

The Amazing Bacon

The Mysteries of Sir Francis Bacon and His Connection to Oak Island

AFTER HALF A MILLENNIUM, WILL FRANCIS BACON at last receive due credit for his authorship of the Shakespeare masterpieces? And did he hide his treasures of civilization on an island in Canada, leaving a trail of clues encrypted in the Shakespearean works? We may be on the verge of answering the second question.



Sir Francis Bacon, circa 1620.

By John Tiffany

Sir Francis Bacon was a remarkable man—some would say the most remarkable man ever. He was a philosopher, scientist, statesman, polymathic genius and father of the English language as we now know it. A politician and courtier, he was a member of Parliament. He also served as attorney general and as lord chancellor of England. He was also a futurist and a master cryptologist.

Although a friend of the crown, he opposed dictatorial powers and feudalism, being known as a reformer and simplifier of the law. He despised the time he was living in and expected mankind would progress morally as well as technologically over the ensuing centuries.

His pioneering work in developing the scientific method contributed to the industrial revolution and a huge increase in the average man's standard of living. Bacon was a liberal—a word that at that time meant something very different, almost the opposite, from what it means today. It meant he was for freedom, and against religious bigotry.

This, of course, was an era in which there was extreme hatred between most Catholics and most Protestants. Bacon was above all that.

Born in London (January 22, 1561; he died in 1626), the evidence is strong that he was the son of Queen Eliz-



In 1909, future U.S. president Franklin Roosevelt became obsessed with the Oak Island mystery and joined a group of treasure hunters headed for the little island. Called the Old Gold Salvage and Wrecking Company, it was headed by Capt. Henry L. Bowdoin. The group is seen here. Roosevelt is the third figure from the right.

abeth, who was known as “Good Queen Bess,” at least among the Protestants, and “the virgin queen,” as she was supposedly married to the idea of England and not involved with any man as lover. Obviously the birth of Prince Francis, legitimately the heir to the throne, was top secret. The real father of Sir Francis is speculated to be the queen’s clandestine lover, Robert Dudley, but to keep the matter sub rosa, Francis was passed off as the son of Sir Nicholas Bacon and his wife.

But this secret, whopper that it was, was not the only gigantic secret in the life of Francis. In fact, he was an enigma, swathed in secrets. Another enormous one was his authorship of a vast corpus—or vast corpi—of writings besides those that openly bore his name. He is credited

with being the true author of the great Spanish novel *Don Quixote*, the plays and poems of the mysterious “Shakespeare” and other great works.

The Stratford man, William Shaksper (as he spelled it), had little education and was barely able to make his “mark”—i.e., sign his name. Francis Bacon had what it took to write the plays, sonnets and other Shakespearean writings.

Bacon lived in a time when America had just recently been discovered, and it was still a land of wide-open opportunities. Bacon was the genius behind the English settlement of North America and thus can be considered a founding father of the United States and Canada.

He was specifically, after 1610, involved in the set-

“The job of the artist is always to deepen the mystery.” —SIR FRANCIS BACON

tlement of Newfoundland and the Virginia Company settlements, which by the charters of 1609 and 1620 included the entire East Coast from New England to South Carolina and westward at least as far as Wisconsin.

He called America the New Atlantis, and envisioned developing it as a utopia. He has been recognized as “the guiding spirit in the colonization scheme.”

According to *Atlantis Rising* magazine:

There was a great deal of secrecy in the settling of the colonies. The American “New Atlantis” was chosen to allow people to grow intellectually [without] fear of state and church repression. It would also serve as the repository of knowledge of those secret societies that grew around Bacon. [In this era, when Galileo was persecuted for his science], there was much that Bacon and his circle kept secret. The original texts of the plays attributed to Shakespeare might have been just a small part of a secret Masonic/Rosicrucian library. (See more at <http://atlantisrisingmagazine.com/article/bacon-shakespeare-the-spear-of-athena/>.)

Unfortunately, for all his genius, Bacon was unable to foresee how European Masonry would be infiltrated by outside forces and his vision of utopia corrupted.

