

THE SHAMING OF THE TRUE

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The theory that Shakespeare was not the author of the works attributed to him dates back to 1769, when one Herbert Lawrence was the first to suggest that Shakespeare had neither the knowledge nor the culture to produce these masterpieces of the English language. It was not until 1857 that Bacon was first propounded as the only writer of that period with sufficient competence to be the "true" author, William Henry Smith being the one who postulated this notion. In 1887, the first of many cryptanalytical investigations into authorship was published. In his The Great Cryptogram, Ignatius Donnelly professed to show that cryptograms in the plays revealed Bacon as the author. The apologists for Bacon who pursue the cryptogram path included in their number a wealthy Illinois textile merchant, George Fabyan, who, in 1915, hired William Friedman (later to become a leading United States cryptologist) to prove the truth of this belief.

The essence of the cryptogram is that it will reveal itself as an anagram of Francis Bacon, either by name or title (Lord Verulam), or some other sobriquet which could only have been inserted into the text by the author. But, why? What possible motive could Bacon (or anyone else for that matter) have for this practice?

I believe that the "real" writer felt he had to be disassociated from those magnificent works. Was the writing beneath his dignity? Was he persona non grata, such as a Catholic in exile? Could it be that writing fiction was morally indefensible when his time could be better spent in (say) Biblical studies? Motive can not be predetermined, nor can one, in a dispassionate search for a cryptogram, begin with a conclusion and then seek confirming evidence: the cryptogram must surface naturally.

Could I find such a cryptogram? To discover it, I gave myself the following criteria:

- (1) The selected text must, on face value alone, suggest a possible reference to the writer
- (2) The text must have wordplay of esoteric significance which would lead one to seek an anagram
- (3) The exact word or phrase must be precisely pinpointed

Quickly scanning the masses of Shakespearean quotes in The Oxford Dictionary of Quotations, the following speech from "The Taming of the Shrew" caught my eye immediately:

*You are call'd plain Kate,
And bonny Kate, and sometimes Kate the curst;*

*But, Kate, the prettiest Kate in Christendom;
 Kate of Kate-Hall, my super-dainty Kate,
 For dainties are all cates; and therefore, Kate,
 Take this of me, Kate of my conscience.*

It met all of my criteria and, moreover, it and the title of the play provided a perfect motive. I found the signature within minutes.

The mere act of writing was not only beneath the author's dignity, it was also morally indefensible. Consider, first, the title. SHREW, in those days, also meant the Devil. The whole play is an allegory of a personal battle of conscience. The shrew, Kate, has to be tamed.

Now to the specific speech. The pun CATE (a dainty) is the obvious piece of wordplay. This is immediately followed by 'and therefore KATE, TAKE.' Anagrams of each other. Now substitute TAKE in its then meaning as magic or witchcraft for each mention of KATE. The speech is truly esoteric. The first line considers the name of the adversary; the last refers to 'me', the victim of the TAKE. Now consider the final line with TAKE having its usual meaning, and we have 'Take this of me, take OF MY CONSCIENCE'.

The anagram must be found in OF MY CONSCIENCE. From this phrase one must first extract FICTION. Again, in those days, fiction had another meaning: deceit. The writer's deceit in creating the anagram, the writer's fiction which he should not have been giving his time to. Is this true? Extract from the remaining letters the word AYE and you have not only AYE as 'yes' but also AY as 'alas' and 'always'. Fiction, alas yes all ways. What remains? SOLOMON.

No Not the Biblical Solomon, but the fictional Solomon. The greatest man in the kingdom, the man known as the British Solomon. The man forever associated with the greatest of all writings in the English language, the Authorized Version of the Bible. The man who, like his illustrious namesake, associated with TAKE (magic). A man with a conscience, a man OF MY CONSCIENCE. James Stuart. King James VI of Scotland (1567-1603) and James I of England (1603-1625). The British monarch who, believe it or not, appointed his bishops upon their ability to produce puns! Shakespeare was born in 1564 and died in 1616.

I am now attempting to discover who really wrote "Mary Had A Little Lamb".