The Life of Sir Francis Bacon

A brief historical sketch of the life of the poet, philosopher, statesman and lord chancellor, Sir Francis Bacon, Baron Verulam of Verulam, Viscount St Alban.

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Birth, Upbringing and Education

Francis Bacon was born at York House, Charing Cross, London, on 22 January 1561. He was baptised at St Martin-in-the-Fields on 25 January 1561 as second son of Sir Nicholas and Lady Ann Bacon. His father was Lord Keeper of the Great Seal of England and his mother was one of the most highly educated and accomplished women of her time, second daughter of the great scholar and humanist, Sir Anthony Cooke, and sister of Sir Anthony's eldest daughter, Mildred, wife of Sir William Cecil, Principal Secretary of State, who later became Lord Burghley (1571) and the Queen's Lord High Treasurer (1572). Both Sir Nicholas and Sir William, besides holding the highest political offices under Queen Elizabeth, were patrons and active promoters of the arts and sciences. The two families, the Cecils and the Bacons, maintained close contact with each other and often visited each other's homes.

As a child Francis showed more than unusual promise and attracted the attention of Queen Elizabeth, who liked to call him her "young Lord Keeper". Together with his brother Anthony, Francis was given a privileged private education by the best teachers of the time, which took place mainly at York House, the Lord Keeper's London residence—a thriving hub of State business that adjoined York Place, the Queen's Palace of Whitehall, or in the vacations at Sir Nicholas' country home of Gorhambury, St Albans, with visits to Theobalds House, Sir William Cecil's nearby country estate, and Gidea Hall, the country home of Sir Anthony Cook, Francis' learned grandfather and principal tutor.[1] Francis also had regular access to Cecil House, the London mansion of his uncle, which operated as a school for young noblemen who included, at one time or another, the Earls of Oxford, Surrey, Rutland, Southampton and Essex, plus Fulke Greville and Sir Philip Sidney.

Because of Sir Nicholas' high office and the associated standing of Lady Ann at court, there were also tours with the royal court, visiting country mansions and castles of the nobility and palaces of the Queen and her courtiers. Francis was likely to have been present at various Court entertainments, such as the regular Christmas festivities and the two great entertainments of 1575. These latter entertainments, which were pivotal events in the Queen's reign, were the Arcadian Woodstock Tournament presented by Sir Henry Lee, the Queen's Champion, and the sumptuous Kenilworth Entertainment laid on for the Queen at Kenilworth Castle by her favourite, Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester. The Woodstock Tournament was the forerunner of the annual Accession Day Tournaments, whilst the Kenilworth Entertainment was designed by Leicester to persuade the Queen to marry him, which offer she turned down.

Francis' "dearest brother", "comfort" and "second self", Anthony, two years Francis' senior, was brought up and educated with Francis. The two brothers became fluent in Latin, Greek, Hebrew, French and Italian. They also learnt Spanish and Dutch, studied mathematical

subjects and music, played the lute, and were proficient in the art of fencing and horse riding. In addition to all this they learnt classical and Renaissance philosophy, mythology and symbolism, and had a thorough grounding in the scriptures. All this was from a Protestant and Humanistic point of view; for Sir Anthony was a strict Protestant and his daughter, Lady Anne, even more vehemently so. Sir Nicholas, although a Protestant, was far more moderate and a principal advocate of 'the advancement of learning' style of education initiated by Sir Thomas More and promoted by the 'secret society' founded in London by Heinrich Cornelius Agrippa in 1510—a society that adopted the name and symbolism of the rose and cross from c.1570 onwards.[2]

The particular 'advancement of learning' project promoted by Sir Nicholas was for the advancement of learning and training of young men and women, not only in literature and the arts but also in morals and athletic exercises. During the reign of Henry VIII he had proposed a scheme (which was rejected then) for the establishment of a college in London for the education of statesmen, where young men of good family and attainments should be taught civil law, Latin and French, some of whom were to be attached to foreign embassies to further their education. This scheme, which Sir Nicholas had partly derived from the earlier example of Sir Thomas More, was then adapted, developed further and put into practice in Queen Elizabeth's reign, incorporating ideas outlined in Roger Ascham's book, *The Schoolmaster*, which was commissioned by the Queen in 1563 for the education of the children of noblemen and princes. In respect of the young men, Sir Nicholas' project involved educating them in French, Latin, Greek, civil and common law, music and dancing, together with overseas experience accompanying ambassadors.

In April 1573, at the age of twelve, with a "new star" blazing away in the heavens (a supernova in Cassiopeia), Francis Bacon entered Trinity College, Cambridge University, accompanied by his brother Anthony. They were placed under the direct charge and tuition of the Master of Trinity, Dr John Whitgift, and lodged in rooms under his roof. (Whitgift afterwards became Archbishop of Canterbury.) Their contemporaries and friends at Cambridge included William Clerke, Edmund Spenser, Philemon Holland and Gabriel Harvey—the latter being their tutor in rhetoric and poetry, who later became a leading member of Sir Philip Sidney's group of philosopher-poets, the English 'Areopagus'.

