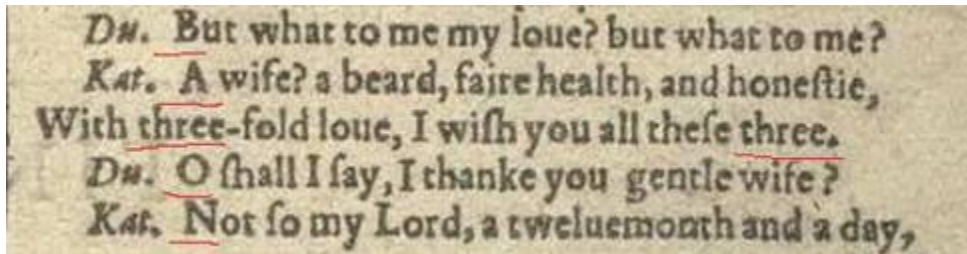


Bacon's Most Beautiful Acrostic Signature

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).