

[*author of In Search of Shakespeare: A Reconnaissance into
The Poet's life and Handwriting, Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1985]

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Disputed Documents Expert

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Eric Sams, ESQ
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Dear Mr. Sams:


Recently I ran across an old newspaper clipping that depicted you with a portion of a letter signed by Southampton. You stated your opinion that the letter was in Shakespeare's hand. It is. The handwriting matches with about a dozen other examples of Shakespeare's writing, including his will, various legal documents, etc. I wrote to our mutual friend Louis Marder and told him that you had discovered another document in the poet's script. Louis wants me to do an article on your discovery, and I will, if you care to send me a complete xerox of the letter.

Louis recently wrote me your views on Edmond Ironside and curiously enough, I had just last summer got a complete xerox of Ironside from the British Museum. A glance and I ~~na~~ knew it was Shakespeare's script. Even my secretary recognized it, for, God ^{we}'ve done a vast deal of work *knows*, with that now familiar ^{chiro}graphigraphy.

I matched the Ironside script with a legal ~~document~~ document that I recently identified, also in Shakespeare's hand. The match is so perfect that it absolutely floored Louis. Previously I had matched the legal document with Shakespeare's holograph will, and word for word ~~k~~ it is the same. Robert Giroux wrote me that the handwriting is the same because all lawyers wrote the same way and learned the same script in Shakespeare's day. Sure they did!! You and I learned the Palmer method so we write just the same. Shakespeare had the same beard as other Englishman so everybody in England looked the same. Also, they had identical fingerprints!!
Did you ever hear anything more specious than Giroux's reasoning?

I have a whole lot of theories--all plausible--on Ironside and now that your ~~the~~ book is in print in the U.S. I'm going to get a copy and roar through it like a Florida hurricane. I can't wait!

Yours,


Charles Hamilton