Whilst a student at Cambridge, Francis became thoroughly disillusioned with the Aristotelian system of thought and teaching. As a reaction to this, and inspired with prophetic vision as to what to do to improve matters, his grand idea was born, revealing to him his mission in life. Less than three years later, at Christmas 1575, he and Anthony left Cambridge, carrying with them the embryo of a plan by means of which Francis' grand idea might be set in motion and gradually achieved. In this project Anthony was a dedicated partner, even though for the next fifteen years their respective paths would separate them physically for most of the time.

France

On 27 June 1576 Francis Bacon, aged fifteen, and Anthony Bacon, aged seventeen, were entered as law students at Gray's Inn, one of the four Inns of Court in London, to follow in their father's footsteps. Five months later they were admitted, together with all of Sir Nicholas Bacon's sons, to the Grand Company of Ancients by Order of Pension dated 21 November

1576, which gave them certain privileges. However, instead of taking up residence at Gray's Inn immediately, Francis was sent abroad to France by the Queen.

Francis was appointed as an attaché to Sir Amyas Paulet, his French tutor, who had been knighted and commissioned by Queen Elizabeth as the new English Ambassador to the French Court. Moreover, he was sent to France 'from the Queen's hand', which meant that he had the special—and, for a fifteen-year-old boy, highly unusual, if not unique—privilege of kissing the Queen's Royal Hand before leaving. This meant that he went with the Queen's direct authority and blessing, by her command, and sworn to her service.

Also accompanying Francis was Mr Duncombe, a tutor in diplomacy, and Francis' much older half-brother Edward Bacon.[3] Both Francis and Edward were granted a licence to travel on the continent for a period of three years, together with their servants, six horses or geldings, baggage, and carrying £60 in money, "for their increase in knowledge and experience".[4]

The embassy set out for France in grand style on 25 September 1576, sailing on the battleship *Dreadnought*, one of the four new galleons designed by John Hawkins that revolutionised naval battle and which was specially commissioned for the occasion. The party landed at Calais later that day, from whence they travelled on to Paris and the court of Henri III. Edward seems to have parted company with the party shortly after a brief stay in Paris, as he intended to visit such places as Padua and Ravenna in Italy, but also Strasburg, Vienna and Geneva.[5]

The embassy happened to arrive in the middle of the French Wars of Religion when, on one hand, the functions of the French State were in disorder and, on the other hand, the French Renaissance was at its height. This was a time when, despite the corrupt level of French politics, the French court was abuzz with cultural activity and splendour, and the French philosophers, humanists, artists, musicians, scholars and poets were at their height of fame. They formed a royal academy patronised by the king of France, Henri III, which extended its field of interest far beyond the Platonic type of academy that had its renaissance in Italy under the patronage of the Médici. Henri III's Palace Academy included philology, drama and music, and the artists and poets who composed the academy were largely responsible for the court entertainments, which included elaborate masques and pageants, and involved women as well as men. Chief amongst the poets were the Pléiade, of whom five of the original seven were still alive: Pierre de Ronsard, Antoine de Baïf, Pontus de Tyard, Remy Belleau and Jean Daurat.[6]

During his sojourn abroad, Francis Bacon studied the laws, languages, politics, history, culture and customs of France and other countries, gained experience in diplomacy, made contact with Henri de Navarre's Huguenot ministers, and became involved with the French philosophers and poets, including the esoteric magian society that originated from the *sodalitium*[7] that Heinrich Cornelius Agrippa von Nettesheim founded with some French friends when he was in Paris c.1502-1511.

Francis Bacon had been brought up in and was a member of the twin English magian society, which likewise originated from a *sodalitium* that was formed during Agrippa's visit to London in 1510. Francis' father, Nicholas Bacon, had joined this English *sodalitium* when he was a young lawyer, and by the time Francis was born he had become a leading light or magus of the magian society into which the *sodalitium* developed. Either in 1570-1 or in 1572, when

the bright supernova in Cassiopeia appeared, this English magian society named itself the Society of the Golden and Rosy Cross, with its symbols adopted from those of St George, the Red Cross knight, England's patron saint.

The fact that Francis Bacon was welcomed by and accepted into the French magian society when he first arrived in Paris is evidenced by the Double-A (AA) headpiece that was printed in an extremely rare Hebrew Grammar, the *Hebraicum Alphabethum Jo. Bovlaese,* published in Paris in 1576, which Francis owned and annotated, and which was probably made specially for him.[8]

AA headpiece, *Hebraicum Alphabethum Jo. Bovlaese* (Paris, 1576/7)

This headpiece was the first of its kind to show the Double-A secret signature of the magian societies. It echoed in print the Double-A hieroglyph in sculpted stucco that was prominently displayed on a wall of François I's private long gallery in the châteaux of Fontainebleau, which François had commissioned c.1533, when he, as king, headed the secret society.

