

Chapter 1 : Life of William Shakespeare - Wikipedia

Shakespeare of London is an entertaining read. While much is known about the contours of Shakespeare's life (especially compared his contemporaries), little is known about his motivations, thoughts or feelings.

William Shakespeare [3] was born in Stratford-upon-Avon. His exact date of birth is not known—the baptismal record was dated 26 April —but has been traditionally taken to be 23 April, which is also the Feast Day of Saint George, the patron saint of England. He was the first son and the first surviving child in the family; two earlier children, Joan and Margaret, had died early. They had eight children: Joan baptised 15 September, died in infancy, Margaret bapt. London, 31 December. John Shakespeare owned several properties in Stratford and had a profitable—though illegal—sideline of dealing in wool. He was appointed to several municipal offices and served as an alderman in, culminating in a term as bailiff, the chief magistrate of the town council, in. For reasons unclear to history he fell upon hard times, beginning in, when William was. After four years of non-attendance at council meetings, he was finally replaced as burgess in. It was free to all male children and the evidence indicates that John Shakespeare sent his sons there for a grammar school education, though no attendance records survive. Shakespeare would have been enrolled when he was 7, in. The school day typically ran from 6 a. Grammar schools varied in quality during the Elizabethan era, but the grammar curriculum was standardised by royal decree throughout England, [9] and the school would have provided an intensive education in Latin grammar and literature—as good a formal literary training as had any of his contemporaries". As a part of this education, the students performed Latin plays to better understand rhetoric. By the end of their studies at age 14, grammar school pupils were quite familiar with the great Latin authors, and with Latin drama and rhetoric. The licence, issued by the consistory court of the diocese of Worcester, 21 miles west of Stratford, allowed the two to marry with only one proclamation of the marriage banns in church instead of the customary three successive Sundays. The reason for the special licence appeared six months later with the baptism of their first daughter, Susanna, on 26 May. This seven-year period, known as the "lost years" to Shakespeare scholars, was filled by early biographers with surmises drawn from local traditions, and by more recent biographers with surmises about the onset of his acting career deduced from textual and bibliographic hints and the surviving records of the various playing troupes of the time. Shakespeare mythos[edit] Shakespeare Before Thomas Lucy, a typical Victorian illustration of the poaching anecdote Several hypotheses have been put forth to account for his life during this time, and a number of accounts are given by his earliest biographers. Johnson adds that the story had been told to Alexander Pope by Rowe. Honigmann proposed that Shakespeare acted as a schoolmaster in Lancashire, [19] on the evidence found in the will of a member of the Houghton family, referring to plays and play-clothes and asking his kinsman Thomas Hesketh to take care of "William Shakeshaft, now dwelling with me". How or when Shakespeare got into acting is unknown. Before being allowed to perform for the general public, touring playing companies were required to present their play before the town council to be licensed. Players first acted in Stratford in, the year that John Shakespeare was bailiff. Before Shakespeare turned 20, the Stratford town council had paid for at least 18 performances by at least 12 playing companies. In one playing season alone, that of, five different acting troupes visited Stratford. The works are written within the frame of reference of the career actor, rather than a member of the learned professions or from scholarly book-learning. The application was successfully renewed in, most probably at the instigation of William himself as he was the more prosperous at the time. The motto "Non sanz droict" "Not without right" was attached to the application, but it was not used on any armorial displays that have survived. The theme of social status and restoration runs deep through the plots of many of his plays, and at times Shakespeare seems to mock his own longing. Also by, his name began to appear on the title pages of his plays, presumably as a selling point. Legal documents from, when the case was brought to trial, show that Shakespeare was a tenant of Christopher Mountjoy, a Huguenot tire-maker a maker of ornamental headdresses in the northwest of London in. Shakespeare was enlisted as a go-between, to help negotiate the details of the dowry. Eight years later, Bellott sued his father-in-law for delivering only part of the dowry. During the Bellott v. Mountjoy case, Shakespeare

