

SHAKESPEARE — A FREEMASON?

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The writer hereof believes that Sir Francis Bacon and not Shakespeare was a Freemason. Bacon is pointed out as the one who actually wrote the Plays. This is found among the subjects recited in a pamphlet entitled the "HIDDEN ARCHIVE", published by the Rosicrucian Order of AMORC of the North and South American jurisdiction at San Jose, California, USA, of which he is also a member, reading as follows:

"It has been brought to light that Lord Francis Bacon, Viscount Verulam, was the son of Queen Elizabeth by a secret marriage. Nicholas Bacon raised the child. Francis Bacon was defrauded a large sum of money when Nicholas Bacon died. Later, when Queen Elizabeth acknowledged him as her son, she helped him to better his position. But Bacon wrote plays and allowed an illiterate actor, a man who could not even write, to sell the plays for him. The actor's name was Shakespeare.

"Bacon's book, **ADVANCEMENT OF LEARNING**, contains the main cypher that explains these circumstances through messages concealed in the Shakespeare plays and sonnets. Bacon used two other cyphers, the "Kaye Cypher" and the "Simple Cypher". The "Simple Cypher" was used when he told of his connections with the Rosicrucians; the "Kaye Cypher" when he told of intimate personal affairs.

"The so-called portrait of Shakespeare attached to the Sonnets in 1640 can be shown to be a mask shadowing the features of Francis Bacon. The plays of Shakespeare are watermarked with Bacon's crest and the border designs show figures and symbols proving Bacon's authorship. There is other evidence in Westminster Abbey, such as the scroll on a monument, the designs on Shakespeare's statue there. Numerous other facts of this nature have been discovered by research and excavation. But the best proofs are contained in the secret sonnets ascribed to Shakespeare. Without any cyphers, but just by close study, the autobiography of the Bacon-Shakespeare personage can be traced in them."

If Bacon was the one who wrote the plays, it is believed that he

was not only a famous Rosicrucian but also a famous Mason. This can be traced from the extract taken from the Constitutions of the Ancient and Honorable Fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons, published by the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts on June 25, 1798, and republished in the Builder, a Masonic magazine, in its issue of June, 1917, p. 181, which reads in part as follows:

"St. Alban loved Masons well, and cherished them much, and made their pay right good; for he gave them ii s. per weeke and iii d. to their cheer; whereas, before that time, in all the land a Mason had but a penny a day, and his meat, until St. Alban mended itt. And he got them a charter from the king and his counsell for to hold a general counsell, and gave it to name Assemblie. Thereat he was himselfe and did helpe to make Masons, and gave them good charges."

St. Alban was the title given to Bacon when he became Viscount of England besides Lord Veluram. This can be seen in a modern symbolical drawing made by the Rosicrucian Emperor of AMORC in the Rosicrucian Manual with the title of "St. Alban" alluded to Sir Francis Bacon who is also mentioned by Edward Waite, an English Masonic scholar and mystic, like Ashmole in his lecture entitled "Some Masonic Aspects of Masonic Symbolism" and also published by the "Builder" in its issues for April, May, and June, 1916 citing Bacon as an authority in defining the mystical interpretation of the three symbolic degrees of Freemasonry.

Therefore, the disputed subject of who wrote the Shakespeare's plays is now definitely pointed to Bacon who should be given credit therefor. Although Masonry and the Rosicrucian Order of AMORC are disassociated in form today yet they are tied together in their aims and purposes that no object can be passed between them. It is firmly believed that more revelations will be given in the future by the higher hierarchy of the Order from their arcane records.

FREEDOM OF THOUGHT

Some day, when the cloud of prejudice has been dispelled by the searchlight of Truth, the world will honor Masonry for its heroic service to freedom of thought and of faith. No part of its mainstay has been more noble, no principles of its teaching have been more precious than its age-long and unwavering demand for the right and duty of every soul to seek that light by which no man was ever injured, and that truth which makes him free.

— Joseph Fort Newton