late May left insufficient time for that (§O3). If so, this failure could have led to putting the front-scheme on hold (until really needed) from 1594 (§S10) to 1598 (§L4). Many of the plays eventually published in the 1623 *First Folio* (including *Romeo & Juliet*) had not previously been publicly attached to WS' name.

S17 Notably, the 1621-1623 project to publish the scrupulously edited, invaluable *First Folio* of the 36 “Shakespeare” plays was engineered by Edward Blount, the literary executor¹³⁹ (T1:90, T2:222; B262) of Christopher Marlowe.

S18 More astonishing obtuseness is found in the standard biography of Marlowe, which (e.g., T2:216) accepts *unqualifiedly* a STRICT (§R) Stratfordian requirement: that Marlowe died at Deptford, even while owning that the three witnesses to said death were not exactly saints.

S19 According to Bakeless' Harvard Press bio of Marlowe (T1:183): *those who identified the facially-mutilated corpse* were “scoundrels . . . Friser was a swindler by whose schemes Sir Thomas [Walsingham] seems at least once to have profited. [H.DeKalb's researches found (H84) that Frizer had a long record of being a tool in illegal Walsingham schemes.] Poley [who may have attended Cambridge Univ long before Marlowe (T1:171)] was an adulterer and a spy. Skeres seems to have been a jackal for both. . . . Where we find records of one we frequently find another of the three associated with him. Is it not odd that they should all be together at Marlowe's death? . . . And is it not stranger still that the Walsinghams so frequently [e.g., T1:91] appear in connection with Poley and Friser? And is it not strangest of all that they [the Walsinghams] remained on friendly terms with the man [Frizer] who had killed their friend?”

S20 Indeed, Frizer was legally acquitted with uncommon speed (T1:100); Bakeless adds further (T1:170) “It is startling to find Frizer doing business for Thomas Walsingham the day after his pardon for Marlowe's murder. It is still more startling to find him obviously doing business for Lady Walsingham twenty years later.”

S21 Marlowe-biographer Bakeless says all these things (see also D84) and chronicles in detail (T1:154, 166-182) the slippery bios of the trio, “perjurer Poley, cutpurse Skeres, and the swindler Friser” (T1:183).

S22 He adds sharp doubts that the wound would kill or that the quarrel was over a bill (allegedly causing Friser to be stabbed unfatally from behind), astutely asking (T1:183): who argues with his back turned? Yet he claims to trust¹⁴⁰ (T1:182 & 2:216) their report that Marlowe died. Speculative queries:

S23 [a] Was Bakeless so convinced (perhaps by his own of-course-infallible lifetime of textual analysis?) that Marlowe wasn't Shakespeare, that he MUST disbelieve Marlowe's survival? For, again (§R3): *if Marlowe survived, Shakespeare was he*.

¹³⁹Oxfordians see significance in *First Folio* dedicatees being Oxford in-laws (M371-376). Comparing mild odds-strengths here merely diverts from central arguments, such as comparative time-lines.

¹⁴⁰One would hardly think it necessary, but in the context of the evidence-immune (§U4) irrationality of English Lit's cult-ridden universe, Barber has to make explicit even the super-obvious (D84): “The testimonies of these witnesses (as to cause of death) are no longer believed by a majority of scholars, and in the absence of independent testimony to corroborate that the deceased was Christopher Marlowe, that, too, is effectively unproven. We are therefore left without reliable evidence that Marlowe died, as supposed, on 30 May 1593.” (The situation is hardly subtle: see §E13.)

Stratfordian Nicholl provides a perfect encapsulation of the selectively slack logic that has dominated this issue (N87, emph added): “I am not the first to doubt the ‘official story’ of Marlowe's death. Most of his biographers have some unease with it, but they have ended up accepting it *for lack of any provable alternative*.” (Note parallel situation at fn 196.) It was just such timid inertia that long delayed the acceptance of Copernicus, Darwin (§W1), and Wegener, no matter how powerful the arguments in favor of their theories.

[b] Or (a highly shaky speculation) did Bakeless' mind at some level suspect the truth but feared that Harvard could reject his Marlowe bio (Bakeless' 22^y dedicated labor) if he promoted — or (even slightly) entertained in public — a taboo position (§W20)? (He renounces said heresy as impressively as Galileo, stridently echoing [T2:216] orthodoxy in calling the Marlovian case “fantastic” and “preposterous”. But he has no evidence to back such too-much-protestation [of play-within-the-play overkill-proportions] other than the very death-report that's in question.) If some part of Bakeless was after-all skeptical, did he clear his conscience by leaving his impressive raft (§S22) of clues and insights for later scholars to mine? He remarks that the “death” occurring right as Marlowe was called before the Star Chamber is “suspicious”. (Yeah, sorta!!) But why does Bakeless then merely say (T1:183) at this crucial juncture that Marlowe was in the toils of the Privy Council “very probably as a witness against someone”. This mutes the awful terror that necessitated Marlowe's faked death. **Bakeless knew better** — and says so elsewhere (e.g., T1:185). He later acknowledges that Baines' and others' charges (§M8) to the Star Chamber were such as to (T2:110 emph added) “*bring any subject in peril of his life*”.

S24 The cult of Stratfordian orthodoxy traditionally, invariably, irrepressibly, and improbably has kept trying (§§S1&S7) to contradict their OWN HERO's DIRECT CHRONOLOGICAL statement (§S2).

S25 Strats' ploy for dodging the author's clear statement that his 1593 poem was the start of his literary career: adducing (S234) a lone, ambiguous-at-best (§I29; P45f) 1592 Robert Greene pamphlet, *A Groatworth of Wit Bought with a Million of Repentance*.

S26 *Groatworth* obscurely appears — maybe¹⁴¹ — to be accusing someone dubbed “Shake-scene” of actor-showboating and-or literary plagiarism and-or (§L18) tampering.

S27 Greene (emph in orig): “an upstart Crow beautified with our feathers, that with his *Tyger's heart wrapt in a Player's hyde*,¹⁴² supposes he is as well able to bombast out a blanke verse as the best of you . . . in his owne conceit the only Shake-scene in a country.”

S28 Pathetic? Yes, but that's the ENTIRE extent of the Stratfordian cult's feeble “proof” that Shakespeare composed any work before Marlowe's 1593 disappearance. (Again [§K7]: the very same speculators call everybody else's theories “far-fetched”!) To repeat for emphasis: the playwright-in-1592 chronology founded upon this foggy item — *conspicuous for its naked isolation*¹⁴³ — contradicts (§S2) Shakespeare's own clear chronology. Yet it is holy writ among ALL Stratfordian orthodoxologists, including Folger-edition prefaces. Strat-preference *yet again* (§U) for opaque&shaky evidence over clear&solid evidence.

S29 Only a cult that's essentially up-against-the-wall would be reduced to defending its hero by leaning-on an item that (if it is held to relate to WS' writing rather than acting or script-tampering) accuses him of poor writing and plagiarism! (T2:223 wanly attempts refutation.) But, then, Stratfordians' crusade to contradict Shakespeare and thus argue that he was a playwright before 1593, *has* no other “evidence” for said contention (§S2). Greene's highly ambiguous (§W15) work is all there is.

S30 Words such as “Player”, “bombast” (§L19) and “Shake-scene” seem far more indicative of an actor than a writer as the subject of Greene's scorn.

S31 The suggestion that Shake-scene could bombast-out a verse “as the best of **you**” (emph added) is consistent with an alarm-warning to London's playwrights' “union” that an outlander-interloper (a mere player!) is pretending to be as able as they at verse (hardly what one would say of a professional playwright).

S32 Those being warned of the interloper would include WS! — were he the Stratfordian vision of a seasoned playwright (§S10).

¹⁴¹ See T2:223; P45f; Mxxx, 235, 257-259, 317; B85&184.

¹⁴² Emph in orig. The “Tyger” dig is a play (§W11) on a line (discussed at T2:221f) in *Henry VI Part 3* (1.4): “O tiger's heart wrapt in a woman's hide!” (Source-play *The true Tragedie of Richard Duke of Yorke*.)

¹⁴³ §§U6&W15. Reminiscent of the 1912-1954 Piltdown Man hoax's history, during which Piltdown, alone among early-man skulls, became increasingly non-fitting to evidence accumulating post-1912.

S33 Also (caps added): “the ONLY Shake-scene in a country” sounds like someone *at the top of his chosen profession of ACTING*¹⁴⁴ as leading Marlovians argue (with a balanced perceptiveness [B103; D107-108 n.18; Q421-422] which should shame straw-grasping [§W15] Stratfordian orthodoxologists). Marlovians convincingly conclude (e.g., H35) that *Groatworth's* target was the leading British actor of the day as well as a usurer (Q422) and businessman (even sponsoring dog-fights: B106), Ned Alleyn, who in his “conceit” was also (D108 n.18) a writer-dabbler. But why would Greene attack then-obscure WS, who did little¹⁴⁵ acting on the stage (fn 58), and in 1592 had no visible reputation as a writer.

S34 Regardless of who “Shake-scene” is, we can prove he was not the WS plays' author: *how could a playwright of Greene's experience regard said author as a rotten writer?* (Greene hated & slandered Marlowe, too [§O1], but doesn't attack his competence.) Note *all* Strat steps here: WS wrote plays from 1588 (§S6) that — even after 4^y — were still drivell. But 1^y later, he's the world's greatest poet.

This sequence is what Strat-think is proposing.

But (like §§K7&W31) not *together in one place*.

S35 Notice that Marlowe is the sole candidate whose case is affected if Shakespeare were a major writer in 1592 instead of 1593.

S36 So cultish Stratfordian-cling to the theory that Greene's pamphlet establishes WS as a writer in 1592 not 1593 (*a trivial time-difference with respect to all other authorship candidates*) specifically (§W14) suggests that toppe Strats are quietly, cringily aware (§H19) that Marlowe's case is the sole dangerously powerful challenger.

S37 We again emphasize that, of the 3 main contenders for authorship, WS, Oxford, Marlowe, the last's case alone does not lead to chronological difficulties (§W10) and-or contra-Occam manipulation.¹⁴⁶ It is odd that Stratfordians regard as authoritative the *First Folio* versions of previously quarto-published plays, though they contain numerous edits that could not be valid unless effected by the creator¹⁴⁷ — yet WS (like Oxford) was certainly dead by 1623. This point is driven home by Blumenfeld (B308) particularly for the case of *Othello*, where we have a 1622 edition that is not the usual mess of most quartos, yet comparison to the 1623 *First Folio* version reveals careful alterations & interpolations. So there is clear evidence of authoritative final editing being carried out in 1622-1623.

S38 Question regarding Stratfordians' paralytic inability (e.g., §§D7&T17; S217) to quote to their readers the documents regarding Marlowe's desperate plight: *do Stratfordians find these documents totally uninteresting?*

S39 If so, one can reliably and profitably gauge their cementalities. But even more revealing is the implicit arrogance (of those who rule most public forums on the authorship issue) in unilaterally, systematically (§F12) keeping from public awareness (decade after decade) the full range of startling evidence relating to whether Marlowe survived.

S40 Obvious question (our cover & §T16): why should anyone *make such a judgement FOR everybody else?* This, even (fn 175) **WHILE accusing skeptics of playing-god!** It's hard even to imagine (much less actually encounter) funnier irony, or a better demonstration of where the nuts actually are in this controversy — a point we next examine.

¹⁴⁴ Open to accepting “Shake-scene” as WS, Price succinctly sums up *Groatworth* on “Shake-scene” (P47): “an attack against an untrustworthy actor who is also a money-lender and . . . a paymaster of playwrights.” And a dreadful writer: P50&55.

¹⁴⁵ For one thing, WS was only intermittently in London, as shown by Price (P32-42). Also Barber (§K3; Q252, 303, 366, 417, 428, 430), who notes that this allowed him to avoid adulators, questioners, and requests for re-writes.

¹⁴⁶ Students of cults will recognize the chronology-jugglers' resemblance to Freudian shrink-turned-astronomer I.Velikovsky's 1950 *Worlds in Collision*. (See Ira Wallach's satirical “Worlds in Collision” in his 1951 *Hopalong Freud*.) Also, the sudden 1622-1623 editing and printing of numerous hitherto unpublished plays is hard to reconcile with action by Oxford (d.1604) or WS (d.1616).

¹⁴⁷ The trigger for the *First Folio's* issuance may have been Marlowe's final health-decline, since he was a heavy smoker (T1:128) now nearing 60^y.

T Spat's True Naifs: Reliable Expertise as Thespianism-Pinnacle

T1 *We begin the process of identifying which side actually shows symptoms*¹⁴⁸ *of crankitude, by analysing the rationality of leading Stratfordians, ultimately*¹⁴⁹ *revealing some unexpectedly establishment-embarrassing parallels to the Evolution-vs-Creationism debate.*

T2 Recent ever-more-robust anti-Stratfordianism has inflamed frustrated Strat stalwarts to new heights of arrogant mass-smears. Their loathing of rebellion is now becoming aggressively adorned with shrinko-*detective-work* to spot megalomania they just *know* is hidden within the skulls of anyone doing evidential *detective-work* on the controversy — oblivious to the self-evident contradictory irony. And sanity-contrast.

T3 The proffered psycho-analysis doesn't begin to hang together logically, but that doesn't discourage several prominent counter-revolutionaries from adopting some variant of Stratfordian psycho-analysis to portray as kook all doubters of crumbling orthodoxy, unaware of the irony — in the context of Strats smearing Marlovianism as “fringe” (fn 35&185) — that most philosophers of science regard psycho-analysis (§V12) as pseudo-science (though hopefully not resorting to normative insult like “fringe-science”), a view unwittingly bolstered by the following unhinged Stratfordian tantrums. From the already-cited (§I27) 2010/4/17 article by *Wall Street Journal* drama critic Terry Teachout:

In a saner world . . . nobody would give [doubters] the time of day, there being no credible evidence (§W3) whatever to support their claims. . . . zanies (§V13) whose theory-mongering has blighted the world of legitimate Shakespeare studies. . . . It doesn't surprise me that such lunacy has grown so popular in recent years. To deny that Shakespeare's plays could have been written by a man of relatively humble background [§V12] is, after all, to deny the very possibility of genius itself. . . .