ORDER OF THE HELMET

Bacon not only was a writer but also had his own literary society, the secretive Order of the Helmet—writers and cryptologists—who helped him create his amazing works. It was called the Order of the Helmet because of the Helmet of Invisibility worn by the goddess Athena (Minerva), who was chosen by Bacon as his muse. Very significantly, Athena is also known as “the Shaker of the Spear,” her spear being her weapon against the forces of ignorance.

The fact that Bacon chose to hide behind William Shaksper makes him a kind of invisible man, which is interesting in connection with a helmet of invisibility.

Christopher Marlowe may have been a member of the order, which explains why some of the Shakespeare material resembles the known writings of Marlowe—causing some to jump to the conclusion that Marlowe was the real Shakespeare.

Mark Twain and many other intelligent, sane people maintained that Shaksper—the man from Stratford—could not have written the Shakespeare opus. In fact, Twain wrote a book about it, titled rather oddly, *Is Shakespeare Dead?* (www.pagebypagebooks.com)

It is amazing to this writer that most people today believe the talent-challenged Shaksper wrote the great works of literature that so advanced our English tongue.

There have been many eminent people who have doubted that Shaksper wrote Shakespeare, including Ralph Waldo Emerson, Walt Whitman, Ignatius Donnell-

ly, a couple of justices of the U.S. Supreme Court, and others too numerous to mention here. Charles Dickens said, “The life of Shakespeare is a fine mystery, and I tremble every day lest something should turn up.”

Whoever wrote the Shakespeare works was clearly profound in all the learning of his time. He must have known Latin, Greek, French and Spanish, and probably Italian. He or she was a philosopher, a moralist, a historian, and had a vocabulary of 15,000 words, far more than Milton, who comes in as No. 2 with 8,000. Some 5,000 words were his own coinage. He was expert in medicine and law, and knew biology, being familiar with the life and habits of birds, fishes and other animals.

He understood seamanship and military arts and was familiar with the ways of royal courts in England and other lands, especially Italy.

William Shaksper was born and died at Stratford (1564-1616). He is not known to have done any significant traveling, never going to the mainland of Europe, and never even went to Scotland or Wales.

His father (John), mother and wife were of peasant stock, along with his three brothers and two sisters—all of whom lived obscure lives. John was a butcher and small-time wool merchant. No one in the family could write, unless it was William. The only writing provably by William was his signature, which he signed a half-dozen times, never twice alike.

This was an era when there were no public libraries, no newspapers or magazines, no dictionary, no English literature of which to speak. Shaksper is not known to have ever owned a pen, ink or any paper in his life.

We don’t know if the butcher boy went to school at all, but if so it was at a grammar school where a hornbook was kept chained to a desk—and if he went at all, it was during 1571 to 1577 or 1578. From then on, due to John’s financial difficulties, William was definitely not in school.

So even if he was a genius, and we don’t know if he was, William did not have the schooling and experience necessary to write the works.

When he died he left a will and testament, our source for some of his illegible signatures. (Dr. Samuel Johnson said, “I’d rather have a morning-glory vine than one of Shakespeare’s autographs—it is far prettier and quite as legible.”) Reading the will, there is no mention of a single book, so he apparently did not own any—not even a Bible. No mention of any manuscripts, either.

How, when and where did William study? What were his opportunities to acquire vast learning? He spoke Warwickshire dialect—almost unintelligible to the average Londoner. How could such a bumpkin write *Love’s Labour’s Lost* in 1589—one of the finest works in the English language, telling of kings, lords and ladies, ambassadors, full of Latin and French, bristling with classical allusions and learned dissertations on philosophy, and quo-

tations from Horace, Ovid and Virgil? It is impossible, preposterous. You might as well believe in flying purple people-eating elephants.

Yet the establishment, the Stratfordian snobs, regard any whisper of doubt about their butcher-boy bard as heresy, and would burn “Shakespeare truthers” at the stake if it were in their power. They won’t even admit that there is a question about it. Probably they would accuse Shakespeare Revisionists of wearing aluminum foil hats.

CREDIT DUE

If Bacon did write Shakespeare, isn’t it time, after some 500 years, that he was given due credit for the accomplishment?