Francis Bacon also worked for the Queen's intelligence service, decrypting information and inventing cipher systems, including the Biliteral Cipher which later inspired the creation of the Morse Code and the binary code of modern computer technology.

As a member of the English embassy, Francis Bacon travelled with the French court to Fontainebleau, Blois, Tours, Poitiers and Chenonceaux, as well as living in Paris where the French court was normally based.

When the French Court moved from Paris to Blois for a meeting of the Estates-General in December 1576, and the English embassy accompanied it, there was an opportunity for Francis to witness at Blois the famous Italian *commedia dell'arte*, whose direct influence can be found in many Shakespeare plays.[9]

In March 1577 the embassy followed the French court to Tours, then from Tours to Poitiers, where in the autumn of 1577 they spent three months. At Poitiers the French court met with the noblemen and diplomats of Henri de Navarre's court, including Du Plessis-Mornay and Du Bartas, to carry out peace negotiations. Whilst there, Francis made the acquaintance of the poet Jean de La Jessée, private secretary to Henri III's brother, Francis, Duke of Anjou. Jessée penned a tributary sonnet to Francis in which he referred to Bacon's Muse as being Pallas Athena and greater than Jessée's own Muse.

In August-September 1577 Francis made some kind of perilous journey, which may refer to his brief visit to England when he was entrusted by Paulet with "some message or advertisement to the Queen", for which he was commended—or else he made two separate journeys in the autumn of that year.

Soon after Francis Bacon's return to France, on 14 September 1577 Henri III signed the Peace of Bergerac with the Huguenot princes (later ratified by the Edict of Poitiers on 17 September 1577). With a moderation of peace being secured, the French court plus the English embassy moved back to Paris, where the Palace Academy flourished. The Gelosi Company was also in Paris from May 1577 until April 1578, performing *commedia dell'arte* publicly as well as at court.

Besides the Pléiade, Francis Bacon was influenced by Bernard Palissy (the Potter), who was lecturing on Natural Science at his 'Petit Academie' in Paris. Many of Francis' early opinions in philosophy and natural science show indebtedness to Palissy. Attendees at the Little Academy included the brothers Jacques and Pierre de la Primaudaye, the latter being the ascribed author of *L'Académie française* (1577), a compendium of moral, philosophical and scientific knowledge in which Francis seems to have had a hand—even maybe as the real author—and which is considered to have been used as a source by 'Shakespeare'.[10]

Notably, this book refers, in its introduction, to Solomon and employs the twinned 'AA' cipher signature of the magian mystery schools in a cryptic way. It names the four students at the French Academy as Aser, Amana, Aram and Achitob. These four names provide four capital A's that make up two sets of Double-A's. In this way the two sets of twins of the Leda and Swan myth are represented in an ideal way—a myth that speaks of the fundamental law governing all life and how it unfolds.

This and all Francis Bacon's other interests and knowledge may have been what induced Nicholas Hilliard, who had accompanied Paulet's embassy, to inscribe the words, "Si tabula daretur digna animum mallem" ("It would be preferable if a picture deserving of his mind could be brought about"), on the portrait miniature he painted of Francis Bacon in 1578 in Paris.[11]

Up until the beginning of 1578 Francis Bacon had been living with Paulet and his family and assistants in the embassy, but in January 1578 he moved into the household of a French civil lawyer so as to be able to observe civil law in action and learn the French ways. It was during that month that Francis first begged to be allowed to journey into Italy, as his half-brother Edward had done, but Paulet advised against it, as being too dangerous for Francis at that particular time.

In August 1578 Catherine de' Medici (the Queen Mother) and Marguerite de Valois (Henri III's sister) set out in royal embassy for the kingdom of Navarre in the south of France, each with their respective court of some 300 courtiers and beautiful ladies-in-waiting. The purpose was for Marguerite to be reunited with her husband, Henri de Navarre, from whom she had been separated for over two years, and to settle various affairs of state. The royal embassy travelled in grand progress, reaching Nerac, the northern capital of the Pyrenean Kingdom of Navarre, in October 1578.

In the lead-up to Christmas, 15-22 December 1578, the visitors were entertained at Navarre's palace in Nerac with what became known as the infamous Court of Love festivities. This was a major political event, and without doubt the English embassy would have done all they possibly could to have been well informed about its entire goings-on. There is no known record of Francis Bacon being present in Nerac at any time, but it is not an impossibility. At

some point he began a friendship with Henri de Navarre—a friendship later carried on by Anthony Bacon—and this could have been during the festivities at Nerac.

