

SAT Conference 23 November 2014
I remember when I was in France ...
SHAKESPEARE - THE FRENCH CONNECTION

11.00 Introduction *Julia Cleave*

Leading members of the Bourbon and Valois courts inspired a score of Shakespeare's most colourful characters. Topical allusions to the most incidental events haunt his plots. How is it that mainstream scholars remain oblivious to the pioneering researches of Abel Lefranc and Georges Lambin – Parochialism or Protectionism?

11.10 *Love's Labour's Lost* and the court of Henry of Navarre *Emma Jolly*

“Truth exceeds the scope of fiction, and it is Shakespeare's genius to have copied, not invented, such psychologies.”

11.50 *Hamlet* and the *Memoires* of Marguerite de Valois (1628)

The true story of Helene de Tournon, as reported in detail by Marguerite de Valois, holds the key to the tragedy of Ophelia.

12.20 *All's Well That Ends Well* *Julia Cleave*

Who is Scarface, who are the Spinii, why Helena, and where is Roussillon?

13:00 pm Lunch

14.15 *Macbeth*

Modes of murder, madness and hauntings in Shakespeare's play are all prefigured in the events surrounding the St Bartholomew's Day Massacre in 1572.

14.45 *A Midsummer Night's Dream*

Titania's wooing of *Monsieur* Bottom parodies the marriage negotiations between Queen Elizabeth and her 'Frog', Hercule de Valois, the duc d'Alencon (1578-81).

15.10 *Measure for Measure* *Ros Barber*

Mainstream scholars continue to dispute the location of this play – Vienna? Ferrara? London? – in complete ignorance of George Lambin's research which precisely matches both plot and characters with events which took place in Paris in 1582.

15.50 *Henry V* and the Wooing of Katherine de Valois – *Kiss me Kate*

16.15 Tea & Cake

16:45 Forum / Q&A Chaired by William Leahy

Panel to include advocates for Bacon, Oxford, Marlowe, Sidney, Derby and Neville. Each allowed 5 minutes to put the case for their candidate's knowledge of France – a strictly moderated session of 30 minutes – followed by questions from the floor.

18:00 The End

Speeches and scenes from all seven plays will be read by Richard Clifford, Derek Jacobi, Annabel Leventon, Mark Rylance and Angus Wright.