If Shaksper, as is evident, did not write Shakespeare, who did? About a hundred candidates other than Francis Bacon have been put forward, with very little evidence. Among them, some of the more interesting arguments are made for Edward de Vere (the earl of Oxford) and the countess of Pembroke (Mary Sidney), as well as Christopher Marlowe (suspected of faking his death).

On the other hand, some people believe Bacon actually wrote the works of “Marlowe.”

Bacon’s knowledge of Hermetic, Kabbalistic, Neoplatonic and Rosicrucian teachings is reflected in *New Atlantis* (published under his own name) and in *As You Like It*, *Love’s Labour’s Lost*, *Venus and Adonis* and *The Shakespeare Sonnets* (attributed to Shakespeare).

No man in British history has been so misunderstood and reviled as Bacon. He was falsely accused of corruption. He was one of the sweetest and most gentle of men, soft of disposition, tending to shrink from the harsh conflicts of this world. By nature, he scorned any base, ignoble or unworthy thought.

But what is the evidence Francis Bacon wrote the Shakespeare material? There was only one human living in England at the time who could have been the Shakespeare author—Bacon. He possessed the most exquisitely crafted intellect ever bestowed upon a human being, even his critics admit. (*Essay on Bacon*, Thomas Babington Macaulay, Clarendon Press, Oxford, 1915)

Alexander Pope in 1741 said, “Lord Bacon was the greatest genius that England, or perhaps any country, ever produced.”

We can be sure Bacon used another name for some of his works, from a letter written to him by Tobie Matthew in 1623, which said, “The most prodigious wit, that ever I knew of my nation, and of this side of the sea [an odd phrase to use at that date], is of your lordship’s name, though he be known by another.”

Bacon clearly referred to himself as a “concealed poet.”

Parker Woodward explained Bacon’s motive in writing as Shakespeare:



Fred Nolan’s Stone Cross

By John Tiffany

The carved stone found at the middle of what is called Nolan’s Cross on Oak Island (in enhanced photo shown above) is thought by some investigators to represent the head of a knight Templar, facing and standing guard over the tomb of Sir Francis Bacon. According to one website: “It was no coincidence why Sir Francis Bacon wished to be buried on Oak Island. It was the destination that his Pilgrim Followers looked for when sailing to the New World.” They would sail for the constellation Cygnus (Swan), which they called the Lighted Cross. “If an imaginary line is drawn between the positions of a star to the center of the Earth, the point at which the line touches the Earth’s surface is the terrestrial coordinate. A simple mathematical formula furnishes the equation for calculating the precise latitude and longitude indicated by the pointer star. When the formula was applied to the position of Deneb at the appointed time, with appropriate corrections for the precession of the equinoxes (from 1606) and with a troublesome 7 degree correction for which sanction was eventually found elsewhere in the riddle’s matrix literature, the target proved to be a minuscule speck of land on the south coast of Nova Scotia called Oak Island.” (www.treasurenet.com) ◆

Directly as men were aware that the main purpose of the published plays was not so much to entertain them as to put them to school, the New Method was certain to become a failure. Long and patient trial of the system could alone attain success. To disclose the author was to reveal the schoolmaster, whose work would be resented as an impertinence by those for whom it was most fit. (*Baconiana*, October 1956)

The only actual Shakespeare notebook—a collection of sentences and expressions occurring in the plays and poems—is called the *Promus* (Latin for butler or steward), compiled by Bacon. Enough said.

BACON'S LIFE

A precocious youth, Bacon was admitted to the bar at an early age—due in part to the queen's influence. (In Elizabeth's government there was almost no way for a gentleman to advance short of influence.)