was called to testify, but said he remembered little of the circumstances. Shakespeare himself seems to have lived in rented accommodation while in London. According to John Aubrey, he travelled to Stratford to stay with his family for a period each year. Speculators were acquiring excess quantities in the hope of profiting from scarcity. This has often been interpreted as evidence that he was listed as a hoarder. According to Mark Eccles, "the schoolmaster, Mr. Aspinall, had eleven quarters, and the vicar, Mr. Lewis, however, suggest that he purchased the malt as an investment, since he later sued a neighbour, Philip Rogers, for an unpaid debt for twenty bushels of malt. In short, he had become an entrepreneur specialising in real estate and agricultural products, an aspect of his identity further enhanced by his investments in local farmland and farm produce. Boehrer suggests he was pursuing an "overall investment strategy aimed at controlling as much as possible of the local grain market", a strategy that was highly successful. The town clerk Thomas Greene, who opposed the enclosure, recorded a conversation with Shakespeare about the issue. Shakespeare said he believed the enclosure would not go through, a prediction that turned out to be correct. The purchase was probably an investment, as Shakespeare was living mainly in Stratford by this time, and the apartment was rented out to one John Robinson. Robinson may be the same man recorded as a labourer in Stratford, in which case it is possible he worked for Shakespeare. In he was called as a witness in the Bellott v. Susanna and her husband Dr John Hall sued for slander. Lane failed to appear and was convicted. From November Shakespeare was in London for several weeks with his son-in-law, Hall. Shakespeare died on 23 April which was also the day of his birth and the feast day of St. George, patron of England , at the reputed age of No extant contemporary source explains how or why he died. After half a century had passed, John Ward , the vicar of Stratford, wrote in his notebook: Of the tributes that started to come from fellow authors, one refers to his relatively early death: His son Hamnet had died in His last surviving descendant was his granddaughter Elizabeth Hall , daughter of Susanna and John Hall. A monument on the wall nearest his grave, probably placed by his family, [44] features a bust showing Shakespeare posed in the act of writing. Each year on his claimed birthday, a new quill pen is placed in the writing hand of the bust. He is believed to have written the epitaph on his tombstone. Blest be the man that spares these stones, And cursed be he that moves my bones.

Chapter 2 : Shakespeare of London Critical Essays - calendrierdelascience.com

Time Out's complete guide to all William Shakespeare plays and productions in London, from the Fringe to the West End, including Shakespeare's Globe.

Some time before , a funerary monument was erected in his memory on the north wall, with a half-effigy of him in the act of writing. Its plaque compares him to Nestor , Socrates , and Virgil. Textual evidence also supports the view that several of the plays were revised by other writers after their original composition. The first recorded works of Shakespeare are Richard III and the three parts of Henry VI , written in the early s during a vogue for historical drama. By William Blake , c. His characters become more complex and tender as he switches deftly between comic and serious scenes, prose and poetry, and achieves the narrative variety of his mature work. Henry Fuseli , â€” According to the critic Frank Kermode, "the play-offers neither its good characters nor its audience any relief from its cruelty". Less bleak than the tragedies, these four plays are graver in tone than the comedies of the s, but they end with reconciliation and the forgiveness of potentially tragic errors. Shakespeare in performance It is not clear for which companies Shakespeare wrote his early plays. The title page of the edition of Titus Andronicus reveals that the play had been acted by three different troupes. In Cymbeline, for example, Jupiter descends "in thunder and lightning, sitting upon an eagle: The ghosts fall on their knees. Copper engraving of Shakespeare by Martin Droeshout. It contained 36 texts, including 18 printed for the first time. In the case of King Lear , however, while most modern editions do conflate them, the folio version is so different from the quarto that the Oxford Shakespeare prints them both, arguing that they cannot be conflated without confusion. He dedicated them to Henry Wriothesley, Earl of Southampton. Critics consider that its fine qualities are marred by leaden effects. Scholars are not certain when each of the sonnets was composed, but evidence suggests that Shakespeare wrote sonnets throughout his career for a private readership. It remains unclear if these figures represent real individuals, or if the authorial "I" who addresses them represents Shakespeare himself, though Wordsworth believed that with the sonnets "Shakespeare unlocked his heart". Thou art more lovely and more temperate It is not known whether this was written by Shakespeare himself or by the publisher, Thomas Thorpe , whose initials appear at the foot of the dedication page; nor is it known who Mr. He wrote them in a stylised language that does not always spring naturally from the needs of the characters or the drama. The grand speeches in Titus Andronicus , in the view of some critics, often hold up the action, for example; and the verse in The Two Gentlemen of Verona has been described as stilted.

