

# WHY OXFORD WAS SHAKESPEARE

by Paul Streitz

## 1. Oxford Was A Known Playwright

“The best for comedy among us be Edward Earl of Oxford.” — Francis Meres, *Palladis Tamia*, 1598

## 2. Oxford Had Poetry Published Under His Name

“...Gentlemen in Her Majesty’s court, which, in the rare devices of poetry, have been and yet are most skilful; among whom the right honourable Earl of Oxford may challenge to himself the title of the most excellent among the rest.” — William Webbe, *A Discourse of English Poetry*, 1586

## 3. Oxford Was A Known Producer of Theatricals

The Lord Chamberlain’s men presented “*A Midsommer nights dreame. As it hath bene sundry times publickely acted, by the Right honourable, the Lord Chamberlain his Servants Written by William Shakespeare.*” Oxford was the Lord Great Chamberlain of England.

## 4. Oxford Presented His Works At Court, Later Published As “Shakespeare”

*A historie of Error (Comedy of Errors)*, Hampton Court, Jan. 1, 1577, *A History of the Duke of Millayn and the Marquis of Mantus*, (Two Gentlemen from Verona) Whitehall, Dec. 26, 1579, *The Jew*, *The Bull*, 1579 and *The History of (C)fferrar (Julius Caesar)* at court, Jan. 6, 1583.

## 3. Oxford Had The Education Shown by the Author Shakespeare

Oxford was tutored by Sir Thomas Smith, attorney general. He received an MA from both Cambridge and Oxford. He studied law at Grey’s Inn. He knew Latin, Greek, Italian and French.

## 4. Oxford Stated His Purpose of Shakespeare

In an introduction, a book by Bartholomew Clerke, Oxford writes “he (Clerke) has been able to lay down principles for guidance of the very Monarch himself.” By this Oxford means that art, poetry, writing is for the instruction of the realm and the society.

## 5. Oxford Travelled To Italy

Professor Ernesto Grillo, of the University of Glasgow, wrote that Shakespeare must have travelled to Italy for his detailed knowledge of the cities and countryside. Shakespeare makes no mistakes such as traveling by boat between land-locked cities. At the time canals connected Italian cities.

## 6. Oxford Had A Reason to Use Pen Names

As was the aristocratic fashion, Oxford used several pen names including Ignoto, Arthur Golding, the Greene Night, Martin Mar-Prelate and William Shakespeare. The Elizabethan world knew who was behind the multitude of poems, essays and novels.

## 7. Oxford Was A Lawyer Who Attended Grey’s Inn

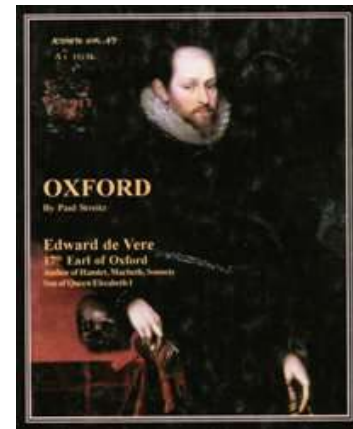
“If I had under my superintendence a controversy appointed to decide whether Shakespeare wrote Shakespeare or not, I believe I would place before the debaters only the one question, WAS SHAKESPEARE EVER A PRACTICING LAWYER? and leave everything else out.” Mark Twain

## 8. Oxford Had The Aristocratic, Royal Outlook of Shakespeare

Shakespeare does not write sympathetically about the common people in his plays. Common men and women are often portrayed as foils, buffoons or comedic characters. He was a prince, interested in writing about the lives of kings.

## 9. Hamlet is Oxford’s Autobiography

Hamlet is the prince prevented from the throne by Queen Gertrude. (Oxford was kept from the throne by Elizabeth.) Hamlet’s father is murdered by his brother. (Oxford’s father, Thomas Seymour, was executed by his brother, Edward Seymour.) Hamlet is married to the daughter of the Queen’s chief advisor. (Oxford was married to the daughter of William Cecil.) Hamlet is captured by pirates. (Oxford was captured by pirates on his return from Italy.)



**Paul Streitz** is the author of *Oxford: Son of Queen Elizabeth I*. The book states that Edward de Vere, 17<sup>th</sup> Earl of Oxford was the man behind the pen name, William Shakespeare, and further, that he was the son of Queen Elizabeth I and her stepfather, Thomas Seymour.