

3A

poem its shape, its unity of character and style, its dramatic impetus and high, imaginative life. Such gifts come only from genius, and genius does not belong to compilers or guilds (p. 270).

AD 91  
~~—Albert Guerard, Professor of General and Comparative Literature at Stanford University, summarizes the present situation regarding Homer as follows:~~

...internal evidence, of a convincing nature, reveals a commanding artistic personality. To dissolve Homer into a myth or a committee, much stronger acid would be needed than the Wolfian school has been able to supply. ~~Preface to World Literature, New York - Henry Holt and Company, 1940, p. 12.~~ *Says:*

In the study of Shakespeare, the theory of Baconian authorship was never widely accepted among scholars and is considered absurd today. Thus, in the article "Shakespeare" in the 1956 edition of <sup>in</sup> the Encyclopaedia Britannica we read:

Thus a kind of thesis which finds its motive in the assumed improbability of the possession of abnormal literary genius by an actor who left school at 14, has accumulated through all its variants a mass of improbabilities not to be matched in speculative research on any other field.

A somewhat less radical view of the Shakespearean plays is discussed by Rene Wellek and Austin Warren, in The Theory of Literature (1942, 1949):

...the work of Dover Wilson more legitimately belongs to "higher criticism." Wilson makes very large claims for the method: "We can at times creep into the compositor's skin and catch glimpses of the MS through his eyes. The door of Shakespeare's workshop stands ajar." No doubt, the "bibliographers" have thrown some light on the composition of Elizabethan plays and have suggested, and possibly proved, many traces of revision and alteration. But many of Dover Wilson's hypotheses seem fanciful constructions for which evidence seems very slight or even completely lacking. Thus Dover Wilson has constructed the genesis of The Tempest. He claims that the long exposition scene points to the existence of an earlier version in which the pre-history of the plot has been told as a loosely constructed drama