Chapter 3 : The Shakespeare, London - Westminster - Restaurant Reviews, Phone Number & Photos - Tri

This is among the insights drawn by independent scholar Marchette Chute in "Shakespeare of London." A great deal of scholarly speculation has shaped our view of Shakespeare, because so little is known about his personal life.

This people, in a sense, was an ignorant people. Those of the highest rank were well and laboriously educated according to the contemporary standard; but the rank and file paid no attention to learning. They neither read, wrote, nor thought. One today is astonished at the ignorance of the then common people concerning public affairs. You find in the former no exposition of principles, no attempt to sift tradition from fact, no sense whatever of the dignity of a thousand page folio in black letter. On the other hand, we read in Holinshed of a terrible storm that killed a dog in Essex, or of a cow that gave birth to a five-legged calf in Kent. Street parades, tiltings, trivial and momentous events alternately, mere gossip, above all, inspired utterances in the form of public proclamations from the crown "this is the sum and substance of Holinshed and Stow" and the people were well satisfied. The matter-of-fact critic of today is too apt to condemn the Elizabethan dramatists for the credulity evinced by their characters. But such criticism is often misplaced. The Elizabethans were credulous people. But the inducements were not considered foolish then. Kingsley, in his charming way, points a little pleasantly at the inconsistency of English inscriptions upon the wondrous horn of ivory that had been picked up in the land of the Incas. Even here, the amusing sarcasm is slightly misplaced. The Elizabethans would not allow themselves to be troubled by such trifles. The golden city of Monoa was as real to them as Paradise or Hell. The chapter, in fact, is almost a literal transcript of a contemporary pamphlet, doubtless produced in perfect faith. There was going on all the time a rapid change in the social scale. The middle class was rising into prominence. It was no longer necessary to be born a peer in order to become a man of wealth and position. The story of Whittington was repeating itself every day; and, what is more to the point, the people were daily growing more and more proud of the fact. As the age of Elizabeth was the golden time of literature, so it was the golden time of superstition. There was one Banks, a hanger-on of the Earl of Essex, who lived in the Old Bailey and who possessed a wonderful horse named Morocco shod with shoes of silver. This horse could dance to music, count, make answer to questions; do a thousand and one other tricks, among which was his reputed ascent of St. London looked upon Banks and his horse as little short of the supernatural; and in later years all London wept at the news from Italy, where both master and horse were burned to death on the charge of sorcery. With this execution the Londoners could heartily sympathize, for they were superstitious to a degree incomprehensible at the present day. None was so ready as Sir Walter Scott himself to acknowledge that the fatal flaw in *The Monastery* was the demand put upon the credulity of an incredulous people by the introduction of the White Lady of Ayenal. Nothing so well illustrates this difference between the time of Shakespeare and our own as a comparison of the failure of *The Monastery* and of the success of *Hamlet*. A serious tragedy based upon a trivial motive is likely to degenerate into out and out farce. Had the audience of Shakespeare believed as we do in regard to superstition, both *Hamlet* and *Macbeth* would have probably missed the public approbation. We should certainly think a logic-loving philosopher or an iron-nerved general tainted in his wits, if he allowed his reason to be swayed by a shadowy apparition, or his intrigues to be governed by a trio of vanishing witches; yet Shakespeare was making use of the most powerful motive at his command. John Stow, the annalist of England and author of the *Survey of London* was, next to Camden, the most famous antiquarian student of the age; yet this man, whose *Survey* is the great store-house of knowledge about Elizabethan London "learned, careful, and methodical" thus interprets the effect of a church struck by lightning: I have seen them oft, and have put a feather or small stick into the holes where the daws had entered three or four inches deep. One of the ringers lived in my youth, whom I have often heard to verify the same to be true. Astrology, or astronomical fortune-telling, was so thoroughly a factor of the age that every one desired the casting of his horoscope. The great Queen herself consulted him upon an occasion, instead of her family physician, in order to charm away the tooth-ache. Again, a waxen image of Elizabeth was picked up in one of the fields near London. Doctor Dee was immediately sent for to counteract by his charms the evil effect of this familiar kind of sorcery. People, one and all, believed in fairies. There is nothing

