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SECRET OF THE TOMB

Was Shakespeare a fraud?

By Daily Mail Reporter

MR. CALVIN HOFFMAN will watch the 300-year-old tomb of Sir Thomas Walsingham being opened in the parish church of Chislehurst, Kent, this morning.

Inside he hopes to find proof of the theory on which he has worked for 20 years—that William Shakespeare, as a playwright, was a fraud.

Intense secrecy is being maintained about the opening, which will be behind locked and guarded doors.

This 48-year-old brisk, bespectacled American expects to find in the tomb the first folio of Shakespeare's plays—which he says were written by Christopher Marlowe.

Mr. Hoffman, making his fifth trip to Britain in four years, arrived at Southampton yesterday in the liner United States. Sitting with his wife in cabin A58, he told me of his fight to debunk Shakespeare.

The opposition

"I should tell you that should nothing be found in the tomb of Marlowe's patron, it will not confound or reject my theory of Marlowe's authorship. This is only one clue in my long hunt.

"Shakespeare's was an incredible bizarre imposture, the most fantastic imposture of all time—doubly so because the brightest soul of British authorship, Christopher Marlowe, was dimmed by it," he said.

Mr. Hoffman talked of the opposition of "the orthodox hierarchy" to his campaign; the reluctance to blast a cherished faith.

"One Yale professor, English-born, said to me: 'If you find a letter signed by Shakespeare saying: "I did not write William Shakespeare's works," I would not believe you.'"

Mr. Hoffman went straight from Southampton to Chislehurst.

He said: "I am approaching this matter with all propriety, and do not want a load of rubbernecks at this very hallowed spot."

To: Mr. Wright
Mr. Stagg
Mr. E. Hall
Mr. Smith
Mr. Stockwell
Mr. J. Hall
Mr. Cohen

~~MR. Stagg~~

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