Return to England

Pierre Amboise, Francis Bacon's first biographer (who had access to Bacon's papers and letters and is quoted as an authority by Gilbert Wats),[12] appears to say that Francis Bacon visited not only France but also Italy and Spain: -

> I wish to state that he employed some years of his youth in travel, in order to polish his mind and to mould his opinion by intercourse with all kinds of foreigners. France, Italy, and Spain, as the most civilised nations of the world, were those whither his desire for knowledge carried him. And, as he saw himself destined one day to hold in his hands the helm of the Kingdom, instead of looking only at the people and the different fashions in dress, as do the most of those who travel, he observed judiciously the laws and the customs of the countries through which he passed, noted the different forms of Government in a State, with their advantages or defects, together with all the other matters which might help to make a man able for the government of men.[13]

However, there is no other evidence of Francis Bacon visiting Italy and Spain; only that he did obtain a licence to remain abroad for a further three years after his initial three-year licence expired in June 1579.

In February 1579 Francis Bacon's sojourn in France was brought to a painfully abrupt end. He was making preparations to travel to Italy when, on the night of 17/18 February 1579 he dreamt that his family home of Gorhambury was plastered all over in black mortar. Since Gorhambury was actually plastered white and known as the "White House" or "White Temple", this was an ominous dream. Two weeks later he received news that his father had died on 20 February of a chill caught whilst at York House, his official home in London. Shocked, Francis packed his bags and set off for England as soon as he could, bearing a despatch from Sir Amyas Paulet to the Queen in which he was mentioned as "of great hope, endued with many and singular parts," and one who, "if God gave him life, would prove a very able and sufficient subject to do her Highness good and acceptable service."[14]

The Lord Keeper's funeral took place on 9 March 1579, with a procession from York House to St Paul's Cathedral where Sir Nicholas' body was placed in a tomb beside that of John of Gaunt. If, as Spedding reports,[15] Francis Bacon left Paris for England on 20 March 1579, then he would have missed his father's funeral.

One of the results of Sir Nicholas Bacon's unexpected death was that Francis was left with very little financial support of his own, as Sir Nicholas had died before he had been able to complete arrangements for a suitable inheritance for Francis. This meant that the Lord Keeper's sons by his first marriage inherited what would otherwise have been Francis' share. However, one of the things that Francis did inherit was Sir Nicholas' share in the Company of Mineral and Battery Works, a mining company set up to produce brass plates and iron wire, in which Francis already had a deep scientific interest and which influenced the development and language of his philosophical programme. The company had its main works at Tintern Abbey in Monmouthshire, on the Welsh bank of the River Wye.

Gray's Inn – Law, Philosophy, Poetry

It is not recorded where Francis Bacon lived during the first few months after Sir Nicholas Bacon's funeral, but by the beginning of October (the start of the legal year) he would probably have taken up residence in Gray's Inn so as to continue his law studies, as pre-arranged by his father and now supervised by Lord Burghley, who had taken on the role of *in loco parentis*.

Francis was certainly well ensconced in Gray's Inn a year later, as recorded by an entry dated 13 May 1580 in the Gray's Inn Pension Book, which notes that "Mr Francis Bacon in respect of his health is allowed to have the benefit of a special admittance." This meant that Francis was freed from the obligation of keeping Commons and could choose his diet and take meals in his chambers. In addition he, together with his brother Anthony, as sons of a Lord Keeper, had previously been admitted *de societate magistrorum* ('to the society of masters'—the Grand Company of Ancients)[16] at the Pension of 27 June 1576, which meant that he could come and go as he liked, without regard to the Inn's formal teaching arrangements and without being bound to any vacations (i.e. learning vacations, as distinct from holidays and terms).[17]

The chambers that Francis occupied were the "Bacon Chambers", which housed the Inn's library and were centrally placed in Gray's Inn, on the western side of the main court and directly opposite the main entrance on Gray's Inn Lane to the east. The chambers had originally been those of Sir Nicholas Bacon but were now reserved for Sir Nicholas' two younger sons, Anthony and Francis. Sir Nicholas' elder sons, half-brothers to Francis and Anthony, had no need of the chambers as they were not studying or practising law and had their own London town houses as well as estates in the country.

Anthony Bacon, who had used the Bacon Chambers during the previous three years whilst Francis was in France, and having sorted out some legacy disagreements with his older half-brother Nathaniel, left for France in December 1579, to act as an intelligencer for Lord Burghley and the Queen. This left the Bacon Chambers free for Francis' sole use.

However, law was not Francis Bacon's great interest, and about it he writes later to Lord Burghley that "the Bar will be my Bier".[18] Dr William Rawley informs us, in his 'Life of Bacon',[19] that Francis Bacon "obtained to great excellency" in law and that "in the science of the grounds and mysteries of law he was exceeded by none", but that "extensive as were his legal researches, and great as was his legal knowledge, law was, however, but an accessory, not a principal study."

Francis Bacon's main passion in life was philosophical, scientific, poetic, educational and philanthropic. He was devoted to the realisation of his grand idea, which was none other than a renovation of all arts and sciences based upon proper foundations. It was a grand concept—one that he was later to call "The Great Instauration" or "Six Days Work".