unreal about the fairies of that delightful comedy except their size. Any one might not only have seen the pleasant fairies, but also the wicked, and might have become blind by the sight, if he did not take care to protect himself by charms. A grown man did not feel foolish in those days if when in the neighbourhood of a lonely and ghost-haunted wood at night he wore his coat inside out. There were innumerable superstitious rites performed at births, christenings, weddings, on certain days of the year, and in certain places; as, the churchyard, the cross-roads, etc. Every hour in the day, every article in the world "stone, plant, or animal" had its cluster of superstitions. The time was further characterised by a general freedom of manners. We often find personal ridicule and abuse, as well as praise, levelled at individuals from the stage. Different companies and rival play-wrights fought out their private battles on the public boards. A play of ancient setting, such as Hamlet, does not scruple to allude to current events of interest to Londoners. The actors talked to people in the pit, who in turn pelted an unpopular player from the stage. There existed, likewise, a coarseness of speech in every-day talk that would be quite intolerable to-day. Queen Elizabeth swore like a trooper, spat at her favourites, or threw her slipper at the head of an obdurate councillor. This book, a kind of tale, owed its great vogue to its quaintness of phrase, its antitheses, and its elaborate conceits. The book sold by wholesale. No one was considered fit to appear in public unless he could talk the fustian fashion of the Euphuists. The book is intolerably dull to most of us, but the perusal of a few pages will repay the curious, as an object-lesson in the rubbish spoken by the cultivated Elizabethan courtier. Part of the Euphuistic training was the art of compliment. This habit was fostered by the vanity of the Queen. Elizabeth, so some of the foreigners who saw her tell us, possessed several undesirable characteristics, among others a hooked nose and black teeth, and there is no doubt that her skin wrinkled as she grew near seventy. Besides the elaborate compliments to the Queen that were frequently introduced into plays and masques, a common custom was to set up a tablet to her honour in the parish church. Here is an example of their inscriptions: Gossip started from the barber-shop and the tavern-table "the Elizabethan equivalent of the afternoon tea" and spread thence in every direction. Space prevents the enumeration of many of the indications of freedom of manner that are to be discovered in every direction. Gossip led to frequent quarrels, that were more hot and bitter because side arms were worn upon all occasions. The fine woman of the time would jostle with the rudest peasants in the pit of the bull-ring and the theatre. Wakes and fairs were of daily occurrence, in which every one joined, irrespective of previous acquaintance. During the yuletide festivities all distinctions of class were considered as temporarily non-existent. Elizabeth showed herself so often and so intimately to the common people that they considered the acquaintance almost personal. So much for the happy-go-lucky spirit that characterised the time. The extent of gaming is lamented by all the contemporary writers who have a leaning towards reform. Dicing, card playing, and racing, though to a less extent than the others, were practised upon every hand; while cheating was but too common. In former times it was considered almost a crime to take interest for money loaned, but by the reign of Elizabeth, this prejudice was so completely overborne that usury was practised by all the money lenders, who did not scruple to turn the screws upon the least occasion. The people were greatly addicted to showy dress, but show in dress was a mere bagatelle. Pageants of all sorts were planned upon the least occasion. Coronations, funerals, and progresses were always got up upon the most spectacular basis. The riding watches, the parades of civic officials in their gaudy robes of state, the Livery Companies upon the river in their brilliant barges, manned by oars-men in full livery, the Queen coming to St. How to cite this article:

Chapter 4 : BBC - iWonder - William Shakespeare: The life and legacy of England's bard

Although Shakespeare is known as the Bard of Avon, and came from Stratford, Shakespeare and London are inextricably linked. In the article we present 21 facts about the late 16th century/early 17th century London that Shakespeare would have known and experienced.

