

Shakespearean Authorship Trust



Sir Fulke Greville, Lord Brooke

Dates:

1554-1628

Background:

Aristocrat, courtier, statesman, sailor, soldier, spymaster, literary patron, dramatist, historian and poet and Recorder of Stratford-upon-Avon. Educated at Shrewsbury and Jesus College, Cambridge. After leaving university travelled abroad. Worked for Sir Francis Walsingham as an 'intelligencer' and 'recruiter' and travelled all over Europe. A great favourite of Elizabeth I. Clerk to the Council of Wales. Treasurer of the Navy. Chancellor of the Exchequer. Murdered in 1628.

Famous for:

- His friendship with Sir Philip Sidney.
- His long love affair with Mary Herbert, Countess of Pembroke.
- His close relationship with Queen Elizabeth.
- His patronage of Bacon, Marlowe, Nashe, Daniel, Florio and three Poets Laureate; Spenser, Jonson and Davenant.
- His claim to have been the 'Master of Shakespeare'.
- His claim to have written Antony and Cleopatra.

The Case:

The 'Grevillian Theory' was first advanced in *The Master of Shakespeare, Volume 1, The Sonnets*, by AWL Saunders (2007), which showed the results of a study which compared 354 biographical, source and stylistic profiles of Greville and the man of Stratford as claimed by the Stratfordian theory. The profiles showed a 100% match. The most powerful evidence is shown by comparison of Recorder Greville and the man clearly described in the First Folio poems by Jonson and Digges:

- Greville was the Recorder of Stratford-upon-Avon.
- He had a house in Henley Street, Stratford.
- He closely resembles the Droushout engraving.
- He was the friend and patron of Ben Jonson.
- He was 'one of the finest sonneteers of his day' (Lisle Cecil John) and 'one of the two great masters of the short poem in the Renaissance' (Winters).
- He was a world-class intellectual and artistic genius (Bullough, Buxton, Rees, Rebholz, Ward & Waller, Lucas, Winters, Shelling, Holmes, Groshart, Lucas, Sampson, Cowley).
- He built a 'monument without a tomb'.
- He lived by the River Avon.
- His crest was a swan.

In the case of the Sonnets, the profiles showed conclusively that Fulke Greville is a mirror image of the author of the Sonnets who had a 'quadrilateral affair' with three people: a beautiful fair friend, a mistress, the 'Dark Lady', and a 'Rival Poet':

- Greville was deeply in love with a fair friend to whom he wrote poems.
- He did have a tempestuous affair with a 'Dark Lady' to whom he wrote poems.
- He did have a famous rival poet to whom he wrote poems.
- He did have literary works stolen from Kings Place, Hackney and piratically published in 1609.

Links

www.masterofshakespeare.com

Books

The Master of Shakespeare, Volume 1: The Sonnets

A W L Saunders, MoS Publishing, 2007

www.shakespeareanauthorshiptrust.org.uk