THE NAME OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE: A STUDY IN ORTHOGRAPHY

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649381456

The name of William Shakespeare: a study in orthography by John Louis Haney

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd. Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

JOHN LOUIS HANEY

THE NAME OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE: A STUDY IN ORTHOGRAPHY



THE NAME OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

BY THE SAME AUTHOR

A BIBLIOGRAPHY OF SAMUEL TAYLOR COLERIDGE. With portrait. Edition limited to three hundred copies printed from type, and a large-paper edition of thirty copies.

Regular Edition . . . \$ 4.00 net. Large-paper Edition . . . to.00 net.

EARLY REVIEWS OF ENGLISH POETS. With Introduction and Notes.

Regular Edition \$1.20 net. Library Edition 2.00 net.

THE NAME OF

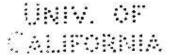
WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

A STUDY IN ORTHOGRAPHY

BY

JOHN LOUIS HANEY, Ph.D.

PROPRESOR OF ENGLISH PHILOLOGY, CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL, PHILADELPHIA; RESEARCH FELLOW, UNIVERSITY OF PERMITTANIA



PHILADELPHIA
THE EGERTON PRESS
1906

TO

MY FRIEND AND COLLEAGUE

PROFESSOR ERNEST LACY

PREFACE

It is useless to dismiss the orthography of Shake-speare's name as a trivial matter. We may spell Lyly, Wycliffe and a half-score of other names as we please, but there will be no peace in literary realms so long as a single critic or scholar of repute persists in employing any variation in the name of our greatest poet. The general reader, unaware of the fact that Shakspeare and Shakespear still have their champions, may imagine that the controversy has narrowed down to a determination of the relative merits of Shakespeare and Shakspere. All four of these forms are still used, though the first two are obsolescent and there will be few to mourn their departure.

At this day it would be folly to consider the form Shakspere as a dangerous rival of the more popular Shakespeare. With all respect for the few scholars who still advocate its use as the poet's spelling of his own name, we can only repeat, probably for the one hundredth time, that there are more trustworthy guides at hand than the five wretched scrawls which a reluctant world is constrained to accept as the autographs of its greatest poet. The champions of Shakespeare have repeatedly cited the precedents for that form; they have dwelt on the fact that none previous to 1780 and few since then have cast their decision for Shakspere; they have emphasized the futility of seeking to change the authoritative spelling upon the meager evidence of five signatures which the Shakspereites themselves admit they cannot read. Madden and Knight based their contention for Shakspere mainly upon the Florio Montaigne autograph, which is now generally rejected as spurious; Dr. Furnivall feels certain of the spelling of only one of the five genuine signatures; yet scholars who usually submit matters in dispute to the closest scrutiny and severest tests accept the shorter spelling. It is significant that most of the men whose opinions are quoted in the following pages do not consider uniformity in spelling the poet's name as important.

This study, therefore, should not be regarded as a controversial document on the relative merits of the various spellings. The sentiment of the learned world is so overwhelmingly in favor of the accepted form that we may fairly consider the question settled as far as the existing evidence admits of any satisfactory conclusion. The following pages seek simply to present in convenient form the principal facts that have been elicited concerning the origin and etymology of the name and the vicissitudes of its orthography at various periods of its history.

None will deny that it is far more important to study and to seek to appreciate the greatness of Shakespeare's literary utterance than to wrangle (though good-naturedly) over the e's and a's in his name. At the same time, it is widely held that the present lack of uniformity in that matter is discreditable to the English world of letters, and that any sincere effort to correct this condition cannot be wholly in vain.

I wish to acknowledge my obligations to the scholars and librarians who have replied to my request for information concerning their preferences in the orthography of the name. As their replies are incorporated in the text I trust it will not be necessary to enumerate their names here. The best Shakespeare-men, like Dr. Furness, Mr. Sidney Lee and Dr. W. J. Rolfe, were already on record in print and are cited at the proper places in the study. The present generation of Shakspere-