May 16, P. I own and have read all of them. I think my favorite is Shakespeare of London, but Chaucer of England is delightful as well. In many ways they are touchstone books, charming, erudite without the ego and just fun. Chute that I even modestly enjoyed that book. And more to the point, finished it. There are a few niggling annoyances which I notice this time round, but missed the first time. And, obviously, as the book was written more than 60 years ago, some of the theories she expounds are dated or have been superseded by modern scholarship. But this is far less a problem than one might expect. And she brings Elizabethan and Jacobean England to life with vivacity and attention to detail. Reading it, you feel as if you are walking the mean streets of 17th century Southwark. And the way that she alternates between life in London and life in provincial Stratford gives a real sense of how these distant communities were linked by relatively good transport links and how many prominent figures had links with both towns. I defy anybody to read this and still believe it unlikely that a lower-middle class boy from the Midlands could have written the Shakespearean canon. Chute ably demonstrates the social fluidity, good secondary education and accessibility of books which makes the orthodox attribution of the plays entirely unremarkable. My biggest grumble is the lack of references in bibliography in my s edition, at least. Chute tell the story of Shakespeare through the stories of Stratford and London, and his environment. This is not an uncommon approach. The Year of Lear is one example. But in the reams of scholarship and knowledge about London and Stratford is inevitably a large dose of speculation. Ho Shakespeare of London is an entertaining read. This is something we I? According to Chute, this was key to his financial success moreso than the writing. It might have been a factor in his decision to solely focus on writing plays later in his career. There was a core group -- Shakespeare, Burbage, Condell, Heminges and others -- who worked together almost their entire lives. Chute repeating emphasizes their comity -- perhaps too much. However, it is worth noting that this stability probably gave Shakespeare a bit of license to do better work. However, I picked up this book at a library book sale for a dollar. Although very well researched, the book is not dry or boring.

Chapter 5 : Shakespeare's Theatre - Essential Information on Shakespeare's Globe Theatre, Blackfriars th

Shakespeare's London was home to a cross-section of early modern English culture. Its populace of roughly , people included royalty, nobility, merchants, artisans, laborers, actors, beggars, thieves, and spies, as well as refugees from political and religious persecution on the continent.

He helped shape the English we use today, introducing up to words and dozens of well-known phrases. His plays are known around the world for their universal themes and insight into the human condition. Yet much about the playwright is a mystery. It was usual for christenings to take place on the third day after birth. He was born during the reign of Queen Elizabeth I, who had recently converted England to Protestantism. William was the third of eight children, though his two elder siblings did not survive childhood. Attendance records from this time have been lost. It is likely that he began his education at the age of six or seven. As his father was now a bailiff, young William probably attended the local grammar school. Its curriculum emphasised Greek classics and pupils also learned plays in Latin. Religious education was also important, and Shakespeare drew on these sources in his later work with classical and religious allusions. Shakespeare probably attended school until about age There is no record of him going to university. Francesco da Mosto investigates how plausible it is that Shakespeare could have visited Venice. Shakespeare married the year-old Anne Hathaway, in when he was She was already three months pregnant with their first child. The baptisms of his three children are the last record of him for seven years, known as his lost years. At some point Shakespeare went to London, leaving his family in Stratford, and established himself as a playwright and actor. A century later his first biographer suggested he fled to London to escape punishment for deer poaching. However, no records have been found of his activities in these years. The next known record of Shakespeare appears after he was already a playwright in London. Drama in Elizabethan theatre shifted from the religious to the secular and companies of players formed to entertain the public under the patronage of noblemen. Scholars suggest the application showed he was now a successful businessman as much as a talented playwright. He that wants money, means, and content is without three good friends. That year the author Francis Meres singled him out from a group of English writers as "the most excellent" in both comedy and tragedy. His work attracted royal attention; he acted in several performances before Queen Elizabeth I. Others suggest Richard II criticised her as it describes the overthrowing of a monarch. The wonder of our stage. James Shapiro on the building of the Globe. The king and the playwright: A Jacobean history BBC 4, The group built their own theatre called the Globe, and Shakespeare owned a This made him even wealthier. He invested in property in Stratford and London, and records of his purchases survive. In he bought the second biggest house in Stratford for his family, as well as acres of farmland and a cottage. Later, he bought property to let in London, showing his business acumen. James Shapiro explains the changes Shakespeare faced after King James took the throne. King Lear, Act 1, Scene 1 Around this timeâ€¦

Chapter 6 : 21 Facts About Shakespeare's London - No Sweat Shakespeare

Before Shakespeare asks how and why commercial playhouses came to be built in London during the reign of Queen Elizabeth. We engage in performance and archival research to explore the world of sixteenth-century playhouses and the plays performed in them.