By A.D. 1584, Bacon was seen about London, "in his barrister's robe, though he did not seek cases to argue and seems to have lived secluded in his chambers, refusing visitors peremptorily, reading widely in philosophy as well as in law." (Bowen 50)

He did not want really to be a lawyer, seeing the practice merely as a stepping stone. He said: "I am purposed

not to follow the practice of the law. It drinketh too much time, which I have dedicated to better purpose." (*Ibid.*)

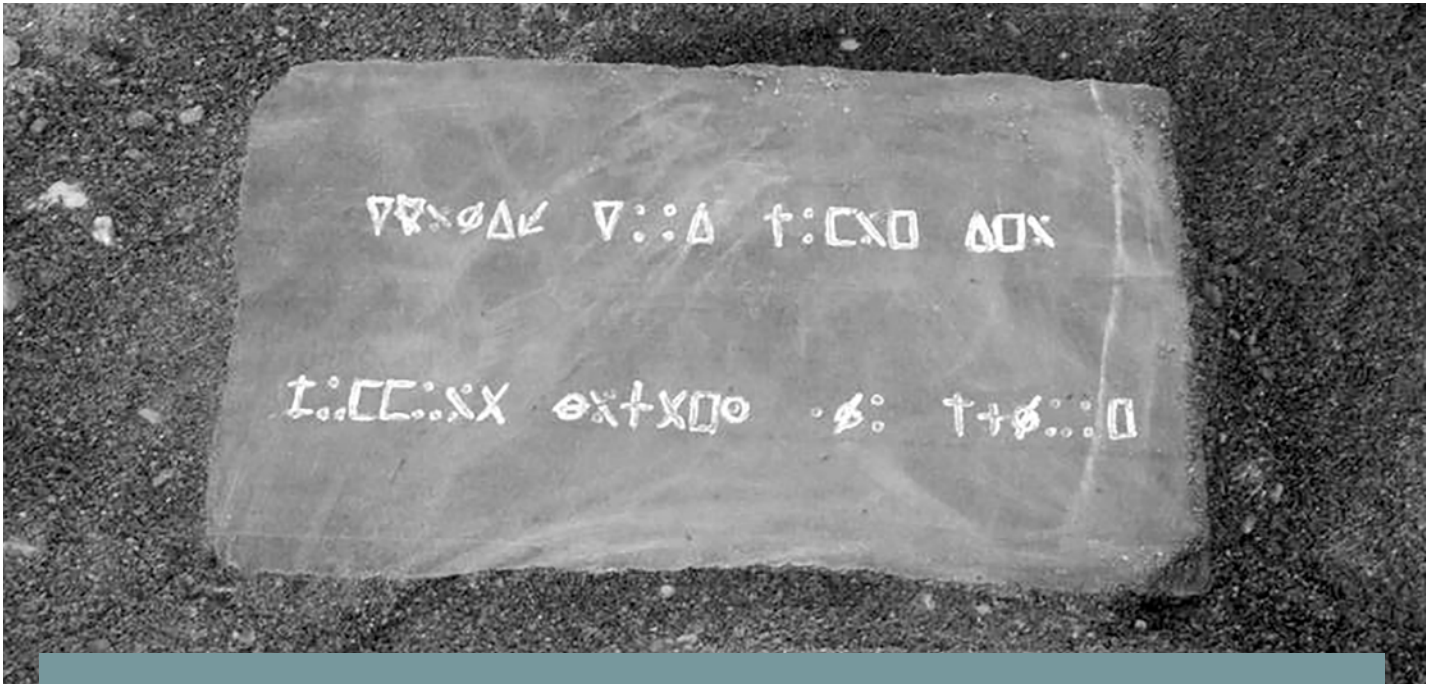
The eminent Elizabethan stage writer Ben Jonson said of Bacon, *inter alia*:

No man ever spoke more neatly, more precisely, more weightily, or suffered less emptiness, less idleness, in what he uttered. No member of his speech but consisted of his own graces. His hearers could not cough, or look aside from him, without loss. He commanded where he spoke, and had his judges angry and pleased at his devotion. No man had their affections more in his power. The fear of every man that heard him was lest he should make an end. (<http://www.sirbacon.org/links/jonson.html>)

TIME NOT BORN WITH GREEKS

Said Bacon, at the age of 24, time was not born with the Greeks and Romans, as the "knowledgeable" world averred. Nor had time stopped with the ending of the Classical Age. It was now, today, that time had its greatest birth. "The limits of man's dominion over the universe could expand now, in this most glorious reign of her majesty, if men would but overthrow those dark idols that infest their minds, keeping out the natural light." (Bowen)

