

Review of *Second-Seeing Shakespeare: "Stay Passenger, why goest thou by so fast?"* by Peter Dawkins (Francis Bacon Research Trust, Kindle, April 6, 2020).

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In his new book, *Second-Seeing Shakespeare: "Stay Passenger, why goest thou by so fast?"*, Peter Dawkins, respected teacher, author, and founder-principal of the [Francis Bacon Research Trust](#), explains how the art adorning the Shakespeare Monument in Holy Trinity Church in Stratford-upon-Avon (ca. 1616–1623) corresponds beautifully with the enigmatic language and Shakespeare "portrait" (Droeshout engraving) in the front matter to the *First Folio* of 1623, the first comprehensive publication of Shakespeare's plays. Indeed, Leonard Digges' poem of eulogy in that front matter refers specifically to that very "Stratford Moniment" (ch 2, first par.). However, as with much art and literature—here, of the English Renaissance—one must "know the code" in order to access that art's deeper, underlying meaning.

Thus, the words on the tomb, quoted in Dawkins' book's title, encourage viewers not to rush by, but to "Stay" and look again. Portia in *The Merchant of Venice* had said "Tarry a little; there is something else." Bacon conveyed a similar thought when he quoted Sir Amias Paulet: "Stay awhile, that we may make an end the sooner." ([Apophthegms](#), 76). In addition, Dawkins analyzes headpieces to Shakespeare's three printed categories of works (sonnets, plays, and poems), finding here, too, themes of twinship/doubling and symbolic trinities.

Dawkins has written extensively on the wisdom conveyed in the Shakespeare plays and their connection to Francis Bacon as author/editor heading a group of other writers whom he called his "good pens." These books include *The Shakespeare Enigma: Unravelling the Story of the Two Poets* (London: Polair Publishing, 2004) and his series highlighting five plays, *The Wisdom of Shakespeare* (Warwickshire, UK: I.C. Media Productions, 1998–2002; now also on Kindle). In *Second-Seeing Shakespeare*, Dawkins elaborates on these themes, as he does in his videos comprising [lectures](#) before the Francis Bacon Society ("FBS"): "The Gemini Shakespeare Monument by Peter Dawkins," August 10, 2018, and "Bacon and the Rosicrucians: Founding of the Historical Rosicrucians," Oct. 18, 2019, the first of four planned talks for the FBS.

As he explains, a great deal of the symbolism in the Monument and First Folio has to do with Freemasonry and/or the Rosicrucians, two secret societies which, the evidence shows, revered Francis Bacon as their seventeenth-century leader. Francis Bacon's mission, I understand, was to employ the knowledge of the arts and sciences in the service of mankind, in conjunction with Biblical principles.

*Second-Seeing Shakespeare* is a book over which one should expect to linger. It contains much to "chew and digest" (see Francis Bacon's essay, "Of Studies"). The good news is that Dawkins is a patient teacher who presents the material in a simple, plain, and orderly fashion.

I had never used Kindle before reading *Second-Seeing Shakespeare*. I found the format easy to use, and the hyperlinks made it easy to consult the useful external references which Dawkins provides. There is not a separate bibliography. I found the lack of page numbers with Kindle to be a hindrance to citation, but the online search function is advantageous. The 33 illustrations are welcome, as are the ample footnotes.

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