Bacon’s Most Beautiful Acrostic Signature

By Richard Allan Wagner

Francis Bacon appears to have been a miser when it came to the use of acrostic cipher signatures. Of the acrostics he devised, I think there is one that surpasses all of the others. This apparently obscure, vertical acrostic appears in dialogue between Dumain and Katherine near the end (penultimate page) of Love’s Labours Lost:

The name Bacon is very direct and to the point, but instead of inserting a capital letter “C” on the third line, Bacon has cleverly substituted the number “three” for its corresponding alphabetic letter (i.e., 3 = C). Adding further, a second “three” concludes the line. As all Baconians know, a pair of threes i.e., 33 gives the reader a cipher signature for Bacon (Simple Cipher).