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Charlotte Carmichael Stopes  
Frontmatter  
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Charlotte Carmichael Stopes (1840–29) is best known as the mother of birth control advocate Marie Stopes. Like her daughter, Stopes forged the way for women seeking academic careers: she was the first woman in Scotland to graduate from university, and was later elected a fellow of the Royal Society of Literature. In this monograph Stopes resolves to settle once and for all whether or not Francis Bacon wrote the plays attributed to William Shakespeare, concluding that the Baconian theory is wholly without foundation. Over nearly 300 pages of erudite argument, Stopes examines the numerous distinctions between the lives and experiences of the two Renaissance writers, their differing styles of writing, and the evidence provided by Shakespeare's playwright contemporaries themselves. Stopes' book also includes extensive appendices providing background information on Shakespeare, Warwickshire and the early modern theatre in London.

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QUESTION

*ANSWERED.*

BY  
C. STOPES.

*“Non sans droit.”*

**Second Edition, Corrected and Enlarged.**

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## PREFACE TO FIRST EDITION.



THE great Shaksperean scholars have considered it beneath their dignity to answer the assertions of the Baconians. "Silence" may be "golden" in regard to the character of the living, but in defence of the character of the dead, I think that speech is golden when it answers speech; and proof, when it contests proof. Hence I thought it not in vain to put together the main results of the studies I had undertaken on my own account during the past two years. These may help to turn the balance of opinion in some wavering minds, or to aid some warm Shakspereans (that are too busy to go through original work on their own account) to reconsider the subject justly, and "give a reason for the faith that is in them."

C. STOPES.



## PREFACE TO SECOND EDITION.

—♦—

DURING the four months that have elapsed since the publication of my little book comparing Bacon and Shakspere, I have continued my studies at the British Museum and elsewhere, so as to be able somewhat to correct its errors and expand its materials in a second edition. The enormous mass of matter at our disposal makes it impossible to do this either thoroughly or fully. What I have aimed at is, first, to *suggest* the lines of greatest distinction in Life, Character, and Writing, without attempting to exhaust them (except in the one new illustration), so that all may be tempted to read for themselves and “see if these things be so.” All may or ought to be possessors of the works of Shakspere and Bacon, and should be able to read them at home. Second, to put before all, in a concise form, the most important information to be derived from antecedent, contemporary, and later literature, as only those who live near some great treasure-house of books like the British Museum are able to do, by seeing and comparing them together. I have seen the originals of all I quote, except four or five, in which case I quote my authority. Third, to show from these the weaknesses of the Baconian theory.

Some few have thought my work in vain. It certainly has not been so in regard to my own education, at least. In regard to my subjects, I can only say that most men

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*PREFACE TO SECOND EDITION.*

would rather be tried in open court on a clear charge than to have rumours gather around them affecting the multitude. To allow statements to appear unanswered seems, at best, too like accepting the Scotch verdict of "not proven." This argues only weakness in the arguments of the accusers, and not innocence on the part of the accused; the accusation haunts men's minds long after, and may, at any time, be revived. But a clear case, openly tried, arguments fairly sifted on both sides, can result in a unanimous verdict, boldly given, of "not guilty," whereby the accused is freed from all the consequence and reproach of the accusation, and men forget it. If I am trespassing on the sphere of Senior Counsel I regret it; but I trust my action will not prejudice the case. I have done the best I could under the circumstances. My desire is that the motto Shakspeare chose to bear through life, his works should also bear as his—

*"Non sans droit."*

CHARLOTTE CARMICHAEL STOPES.

KENWYN, NORWOOD, LONDON,  
*December 1888.*

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### SOME INTRODUCTORY DATES.



- 1558-1603. Elizabeth's Reign.
1575. The Lord Mayor expelled players from London. They settled outside the liberty.
1576. Theatres built :—  
 1st. The Theatre } outside the liberty.  
 2nd. The Curtain }  
 3rd. Blackfriars, by Burbage, within.  
 A great controversy arose as to morality of plays.
1576. Gosson writes for the stage.
1579. He alters his views, and brings out *The Schoole of Abuse*, censuring plays, &c. ; dedicated to Sir Philip Sydney.
1583. Philip Stubbes, in his *Anatomy of Abuses*, exposed and denounced *Stage Plays and their Evils*.
1586. Sydney died. Shakespeare came to London.
1592. Greene, Chettle, Nash, and Harvey commenced a literary controversy.
1593. The Globe on Bankside built.
1593. *Venus and Adonis* published and dedicated by the author to Lord Southampton.
1594. *Lucrece* published.
1595. Sydney's *Apology for Poetry*, in which he took the opposite view to Stubbes, published.
1595. Clarke's *Polimanteia* gave first printed reference to *Venus and Adonis* and *Lucrece* as Shakespeare's.
1597. Bacon's *Essays* published by the author. Shakespeare's *Richard II.*, *Richard III.*, and *Romeo and Juliet* published by the printers as Shakespeare's.