He overthrew Aristotle, substituting inductive for de-



Replica of the "Oak Island flagstone," which bears a mysterious inscription. The stone was allegedly found in the Money Pit and has been deciphered in several different ways. According to the latest translation, by Canadian Keith Ranville, the message refers to another nearby island, Birch Island, which has on its north end the impression of a triangle. Someone went to great lengths to conceal some great treasure on Oak Island—or possibly Birch Island. (www.mythandmystery.com)

Francis Bacon and the King James Bible

By John Tiffany

Sir Francis Bacon, who used William Shaksper as a front man behind whom he hid his authorship of famous plays and poems, evidently wanted future generations to understand his role in overseeing the creation of the King James Authorized Version of the Bible (KJV; 1611). For one thing, it is possible to count four 46's in the psalms, and it can hardly be a coincidence Shaksper turned 46 in 1611. It is a marvel, if not a downright miracle, that if one counts the words, 46 words from the beginning ("God is our hope"), not counting the word "Selah," we find the word "shake." Count 46 words from the end and we come to the word "speare." Between there are 111 words, and $111+46=157$ —a number special to Bacon. By comparison, in the Breeches Bible "shake" is 47 words down and the word "speare" is 44 words from the end. Bacon fine-tuned the translation to make the word count come out his way. There were also 46 translators who worked on the KJV. There are two typefaces used in the original edition of the KJV, Old English and plain. SHAKESPEARE in Simple Cipher has the value of 103. Psalm 46 has 11 verses. Nine of the verses, as printed, begin with Old English letters, those initials being GTGTTCHBT. GTGTTCHBT in Simple Cipher adds up to 103. The light-of-truth website adds that ONE HUNDRED THREE has the Simple Cipher value of 157. The two plain letter initials are TT; and a double T is used in several places in the Shakespeare Sonnets "to mark certain important places and ciphers. Often they appear with the number 11," another of Bacon's favorites. (Remember Psalm 46 has 11 verses.) Did Bacon have divine assistance in getting these things to work out? The accomplishment seems beyond the capability of any mortal, albeit Bacon was the kind of supergenius that only comes along about once in a millennium. ♦

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ductive reasoning. For example, if you want to know how many teeth a horse can have, find a horse or a horse skull and just count them. Previously, Aristotelians had tried to prove by deduction the number of teeth in a healthy horse—an impossible and absurd pursuit. (Bacon, *Novum Organum* ["New Method"], 1620)

Keep in mind that in Baconian times, science was known as "natural philosophy."

It appears possible Bacon somehow knew there would someday be a United States of America. And it seems he became intensely involved with Nova Scotia—in particular, with the mysterious Oak Island in Mahone Bay, alleged home of a fabulous mystery treasure.

(Incidentally, Nova Scotia (which at one time included northern Maine) did not become part of Canada until 1867. A movement for withdrawal from Canada immediately ensued, and a motion passed by the Nova Scotia House of Assembly in 1868, refusing to recognize the legitimacy of the confederation, has never been rescinded.)

Oak Island has been known as a treasure island since 1857 or earlier. No one knows or agrees what treasure is present there, but many are certain there is something buried on the island of great, perhaps incalculable, value, whether it is gold and valuables buried by Capt. Kidd, or Marie Antoinette's jewels, the biblical Ark of the Covenant or something else. Maybe there is no treasure at all, some critics argue.

This is where Sir Francis comes into the Oak Island theories. Penn Leary contends in *The Oak Island Enigma: A History and Inquiry into the Origin of the Money Pit* (1953) that the fabled "Money Pit" on the isle was constructed to store manuscripts—perhaps preserved in mercury—showing Bacon wrote the "William Shakespeare" works. Perhaps the original manuscripts of the plays and poems may be found there at last.

In *The Second Cryptographic Shakespeare*, (1990) Leary returned to the fray, identifying ciphers in Shakespeare's plays and poems pointing to Bacon's authorship, but others have done the same—indeed, there is a Francis Bacon Society devoted to this subject, and dozens of books have been written on it.