As Francis Bacon says in another letter to his uncle, Lord Burghley, in 1592: "I confess that I have as vast contemplative ends as I have moderate civil ends: for I have taken all knowledge to be my province….. This, whether it be curiosity, or vainglory, or nature, or (if one take it favourably) *philanthropia*, is so fixed in my mind, as it cannot be removed."[20]

Besides his despair at the barrenness of Aristotelian-based university education and philosophical enquiry, Francis had been both shocked and inspired by what he saw and experienced in France. The French court was dissolute and its government was corrupt, but its culture otherwise was refined and glorious, whereas English culture at that time was uncouth and the English language still a sorry patchwork of almost incomprehensible dialects. Francis' grand idea and mission, therefore, was (as he described it) a renovation of all arts and sciences based upon the proper foundations, and one which, by means of a special method that he was to test out and then teach, could spread to other countries for the benefit of the whole world. It was a truly grand concept—one that he was later to call "The Great Instauration" or "Six Days Work".

To help him in his educational and cultural endeavours Francis applied to his uncle Lord Burghley to exert influence with the Queen on his behalf, in recognition of his special abilities and circumstances, so that he might have not only royal approval but also a position whereby he could have sufficient influence and income, without having to practice law, to give him "commandment of more wits" than his own to assist him in his proposed task, since his own inherited resources were far too limited. In this, Francis was probably thinking of the royal patronage and financial support given to the Palace Academy and the Pléiade in France.

In letters Francis not only confessed that he had "as vast contemplative ends as moderate civil ends", for he had "taken all knowledge as his province", but he also made clear that neither law nor government officialdom was his desired occupation or interest, but "philanthropia" and "the waters of Parnassus" (the Castalian Spring, dedicated to the Muses, that provides poetic inspiration to those who bathe in or drink its waters).

The Queen, who was interested in the French academies and fond of grand entertainment, and Burghley, who was a patron of scholars and musicians (but not poets), gave Francis to believe that such a place would be found for him; but, other than moral and verbal encouragement, in this "rare and unaccustomed suit" Francis was to meet with little success.

Renewal of Friendships

Having returned from France and settled in London, Francis Bacon was able to renew and build up strong life-long friendships with Fulke Greville, Philip Sidney, Philip's sister Mary, Robert Devereux, and Robert's sister Penelope. Robert Devereux had become 2nd Earl of Essex when his father Walter Devereux, 1st Earl of Essex, died on 22 September 1576. Penelope Devereux was the "Stella" of Sir Philip Sidney's *Astrophel and Stella* sonnet sequence. Philip was given the chance to marry Penelope, but he turned it down, much to his later chagrin and despair when he discovered too late that he loved his childhood friend.[21] Mary Sidney, who was virtually the same age as Francis Bacon, had become the Countess of Pembroke on 21 April 1577, aged 15, when she married her father's close ally and friend, Henry Herbert, 2nd Earl of Pembroke.

Philip and Mary Sidney were often at Burghley House. Philip and Mary were the children of Sir Henry Sidney, a close friend of William Cecil, Lord Burghley. During Sir Henry's absences in Ireland during the years 1565-1571, Sir Henry used to leave his children in the care of the Cecils; thus, although never a formal ward, Philip spent a great deal of time at Burghley House, as also did his sister Mary. Francis and Anthony Bacon, from a young age and during that same

period of time, were often at Burghley House, mixing with the Cecil household—their uncle, aunt, cousins, nephews, nieces, and their uncle's wards. Then, soon after Walter Devereux died on 22 September 1576, his son Robert, the new Earl of Essex, became a ward of Lord Burghley, and in 1577 came to live at Burghley House amongst the Cecil household.

Sir Henry Sidney's wife Mary (née Dudley), the mother of Philip and Mary, was the sister of Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester, and one of Queen Elizabeth's most intimate confidantes during the early years of her reign. Well educated, Lady Mary Sidney was fluent in Italian, French and Latin, as well as a writer of poetry. She was interested in alchemy and became a friend of John Dee, corresponding with him and visiting him often. In 1579 she had to retire from Court life because of ill-health, but by that time her daughter Mary, the wife of Henry Herbert, Earl of Pembroke, was attending the Queen at Court. Pembroke had been good friends with Sir Nicholas Bacon, with whom he had a business arrangement, co-owning the wire-works at Tintern which produced brass plates used for printing. This business arrangement was carried on by Francis Bacon after Sir Nicholas Bacon's death.[22]

The coterie of friends was to be found often at Leicester House from 1579 until Leicester's death in September 1588, for in 1578 Lady Essex (Lettice Knollys), the widowed mother of Robert and Penelope, had married the Queen's favourite, Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester. It was at Leicester House, in 1579, that the English Areopagus of poets started to meet, led by Philip Sidney. This group of poets were inspired by the French group of poets known as the Pléiade, whose aim was the reformation and elevation of the French language and literature.