T4 Reality-interjection into this typically coolheaded Stratfordian rant: Marlowe's father was a cobbler (B13&16), so Marlovians (alone among major WS-skeptics) are *affirming* the very proposition (that the “plays could have been written by a man of relatively humble background”) which Teachout is *in his article's very title* claiming that anti-Stratfordians are “Denying” (§I28). (The ubiquitous 1959 Folger Library editions of the plays prefatorily disseminate a blanket condemnation of all Shakespeare-doubters for allegedly arguing that “only a noble lord or equivalent in background could have written the plays.”)

T5 Dr.Teachout continues his upside-down shrinko-analysis:

The mere existence of a Shakespeare is a mortal blow to the pride of those who prefer to suppose that everybody is just as good as everybody else. . . . [Shakespeare] is the only major artist of any kind who has attracted such attention. Any scholar who dared¹⁵⁰ to suggest that Bach's work wasn't by Bach or that Rembrandt wasn't by Rembrandt would, I trust, be handled thereafter with the academic equivalent of padded tongs.

T6 In other words (though Teachout's words are already plenty clear enough): *dissenters should be treated as Untouchables* (§V).

T7 Comments (before discussing the issue of shunning [§V1]):

Note the sly shuffle of two quite separate issues: sober consideration of the relevant — no documentary background for WS — is set aside in favor of slanderous and fantastic psycho-obsession with the doubly (§T19) irrelevant: WS' low origin.¹⁵¹

¹⁴⁸ §§H&V4.

¹⁴⁹ §W.

¹⁵⁰ §§T22&V.

¹⁵¹ Does any Stratfordian even *contend* that Oxfordians show standard symptoms of snobbery? Do Oxfordians bar non-nobles from their homes & clubs? Do they talk only in the King's English? (Has

T8 To wit: if you think evidence of educational background is relevant to the authorship of the most famous literary corpus of them all, you are an elitist snob (a charge which attempts distorting many skeptics' educational argument into a class argument).

T9 Indeed, said inclination places you beyond megalomania (§V2). The same baseless snob-slander has also been copied into Shapiro's *International Herald Tribune* 2011/10/17 review of the equally baseless Oxfordian-schismatic 2011 film *Anonymous*.

T10 Likewise, *Newsweek's* 10/24 p.24 Simon Schama review (fn 38). Likewise, the *New York Times's* A.O.Scott at *International Herald Tribune* 11/2 p.12. Comments: It's ironic to find writers defending Shakespeare from a charge of plagiarism — while committing its essence themselves.¹⁵² (C.Nicholl [E29] and B.Brantley are the creditable exceptions.)

T11 Given [a] that the English lit world is itself an exclusive club (where card-carrying membership requires no [spoken] doubt of Stratfordianism), & [b] the know-it-all airs (§Q9) of every one of the current media critics (happily excepting Brantley), it's a larf to watch *shunning* (§T5) Stratfordians call anybody else a snob. (Is this primarily hypocrisy? Or just projection?) These o-so-superior critics' perversion of a reasoned argument (which we happen not to agree with), that the plays' author was upper-class (thus his high writing style & familiarity with court), into a symptom of Oxfordians' snob-elitism and conceit, is pure shrinko-analytic gas — this from cultists who can't stop branding *other* people as cranks. Review after review of *Anonymous* squandered space on such insult or on personal irrelevancy (Brantley), when what is supposed to be at issue (see the reviews' own headlines!) is: whether Shakespeare wrote his plays.

T12 The 2011 reviews reveal embarrassing innocence (fn 38) of the Marlowe theory — and-or lump it falsely with cases it plainly is multiply distinct from (§§D10, S37, T4). Stratfordianism's 2010 knight-in-shining-orthodoxy, J.Shapiro, already slyly did likewise — outrageously deeming the Bacon & Oxford candidacies (S4) “the best documented and most consequential [and] most representative”. Thus, he may steal away (§I27) without ever confronting the elemental power (§D16) of the Marlovian case, which he himself realizes (§H14) looks to perhaps be on the verge of dominating WS-skepticism.

T13 It's weird to the point of risibility to watch pathetically documentless Stratfordians demanding documents of anyone. Regardless, among the vying parties, Marlovians alone can document (§D14) a solid case *based largely on mss* (not just printed material):

The key documents that bear on the authorship controversy are (in chronological order):

[1] The daunting 1593/5/18 arrest warrant for Marlowe.

[2] The coroner's 1593/6/1 report on Marlowe's supposed death.

[3] Shakespeare's 1593 June dedication of *Venus & Adonis*, calling it his 1st work.

[4] The invaluable (Strat-recovered) 1593/6/12 diary entry that is the 1st record of purchase of *Venus & Adonis*; indeed, the 1st appearance of Shakespeare as an author.

[5] Shakespeare's 1616/3/25 will.

T14 While *Time's* interview with skeptical Justice Stevens (fn 56: not published in a drama or review dept) is a welcome if limited exception to the 2011 anti-ThoughtCrime orgy of the Free Press' reaction to WS-skepticism, the public is yet again generally being protected, naturally for its own good — and for its purity of thought (e.g., keep-trusting-the-English-Establishment) — protected from ever learning of this issue's cover-items, plus the craft (§S20) of the witnesses to Marlowe's “death” and WS' shocking maturity upon his right-afterwards materialization.

any baron of the Free Press even considered requesting such evidence before engaging in mass-slander-slitting?) With the internet's oncoming new danger to Stratfordian orthodoxy, it seems that centrists have abandoned all standards of logic & decency in their frantic Charles-Martelian desperation to hammer & hurl back the pagan barbarians (§U27).

¹⁵² The bane of the plagiarist is copying another's *errors*. Thus, our film-critics' virtually universal repetition of the uninformed (§T19) and patently (§V3) fallacious mass-libel (that skepticism of WS' authorship is proof of snobbery or envy), has exposed the majority of the press' chosen opinion-makers on the subject, as just a mob of herdable (www.dioi.org/che.htm#crbh) pack-animal pretenders.

T15 We do not insist on agreement with the implications of these data and those further listed at our §A1 outset (though the data at least imply a reasonable if not ironclad-proven case for Marlowe→WS), but we do condemn the (snobbish?) arrogance of those who refuse, decade after decade, to lay these data before the public with anything like the prominence given to Brantley's utterly un-*news*-worthy personal reminiscences. (From this front-page [§§G9-G12] article, we learn way more about Brantley's biography than about the bio of any of the figures in the Shakespeare controversy! Just one more example of the malleable tactics of censors who wish to appear benignly non-censorial.)

T16 I.e., newsmen have every right to conclude what they will from data, but are they justified in suppressing data that favors another side, on the implicit ground that these data do not matter? Are they justified in royally making that evaluation & excision FOR the reader (see cover & §S40), while never letting said reader even *know* of his data-deprivation?

T17 Again (§D7), the upshot is that most people (*including the supposed experts* regularly being trotted out to repel heresy) who hold strong opinions on the Shakespeare controversy, don't even know facts (§T4) or recognize logic (§G11) essential to it. Prior to the film *Anonymus*, our Free Press' excuse for suppressing Marlovian data was but-is-it-news? (This, from newspapers that print recipes, horoscopes, comics, etc.) So now that the controversy *is* news, these same establishment-catering newspapers print fossils' opinions, slanders, and (§G10) personal ruminations instead of central evidential fact. The Marlovian case: persecution for heresy, spies, stabbings. Was it Murder? Or Escape? Boooooiiiiing. Who'd be interested?

T18 Teachout in-sum: his argumentation typifies Stratfordians' ignorance of the Marlovian evidence.

T19 After all, it is embarrassingly obvious (§V3) that Teachout's central argument collapses upon realization that Marlowe's origin is just as low (§T3) as Shakespeare's. I.e., the most prominent Stratfordians (with the learned & welcome exception of Nicholl: E30) don't even know something that basic to their own fave smear-argument. Most regular-folk Stratfordians are little more than loyal clones who believe largely because they are impressed by the Authority of the lit-establishment; thus, it is worth asking: what is the value of a verdict upon a controversy, when it is rendered by a clique whose judgement and slander is founded on false data?

T20 Teachout TeachIn. Most Stratfordians seem naïve about how much ghostwriting and fraud go on in various of the arts.

T21 This is an inevitability on a planet where celebs are much rarer,¹⁵³ richer, & pushier (§S27) than creators. Are Teachout&co beyond our help in this area? We can only try.

T22 The authorship (§T5) of Bach's *Tocatta & Fugue in d* has been questioned, and at leading museums the number of "Rembrandt" paintings that have been reclassified (into "from-the-school-of" ambiguity) is comparable to those which have not (yet?).

T23 Vermeers may now be as costly as Rembrandts, yet the most art-critic-energizing "Vermeer" of all turned out to be (www.dioi.org/bes.htm#hvxm) a modern forgery¹⁵⁴ by

¹⁵³ The freshest instance is hilarious: Fox News' Bill O'Reilly — never previously known as a Lincoln specialist — suddenly in 2011 began Billing himself as senior author of a book, *Killing Lincoln*, on the closing days of Lincoln's presidency. That is, as a specialist not only on Lincoln but specifically on his 1865 April doings. It was obvious from the start that the book's prime creator was the "co-author", who'd realized that adding a celeb's name to the cover of his book would juice its sales enough to make it worth dividing the proceeds. (Half of something is better than all of nothing.) The truth burst forth spectacularly on 2011/12/16 (20:15 EST) when O'Reilly, bloviating on his deep grasp of Lincoln's mind, informed the audience of FOX that one of the best evidences of Lincoln's judiciously slow-but-sure undoing of slavery was his issuance of the (1863/1/1) Emancipation Proclamation *after* the Civil War, i.e., 1865 April. (FOX News is fitfully False-Or-Xaggerated; but it and O'Reilly also more than occasionally provide a refreshing alternative to the uniform Lib-Central menu served up by the other nets.)

¹⁵⁴ See *New York Times* 2011/12/4 p.1 (or www.dioi.org/pre.htm#tlqj) for the latest exposure of the inability of toppe art promo-hustlers (whose bag of shams includes calling themselves "critics") to

Han Van Meegeren, who made just as big a dunce of the "art-expert" crowd (§D6), as sly WS' rôle-of-a-lifetime imposition has made, of the equally papist (§G3) litwit center.¹⁵⁵

T24 Since Teachout resorted to music (§T5) to make his false point, we may sample its history for cases¹⁵⁶ illustrating fake attributions there as well. Mozart's "Adelaide" Violin Concerto had some tentative acceptance, until Marius Casadesus confessed to having written it. Violinist Fritz Kreisler enjoyed palming off encores he'd written himself, as Beethoven's. In the 1960s, a Long-Lost recording by Dinu Lipatti of Chopin's 1st Piano Concerto was hailed as one of the grandest pinnacles of Lipatti's legacy. E.g., *High Fidelity* (1966 Dec): "unexpected bounty pristine distinction avoiding affetuoso nuance on the one hand and brittle aloofness on the other"; *New Republic* (1966/10/29): "so simple-hearted . . . and at the same time so sophisticated in its elegance and subtleties of melodic and rhythmic inflection . . . make it the finest playing of Chopin I know." The performance soon turned out to be that of Halina Czerny-Stefanska. And there is the more recent case of numerous misattributed recordings allegedly by pianist Joyce Hatto (www.dioi.org/mus.htm#phcx), a deliberate imposition which continued for years before its unmasking.

T25 And in case anyone supposes that literature is purer than music, he should turn to, e.g., Curtis MacDougall's classic 1940 book *Hoaxes*. Chap.16: "Literary Hoaxing" (pp.210-227 of the Dover edition) lists dozens of literary impostures.¹⁵⁷ The sapphic

discern real from fake, not to mention their provenance-checking slovenliness. And see *New York Times* 2013/5/28 pp.C1-2 for surprise revelation that the most iconic of Jackson Pollack's dribblings ("One: Number 31") bore large additions by a later hand, a pollution which ALL the alleged Pollack experts — those geni who claim superiority to the rest of us through their elite spiritual throbbhood-resonance with his unique doodle-puddles — had somehow never discerned. A year before this exposure, appeared the unintentionally hilarious Susie Hodge book defending "modern art" from the common reaction that a clutz or a kid could do as well. The book, entitled *WHY Your Five Year Old Could NOT Have Done That* (UK 2012) selects — as its ultimate Pollack — this particular work, innocently raving on about it (pp.70-71, emph added), interjecting cosmic overtones reminiscent of the competing crank field of astrology: "Fraught with energy, tension, and drama dense, interlaced mesh layers exploring both Surrealist automatism and Jungian psychoanalysis. . . . *directly from [Pollack's] inner self*, which, in turn, was connected to larger forces in the universe."

¹⁵⁵ Hodge's book (fn 154) promotes "modern" art, which is simultaneously [1] a CENTURY-OLD con (how do you call an antique "modern"?); [2] a serial-joke (www.dioi.org/pse.htm#wmqg); [3] a shock & ugliness contest (www.dioi.org/pro.htm#bfdg); and [4] a fiscal chain-letter. Revealing the sham of its title, the book frequently admits that indeed a child *could-have-done-that*, but ever alibiing that the kid wouldn't have understood the subtlety of the "artist". (See, e.g., pp.86, 115, 157, etc, esp. p.66 on Barnett Newman's tape-strip-zip prank: "intellectual" & "metaphysical".) Hodge quotes Picasso (p.109): "It took me four years to paint like Raphael, but a lifetime to paint like a child". Soooo — is her book's title implying that Picasso's child-transformation failed to fool an expert (in art & youth) as subtle as herself? (Following a chimp's 2013 internet art-contest win, for his *tongue*'s 1st-place painting [FNC 2013/8/30], should Picasso's ghost be asked if it takes an afterlife-time to learn to paint like an ape?) It's easy to test how seriously to take the mega-money-corrupted Art World. Would any mod-art-Expert dare take the following controlled test? Twenty modern-art works are contributed for evaluation, 10 of which are (privately acknowledged) hoaxes; and Experts are asked to tell which are which. (Passing reflection: Modern Art resembles politics & academe in that so much money is involved, integrity is hobbled; dishonesty inevitably becomes endemic & small shams become almost routine, the monotony occasionally broken only by large ones.)