Shakespeare London Fact 1 Most ordinary Elizabethan Londoners lived in apartment buildings that were squashed together haphazardly, without planning. London began to develop suburbs during this time. Some courtiers and other wealthy Londoners built themselves country residences around the edges of London in areas that later became part of what we know as London today. Shakespeare London Fact 2 People emptied their chamber pots and refuse from their windows and rain washed the waste into the river from dung piles, ditches, cesspits and streams. Shakespeare London Fact 7 The population of London had risen to , by and the city was evolving as the multicultural city that it is today. There was a Jewish community in Bishopsgate and a few thousand black people – servants, musicians, and dancers. There were also many Huguenot and Flemish refugees. Shakespeare London Fact 8 In Shakespeare bought a house known as The Gatehouse, on the north eastern corner of the large Blackfriars Theatre site. Shakespeare left The Gatehouse to his daughter Suzanna. Shakespeare London Fact 9 London Bridge was the only bridge that connected the northern and southern sides of Elizabethan London, and Shakespeare would likely have walked across London Bridge several times a week. Well-off Elizabethan commuters hired ferrymen to ferry them across and along the Thames. Shakespeare London Fact 10 As Shakespeare crossed London Bridge the impaled heads of executed traitors would have been a common sight, reminding him to be careful about becoming involved in politics. There were no embankments on the Thames and the river would regularly overflow its banks during the spring and flood much of London. In winters the Thames frequently froze, and people would fix animal bones to their shoes and skate on the ice. Vendors would set up their stalls to take the advantage of the many people who crowded on to the frozen river. One could buy wigs, jewellery, perfume, hats, shoes, breeches, shirts, ruffles, feathers, silks, drugs, wine, spices, paper, ink, candles, toys, and anything else you could think of. Shakespeare London Fact 13 Something universally loved across Elizabethan London, including by the Queen herself, was bearbaiting – a sport in which a tethered bear is taunted to the cheers of spectators. Londoners had a choice among the different kinds of executions: There were about a thousand hangings a year. The theatres, surrounded by inns, taverns, cockpits, gambling houses and brothels were in Southwark. Partly because of the influx of crowds, Southwark was a dangerous place to wander about in after dark, with muggers, drunkards and pickpockets everywhere. Shakespeare London Fact 16 The Southwark inns and taverns sold cheap ale, which people drank instead of water. Drinkable water was an expensive luxury, bought from water-carriers. For the most part the rich quenched their thirst with imported wine, and the less well-off with ale. Shakespeare London Fact 17 There were about twenty playhouses to choose from in Southwark. If theatre enthusiasts were lucky they would be able to get in to the Globe to see a play by the popular Master Shakespeare, and perhaps even see him in a small part in one of his own plays. Shakespeare London Fact 18 London was the commercial centre of England and all commerce was controlled by the guilds, which were run by powerful men. The role of the chief spokesman for the guilds evolved into the post of Lord Mayor of London and the heads of the various guilds into the post of Aldermen of London. Please take a moment to review this content!

Chapter 7 : Before Shakespeare | The Beginnings of London Commercial Theatre,

William Shakespeare was the son of John Shakespeare, an alderman and a successful glover (glove-maker) originally from Snitterfield, and Mary Arden, the daughter of an affluent landowning farmer. He was born in Stratford-upon-Avon and baptised there on 26 April

Chapter 8 : Shakespeare of London by Marchette Gaylord Chute

We celebrate Shakespeare's transformative impact on the world by conducting a radical theatrical experiment. Inspired and informed by the unique historic playing conditions of two beautiful iconic theatres, our diverse programme of work harnesses the power of performance, cultivates intellectual curiosity and excites learning to make Shakespeare accessible for all.

Chapter 9 : William Shakespeare - HISTORY

For more than two decades, Shakespeare had multiple roles in the London theater as an actor, playwright, and, in time, a business partner in a major acting company, the Lord Chamberlain's Men (renamed the King's Men in).