The Pléiade were founded by Jean Daurat and led by Pierre de Ronsard. Other members were Joachim du Bellay, Jean-Antoine de Baïf, Rémy Belleau, Pontus de Tyard and Étienne Jodelle. Their group name was a reference to the 3rd century B.C. classical Pleiad of seven Alexandrian poets and tragedians who named themselves after the seven bright stars of the Pleiades star cluster.[23]

The English Areopagus was founded by Gabriel Harvey and led by Sir Phillip Sidney, with a similar aim to the French Pléiade, which was to reform and elevate the English language via poetic verse based on classical metre and incorporating French, Italian, Classical and Anglo-Saxon models. The name 'Areopagus' was a reference to the supreme judicial and legislative council of ancient Athens, which convened on the Areopagus,[24] a prominent rock outcropping that was located northwest of the Acropolis of Athens. Like the Forum in Rome, the Areopagus was also a central meeting place for business, discussion and civil affairs.[25]

The English Areopagus of poets was composed of Sir Phillip Sidney, Gabriel Harvey, Edward Dyer, Fulke Greville, Samuel Daniel, Edward Kirke[26] and 'Immerito' (presumed to have been Edmund Spenser, but could have been Francis Bacon), plus others. Mary Sidney, Countess of Pembroke, seems to have been their patroness, as she inspired and helped many of them in their work.

Intelligence Work

Besides studying law, developing his grand scheme, taking part in the various activities of Gray's Inn and being "sometimes a courtier",[27] Francis Bacon also assisted in the compilation and assessment of political intelligence, working with Sir Francis Walsingham, the Queen's Secretary of State, who had set up and headed one of the most efficient intelligence networks

then in existence. Walsingham reported not only to the Queen but also to Burghley, whom he had succeeded as Secretary of State in 1573 when Burghley became the Queen's Lord Treasurer. Part of this work was cryptography and cryptanalysis (cryptology being another of Francis' particular interests and areas of expertise), which Francis carried out together with Thomas Phelippes, Walsingham's leading code-breaker.

One of those supplying intelligence was Anthony Bacon who, at the behest of Burghley as well as his own personal desire, travelled Europe (France, Switzerland, Navarre) from 1579 to 1592, gathering intelligence of various kinds, building a network of friends and agents, acting as a diplomat, and sending his brother items of literary and philosophical interest. In the process Anthony became a personal friend of the Protestant theologian Theodore Beza, the Huguenot king Henri de Navarre (later Henri IV of France), and the French essayist Michel de Montaigne.

One result of this was that, in 1582, Francis Bacon was involved in creating a report or State Paper for the Queen entitled *Notes on the Present State of Christendom*. The countries covered included France, Italy, Spain, Austria, Germany, Portugal, Poland, Denmark and Sweden. The five cities, Florence, Venice, Mantua, Genoa and Savoy, are dealt with in most detail. The descriptions of the various kings, princes, dukes and states show the information to have been compiled in the years 1581-2, the writing being carried out or at least completed in the summer of 1582.

The *Notes*, which were found amongst Francis Bacon's papers,[28] appear to have been the result of intelligence gathered by Nicholas Faunt and Anthony Bacon, who liaised with each other and other agents who helped them, since Faunt (who had travelled in France, Germany, Switzerland and the north of Italy) had been in Geneva with Anthony Bacon and had returned home from there via Paris to England at the beginning of April 1582, carrying with him the results of the intelligence work to date.

All in all, Francis Bacon was at the heart of and privy to a huge web and data-bank of intelligence on all kinds of matters, from politics, economics, law, trade, history, geography, science, literature, poetry, military strength and religious beliefs, right down to social customs, manners, costumes, personal behaviour, travel facilities, environmental details and individual experiences, at home and abroad.

Moreover, besides his brother Anthony, his friend Thomas Phelippes and his mentor John Dee, others in the intelligence service whom Francis would have known and worked with included Walsingham's secretaries, Nicholas Faunt, Francis Milles, William Waad and Robert Beale, and the poets, Edmund Spenser, Thomas Watson, Samuel Daniel, Christopher Marlowe and Anthony Munday, who acted periodically as agents. This is in addition to Francis' family, Inns of Court, government, aristocracy and royal Court connections, and his Freemasonic and Rosicrucian involvement.

Member of Parliament – Barrister – Queen's Council — Great Instauration

In 1581 Francis Bacon began his thirty-six years of Parliamentary service as a Member of Parliament, entering the Commons as a member for Cornwall. On 27 June 1582, six years to the day from his date of admission to Gray's Inn, he was called to the Bar and admitted Utter Barrister at Gray's Inn. His involvement in high politics started in 1584, when he wrote his first

political memorandum, *A Letter of Advice to Queen Elizabeth*, and in March 1584 he visited Scotland. By 1585 he had composed his first "juvenile" work, *Temporis Partum Maximum* ('The Greatest Birth of Time'), on what was later to become publicly known as 'The Great Instauration'. On 10 February 1586 he became a Bencher of Gray's Inn. Then, less than two years later, on 23 November 1587 he was appointed a Reader of Gray's Inn.