¹⁵⁶ Private aid in orchestration has been common throughout the history of composition, e.g., Liszt, Debussy, Nielsen, Gershwin. Though DR adores and (www.dioi.org/rar.htm) has publicly honored Rachmaninov, he suspects that the final 1940 opus was much orchestrated by Robert Russell Bennett. (Non-orchestral Chopin obviously got similar help, perhaps from Hummel, for his two piano concerti.)

¹⁵⁷ He even mentions a common view (e.g., T2:205-209) that Marlowe's 1st major play took lines from Spenser. Some of Marlowe's 1588 *Tamburlaine* agrees virtually verbatim with text in Spenser's *Faerie Queene* of 1590. Given the chronology, this style-analysis-based charge requires belief that spy Marlowe privately had access to Spenser's pre-pub ms. Another text-agreement of the young Marlowe (with Jonson) is cited at T1:155 (and a possible influence of Marlowe on a Jonson passage, at T2:220). Unambiguous case (T1:210-211): Marlowe certainly took (for *Tamburlaine* 2) part of an engineering

pseudo-ancient “Songs of Bilitis” turned out to be a prank upon over-arrogant German classicists, the texts actually written by France’s Pierre Louys, assisted by friend Claude Debussy’s musical setting — a work still deservedly admired on its own considerable merits.

T26 Are we to suppose that Elvis wrote his songs? That Dear-Abby wrote all her advice-columns? (When her sister Ann Landers’ competing column was detected in plagiarism, it was blamed on her stable.) That Frederick the Great (not his court’s flute-concerto-fount J.Quantz) entirely composed his flute concerti? That Mozart’s 37th Symphony was not (as we now know) mostly written by Michael Haydn? — though a copy exists in the hand of Mozart (typically pristine: analogy noticed at P199), who was an entrepreneur and star-performer. (Like Shakespeare, known artistically in Stratford as actor, not writer: S242.) One of skeptics’ best points when questioning Shakespeare’s authorship is that the actors were struck (P171; B233, 245; S239; Q417) by the spotlessness of the play-copies they worked from. Jonson (C258-259; P197; S240): Shakespeare “never blotted out line”.

T27 During DR’s researches on polar history, he learned that almost no famous explorer wrote his own popular books or magazine articles. Cases known to us (actual writer in parentheses): Peary (Elsa Barker & A.E.Thomas), Byrd (F.Green & C.Murphy), Balchen (Corey Ford — as told to DR by Balchen himself). Reidar Wisting, son of Amundsen’s companion Oskar Wisting, told us that Amundsen’s *South Pole* was just as ghosted as Peary’s *North Pole*, the main difference being that the latter trip was a 1909 hoax which was near-universally accepted until *Peary at the North Pole: Fact or Fiction?* (D.Rawlins, Wash DC 1973) induced the 1st non-conspiratorial solution of Peary’s capstone fraud (pp.150&158).

T28 The problem of credit-appropriation is as old as creativity itself. In antiquity, we have not only Claudius Ptolemy’s no-longer controversial 137AD theft of the 1025 stars of Hipparchos’ 128BC legendary catalog (fn 187), but Pliny’s 77AD exposé (*Nat.Hist.* Pref.21&23) of the commonness of plagiarism even by the best-known writers. Synesios, Bishop of Kyrene, 3 centuries later (*Letters* 1926 ed. A.Fitzgerald p.238) compared plagiarism with stealing grave-garb. (But, some famous modern religious leaders have, instead of opposing plagiarism, actually engaged in it: e.g., Ellen White, M.L.King,¹⁵⁸ etc.)

T29 Even in the field of architecture, we find the legend that the 3rd century BC Alexandria lighthouse’s designer Sostratus, knowing that Pharaoh Ptolemy II would (typically for royalty) take all the credit for the structure, placed his own name¹⁵⁹ at its base, covered with plaster fragile enough to be sure to flake away after Ptolemy’s death.

U Preferring Debatable Evidence to Undebatable

U1 *All of the foregoing cases should be kept in mind* whenever a Stratfordian decrees to insensitive-you (see, e.g., Wikipedia’s orthodoxy-doused articles on the case) that sensitive-he can tell that it’s *obvious-beyond-any-need-for-discussion* that Marlowe and WS have styles so distinct that the-case-is-closed (in WS’ favor) on that basis alone.

U2 So we are supposed to forget that for centuries numerous orthodox scholars (§§J10-J12) easily discerned (Q413) Marlowe’s hand in early Shakespeare plays?

U3 Thus things stood, right up until doubts of Marlowe’s death (e.g., Archie Webster’s scarily-prominent 1923 article, & culminating in Hoffman’s 1955 book) sent the Stratfordian cult reeling (§U8) into ever-more-insistent denial.

U4 A creditable exception is (nonetheless-adamant-Stratfordian) Jonathan Bate who says¹⁶⁰ “Shakespeare was very, very deeply involved with the whole life of the theatre. Whereas the various aristocratic candidates that have been put forward . . . came from a completely different world and had a completely different kind of preoccupation when they

work (on fortification) by fellow Walsingham-ring spy Paul Ive, and put it into iambic pentameter!

¹⁵⁸ *Wall Street Journal* 1990/11/9, *NYTimes* & *Washington Post* 1990/11/10.

¹⁵⁹ *DIO* has honored this ploy by a similar one: try superblowing-up the Postscript diagram of the Alexandria Lighthouse at www.dioi.org/vols/we0.pdf (*DIO 14* [2008]) p.4.

¹⁶⁰ See www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/show/muchado/forum.

were writing. Because Marlowe was a professional man of the theatre, it’s in that sense that Marlowe is the one sort of theoretically plausible candidate, at a kind of stylistic level.” (However — against the most obvious logic [§E13 & fn 140] — Bate naturally just *has* to add [*ibid*]: “But the evidence that he was actually killed in that brawl is incontrovertible.”)

U5 As their case’s anemia becomes ever more publicly obvious, some Strats seek snatched-from-jaws-of-Heresy rescue via too-delicate statistical tests (e.g., E100-110), comparing writers’ styles where one can (§U7) achieve disparate results by choosing among criteria (e.g., usage-rate of “ne’er” [E107] or even hyphens) and-or samples, discounting anomalies by plumbng a pool (E106f) of alleged collaborators with WS (but not with Marlowe, though [unlike WS] we know he collaborated [with Nashe: fn 138]), Comments: **U6** [1] Human knowledge’s fitful progress is littered with cases where a valid theory was rejected via false claims of a lone “Fatal Flaw” in it; 3 examples in successive centuries:

19th century: Darwin’s massively evidence-backed theory of natural selection was condemned for conflicting with a teleological view of the universe (Sir John Herschel scoffed: “the law of higgledy-piggledy”), which has withered away since among the enlightened.

20th century: Wegener’s continental drift theory was long rejected despite plain indicia in its favor, due to lack of mechanism (Darwin, too: §W22), an impediment later found illusory.

21st century: It was discovered a decade ago that the ancient Greeks mathematically exploited vast eclipse-cycles to fix the mean motions of the Moon, its apse, & its node, all to an (undisputed) accuracy of 1 part in ordmag a million or better. Though the method is the only anciently attested one, & though the solution’s math & eclipse-choice are unchallenged, semi-numerate cultists last-ditched anyway via (since-sunk)¹⁶¹ classic Fatal-Flaw-Dreamup.

These 3 parallels to the Marlowe→WS case emphasize a key lesson (§W16): never reject a theory with numerous obvious, potent, & UNdebatable¹⁶² evidences recommending it, just to cling to old orthodoxology by fixating-dependng entirely upon *one* debatable item (e.g., §S28), since said glaringly-isolated supposedly-Fatal item may ultimately melt away. **For wide sampling of Strats going for the unlikely instead of the likely, see §I1 citations.** (Pseudo-scientist Freud was similarly constituted: *idem*.)

Of course, mantric Strats’ most-insisted-upon Fatal Flaw is: Marlowe dead-sure in 1593.

U7 [2] StratStylometry¹⁶³ like OxCryptograms, is the refuge of a case in such trouble, it craves *mirasalvation* by steroid-injection-ex-machina. (See: fn 40’s citations; *DIO 1.1* ‡4 pp.28-29 [“more fiddle factors than the New York Philharmonic”]; *DIO 2.2* ‡5 §A3.)

U8 [3] Unlike Wikipedia’s Strats, most experienced scholars (on both sides) regard style-tests-by-computer as ambiguous, laying little or no stress upon them. (Edmondson&Wells includes a chapter on stylometry, yet their own chapters don’t endorse such.) However, this could change (like §U3), as the Strat case’s weakness becomes better known.

¹⁶¹ This surprise finding was backed (www.dioi.org/thr.htm#xfsv) by 6 frustratingly-ineluctable evidences on the new theory’s side, including its method’s known ancient use (*Almajest* 4.2 & 6.9). Immune to all 6, establishment cultists fixated instead on a lone cuneiform-based counter-argument, which collapsed immediately upon close examination; the fine print lurking behind its original eminent 1955 publication’s sloppy extrapolation had not been recognized until 2002: www.dioi.org/thr.htm#cfjb.

¹⁶² Preference for debatable over undebatable lives-on near-unanimously in the farcical history-of-astronomy community, e.g., taking seriously pseudo-Aristarchos’ anciently-bungled work *Sizes & Distances*, which has the Sun 2° wide, though no less than Archimedes says the real Aristarchos made it 1°/2 (which is accurate). Far funnier details at www.dioi.org/vols/we0.pdf (*DIO 14* [2008]) ‡2 §C.

¹⁶³ An obvious problem for stylometric tests: since public perception (§L9) that Marlowe survived could be fatal for himself & (maybe even more so) for others, he (post-1593) presumably altered superficial aspects of his style. No other candidate had as strong a cause to do so. And no other was a spy, i.e., **an experienced pro at subtle deception**. Such factors (as well as improvement with the years & more leisure time: §U22) might explain the contention (T2:229) that some of the *Henry VI* plays (all pre-1593: §W10) seem more consistent with prior Marlowe works than does *Richard III*, though all are widely suspect of Marlovian influence, at the least. Another problem with statistical word-tests: since (§W12) many Strats accept editing (like fn 156) & co-authorship (*E passim*) for some WS plays, how could one 99.999%-unambiguously control for this factor’s chaotic pollution of stylometric tests?

U9 Why resort to shaky, diffuse (§U5), & complex statistics, when simple stats (§§C1-C2) provide a clear result? (See also on this subject T2:216-217 & 228. And note the obvious:¹⁶⁴ if doing word-counts at all, one must compare plays near 1593; and be cautious about what's being compared to what: see Rob't Harris *Selling Hitler* 2001 ed. p.180 !!)

U10 This diversion returns us to Frankfurter's observation (§H1) on unequal evidence-power, as we ask: why continue endlessly — and fruitlessly (§U27), since no specialist is converted by such studies — arguing ambiguous subtleties of comparative writing styles, by which the most strident and arrogant Stratfordians pretend they can decide and definitively end the authorship controversy simply by the loudness of their surety and insult (note Bakeless' comments at T2:223-224), when we can — instead of hyphen-counts — judge by: [i] the at-least-awfully-near (§Z4) similarity of the Marlowe and "Shakespeare" writing styles (obvious to all), and [ii] other inevitably-unsubtle points, which we next enumerate.

U11 [1] The Marlowe & WS styles are nearer to *each other* than to their contemporaries. [2] Shakespeare's echoes of & allusions to "other" contemporary writers are (fn 68) strictly nil except for Marlowe. (E37 says this *could* mean [a] CM just influenced WS, not [b] CM wrote WS' works. Which doesn't explain echo-fidelity — item [5] below — & doesn't note what disequates the probabilities of theories [a]&[b]: why only Marlowe's "influence"?) [3] Shakespeare's 1593 writing was just exactly (§S11) as chronologically **mature** as Marlowe's 1593 writing. How can an arguable style-test-by-computer, of unknown potential bias, compare with the unarguable, agreed-to (§S3) fact of equal maturity?

[4] Similarly (a point whose significance is so upfront-obvious that it's oft overlooked as a bit of evidence): Marlowe was the only Elizabethan-era playwright as steadily successful with audiences as "Shakespeare" (§L33).

[5] Stratfordian Bakeless (T2:214) admits that it is non-speculatively established that "Certain plays ordinarily included in the Shakespearean canon reveal definite traces of Marlowe which can hardly be due to mere imitation. Notable among these are the first two parts of *Henry VI*, *Richard II*, *Richard III*, *Titus Andronicus*, and *Julius Caesar*."¹⁶⁵ Though Bakeless is a believer in Marlowe's death and Shakespeare's genius, he admits (T2:214-215), "The traces of Marlowe consist first of whole lines or short passages from plays known to be Marlowe's; second, of words typical of Marlowe's vocabulary, not typical of Shakespeare's, and not known to be typical of any other playwright; and third, of obvious examples of Marlowe's structure, mood, and style." (Bakeless then spends pages trying to explain all this with Marlowe supposedly dead at the supposed creation-times of the cited plays. Exploratory speculation: were most of these plays at least partly written before Marlowe's arrest [*Henry VI* surely was: fn 142], after which he disguised his style?)

[6] The very 1895 (§E5) & 1923 (§E9) **origins** of the Marlovian theory were due almost entirely to textual analysis (true even of Hoffman: Hxiv) — notably *predating* 1925 recovery of hard evidences (§T13), e.g., [a] arrest warrant, [b] coroner's report, & [c] diary record of Shakespeare's soon-after debut as a writer — which have by now become stronger evidence (than textual comparisons) for the hoax-interpretation of Marlowe's "death".

