

## WHO WROTE SHAKESPEARE? THE PREPONDERANCE OF EVIDENCE

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*A summation rather than a legal brief, this Article argues that the evidence is woefully inadequate for William Shakspere (the Stratford spelling) as the poet-dramatist and that at the very least the preponderance of evidence supports the Earl of Oxford as the author of the works published under the pseudonym William Shakespeare. Unlike that of Shakspere of Stratford, Oxford's life story fits the profile of someone who would have written the works of Shakespeare, which have an aristocratic point of view. Moreover, his life story is reflected in direct, specific ways in the poems and plays, especially Hamlet, widely considered the most autobiographical of the plays.*

*Many lawyers and judges, including four Justices of the Supreme Court of the United States, have been impressed by the references to the law, which reflect a subtle, ingrained knowledge of the law, found throughout the Shakespeare poems and plays. A leading example is The Merchant of Venice, which contains numerous references to Venetian law and to the topography of Venice. Oxford lived in Venice for more than a month. Oxford read law at Gray's Inn law school and served on panels of jurists trying treason cases. For many who have studied the authorship issue, the evidence is clear and convincing that Oxford wrote the works of Shakespeare.*

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