Just two days prior to this appointment as Reader, the grant of the lease and demise of the Bacon Chambers, which had been given to Anthony and Francis Bacon nine years previously, was renewed to them for a term of fifty years, but this time with "libertie & power to rayse & erect new buildings as well over there aforesaid lodginge as alsoe over & above the library," with the condition that the library also be extended with a balcony added.[29] With this extra grant, and with an allowance of four years in which to carry out any building work, Francis set about adding a further storey or two of extra rooms, thereby transforming Bacon's Chambers into an elegant four-storied house.[30]

From that time onwards we learn that Francis Bacon was regularly associated with other gentlemen of Gray's Inn in devising and presenting masques and entertainments at Gray's Inn and the royal Court at Greenwich, and writing speeches and devices to be used in the Queen's Accession Day Tilts.

Francis Bacon's movements tended to oscillate between Gray's Inn, the royal Court when he was in attendance on the Queen, and Twickenham Lodge. The latter was situated in Twickenham Park, the Crown property leased by Edward Bacon, with land leading down to the River Thames immediately opposite the Queen's palace of Richmond. The lodge with its park was a tranquil and beautiful place where Francis could write in peace, together with his friends and "good pens".

Edward seems to have allowed Francis the use of Twickenham Lodge whenever he wanted, and it is here that Francis carried out his early experiments related to his Great Instauration project and, with the help of his team of "good pens", wrote poetry (masques and plays) and intelligence reports.[31] He also made occasional visits in the vacations to Gorhambury, the estate and country mansion built by Sir Nicholas Bacon on the outskirts of St Albans. Under the terms of Sir Nicholas Bacon's will, Gorhambury was bequeathed to Lady Anne Bacon for life, with remainder to their eldest son Anthony when Lady Anne died.

In the Parliament of February 1589 Francis Bacon sat for Liverpool and took part in various committees. The Queen's government asked for a double taxation, to meet the expenses of defending the country against the Spanish Armada. The members of the House of Commons accepted this, but only on condition that this should not be seen as a precedent. Francis was commissioned to draft a passage to that effect, for inclusion in the preamble to the bill drafted by the Queen's learned counsel.

During 1589 Francis Bacon was elected Dean of the Chapel for that year. Then, in the midst of the Martin Marprelate controversy and pamphlet-war between the High Church establishment and the non-conformist Puritans, which was at its height in the summer of 1589, Francis wrote *An Advertisement Touching the Controversies of the Church of England* in an attempt to pour water on the more fiery extremist propaganda and promote a more harmonious middle-way suitable to the Queen—and suiting his family motto, "Mediocria

Firma" ("Moderation is Sure"), which in the ideal sense finds its fulfilment in the loving harmony and union portrayed by the myth of the Gemini.[32]

On 16 November 1589 Francis Bacon received by patent the potentially valuable appointment of reversion to the Clerk of the Counsel in the Star Chamber, a post worth £1,600 a year. This appointment was thanks to Burghley, but it was not, however, something that Francis could immediately benefit from, for the position was already occupied. (In fact, as it eventually turned out, he was not able to take up the office until 1608, nearly twenty years later.) Still left impecunious, Francis remarked that "it was, like another man's ground, buttalling upon his house; which might mend his prospect but it did not fill his bam."[33]

In the early months of 1590, Francis Bacon was commissioned to prepare a suitable letter for Walsingham to send to the new French administration, known as 'Sir Francis Walsingham, Secretary, to Monsieur Critoy, Secretary of France', as a statement of English religious and foreign policy—essentially a justification of Queen Elizabeth's policies on religion. (The greater part of this letter was re-used in Francis' 1592 tract, *Certain Observations made upon a libel.*) But soon after, on 6 April 1590, Sir Francis Walsingham died, heavily in debt due to personally subsidising most of the operations of the intelligence network for the Queen.

In 1591 Francis Bacon appears to have almost given up his fruitless "rare and unaccustomed suit" with Burghley and the Queen, threatening that if his Lordship would not carry him on he would sell the small inheritance he had in order to purchase some means of quick revenue, and thereby give up all care of service (i.e. to Burghley and the Queen) in order to become some "sorry bookmaker or a true pioneer in that mine of truth which (Anaxagoras) said lay so deep".

Suspecting Burghley's motives, Francis tried to make it absolutely clear to his uncle that just as he had vast contemplative ends so he had moderate civil ends, and that he did not "seek or affect any place whereunto any that is nearer unto your Lordship shall be concurrent".[34] In this Francis was particularly referring to his hunchback cousin, Robert Cecil, Burghley's son by his second wife, Mildred, the sister of Lady Ann Bacon. Besides being Lord Treasurer and Master of the Court of Wards, the most lucrative office in the land, Burghley was doing his best to advance Robert as high and as quickly as possible.