The foregoing 6 literary evidences place even the Marlovians' **textual** case (quite aside from the even-stronger documentary one) far above that for any other alternate candidate.

U12 Resort to stylometrics is a classic cult tactic: divert the observer from simple, hard, reliable evidence (segue, WS' maturity, etc) to fixate on dubious, shaky arguments. The only disputants that lean heavily on computer word-tests are the Strat-soldiers who

¹⁶⁴ Stratfordians' laxity on this point reminds one of the dying embers of the Peary North Pole controversy, when dog-sledgers W.Steger & T.Avery failed to replicate Peary's miracle, but — being as leashed as their dogs — claimed success anyway in matching the former-establishment hero's average speed, while de-emphasizing their failure to come anywhere near the fantasy sea-ice speeds Peary claimed on the unverified (most northern) fraction of the 1909 trip, which is all that matters.

¹⁶⁵ Last unpublished 'til 1623, 7^y after WS' death. Only supposed record of existence earlier: a tourist's recollection (C209, B219, M322) of seeing a "Julius Caesar" performed at the Globe 1599/9/21 — author uncited. Caesar being a popular subject then for plays (M240), certainty is elusive here.

harass & border-collie Wikipedia's Marlovian Theory article. Virtually all academically serious combatants either ignore such studies or (e.g., C156) deem them inconclusive. To be fruitful, stylometry-consultants should *reverse field* (www.dioi.org/gad.htm#mdbv): instead of using Marlowe-vs-WS differences to test if Marlowe was WS, see what happens if it's assumed true, to follow Marlowe's evolution 1585-1623 (& possible post-1593 style-ploys).

U13 Among reasons newspapers won't print the simple Marlovian evidences cited here at the outset (§A1): whenever newsmen think of writing on the authorship question, they (quietly) go to the most conveniently accessible but laughably least reliable guide for any passionate controversy, Wikipedia (though WP is sometimes marvelous for source-mining), and from its corrupt articles naïvely misconclude that word-counts & expert-counts are so *certainly* (§C) against Marlowe, that reporters are justified in ignoring common sense (instead listening to their own careerism and-or sloth)¹⁶⁶ by discounting — and thus **never informing the public about** — the 13^d segue. (Try your own poll: ask a random sprinkling of folks you run into, even those already doubting Shakespeare's authorship, whether they know that "Shakespeare" appeared just DAYS after Marlowe vanished: you'll find that if the already-wised-up number isn't virtually zero, it's exactly zero. Follow-up poll: does the 13^d datum give you pause as to WS' authorship? Most reply positively, so censorship alone can staunch heresy's spread, That's why hysterical Strat-profs [E234&278] prominently beg to have the Westminster Abbey question-mark removed.)

U14 So, instead of doing a neutral story just giving both or all sides, newsfolk **TOTALLY** (§F11) suppress such obviously spectacular and massively odds-defiant data as Marlowe's 5/18 arrest, 5/20 bail, 5/30 "death", & fully-mature WS' appearance already by 6/12 — all 4 events implicitly (for StratThink) occurring **BY CHANCE** in a span of c.4 weeks (1593/5/18 to 6/12 or before). In the US' Free Press, ALL media ape each other — ALL the time — in hypnotically rigid, unbroken adherence to the ultimately censorial task of preventing the public from knowing of the information we have just expressed in the previous SINGLE sentence. As we summed it up earlier (§D) on contraStrat evidence, the US press and its goo-roos are permanently, reliably, leaklessly outta ink & outta think.

U15 Contra Strats' "Denier" smear (§I28): it's obvious that §U11's six utterly UNdeniable points, agreed to by all sides, through their very simplicity overwhelm in power:

U16 Any (pro or con) of the various oft-naïvely-cited statistical tests on style.

U17 The Stratfordian orthodoxological chorus (§U26) that Stratfordians' sense of style and mood is the ultimate arbiter and thus definitively¹⁶⁷ counts more than all the hard documentary evidences that suggest Marlowe authored the plays.

U18 So what we have is a remarkably **close and exclusive** Marlowe-WS fit on multiple counts — but (§U19) not quiiiiiiiiite close enough for the superior Stratfordian nose.¹⁶⁸ To return to the real world of legitimate debate: given that the Stratfordian religion has so lost

¹⁶⁶ Instead of suppressing Marlowe-case facts — due to conviction by Stratwrenched lawyering — might not news media consider printing-juxtaposing both facts and Strat-advocacy? Pressfolk mentalities have for decades exhibited reliable immunity from infection by such irreligious temptation.

¹⁶⁷ Does this cult seriously expect their Orwellian dream to obtain? — that their fanatically-promoted Memory Hole will forever gobble up all the dozens of contrary testimonies by leading pre-Webster (§U3, Q413) Shakespeare experts. See, e.g., the mass of examples of such evaluations which Hoffman is able (§J12) to list for pages; also Bakeless' attempt (§U11 & fn 40; T2:216f) to speculatively (fn 40) alibi-refute or buffer the eminent J.M.Robertson's belief that "Marlowe's contributions to the text are important" in no less than eight Shakespeare plays.

¹⁶⁸ A current parallel to depending upon foggy stylistic analyses as against unfoggy facts (Marlowe's hideous predicament & sneaky friends, as well as full-blown Shakespeare's just-after debut): those Dembos who voted for Obama demonstrate their dear imperviousity to the obvious reality that they were taken in, by adoring his image and concentrating not on starkly clear, unalibi-able evidence but on hazy ambiguities such as his superficially-ambiguous ongoing complicated interactions with the Dumbos (encased in Lib-speeches & promises, but unerringly GOP-accordant in plutocrat-enriching outcome), meanwhile zombiesquely (§S24) ignoring Obama's *unambiguously* oldboypersons-compliant Day-One **unilateral** appointments of Shrubya's "Defense" Sec'y, & bankster-stoooges L.Summers & TimiGofer.

its cool that it unhingedly (§V2) rages at any departure from its creed and is even prepared to exile heretics (§V1), can one seriously trust such an excitable cult to possess the balance and neutrality that are required to reliably render such ultra-fine judgements?

U19 Anti-Stratfordians' reasonable questions regarding WS' education are counter-logically (§V3) warped into a fantasy that all doubt is just megalomaniacal (§V2) snobbery. But hold on: who're the ultimate in-denial snobs here? If it's crazy to deny the plays' authorship to a usurer-actor with no education-vita, then how much megalomaniacally crazier is it to deny it to a low-born (§T4) scholar whose hard-wrought pre-1593 literary achievements took him to Cambridge, and on to London where his plays were within at most a wisp (§§U4, U18, Z4) of being the equal of those of "Shakespeare"?

U20 Style-Priests. For those genuinely seeking to solve the Marlowe case, keeping in mind that the debate centers on a dead body, let's recall what ought to be obvious (though inevitably anathema to the Stratfordian cults who seek to own the discussion), a point we emphasize from the start (§B2) and throughout:

This is a police case more than a literary one.

So it is more likely to yield to police-types than to literati. (Most Marlovians are both.)

U21 The very fact that Stratfordians must lean so heavily on a style-argument simply reveals the weakness of the rest (the detective part) of their flimsy case. Literati naturally find their own Expert stylistic comparisons definitively more compelling than the Fantastic-Farfetched-Preposterous idea (§R1) that one of the smartest people who ever lived just might find a way to decline the Star Chamber's invite to a torture-fest, by escaping.

U22 But has it occurred to Stratfordians that a proscribed writer who was hiding from vicious holy fanatics by being supposedly dead just might (fn 163) alter his style slightly to make it less readily recognizable? More undeniable, a genius is likely to evolve as he matures. Ted Hughes (Poet Laureate 1984-1998): "The way to really develop as a writer is to make yourself a political outcast, so that you have to live in secret. This is how Marlowe developed into Shakespeare." (Quoted at Qv. See also Q211, 290. Even jail can stimulate: e.g., John Bunyan & Hitler. Or political threat: Stalin & Shostakovich.) Finally: did Marlowe now have more undistracted time on his hands than previously, allowing him to craft better plays than ever? As of the end of 2013, Wikipedia's Strat-polluted article on the Marlovian theory emphasizes literary subtleties as the ultimate Disproof of heresy, treating as if it were evidential fact Stratfordians' *opinion* that the 2 authors' comparative styles & worldviews show they cannot be the same person.

U23 Gee, if you merely exile a guy for life,¹⁶⁹ why would his worldview change? What a mystery! As Webster realized, exile¹⁷⁰ is a recurring theme in the *Sonnets* — who could possibly know why . . . ?

¹⁶⁹Marlowe surely reacted better (§U22) than neighborhood-protector George Zimmerman (possible brain-damage victim of Knockout-Gamer→black-icon Trayvon Martin) to a permanent life-of-exile — due in GZ's case to kilowatts of vicious racist death-threats — both men ending up hiding permanently out-of-sight for the crime of trying to do good. But, then, Marlowe had high connexions and historically unique literary talent — and did not suffer Zimmerman's psychologically crushing sense of utter abandonment by all, due to media-persons' Dembo-slutthood or fear of becoming death-threat hate-targets themselves. Both men were aggressively pursued by their respective gov'ts. Even 2^y after Martin's vicious attack and months after GZ's vindication by meticulous jury-trial, GZ believes (perhaps wrongly) that the US Justice Dep't is still trying to dig up some basis for (effectively) double-jeopardy. Racists keep emailing him death-threats by the thousand, even helpfully outing his family's address (mimicking foetus-huggers' tactic against abortion doctors), as a prominent Hollywooder did anonymously in 2013 Nov. Having in 2012 dishonestly tried&lynched GZ, before a jury overturned its premature verdict, the Free Press might have considered post-trial atonement by protecting GZ from mob-justice. Instead, his former media-volk lynchers now just recommend he "disappear". Questions: Any wonder Marlowe *did just that*? Any surprise that GZ is as suicidal and combative as Hamlet (fn 25)? If GZ obtained a convincing substitute body, is there any doubt what his next move would be?

¹⁷⁰§E10. Of course, if we are talking philosophy not related to Marlowe's exile, one has such a huge array of potential correlations as to weaken (§J2) the significance of potential arguments. But we can

U24 Again as to whether to decide an issue by resorting [A] to uncommunicable opinions on fine textual points, or [B] to plain, hard facts, such as Marlowe's stimulating predicament, his potent circle's likely reaction to it, the body's altered face, etc?

Isn't there something disquietingly familiar about a cult that treats you as an inferior and just tells you to trust-us to sense higher truth in holy documents, regardless of what much more easily-grasped and documented (§T13) evidence may indicate? Of course: all other mass-religions do the same thing.

U25 Stratfordians' idea of a clincher¹⁷¹ (see, e.g., Wikipedia as of 2014) is that all members of the Shakespeare church are Stratfordians. Well, how insulated from reality does a cult have to become? — not to realize that this is about as potent an argument as that virtually every top expert on Catholic canon law is a believing Catholic. As well as every cardinal — and you can't get more expert than that. To understand the world, trust these Authorities' interpretation of the Bible rather than apply your own common sense to visible world events, to gauge the likelihood that an invisible omniscient beneficence is guiding them.

U26 Widespread unjustified over-certainty explains why outsiders sense that Stratfordianism is a herd-religion faith. Its fervor arises ultimately from a conviction that Shakespeare's style is unique to the point of holiness (§W23).

U27 But such passion cannot communicate (§U10) its faith to the commoner or the unenlightened heathen (fn 151) except by non-rational means (indoctrination, censorship, threat) — as we next see by comparison to other faiths. Stratfordianism has the same ominous flaw as faith. From www.dioi.org/vols/wg0.pdf (*DIO 16* [2009]) ¶4 §F4 [p.45]:

When people differ, they can communicate on realities; but not on faith. (As apologists actually emphasize, to evade empirical testing.) Mass-faith is maintained by insular indoctrination (www.dioi.org/re1.htm#lsrf), a robotically inculcated bar to communication: *a divider of peoples*. Which suggests why popular religions are ever busy at mind-control, anti-alienthink censorship. . . . But empathize with their problem: how many religions win out by logical suasion?

note that *Tamburlaine* assumes the potency of astrology (while proposing to run his zero-longitude meridian through Damascus) — even speaking (4.2) of the Ascendant & Midheaven (fn 94) and "wrathful planets" (5.1). Assumed celestial potency continues into early "Shakespeare", e.g., *Henry VI Part 1* (1.1) & *Romeo & Juliet's* "star-crossed lovers" (Prologue), whereas later *Julius Caesar* (1.2) assigns misfortune to man not stars. (Though yet [2.2] echoing celestial superstition: "When beggars die, there are no comets seen; The heavens themselves blaze forth the death of princes." See also, e.g., *Twelfth Night* [1.3].) It is such evolutions that are said (§§G12&W4) to fascinate literati. So, *why should cult-stolidity rob them of this and similar opportunities which genial receptivity to tentative experimentation with new theory can open up?* (As at www.dioi.org/cot.htm#fzrw.) E.g., K.Pickering notes: before 1593, the "Shakespeare" plays were set in Britain; afterwards, many in Italy & vicinity. (Is Marlowe's post-1593 decline in Tudor propaganda consistent with royal connivance in his escape?)

