

traditionally attributed to William Shakespeare are recognized throughout the world as among the ^{finest} ~~greatest~~ ever written. ^{However,} Not much is known about the life of Shakespeare, ^{and} The fact that he left school at the age of ^{fourteen} ~~14~~ led Herbert Lawrence, shortly before 1800, ^{the end of the eighteenth century,} to suggest that Shakespeare could not have had the qualifications necessary to produce the works attributed to him. Thereafter, certain scholars began to suggest alternative authors.

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~~In 1857, William Henry Smith wrote Bacon and Shakespeare, in which the literary endeavors ascribed to the latter were transferred to a noted contemporary, Francis Bacon. Certain phraseology common to both, together with Bacon's well-attested intellectual gifts, had led to this suggestion. Later, ^{others} men extended this reasoning to the point that it looked like most of Elizabethan literature had been written by Bacon. This ^{This} seems to suggest that the phraseology was characteristically Elizabethan, ^{rather than} not an individual style.~~

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~~Further extremes were reached by ^{Donnelly} ~~Donnelly~~ in 1888. In his ^{when} ~~Great Cryptogram~~ he claimed that Bacon had written secret messages in the plays to show that he wrote them. Donnelly's methods of deciphering "messages" were so arbitrary that virtually anything could be found in the plays. Consequently, the Baconian authorship theory is generally discredited today. In the meantime, ~~others claimed that the plays attributed to Shakespeare had been written by other writers or noblemen of the period, but none of these views has been widely accepted.~~ ^{were suggested as author of the plays attributed to Shakespeare}~~