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- xii *SOME INTRODUCTORY DATES.*
1598. Francis Meres, M.A., a graduate of both Universities, noticed Shakespeare with praise in *Palladis Tamia*.
1599. John Rainolds published his *Overthrow of Stage Plays*.
1601. John Shakespeare died.
- 1601-2 (Jan. 18). *Merry Wives of Windsor*, as originally written, licensed for the press; printed 4to, 1602.
1606. *The Return from Parnassus*, acted about 1602, printed with a highly eulogistic account and flattering estimate of Shakespeare.
1607. Shakespeare's daughter Susanna married Dr. Hall.
1608. Mary Shakespeare died.
1609. Sonnets published.
1610. *Histrion mastix*; or, the Player Whipt.
1612. *Apology for Actors*, by Thomas Heywood, is printed.
1613. Globe Theatre burnt during performance of *Henry VIII*.
1614. Shakespeare, according to contemporary testimony, expressed a strong repugnance to the enclosure of common lands near Stratford.
1614. Great fire at Stratford.
1615. Greene's *Refutation of the "Apology for Actors."*
1616. Shakespeare's daughter Judith married Richard Quiney.
1616. Jonson at Stratford. Shakespeare died.
1616. All Jonson's papers burned, and probably some of Shakespeare's, in London. Fire at Stratford.
1623. Shakespeare's wife, Anne Hathaway, died. Heming and Condell brought out his collected works.
1642. Edict against plays.
1660. Restoration.

*CONTEMPORARY BIOGRAPHICAL DATES.*

- 1536-1608. Thomas Sackville, Lord Buckhurst, and Earl of Dorset (dramatic poet).
- 1552-1596. George Peele (dramatic poet).
- 1552-1618. Sir Walter Raleigh (poet and historian).

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## SOME INTRODUCTORY DATES.

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- 1553-1599. Edmund Spenser (poet).  
 1554-1601. John Lyly (dramatic poet, and author of *Euphues' Anatomy of Wit*, 1569; *Euphues, his England*, 1582).  
 1554-1586. Sir Philip Sidney (soldier, poet, and author of the *Arcadia* and *Sonnets and Apologie for Poetrie*).  
 1554-1628. Fulke Greville, Lord Brooke (philosophic poet).  
 1556-1625. Thomas Lodge (dramatist and prose-writer).  
 1557-1634. George Chapman (dramatic poet, translator).  
 1558-1609. William Warner (author of *Albion's England*, historical poem).  
 1560-1592. Robert Greene (dramatist and pamphleteer).  
 1561-1612. Sir John Harrington: his translation of *Ariosto* published 1591.  
 1561-1626. Francis Bacon, Lord Verulam, Viscount St. Alban (philosopher, historian, &c.).  
 1562-1619. Samuel Daniel (poet).  
 1562-1593. Christopher Marlowe (dramatist and poet).  
 1563-1618. John Davies of Hereford (poet).  
 1563-1631. Michael Drayton (poet, author of *Polyolbion*).  
 1563-1618. Joshua Sylvester (translator of Du Bartas' *Divine Weeks and Works*).  
 1564-1616. William Shakespeare.  
 1567-1600. Thomas Nash (dramatist and pamphleteer).  
 1568-1639. Sir Henry Wotton (essayist and poet).  
 1569-1640. John Webster (dramatic poet).  
 1569-1626. Sir John Davies (philosophic poet).  
 1570-1632. Edward Fairfax: published his version of *Tasso*, 1600.  
 1573-1631. Dr. John Donne (poet and preacher).  
 1574-1626. Richard Barnefield (poet).  
 1574-1637. Ben Jonson (dramatist, poet, and critic).  
 1575-1634. John Marston (dramatist).  
 1576-1625. John Fletcher (dramatist and poet).  
 1586-1615. Francis Beaumont (dramatist and poet).

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*SOME INTRODUCTORY DATES.**CONTEMPORARY MINOR DRAMATISTS.*

Henry Chettle.	Thomas Nabbes.
Thomas Dekker.	William Rowley.
John Day.	Robert Taylor.
Thomas Middleton.	Cyril Tourneur.
William Haughton.	