¹⁷¹Another Wikipedia-prominent case-closed argument has been that the 1593 coroners' inquest involved 16 jurors, so no judgement in history was more certain (fn 173), etc. etc. (In our less naïve era of NGS judges [*DIO 10* ©17 & fn 147] & celeb-murderers walking free, the idea that we will take such assurance seriously is almost touching.) Question: granted the inquest was indubitably correct that the body was dead, but (as we saw at §Q6) the chain's-weakest-link question is: *who identified it?* (Of course: Poley, Skeres, & Frizer!) As to claims that the Marlowe-is-dead verdict is based on great care by the inquest, it is worth citing a Stratfordian (N20): "If Coroner [Wm] Danby knew anything about the dead man, or about the three witnesses, or about the web of association that brought them together at Deptford — if he knew anything out of the ordinary about the case — he made no mention of it in his report. This was routine business: another casual, sordid Elizabethan death. In a month when the plague killed nearly two thousand people in London alone, death was certainly routine." (The coroner's report mis-spells Marlowe's name: §E12.) I.e., the coroner was up to his wig in stiffs, and had neither the leisure nor the impulse to elaborately investigate each's death-circumstances.

V UNCLEAN! UNCLEAN! — The StratLion’s Gummy Roar

V1 Stratfordian Teachout’s precious “padded tongs” rant (§T5), delivered in felicitously incautious rage at the ThoughtCrime of mere disagreement — *overtly recommending the shunning of heretics* — blurts out the dirty secret of soft academe’s purported “free discourse”: the non-science academic world is rife with cliques which shun (§W20) those who dissent from the views of archons who control funds, appointments, conferences. Fearing loss of such patronage (§C4), the lumpen-rabbitariate — and those many newspaper reporters (§T10) who so readily confuse pols with scholars — are laughably easy (fn 152) to herd into believing or at least spouting the sacred tenets of archonal goo-roos. This reality — as well as (§G12) the scholarly narrowness (and logic-power non-enormity) of the mass of literati — helps explain how something as obviously false as Shakespeare’s authorship has survived for over a century after the emptiness of WS’ will and educational vita sank it (logically), as some of the most intelligent leading 19th century writers quickly (§J1) realized. Papal-bullying, potential shunning (§S23), cliquishness, “tremendous fear” (fn 41 [§E6]), and mental limitations (see at fn 51 pointed *NYTimes* analyses by J.Tierney of other *DIO* opposites’ parallel cultist stubbornness) have reduced Strat intellectual mobility on the Shakespeare question to such a point as to *gut all proposed significance* to the oft-adduced (§D7) apparent Unanimity-of-Experts.

V2 Contemptuous Stratfordian psychoanalytic¹⁷² ravings similar to Teachout’s blanket smear of skeptics have also seized the able if over-selectively cynical modern playwright-screenwright David Mamet (whose excellent films include, e.g., *Verdict* 1982, *House of Games* 1987, *Glengarry Glen Ross* 1992), in his 2002 book, *Three Uses of the Knife*, as quoted by David Aaronovitch¹⁷³ at pp.237-238 of the latter’s generally sane and useful *Voodoo Histories* (2010), where Aaronovitch approvingly sums up Mamet’s position: “The purpose of the [anti-Stratfordians], and by extension the purpose of their readers, is somehow to make themselves greater than even the greatest poet, partly, of course, by making him lesser.”¹⁷⁴ (Edmondson similarly at E225.) Aaronovitch then quotes Mamet (emph-caps added here on creationism — for amusingly ironic reasons soon [§W] to be in evidence):

They invert the megalomaniacal [see §T9] equation and make themselves not the elect, but the superior of the elect They . . . consign the (falsely named) creator to oblivion and turn to the adulation of the crowd for their deed of discovery and insight They appoint themselves as “eternity” — the force that shall pass on all things The anti-Stratfordian, like the flat-earth¹⁷⁵ *and the CREATIONIST*,¹⁷⁶ elects himself. . . . God¹⁷⁷

¹⁷²Dembos’ demonization-smearing of Ralph Nader since 2000 involves similarly fantastic speculations of egoism. See the laughably vicious attacks by DemSoldier Eric Altermann, among others, exhibited (strictly for jawdrop upchuckles) in the 2006 film *An Unreasonable Man*, all of which ignored how thoroughly “populist” Dem congressmen and Obama have (by domestic & foreign extraction) vindicated Nader’s warning that the two parties are a single insatiably greedy & corrupt monopoly.

¹⁷³Aaronovitch shares a weakness common to other pop-writers who launch whole books against irrationalism: the eventually-kneejerk assumption that current-establishmentarians-are-always-right. (By contrast, Colin Wilson is that rarity among survey-writers who has dug beneath the surface of the generally-accepted: §X32.) A similar tendency afflicts the Shakespeare entry of Tom Burnam’s generally fun 1981 debunkfest, *More Misinformation* (p.172), which — with by-now-familiar (fn 171) confidence — states that “It is as certain as anything can be in the absence of written records [P234] that the young Shakespeare went to Stratford grammar school.” Underlying reasoning (unashamedly overt at E141f): no one who wrote the WS plays could’ve been uneducated. But: the very point at issue is whether he wrote said plays. A perfect circle. Like §I2.

¹⁷⁴But, ironically, an admirably ever-evolving Mamet later commented (FNC 2013/11/11 21:47EST): “The essence of science is doubt . . . follow truth wherever it leads.”

¹⁷⁵On Earth’s shape & Occam’s Razor, see fnn 191, 196, 201.

¹⁷⁶For almost unsurpassably hilarious irony, compare this remark to §W.

¹⁷⁷Extreme irony: §S40. Mamet’s man→god joke is as deliberately bizarre as the plot-heart of the

And Stratfordians attack (e.g., §T3) doubters for evidence-unsupported speculation?!

V3 The consistent theme of our lynchmob trio of outragedly-abusive Stratfordians is that Doubters deny Shakespeare out of envy! Obvious problem here: why, then, do the same Envious doubters heap praise on their candidate for genuine authorship? Poof goes the whole libel. (See §T18.) And how much emotional and intellectual balance would it have required to realize that?¹⁷⁸

V4 Moreover: far from denying-scoffing (§V12) at the reality of standout-genius, Marlovians are the most genius-glorifying of all the vying parties to this controversy.

V5 I.e., their discovery that Marlowe wrote “Shakespeare” means that the dominant English dramas of c.1600 were not written by two men but by ONE sole unique genius — even while he (at least early on) also carried out delicate espionage operations. Marlowe was obviously one the most brilliant men in the history of the world — and another long-suppressed victim of religious bigotry, in the tradition of Aristarchos and Darwin.

V6 Must we conclude that anyone so bright, penetrating, & truth-seeking MUST ultimately run afoul of the mass of humanity, and its herders (fn 152)?

V7 While collaborative (§W12) theories of the plays’ authorship are becoming the latest Stratfordian fashion, Blumenfeld makes the important point (B343) that “it was Marlowe’s forced isolation that precluded any collaborative effort. And that is why the plays in the *First Folio* stand out as the miraculous work of an extraordinary genius working alone. And that is why we must know who he was.”

V8 Since so many prominent Stratfordians pretend to Infallible Taste — while treating the Lessfortunate as idiots with no right to an opinion — our puffed-up would-be-LitPopes are inviting challenges to their poses. I.e., if a club’s main argument is We’re-The-Experts-and-You’re-Nothing, they invite a smart kick in the brains and have nothing but their own haughty pretenses to blame for our present occasional shirt-unstuffs.¹⁷⁹

V9 Also, the very loudest Stratfordians wish to psychoanalyse (§T2) those with the effrontery to dispute their party-line, so it will not be unjust to turn-the-unstables (on a spit) — by checking out the psychology beneath the smears.¹⁸⁰

V10 As to the Stratfordians’ snob-smear: the WS plays were clearly written by an extremely educated author. The Marlovians produce plenty of evidence that their candidate has an extensive and top-echelon educational pedigree, while there is no evidence that Shakespeare had any education at all. (Though he presumably had enough to be able to read scripts.) Whether the ratio of education-evidence makes Marlowe’s authorship probable (as against merely more probable than would be the case in the ratio’s absence)

1984 film *Amadeus*, in which Salieri plans the murder of Mozart (a ludicrous rumor, 1st given wide currency by Rimsky’s Pushkin-based opera *Mozart & Salieri*) in order to defeat god for sheer pleasure of pride. (The more credible murder here may be *Amadeus*’ own rôle in killing the popularity of serious music by replacing dramatic, powerful Beethoven with graceful but relatively bloodless Mozart, as the current public’s Generic Classical Composer. An awful irony, since one of impresario Mozart’s prime accomplishments was his key part in expanding fine music’s audience beyond the aristocracy.)

¹⁷⁸Despite our disagreement with Oxfordians’ reasoning, even they do not deserve such sloppy slander.

¹⁷⁹Look at the back&forth in Wikipedia’s “Talk: Christopher Marlowe” page. A 2004/9/21 entry condemns Marlovians for “crusading against purported blindness of professors who actually spend their live [*sic*] studying shakespeare [*sic*].” An earlier entry (by M.Tinkler) on the same page challenges anyone to read both men and still believe they’re not different people, expressing (§C7) utterly unqualified certainty of his expertise on what is for many a subtle issue; but, he explains: he took a college course on the subject. Which reminds DR of his magic-trick audiences, too often prone to the conceit that if brilliant-they can’t figure out how a mental illusion was done, it must be real ESP.

¹⁸⁰An odd-hominem’s smears are insufficient justification for going somewhat ad-hominem in return; but when it becomes indisputable that a cult is pronouncing dicta and banishments with a certitude way-insufficiently supported by its evidence & arguments, one naturally turns to psychology and group dynamics for explanations. A quote from Bishop Berkeley was a favorite of our late friend Hugh Thurston (www.dioi.org/mot.htm#mbhc): “I observed how unaccountable it was, that men so easy to confute should yet be so difficult to convince.”

may be reasonably disputed; however, there is an item here that is not disputable: The education-evidence ratio is a point on the Marlowe side of the evidence-scorecard. Again, not necessarily a controversy-ending point. But a point.¹⁸¹ Those unfamiliar with the true emotional fragility of the superficially-secure Stratfordian establishment will perhaps find it revealing to compare how each side reacts to the opposition's point. We answer the Jonson-praise point (fn 181) soberly, analytically, contextually (fn 70), and by noticing its minor relative weight versus pro-Marlowe points.

V11 By contrast, the education-ratio point drives leading Stratfordians to hysteria.

V12 Their reaction is to psycho-analytically (§T3) convert this unambiguous (if limited) Marlowe evidential advantage into a charge of bigotry (§T7): a fantasy that skeptics (secretly) hate the possibility of genius-out-of-nowhere (§V14) among the under-educated, a morally-reprehensible (§V15) prejudice on the part of those *who have committed the heinous crime of merely having more evidence*¹⁸² of their candidate's education.

V13 And, again: keep in mind that this bilious bilge issues from a muddled Stratfordian establishment that claims that it's the doubters (§T3) that are crazy.

V14 We now present our 1st analogy (of a flock yet to come: §W) from the Darwin-vs-creationism history, where only Darwin's side has any coherent scholarly evidence at all. A rough equivalency to the Mamet-Aaronovitch-Teachout tantrums would be: a religious nut sneering at an evolutionist for defying (and thus supplanting) god by basing opinion upon geological data, rejecting Intelligent Design-out-of-nowhere & the nothing-but-faith-based (§V12; www.dioi.org/mot.htm#dlsb) Biblical version of creation.

V15 This is a grievous sin because faith is morally (§V12) superior to reason. (Just as Stratfordian faith in the possibility of creative genius from the uneducated, is morally superior to an elitist strawman.)

V16 That no traditional church actually goes quite this far only shows how remotely beyond-the-pale Stratfordianism has inevitably become, due to its Quixotic challenge of taking a virtually non-existent (§§G3&S28) evidential armory into battle against growing heterodoxy. The Stratfordian lion's roar is backed by large and elaborate mane.

V17 But no evidential teeth: §F15.

W Strat Kook-Hounds as Lit-World Sore-Thumb Creationist Kooks

We recall (§V2) that Mamet compared anti-Stratfordians to creationists. It would be almost impossible to make a less felicitous choice of kookery, to compare Marlovians to — for reasons we now enumerate:

W1 It is standard among anti-evolutionists to attack Darwinians by harping (§T3) on the (inevitably!) fragmentary nature of the evolutionary record.

W2 The familiar complaint (§W22): “missing links” in said record. Similarly, Stratfordians (who meantime plead antiquity of records to alibi holes in their own arguments' supporting data) sneer that the skeptics can't explain all details (§W22; S225) of the mechanics behind a hypothesized Shakespeare imposture.

¹⁸¹ Just as Ben Jonson's 1630s praise of WS (P197, S240) can be acknowledged by Marlovians as one of the best points on the Strat side, though for lack of detail one can't be sure how much it was based on personal interaction. The affection expressed may've been a try at convincing readers that the “malevolence” others saw in Jonson's oft-brutal criticisms of WS' work was imaginary, for he protests no-no-actually-he-“loved”-WS.

¹⁸² Stratfordians' blustering outrage and baseless speculations (as to WS' education) were all analysed and gutted in 1955 by Hoffman at H8f, who perceptively describes these religious fanatics' automatic *a priori* evidential approach — one which is deliciously evident in the sleight performed by the mind-behind the boilerplate preface to all 1959 Folger Library Shakespeare editions, which transforms (§I2) the unsupported *possibility* that Shakespeare went to Stratford Grammar School into such certainty (expressed 2pp earlier) that any contention to the contrary is monumentally “perverse” and unqualifiedly “false”. Look it up.

W3 Where the parallel to creationists becomes most amusingly obvious is on the point that — like creationists — the missing-link-demanding Stratfordians (§W1) *don't even have any hard evidence to link*.

W4 The geological-historical record of Darwinian evolution (fn 170) is a series of fossil layers over time. Marlowe's record, from grammar school, King's School, Canterbury (entrance 1579/1/14: H38), to Cambridge University (B23) in the mid-1580s, and on to London up to 1593, is a series of gradually maturing scholarly work known to his colleagues: translations (of classical works that breathe in the “Shakespeare” corpus), as well as poems & plays that are near-universally recognized (§U4 & fn 81) as resembling¹⁸³ those of WS.

