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Announcing: New Letters of Shakespeare

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Announcing: New Letters of Shakespeare

Abstract

In lieu of an abstract, below is the essay's first paragraph.

"It is with great excitement. we announce the discovery of a part of the correspondence of William Shakespeare, hitherto unpublished. Thus it is our small literary publications play a role in great literary discoveries that shake the world of criticism. These letters actually have been on display in the British Museum for the past two centuries, but as part of Sir William Davenport's Postal Service collection; the reverse side with the postal seal was all the public had seen. Some thanks is due to Bertin Southgate, K. G., whose theft of the collection and its subsequent recovery, led to the full discovery."

Cover Page Footnote

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ANNOUNCING: NEW LETTERS OF SHAKESPEARE

Rev. L. Hetzler, C.S.B.

It is with great excitement we announce the discovery of a part of the correspondence of William Shakespeare, hitherto unpublished. Thus it is our small literary publications play a role in great literary discoveries that shake the world of criticism. These letters actually have been on display in the British Museum for the past two centuries, but as part of Sir William Davenport's Postal Service collection; the reverse side with the postal seal was all the public had seen. Some thanks is due to Bertin Southgate, K. G., whose theft of the collection and its subsequent recovery, led to the full discovery.

Let us hasten to the letters themselves. This rare treasure will be a rich mine indeed for all future Shakespeare scholars, unlocking the secrets of an artist's mind and making null all critical works written hitherto. Without critical comment we print in full the collection, these first letters of Shakespeare, a precious heritage.

Gray's Inn, 1595

Master Timothy Wight, Pub.

Sir:

Reciv'd mss. *Come. of Errors* and bill for 10s. Cannot understand the price. Suggest paper and binding, blue, Holland style, mentioned to you last fortnight. Insist you spell my name right—"Shakespear."

Yours,
Wm. Shackspir

East End Inn, 1595

Dear Guy,

It has been raining for some days now. I have a cold again and feel rather loggy in the head. How is the family? The twins are doing well, but they need new shoes again. Kempe dropped in today—told the old joke about the second best bed again. Hope to see you soon. Anne gives her regards.

Yours,
Will Shekspir

Gaylord Inn, 1596

Jonathan Winthrop, Dr. of Law

Sir:

Re. transcripts purchases of mead, corn and malt, write Thompson Drafters, Stratford-on-Avon. Inquire property South Lane and Warwick—offer 200 pounds.

Yours,
Wille Shekspeere

Woolf's Inn, 1597

Greystoke Publishers

Sir:

Please rush 1 copy of Twenden's *Quickie Master Plots* and 2 copies of Thomas Kyd's *Hamlet: Prince of Denmark*. Note of payment enclosed.

Anxiously,
Wm. Shakesper

Eagle Inn, 1598

Dear Kempe,

Have a cold again and my head feels loggy. Hope the road show of that Denmark thing is going well. When it gets to London, I've been toying with the idea of playing the Ghost. In going over the script, I see now that some 400 lines should be added to the role. And I still think, "To exist or not to exist, that is a matter to question" is better than Burbage's weak line.

Still laughing that no one suspects that old play of mine—you know the one—was passed off as having been written by you know whom.

Saw the Queen yesterday. Perfectly wretched.

Yours,
Wil Shakespeer

Eagle Inn, 1598

Dear Ben,

Saw *Every Man in His Humour* yesterday. Glad to see your writing is improving. This is the old play Chris Marlowe left you, isn't it?

Be sure to come and see my *Love's Labour's Lost* when yours closes.

Wul

Boar's Head Tavern, 1599

Wm. Shukspir, Esq.

Sir:

Your bill is entered:

Lodging	12s.
A capon	2s., 4 d.
And sauce	3d.
Bread	ob.
Laundry, socks	8d.
Sack	36s., 9d.

Graciously,
Mistress Sweetly

Kensington Palace, 1599

Master Clarence Chaykspur

Sir:

As Chamberlain to the Countess of Huntington, an invitation is extended to you to perform at the Palace Spring Revels. The Countess wished me to inform you she is looking forward to seeing you do your bird-call imitations. Or are you the one with the dog act?

With due regards,
Oswald Fitsgibbert, Chamberlain

Ps. The Duke of Norfolk will be in attendance — advise you leave your imitation of him out.

12 Sparrow Lane

Wm. Sheekspar, Esq.

My very dear Sir:

I have long been an admirer of your poems, though I must confess I find your plays rather a bore. If a little fatherly advice would not offend—pray sir, desist from this waste of talents and give yourself to something serious and worthwhile. I am sure a series of Georgics on domestic animals would be a test of your skill and win you some recognition.

But to the point: I prize myself as one who knows your style. Why fool the publick any longer? Those essays of yours should meet with your acknowledgement, and I urge you to stop this ridiculous "Bacon" pseudonym. Truth will out!

Your humble servant,
Iago M. Jones, Esq.

The Globe, 1603

Dear Shake baby,

All doubts of you are over. *Macbeth* is packing them in. Must admit that after that last turkey you wrote, I felt you were through. And when I heard you were working on a Scottish dialect play—But with James come to the throne, your instinct was right again baby.

Urge you strike now while the iron is hot. For a *Son of Macbeth*, can get you Hugh O'Donnel. He's a hot property because of the latest with the Duchess of Hereford. Suggest you fit into the plot a visit from an Indian Prince—we still have costumes left over from Dekker's *Winsome Nymphs of Persia*.

Have to hussle now baby.

Burbage, Mgr.

King's Inn, 1604

Dear Guy,

Have another cold and head feels rather loggy. Judith's young crowd downstairs making a lot of noise. Dinner last night at Sir Adam Foxe's. Served only 3 courses — stuffed venison, roasted hog, and mutton shoulders. Good thing I ate home first.

Saw the Queen yesterday. Perfectly wretched.

Anne sends her regards.

Yours,
Welle Shackspeer