It is virtually certain that John Dee, the original "007" (1527-1609), was the grand master of the mysterious secret Rosicrucian Society (which had to be "under the rose," i.e., secret), appropriately enough, because it was devoted to science in a superstitious and anti-scientific world), and Dee, becoming too elderly to carry on, passed the baton to Bacon. Rosicrucians today see Bacon as virtually a demigod. Bacon is also considered the founding father of modern Freemasonry.

It has been speculated that Bacon and the Rosicrucians set up a vault on Oak Island to store impressive ancient manuscripts and valuable cultural artifacts.

Mark Finnan elaborated upon Leary's concepts, and

the ideas were also used in the book *Organisten* (“The Organ Player”) by Norwegians Eriend Loe and Petter Amundsen.

SCANDINAVIA TAKES THE LEAD

Scandinavia has taken an increasing role in all of this, as researchers Amundsen and Daniel Ronnstam have evidently found additional codes hidden in Shakespeare, rock formations on the island and in various art and historical documents from the 16th and 17th centuries. Ronnstam claims the “90-foot stone” (so called because it was found 90 feet down in the Money Pit on Oak Island) is in fact a sophisticated cipher created by Bacon.

Ronnstam, 44, is a Swede and teaches film production and creates electronic music. On October 28, 2016, he announced a discovery resulting from a five-year cryptographic research project in which he worked with the “Shakespeare” sonnets quarto of 1609. Using advanced statistical analysis of alignment structures in the sonnets, he discovered and collected proof of “an intact underground construction related to Oak Island but located on the mainland in Lunenburg County, Nova Scotia.” What items are in it we do not know yet, but conceivably a box containing encrypted documents.

Many books about Oak Island mention Bacon as a man who went to great lengths to conceal something important. (www.mythandmystery.com)

Bacon was fascinated by cryptography. According to the “Oak Island Treasure” website (oakislandtreasure.co.uk), around 1911 a certain Dr. Orville Ward Owen was led by years of studying of some Baconian ciphers to a location under the bed of the Wye River (Afon Gwy in Welsh), in western Britain, where he discovered an underground chamber, like the tombs of the Visigoths, who redirected rivers to bury their dead underneath.

(Similarly, the body of Attila the Hun was safely buried under the Busento River in Italy. There is also a legend that “the real King Lear” was buried under the Soar River in Leicestershire—but the likelihood is that there was no actual King Lear and that his legend is derived from myths about the Keltic sea god Lir. www.thiswasleicestershire.co.uk)

The Owen/Wye chamber was empty but had additional Baconian ciphers carved into its walls.

It is speculated that Bacon had second thoughts, and, concerned lest his treasure, whatever it was, might be too easily discovered, shifted it to a new location, in what is now Canada. King James (of Bible fame) had granted Bacon land in Newfoundland.

Bacon was familiar with a technique of preserving manuscripts in mercury—and it is interesting that flasks of the liquid metal have allegedly been found on Oak Island.

According to author D’Arcy O’Connor:

What was found, according to correspondence between Gilbert Hedden and Burrell Ruth (and later confirmed to me by Hedden and Ruth’s widows, as well as by Amos Nauss, Hedden’s on-site foreman), were thousands of shards of broken pottery flasks in a shallow dump in Joudrey’s Cove (north side of the island) in the summer of 1937.

Some of the broken flasks contained traces of a liquid silver residue which Hedden had analyzed in Halifax, and which was found to be mercury. This was discovered at the time when Hedden had his crew scouring the island for any markers that might tie into the famous Mar Del map. . . . [N]either the mercury nor the flasks were (or could be) carbon dated, as neither is an organic substance. (*The Big Dig: The \$10 Million Search for Oak Island’s Legendary Treasure*, 1988)

Bacon was connected with England’s Shugborough Hall, site of an inscription relating to Arcadian treasure, which is also linked to Rennes-le-Chateau in France and the Knights Templar.

Sir Francis Drake could have informed Bacon about Oak Island, and the Arcadian treasure may have been moved there from France by the Templars. The location would be an ideal place for Bacon to conceal additional items from unworthy persons (motivated by greed), while his ciphers may have been designed to guide worthy individuals to the treasure.

Perhaps someday soon, the tantalizing mystery of Francis Bacon and Oak Island will finally be solved. ♦

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