W5 Creationists reject evolution in favor of a sudden miracle by a blithely unpedigreed (§V14) god who is (on no evidence) posited to have existed for a long time prior to the creation-miracle (and to invisibly script later human events). Stratfordians posit a Shakespeare who also (§V12) comes out of nowhere¹⁸⁴ with zero known educational vita upon his debut at the (for a poet: Hxiii) advanced age of 29 yet nonetheless is overnight artistically at the top of his field. For the next two decades.

W6 The only communicable evidence (www.dioi.org/rel.htm#dvxj) for god's existence is: lots of people believe god exists. Likewise, in the absence of any proof that Shakespeare wrote plays, Shapiro is reduced to the same familiar religionist logic (which also convinced pre-curtain-drop Ozians that their Wizard was real): Shakespeare was a writer because lots of people believed¹⁸⁵ he was a writer. (Today, on the other hand, we all know Shakespeare was a writer because lots of people believe he was a writer — 400^y of Litworld Progress.)

W7 Shapiro is driven into this embarrassing corner because of a long-notorious absence¹⁸⁶ of solid evidence on the point from Shakespeare's lifetime.

W8 All Shapiro can do is quote (S235f, P112) several admirers of (what they believed were) Shakespeare's writings.¹⁸⁷

¹⁸³ This clear connexion (once-routinely-stipulated-to: §J12) may become increasingly denied by ever-flexible (§§C10&U3) and frustratingly evidence-bare Stratfordians as Marlovianism comes on.

¹⁸⁴ B341, P255; “miracle of genius” (C71).

See analogous establishment-creationism at www.dioi.org/vols/wb3.pdf (DIO 11.3 [2002]) ¶6 fn 23.

¹⁸⁵ Being-believed-for-being-believed is as philosophically deep as famous-for-being-famous celebs. As with other religious sects, most of academe's Stratfordians believe in Shakespeare's authorship because their mentors and funders do. Several Wikipedia comments on the controversy use (apparent: §V1) near-universal EnglishProf orthodoxy as if this sociological fact constitutes a reliable comparative test of theories. Stratfordian entries & edits on Wikipedia are obsessed with stigmatizing Marlovianism's logical argument as “fringe” (§C10) and accepted-by-no-one in litwit circles, as if this is evidence, when it is only evidence for Stratfordianism's logical anemia: *what cult would need to keep repeating ad nauseum its numerical success at holding heresy in check, if it possessed convincing logical counters?* (Is the boasted unanimity starting to crumble? See StratMogul sweat at E201-214.)

¹⁸⁶ Diana Price tabularly shows that of 25 comparable WS-contemporary writers (incl. WS) he is the least documented: not even an obit at his 1616 death (P301), a fact with the obvious implication that many of his contemporaries had long since discerned (§X38; Q394) that he was a front and-or a purchaser of poetry & co-purchaser (S225) of plays, but not a creator of them. And Price emphasizes (P138) a point that guts the strength of Shapiro's main argument from contemporary alleged witnesses to WS as a writer: “Most of the explicit [contemporary] literary allusions to Shakespeare . . . could have been written after reading or seeing one of Shakespeare's works. Allusions such as those by Weever, Barksted, or Meres tell us only that these writers knew Shakespeare by his works and name. [Of the] principal ambiguous allusions . . . , none confirms a personal acquaintance with the author. . . . Contrary to the impression created in traditional biographies, none of the contemporaneous Shakespearean allusions qualify as personal literary paper trails”.

¹⁸⁷ We return (§I16) here to the classic case of the plagiarist-astrologer Claudius Ptolemy, about whom admiring legends grew up after his death — but of whom nothing extant was written during his lifetime. Also relevant: knowledgeable astronomers have known for centuries that, though Ptolemy's name is on the ancient thousand-star catalog, the work was actually accomplished by the prior school of Hipparchos: fn 63; www.dioi.org/vols/w23.pdf (DIO 2.3 [1992]) ¶8 §C, www.dioi.org/vols/wc0.pdf (DIO 12 [2002]); *Encycl.Astron.&Astrophysics* 2002 Hipparchos entry.

W9 The prime testimony for the Christian god is contained in a holy book, the Bible. The prime reason people believe Shakespeare wrote the plays is the *First Folio* of 36 plays, published in 1623, 7 years after Shakespeare's death, with his name on the title page. Shapiro thinks that this and prior quarto title pages are conclusive (S225): "overwhelming evidence". (We have already presented a vast array of cases where title-pages [& the like] credited non-authors: §§T23, T27-T28, fnn 153&187.)

W10 Yet, as with the Bible, there are improbabilities & contradictions. *Henry VI* is in the Shakespeare-titlepage *First Folio*, but (B156, 184) all 3 parts were written in 1591, 2 years before WS' 1st work (§S2). (Some Strats insist [E92, 115, 133] several other WS plays were crafted and/or staged before 1593.) *Henry VI* Part 1 was theatrically performed that year. (It's little known that Part 2's most famous line [4.2] is — sadly? — less a recommendation than a spoof of Jack Cade's commie rebellion against Henry VI: "let's kill all the lawyers." But *DIO* knows you can't kill a lawyer. After all, what's to hammer the stake through?)

W11 Indeed, by 1592, Greene had seen (fn 142) its *Henry VI* Part 3 on stage. (Though, Stratfordians interpret Greene in their own way: see S234-235 or any WS play's 1959 Folger Library Shakespeare edition preface.)

W12 But, again: this is well BEFORE the 1593 work Shakespeare himself (§S2) calls his 1st. (As we saw at §J12: even orthodox scholars recognize Marlowe's hand in *Henry VI*.) Moreover, Strats are now into the new fash theory (e.g., S240; E88f&106f) that various WS plays were collaborations (§V7), which, since no collaborators are cited in the *First Folio*, means they accept that its title page, their prime-exhibit evidence, is untrustworthy.¹⁸⁸

W13 The time-line matter brings us to another analogy with the evolution quashi-debate. Evolution is testified to by time-ordered geological layers. So creationists unshakily cling to shaky cavils, to try throwing doubt on that order.

W14 Similar desperation (§S35), accepting junk-evidence in order to re-arrange WS' life-chronology, has produced one of the funniest among Stratfordian Verities:

W15 Despite Shakespeare's *own statement* (1st work in 1593: §S2), the StratCult insists (even while rightly scorning Oxfordian *cryptology*) that Robert Greene's entirely *cryptic* 1592 attack is somehow 100.000% SOLID proof that Shakespeare was a playwright then. (Not even the editor of the modern critical edition of *Groatsworth* agrees with them: P46. And Wells has here intelligently dissented from StratHerd overcertainty: E74.) We repeat (§S28) for emphasis: this ultra-Shakey 1592 item is *Stratfordianism's SOLE documentary evidence that Shakespeare wrote plays ere 1593*. (So cultists will never relinquish their Special Perception of the identity of Greene's wrath-target. Contra Shakespeare: §S2.)

W16 AS WITH CREATIONISTS, flimsy evidence is ever preferred¹⁸⁹ over clear evidence (e.g., §L36), even for central tenets. Recall also a parallel StratCultist pseudo-

¹⁸⁸Further, there were some works published c.1600 with Shakespeare's name on the title-page that no-one today accepts as his: H20-21&200, P129. Marlowe's *The Passionate Shepherd to His Love*, containing his famous line, "Come live with me, and be my love", first appeared in a book which the publisher put Shakespeare's name on (T2:155). Yet there is now no doubt anywhere that the poem was Marlowe's (from his university days: B73). And a 1612 work with Shakespeare's name on the title page as author was (B237) later reissued with his name removed (sole alteration) due to complaints to the publisher (not to WS) from the real author of portions of the work. Such data can make one skeptical regarding whether Shakespeare's name on the *First Folio* proves his authorship.

¹⁸⁹ Various examples at §I11. The prefaces to the Folger editions of "Shakespeare" plays uniformly echo-promote as fact the feeble Strat reading of Greene (§W11), ignoring clear Shakespeare: §S2. Such mote-beam disproportionalities are typical of cults (thus our need to keep Frankfurter's point in mind: §H1). For one of the funniest parallel examples ever, see how worshippers of the thoroughly exposed explorer-faker Frederick Cook deal with photographic disproof of his claims by Brad Washburn & Rob't Bryce: www.dioi.org/vols/w73.pdf (*DIO* 7.2-3 [1997]) esp. Figs.6&8, 18, 28&29. (Note that none of these evidential clingers prevented promotion of the family-wealth-driven Cook cause in 2009 by the so-easily "influenced" American Philosophical Society [!] and *Smithsonian Magazine*.) Take particular note of Cookie logic at *DIO op cit* p.85 and at www.dioi.org/vols/w93.pdf (*DIO* 9.3 [1999]) p.122 & esp. Fig.6 (p.116) & caption.

obtuseness: preference (§U13) for delicate, laborious, murky statistics vs simple, solid, crystal-clear statistics.

W17 Analogous to the foregoing Frankfurte imbalance is Strats' obsession with applying uncommunicable faith in textual-arguments, instead of basing overall judgement of the case upon *verifiable* facts, a blindness already discussed elsewhere here (§U20).

W18 One of the most revealing analogies to creationism is seen in the projection of haughty certainty (§G3) — the intensity of which is inversely proportional to the evidential support for it, because intensity is the only sharp arrow in the quiver. (When the evidence for one's case is strong, no need for resort to arrogance, smear, threat, and censorship.)

W19 Which leads to the next Stratfordian resemblance to creationism: suppression of heresy. In 1925, Tennessee actually outlawed the teaching of evolution in classrooms. (Even today, US high-school students are protected from all but the briefest acquaintance with it.) And what is the only effective weapon for countering Shakespeare-skepticism? Banish it from the classroom (Mxxvi, 411).

W20 Even current-top Stratfordian Shapiro agrees it's been "taboo" there for years (§§D7&V1), due to (S5&8) "the decision by professors to all but ignore the [Shakespeare] authorship question". Irony: the unacademic creationists are less illiberal than the effete professors. The former only try to control secondary education. The pros, on the other hand, try to keep their censorship (and cocksure archonal sneering, to inhibit curiosity & heterodoxy) intact all the way through college, grad school, and beyond.¹⁹⁰

W21 In addition to psychological, epistemological, political, & philosophical parallels with creationism, we may also compare again Marlovianism's growth to historical cases, especially (other) scientific investigations.

W22 E.g., when Darwin 1st proposed evolution in 1859, the case for it was crippled (§L26) by limited knowledge, not just from religious preconception (§U6) but for the same reason (*ibid*) that Wegener's later drift-theory was initially rejected: there was no known mechanism to explain the proposed only-fragmentarily-glimpsed (§W2) evolutionary process. Several bungled attempts were made to do so. (But not even creationists go as far as Shapiro, by using these ancient cases to devalue Darwin.) Finally, Mendel and the science of genetics filled the void, **BUT** note that, due to its coherence, the Darwin theory was (like Relativity) accepted quickly among scientists well *before* experimental proof appeared.

W23 Many who promote (§C6) decision of the WS controversy by stylometry (inevitably involving arbitrary criteria) are yielding to a familiar (§§U6&W22) temptation to repel Error with one definitive Impregnable-Impediment-Test (which, for style-stats, few on either side are accepting as such), while in Marlowe's case ignoring the *also statistical* — & Occamite¹⁹¹ — power (§X) of unarbitrary, uncomplex FACTS (§A1) which are consistent with Marlowe's survival. (Farey's stylometric studies are strong, and importantly neutralize determined Strat consultants' incessant statistical pseudo-solutions of the case.)

W24 For decades, the Shakespeare Controversy suffered the same paroxysms (§L26) as the evolution-vs-creationism dispute, since no known theory was able to convincingly

¹⁹⁰ In our current (§F14) grant-dominated academic environment, there appears to be more fear (than 100^y ago) of being thought Disloyal to Stratfordian orthodoxy. Said fear isn't hard to explain: why would a careerist risk generating enemies on review boards by glaringly stepping out of line, when every open academic post and grant has dozens if not hundreds of applicants? Likewise, would a modern playwright endanger (§S23) chances of his work's someday-performance at the Stratford Festival?

¹⁹¹ Similarly, Plato's *Republic* 7.4 complained that math would never explain the complexities of celestial motions; and, indeed, up through Copernicus' epochal but equally circle-obsessed 1543 *De Revolutionibus*, even the best available theories (e.g., the equant) didn't quite fit (fn 197) actual planetary motion. Until Kepler applied the ellipse. Another below-detailed (fn 196) example, from geography: for 2000^y, no mechanism was known that could explain why the two dominant ancient estimates of the Earth's radius were both wrong by roughly 20% (in opposite directions) and so differed by the outrageous factor of about 40%. Weird schemes were taught by establishments for decades until it was realized that light-bending by the Earth's atmosphere explained both errors — on the nose in each case: www.dioi.org/vols/we0.pdf (*DIO* 14 [2008]) †1 [pp.2-12].

explain why (B6) the true author would hide, or to identify a candidate who unquestionably had the talent and track-record to show he could have written what WS obviously couldn't. Strange theories (§H6) were bound to fill the vacuum. Some Oxfordians' excuses for their hero's putative shyness: poetry too homosexual; or plays too embarrassing to actual nobles unflatteringly depicted; or playwrighting too declassé¹⁹² even after playwright-death (M374)? After the nobles' deaths, too? — Essex (M316), & Cecil (S177).

W25 Hmmm. If actors&theatre were so untouchably low (§L24), how (§L22) did it happen (S231-234) that actor Shakespeare was invited to perform *Henry IV* Part 2 before the queen? — who was also treated to a performance of *Love's Labour's Lost*: B235.

W26 The complexity, multiplicity, and hypotheticality of these feeble excuses (§K13) for Oxford-anonymity happily serve to bring into relief another clear superiority for Marlovianism, where one plain and strong explanation (Marlowe as fugitive) explains anonymity for all "Shakespeare" post-1593 writings: poetry *and* plays. Very simple (§A1), esp. compared to Oxfordians' page after page after page (§G6) of shaky lawyeresque argumentation. **W27** Anyway, the convincing-candidate public-vacuum vanished in 1955, when Hoffman's startling, detailed solution vaporized at a stroke the very NEED for such ornate and patently desperate alibis. (Close parallel situation at: www.dioi.org/cot.htm#mlpn.)

W28 This put us in a position where (§D7) just a few lines of raw evidence (§A1) are now more convincing than the Oxfordians' voluminously-endless succession of arguments. **W29 Cluesniffing High.** These require whole hefty tomes, each running hundreds of pages of pile-on¹⁹³ (§H14) clue-sniffing&gluing. (One runs 900pp! S204.)

W30 Fitting Conclusion. Darwin-Marlowe vs Creationism-Stratfordianism grants us a final parallel here that appears less cut&dried than those just enumerated. But *it should be the most compelling of all* (especially to those of experience¹⁹⁴ in historical — or police [fn 50] — detective work). In such work, we look for *COHERENCE*: simple Occamite neatness of fit (§§X4-X22 & fn 196) to multiple *clear* evidences and the broad resolution of what previously seemed independent, uncrackable mysteries.

E.g., the power of Darwin's idea, "Natural Selection", is its neat simultaneous solution of disparate mysteries.¹⁹⁵ Likewise for Marlovianism, as our next section (§X) will show.

W31 Togetherness. As apt prelude, we list items showing an Occamless feature of the Strat brain, namely, keeping oddities far apart (vs our inclusiveness when seeking solutions to multiple puzzles): [a] The will's non-literary nature isn't usually faced together (§§I1&I13) with the devastatingly consistent fact of WS' zero education-vita. [b] Or his Latin-smallness (§I3). [c] Contra our §C2 odds-multiplication, Strats (e.g., fn 30; E29&34) won't cite the arrest→Death 12^d coincidence in conjunction with the Death→WS-debut 13^d coincidence, despite their joint temporal proximity. [d] Strats' weird theory of WS' invisible but ever-improving 1588 play-writing (§§S4&S6) isn't merged with their shaky reading of Greene's 1592 cryptic pamphlet as attacking WS, because (§S34) Greene's expert scorn negates WS-improvement. [e] And said reading implies that *Henry VI*-admiring Greene couldn't think incompetent WS wrote it. [f] Same reading posits 1592 WS plays, never near mention of WS' contradiction of such (§S1). [g] Strats' disbelief that WS was putting on an act isn't (§G) disturbed by familiarity with their own insistence that he was a major actor. [h] Shakespeare's implicitly-assumed years-long shyness (§S14) isn't juxtaposed with Strats' (mis)identification of Greene's conceited-bombastic Tyger (§S14) as WS.

¹⁹²P218, S196, and <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB123998633934729551.html>.

¹⁹³M381: "There is no single 'smoking gun' document that leads one inexorably to [Oxfordianism]. Instead, one builds the case upon a [loooooong] series of facts and observations that, when put together like pieces of a puzzle, produce an overall picture that becomes difficult to deny."

¹⁹⁴The research world's dullards (§Q8) reject all theories that are not attested (e.g., on works' covers). But the pioneers whose inspiration underlies great academic progress seek the hitherto-unseen fertile theory (§X32) that solves a range of problems all at once and thereby turns chaos into order.

¹⁹⁵Why do lower creatures lie in lower geological layers? Why do men look like apes? How can a chance process produce survivability-progress?

X Occam in Action: Single Simple Theory Vaporizes Mystery-Nest

X1 For the Shakespeare controversy, instead of obsessing on surface indicia, it is wisest to gauge the inevitably-incomplete evidence by just Occamly (§D15) asking:

[1] what is the *least* complicated theory which simultaneously

[2] ties-together & explains the *most* outstanding mysteries?

X2 And the brilliant, initially-risky, Ziegler-Webster-Hoffman theory — that Marlowe's death was a shamlet and that he was thenceforth fronted-for by a non-literary businessman & sometime-actor — is the linchpin that has proven productive (§E39):

X3 I.e., it has elucidated matters *beyond*¹⁹⁶ *those that initially triggered* (§E2) the theory, seamlessly sewing together a variety of mysteries; neatly and reverse-Hamletly (1.2) merging their separate dew-droplets and resolving them into the solid flesh of a reality that at last makes sense. Let us illustrate by now listing several of these mysteries.

The Mystery-Nest:

X4 Why are there no Shakespeare mss?

X5 Why no surviving letters (§§H3, K8-K10) of such a supposed (fn 58) stage-celeb?

X6 Why did the literary world ignore his death? (By contrast with Marlowe's mixed obits, e.g., H68-74)

X7 Is it pure coincidence that Marlowe "died" a few days after arrest for a capital crime?

X8 Why (§Q2) would a real killer stab someone in the head instead of the torso?

X9 Why stab him at all (§Q7), once he's disarmed?

X10 Why does Shakespeare suddenly (§S3) appear out of nowhere in 1593?

X11 *Right after Marlowe's exit.*

X12 And (§S10) as a remarkably mature poet for a beginner?

X13 And why would WS' maturity (upon his 1593 debut) be — *according to the leading Stratfordian* (§S11) — almost exactly the same as Marlowe's?!

X14 Why did the plays end up published under the name of an *actor* (§§G1&K4)?

X15 Why do we find a mutually-confirmatory double-negative blank (§H21; fn 197) where there ought to be (§K11) evidence that Shakespeare was educated?

X16 Conversely, why is there positive evidence (§I3) that Shakespeare was not educated?

X17 Why is his will that of a non-literary person?¹⁹⁷

X18 Why was the style of the plays so Marlovian (§§E17, D16, & J8)?

¹⁹⁶In the context of Stratfordianism's complex, rickety, and downright inventive (§S10) juggling of fact and chronology (vs the uncomplex Marlovian segue), we return to the example (fn 191) of an equally Occamite situation regarding ancient estimates of the radius of the Earth (fn 201), one which is analogous to the Marlovian case's spareness — and is deliciously ironic in light of David Mamet's unthought-out comparison (above: fn 175) of anti-Stratfordians to *flat-earthers*, of all people. Throughout the century 1882-1982, many scholars (Hultsch, E.Lehmann-Haupt, Diller, Fischer, Sagan, etc) argued extensively that the huge 40% disagreement between the two standard Earth-size estimates adopted in antiquity — 252000 stades vs 180000 stades — was an illusion merely due to various ancient scientists' differing definitions of the Greek stade. But others (Bunbury, Dicks, Neugebauer, Engels, Berggren, A.Jones) were never sucked into such desperation. (See parallel Marlovian options at §L26.) And were vindicated when a much simpler explanation appeared: see, e.g., www.dioi.org/vols/we0.pdf (DIO 14 [2008]) ¶1 eq.28. And the radically new theory surfaced just as unexpectedly as the 1955 Marlowe solution's dramatic logical elimination of the many anomalies in the early-20th-century Shakespeare situation. (Bookless will; no educational vita; instant maturity; no reasonable explanation for alternate creator's anonymity; etc.) The new 1982 ancient-geodesy theory was found not through arbitrary, manipulative metrology but rather from long-universally-accepted physics (fn 191), and it simultaneously (and *very* closely: within 1% each) explains *BOTH* precise but highly disparate ancient Earth-radius estimates — and does so without the slightest inventive fiddling with Greeks' standard macro-measure, the long-established regular 185m stade. Again: the theory — like Hoffman's — passes Occam's test: simple, while evaporating multiple anomalies at a stroke.

¹⁹⁷This item & the previous pair together provide an ideal example of skeptics' Occamite advantage here. Similarly to §I1: while the theory that WS was a front simultaneously solves all three evidences

- X19** Why were their allusions to “other” playwrights so exclusively (fn 68) to Marlowe?
- X20** Why was the “WS” *First Folio* published by Marlowe’s literary executor (§S17)?
- X21** If Shakespeare was a beard for a genuinely great playwright, why (§D16) would the true author have to hide?
- X22** Most spectacularly of all, the Marlovian theory chronologically *sews together* (§S1) the careers of Marlowe and “Shakespeare”, with the seam fixable at mid-1593.
- X23** We conclude our Occam section here by asking: what is the value and coherence of Stratfordianism vis-à-vis the foregoing items? Answer: none. As a theory to explain the mysteries cited, Stratfordianism is simply sterile — elucidating not a one.
- X24 Park-Your-Brains-at-the-Door Dullards.** Recall our two requirements (§E42) for spotting the correct candidate:
[a] he wrote plays like Shakespeare’s &
[b] he had strong reasons for vanishing.
Marlowe is not just an ideal fit. He’s the only fit.
- X25** But there are plodding (§E15), it-says-here scholars in all academic fields, who cannot¹⁹⁸ use theory, induction (§Q8), logic, or imagination to move beyond texts, official accounts, or other surface indicia. Given their cults’ common entrance-requirement, *DIO* calls such folk the park-your-brains-at-the-door club.
- X26** If the real world accorded with their dull fundamentalist faith, then all truth would be found in a book (or a coroner’s verdict).
- X27** Scientists have enriched knowledge by instead (fn 191) seeking, sifting, and testing theories, *no matter how things appear to be, on the surface* (§C10), thus eventually stumbling upon such anti-intuitive discoveries as, e.g., light-waves, the 1st Law of Isaac Newton,¹⁹⁹ Relativity, round Earth (fn 72&201), geomobility, stars not on-fire but nuclear. (Note that Marlowe’s *Hamlet* 2.2 misled Ophelia on the last two!)
- X28** The discoverer keeps searching open-mindedly until finding the key (§X1) that fits-unlocks the available data.
- X29** Further, valid mystery-solving theories often fruitfully (§E35) explain further mysteries. That is what every scientific pioneer has known — Aristachos, Kepler, Boyle,²⁰⁰ Faraday, Darwin, Planck, etc. The embarrassing contrast to soft academe tells us plainly why science has moved ahead so fast and so far, vs certain other academic fields.
- X30** But one needn’t be a scholar to accomplish such solutions: police detectives approach mysteries similarly (and do so far more often than we academics), dealing with cases where contradictions in what appears on the surface require inducing coherent²⁰¹

(zero education-record, small Latin, & non-lit will), Stratfordians require *three separately designed* excuses to try explaining-away their evidential embarrassments, each alibi independently odd enough even in isolation, but laughably improbable in-combine.

¹⁹⁸ By contrast, theorist, energetic trail-chaser, & Marlowe-death-believer C.Nicholl concludes his 1992 book (N344) by scorning the Marlovian theory of fake death, calling it “no kind of trail at all.” Not only false (as Peter Farey, David More, & Ros Barber have shown), but a classic case of unrealistically wishing for such explicit missing-link documents that such would certainly (fn 91) have doomed Marlowe&co had they leaked. Domitianus, last of the Caesars, complained that nobody was going to believe in the plots to assassinate him until one succeeded. He ruled by terror for 15 years before his dream of cred was gorily realized.

¹⁹⁹ Newton executed counterfeiters, so (§M9): lucky that geniuses Marlowe & he were era-separated.

²⁰⁰ Robert Boyle & (elliptically) Isaac Newton discovered gravity’s inverse-square law by comparing terrestrial gravitational acceleration upon nearby objects vs that upon our Moon — a theory which turned out to be astonishingly seminal (fn 194), when it was then found that this originally narrowly-based law also accounted for ALL the planets as well, thereby explaining Kepler’s 3 Laws; thus, a plenitude of knowledge (and eons of celestial motions) issued from *one* tiny but potent gravitation law.

²⁰¹ For another geographical analogy, we return to the above-cited (§X27) issue of the Earth’s shape. The Earth LOOKS flat, doesn’t it? It took doubt, experiment, synthesis of scattered clues, and *going beyond superficial indicia* for the ancients to realize that it was nearly a sphere, with a radius of a few thousand miles. This simultaneously explained ships’ vanishing over the horizon, the shape of

solutions from scattered evidence.

X31 To anyone of inductive bent, whether in police work, science, or philosophy of science, Hoffman’s solution to the Shakespeare Mystery is a rare delight (§Q11) in its neatness as well as the *many* clarifications & satisfactions it *simultaneously* produces: all flowing from a *single* simple and plausible theory (just as all from *Dido to Tempest* flowed from a single genius), said theory being that Christopher Marlowe — strange as it may seem to cemental Strats — had chosen to escape and thereby decline²⁰² otherwise certain torture and execution. (A seemingly natural but novel speculation: was Bible-expert & atheist²⁰³ Christopher Marlowe one of those who helped create the lofty King James Version of the Christian Bible? — which states it was “set forth in 1611”, the year generally thought to be that of the premiere of WS’ final play, *The Tempest*. Has it been previously emphasized that *both* of the books most likely to be found in pre-3rd-millennium English-speaking homes, the Bible & “Shakespeare”, were completed the same year, 1611?)

X32 Stratfordian Nightmare. Fruitful simplicity (§X3) is why no amount of suppression & derision can dampen Marlovianism’s appeal to the brightest scholars, e.g., Colin Wilson (who 1st brought Hoffman to our attention: W144f, 344f). As noted at §F14:

It’s a communal crime that Hoffman didn’t live to see academe freely debate his discovery.

X33 But its ultimate triumph is inevitable among independent informed scholars (if not the general public or academe’s litwit-PhD-chain echo-chamber). Perhaps even imminent: it will only require one popular adventure film (preferably starting [§N2] with the Babington plot, Mary’s shortening, & the Armada) based on the Marlovian theory, to crack Stratfordianism’s longtime lock on the forums²⁰⁴ that determine consensus. And some eminent Stratfordians know it (§H14).

X34 Marlowe’s Afterlife: Continuing in a World of Alias. Before we plunge into *DIO*’s (largely superfluous) speculations on Marlowe’s fate, an update-note-commendation is in order. Don’t miss Ros Barber’s inevitably speculative attempts to reconstruct pieces of Marlowe’s post-1593 life: 2012’s *The Marlowe Papers*.

X35 Any reader reluctant to accept that Marlowe went incognito after 1593, must consider that name-shiftiness (§R4) is standard stuff for spies. Which brings us to the obvious answer to the mystery of Marlowe’s later life: he naturally went right on being undercover — escaping the Star Chamber by simply taking on at least one more alias (or possibly an earlier-established one), in a career that was perhaps packed with them.

X36 Yet the only Marlowe false name that survives had nothing to do with political espionage. That immortal alias was, of course: “William Shakespeare”.

X37 It is long past time for public forums to face the cohesive power of the Marlovian case — and to recognize and credit at last the unique genius (§V5) who really created and

the Earth’s shadow during lunar eclipses, the 24^h/day non-visibility of southern-horizon stars after one traveled far enough north, etc — long before space-craft ultra-verified the truth.

²⁰² Several observers have added another consideration: Marlowe’s anonymity was only partial; unlike Oxford or Bacon, he already (§J8) had to his public credit a considerable corpus of the most popular (§L33) plays of the pre-1593 period, so his dramatic immortality was assured, regardless. Possibly this relates to the interesting if secondary (§I17) question of why he never claimed authorship of his post-1593 productions, though the (likely very few) involved parties’ silence may have more to do with standard spy-ring group-protective discretion in a world in which dissenters’ heads ended up spiked on London Bridge. (Thos. Walsingham and Frizer lived past the *First Folio*.) *Did Marlowe follow the example of Copernicus in deputing a Horatio* (§A2) *to bring out the long-suppressed truth after his own death?* If so, the appointed party may have (unlike Copernicus’ brave disciples) felt that he was no more willing to risk his “felicity” (*idem*) or life for this particular truth than Marlowe had been.

²⁰³ No more ironic than the creation of VatCity as a nation, by atheist Mussolini (1929 Lateran Pacts). Or the music world’s in-joke that nearly all the grand Christian masses&requiems are by composers not conventionally (at least!) Christian: Beethoven, Berlioz, Verdi, Brahms, Janáček, Vaughan Williams.

²⁰⁴ Another project that would help make known the Marlowe view would be the issuance of an edition of the plays of Marlowe and “WS” running — the other after The One — in a single huge, rice-paper volume, entitled simply: “The Complete Plays of Christopher Marlowe”.

left us the treasure of the CM-WS plays.

Publication of the entire Marlowe&WS theatre corpus together (fn 204) as *The Complete Plays of Christopher Marlowe* may ultimately usher-in realization that all these dramas were the creation of a single mind. And one hopes that celebrations of the anniversaries of Marlowe's birth and of the Westminster Abbey memorial window's dedication, will be occasions for leading newspapers to FINALLY do their duty to that public enlightenment they claim is their mission, by bearing the excruciating expense of devoting *a few dozen lines of type* to disseminating the bare facts (§A1), which readers may then consider, as to whether they establish the likelihood of Marlowe's authorship.

X38 Out-of-Body Pioneer. The foregoing is largely detective-analysis. But there is also a human aspect that asks for deeper consideration.

To escape being hounded for the rest of his life (§§N5&N8), Marlowe resorted to a fake of extreme ugliness: stabbing a friend from-behind, being then bested in combat, and thus dying in a common brawl. Perhaps the Deptford scenario was selected partly because it was so humiliating that it seemed implausible that anyone would even tolerate (much less connive-in) so disgracing (fn 26) his legacy and name. The public²⁰⁵ didn't realize that "Marlowe" was henceforth merely his *former* name. Did Marlowe's writings ever hint at the truth? Hoffman believed so, remarking (H148-149) that of all the ordmag 1000 characters in the "William Shakespeare" plays, only one is named just "William": an *uneducated hick* who, in a disconnected passage in *As You Like It* 5.1 is jibed-at by a character called "Touchstone" (i.e., the genuine article)²⁰⁶ as follows [translating Latin *ipse* as I-myself], appearing to describe the very passing of mss from creator to unlearned front (and implying that such ghosting was an open secret among fellow writers): "Art thou learned? [No, sir.] Then learn this of me: to have, is to have; for it is a figure in rhetoric that drink being poured out of a cup into a glass, by filling the one doth empty the other; for all²⁰⁷ your writers do consent that [I myself] is he: now, you are not [I myself], for I am he."

X39 Following 1593/5/30, Marlowe had to *become* Shakespeare. No one could write such glorious, dramatic word-music absent pride of creation. With his own name and person widely pilloried (§M6), compensation came anew with pride felt privately in plays now bearing the name of his new persona ("What's in a name?" *Romeo & Juliet* 2.2), plus the joy of gaining praise²⁰⁸ for his pioneering creations.

X40 The transference thus effected would pioneer in yet another fashion: the most extreme of its type, ever, for an artistic creator — the nearest a poet could approach in-reality to living the myth of out-of-body experience.

It would be presumptive here to attempt fleshing out the precise way Marlowe adjusted-to his strange fate. (Hopefully, his dramatic heirs will make attempts on the screen.)

But the reader may on his own ponder Marlowe→Shakespeare's situation: gratefully appreciating his determination to go on conjuring-up and crafting dramas which are universal by their creator's out-of-body empathy with humanity. And, through one's own mind-travel, imagine being in his externally lifetime-damned but internally and eternally exalted place.

²⁰⁵ In fairness to Elizabethan observers: note (§E7) that the 1593 public had no access to the arrest warrant or coroner's report. At www.dioi.org/hay.htm#nwyt, see a similar situation for contemporaries' gauging of the 1861 I.I.Hayes polar hoax.

²⁰⁶ Touchstone is better known (to those examining the authorship controversy) for the line: "it strikes a man more dead than a great reckoning in a little room" which is generally understood [N72] to be a reference to the alleged end of Marlowe: from an argument over a reckoning (bill) in a room at Deptford. The same play repeats (3.5) Marlowe's most famous attributed poetic line (§A2): "Who ever loved, that loved not at first sight?" (See Stratfordians' take on this at N73.)

²⁰⁷ This can be grist for those who think the literary community knew Shakespeare was no writer. Likewise, the modern ghostings cited earlier (§§T26&T27) were all in-circle-known but seldom publicly leaked even though many didn't involve danger to anyone (as the Marlowe & HUAC cases did).

²⁰⁸ Possibly such factors contributed to the decision c.1600 (§H20) to start putting Shakespeare's name on quartos.

Y Bibliography & Reference-Key

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 F = P.Farey *Marlowe's Sudden & Fearful End* www2.prestel.co.uk/reysudden.htm 2011.
 G = Graham Phillips & Martin Keatman *Shakespeare Conspiracy*²¹³ 1994.
 H = Calvin Hoffman *Murder of the Man Who Was 'Shakespeare'* 1955 NYC.
 M = Mark Anderson 'Shakespeare' by Another Name 2005 NYC.
 N = Charles Nicholl *The Reckoning: the Murder of Christopher Marlowe* 1992 London.
 P = Diana Price *Shakespeare's Unorthodox Biography* 2001 London. (Recently reissued.)
 Q = Rosalind Barber *The Marlowe Papers* 2012 NYC.
 S = James Shapiro *Contested Will* 2010 NYC.
 T = John Bakeless *The Tragical History of Christopher Marlowe* 1942 Harvard 2vols.
 W = Colin Wilson *History of Murder* 2000 NYC.
 Z = Wilbur Ziegler *It Was Marlowe . . .* 1895.

[A note in the text such as "P218" refers the reader to Price p.218.]

Z Appendix: Two-Faced Planet, Religious Cults, & the Walsinghams

Z1 Most of *DIO*'s boardmembers are experienced (www.dioi.org/hoa.htm#jptm) in evaluating cases of suspected fraud. Its founder D.Rawlins (DR) has published detailed academic-journal scholarly investigations of more historical science hoaxes than anyone (www.dioi.org/hoa.htm#dchb). Mention of this fact is merely informational, not in any way an argument-from-authority.²¹⁴ But the cited superlative permits reference to another: of all the hoaxes *DIO* has searched into, Shakespeare is the most²¹⁵ transparent (§G8).

Z2 Reborn Venus. The disappearance of Marlowe followed immediately by the appearance of "Shakespeare" is (as we hopefully noticed earlier: §C8) about as subtle as the regular synodically repeated phenomenon of the disappearance of morning star Eosphoros followed a few weeks²¹⁶ later by the appearance of the evening star Hesperos — merely two apparitions of the same planet, Venus.

Z3 To repeat: unadvanced²¹⁷ cultures didn't catch-on to the identity. Or: their priests never let-on (§§C8&L12). This, despite the blatant clues that each of the two planet-deities was similarly bright — each (§U11 item [4]) way brighter than any other planet — and

²⁰⁹ At <http://www2.prestel.co.uk/reysudden.htm>.

²¹⁰ At <http://books.google.com/books?id=5VLvQVRk6j8C&dq=marlow+shakespeare+connection>.

²¹¹ A useful but orthodox-Strat book which ironically was what triggered Diana Price's suspicion of Stratfordianism: see Pxiii-xiv.

²¹² The *DIO* Collection possesses an original rice-paper set.

²¹³ A Stratfordian work, despite the title.

²¹⁴ *DIO* obviously has no "authority" whatever in literature, and DR makes no pretense to infallibility elsewhere; though, by good fortune, despite (extremely infrequent) temporary slips on details (see intensely self-critical www.dioi.org/err.htm) — none at all since founding professionally-refereed *DIO* in 1991 — he has for decades been routinely vindicated (www.dioi.org/vin.htm) on dozens of his discoveries; and *DIO* has never taken the wrong side of a scholarly controversy.

²¹⁵ Though perhaps in a tie with F.Cook's exploration claims: www.dioi.org/vols/w73.pdf (*DIO* 7.2-3 [1997], noted at *N.Y.Times* 1998/11/26 p.1); & www.dioi.org/vols/w93.pdf (*DIO* 9.2-3 [1999]).

²¹⁶ In 2012 June occurred the last "transit" — in which Venus crosses not slightly north or south but visibly (www.dioi.org/cot.htm#pwbf) right across the Sun's face — until the 22nd century.

²¹⁷ Doubtless Stratfordianism's swift genii will call our anthropological tale Elistit (§T8).

Who can doubt the empathy's genuineness?

shone with VERY nearly the same dazzling blanc hue. And, whenever one was shedding its beautiful light upon the world, the other never was (§R7).

Z4 Note Well: Unaware of atmospheric extinction's diurnal variability, ancient goo-roo equivalents of Stratfordian alibi-flexibility might have noticed that, near the horizon, Eosphoros was less red than Hesperos, and *might've used that TINY difference to reject the HUGE equivalences*. See above at §U10.

Z5 **Advice on Appropriately Approaching a Religious Mystery.** In *BardBeard*, we are concentrating primarily upon induction based on solid facts and simple reason, rather than groping through the fog (fn 163) of literary analysis. (Though [§J11] we do not ignore the latter — indeed adding 2 surprise finds from Marlowe's plays: §§O5&P2.) Whether this approach is a debit or advantage in demystifying the Shakespeare "mystery", readers will hopefully decide for themselves. This entails taking Received-Opinion and media-promoted Experts' evaluations only as seriously as they deserve (www.dioi.org/bes.htm#bnmx). From what we have seen above from Strats, that's a definite Not-Very.

Z6 Anyway, resort to experts is no way to avoid personal responsibility for your opinions — *because you are alone responsible for your choice of experts*. So: why not use your own intelligence (instead of a brain-double or mental-backseat-driver) to independently and evidentially choose a theory, instead of choosing which Expert to abjectly surrender your mind to? Stick with such discipline, and you'll eventually arrive at the mental freedom of being your own expert. Good hunting.

Z7 **The Walsinghams.** Francis Walsingham was history's "first spymaster". (Colin Evans *Great Feuds in History* 2001 p.21.) From Joel Levy *Secret History* 2004 (p.92):

Helping to defeat the Armada was to be Francis Walsingham's last great service for his queen [Liz1] . . . but his legacy was priceless . . . [because of] the impact Walsingham's skilful use of subterfuge and secrecy had had on European power politics, and the extent to which his hidden hand had steered the ship of the English state safely though the dangerous shoals of 16th-century religious conflict. By foiling plots against Elizabeth's life and helping to defeat the invasion threats of Spain and France, Walsingham had ensured the Protestant future of England and sown the seeds for her challenge to Spanish domination in Europe and the subsequent emergence of Britain as a global imperial power. Without his shadowy machinations the history of Europe and the world would have developed very differently. The Counter-Reformation might have triumphed throughout Europe and the colonization of the world would have been a largely Franco-Spanish affair. One man had genuinely changed the course of history.

To find that the same family also hugely changed the course of literature should make those who value liberty and culture all the more grateful to the Walsinghams.

The Author: Dennis Rawlins has published research papers on orbital perturbations (*Nature*), Pluto's mass (*Astronomical Journal* [AmerAstrSoc]), stellar tides (*Geophys. J.Roy.Astr.Soc.*), atmospheric refraction (*Vistas in Astronomy*). On astronomical history: Egyptian (*Nature*, with K.Pickering), Babylonian (British Museum), Greek (*Isis* [History of Science Soc]; *Archive for History of Exact Sciences*), Danish (standard critical edition [DIO vol.3] of Tycho's star catalog), French (*Astronomy*), British (*Mon.Not.Roy.Astr.Soc*). On pseudo-sciences: astrology (*Queen's Quarterly*), scientology (*Skeptical Inquirer*), ESP (*Humanist*). Contributed to or instigated (sources at www.dioi.org/sss.htm) exposures of pretensions or hoaxes by Eratosthenes, Hipparchos, Ptolemy, Vespucci, Tycho, J.Adams, E.Kane, I.Hayes, U.Cagni, F.Cook, R.Peary, R.Byrd, *National Geographic*, I.Bowman, W.Levy, C.Lehmann-Haupt, J.E.Weems, Jeane Dixon, M.Mead, R.Burgess, D.Dean, CSI, *Journal for the History of Astronomy*, B.Schaefer, John-Wall, *Sky&Telescope*, *Centaurus*.

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