At about the same time, Francis Bacon struck up a good friendship with Robert Devereux, 2nd Earl of Essex, whom he had known since their youth. The earl, with his sparkling charisma and gallantry, was fast becoming the foremost favourite of the Queen and a popular hero with the people. Francis, completely disillusioned with and thwarted by his uncle Burghley, decided to assist Essex in every way possible, believing him to be "the fittest instrument to do good to the State",[35] but always with the reservation that his first duty was to the Queen. Essex in turn promised to help Francis. Ultimately this turned out to be a perilous mistake for Francis. Essex's temperament was so hot-headed and imperious that, rather than helping Francis, he repeatedly made matters worse, with the Queen and him clashing like gladiators. Burghley and Robert Cecil came to loathe Essex, resulting in their admitted policy of doing their utmost to block the advancement of any of the Earl's friends, including the Bacon brothers.

At some unrecorded moment in time—but which, from various evidence, would seem to have been in 1592—the Queen appointed Francis Bacon as her Counsel Learned, Extraordinary. This, as Rawley explains in his *Life* of Francis Bacon, "was a grace scarce known before". In fact the rank of Queen's Counsel Learned, Extraordinary, was a completely new position, specially created for Francis, which brought him "within the bar" with the judges and Serjeants-at-Law, and gave him standing with and precedence over the serjeants.[36]

His duties were not clearly defined, but, besides the fundamental duty of conducting court work on behalf of the sovereign, they encompassed a wide spectrum: such as supplying legal advice to the Queen and her Privy Councillors, attending the examination of prisoners suspected of treason or other grave offences and examining their testimonies, drawing up various reports and papers on religious, political and legal matters, acting as a government propagandist, and generally protecting the Queen's interests.

However, as an 'extraordinary' rather than an 'ordinary' position, it was an unpaid one and without a pension or a regular means for accumulating fees. It didn't solve Francis' financial predicament, but it gave him a special standing and enabled him to enjoy official access to the Queen, which for him was not just 'ordinary' but 'near' access also. This was the first such appointment and was the birth of what later became known as the Queen's (or King's) Counsel, or 'QC' ('KC') for short.

Anthony Bacon – Intelligence Network – Shakespeare Circle

In February 1592 Anthony Bacon returned home from the continent. Anthony, whom Francis called his "dearest brother" and "comfort", shared Francis' aspirations. His main love was literary and, like his brother, he was a secret poet, known only as such to his friends, as revealed in their letters to him. All the time he was abroad he had kept in communication with his brother Francis as well as with his uncle Burghley and Sir Francis Walsingham, and besides intelligence reports and other items of interest, he also sent home sonnets he had written.

Anthony Bacon's foreign contacts were wide-spread and he enjoyed friendship in many high places, "being a gentleman whose ability the world taketh knowledge of for matters of state, specially foreign".[37] His contacts and friendship with Henri de Navarre, later Henri IV of France, were later incorporated into the Shakespeare play, *Love's Labour's Lost*, as also was the result of his association and friendship with the King of Spain's Secretary of State, Antonio Perez del Hierro, who defected to England and upon whom the Shakespearean character of Don Adriana de Armado is based.

When Anthony returned to England, he first of all joined his brother at Gray's Inn and started to pour all his energy and financial resources into his brother's project whilst at the same time continuing his intelligence work. Together the brothers formed a team of secretaries and writers to assist them, dealing with foreign and home intelligence of all kinds, cryptography, translations of correspondence and books in foreign languages and the classics, and the writing of poetry (poems, sonnets, masques, plays, devices, etc.).

Francis, as he says in his *Apologie in certaine imputations concerning the late Earle of Essex*,[38] "knit" Anthony's service to the Earl of Essex, and from that time onwards Anthony ran an intelligence service for Essex rather than for Burghley. This was so that Essex would have the

chance of better intelligence than Burghley with which to inform the Queen and be kept in her high favour, as Burghley, the Bacon brothers' uncle, had seriously let them down. Key assistants in this team included Thomas Phelippes, Anthony Standen, Henry Wotton and Nicholas Faunt, who between them had travelled in and gathered detailed intelligence of all kinds and over many years from France, Italy, Spain, Germany, Switzerland, Austria, Transylvania, Poland and Turkey.

Later that year Francis composed a dramatic device (i.e. spectacle or show), called *A Conference of Pleasure*, for Essex to present at the Queen's Accession Day Tilt on 17 November 1592. Four speeches of this particular spectacle are preserved in the Northumberland MS collection, grouped together in the contents list on the cover page under the title 'Of tribute or giving that which is due' and called: 'The praise of the worthiest virtue' (Fortitude), 'The praise of the worthiest affection' (Love), 'The praise of the worthiest power' (Knowledge), and 'The praise of the worthiest person' (Queen Elizabeth, the personification of Crowned Truth).

By now, Francis Bacon's literary and poetic endeavours had become closely entwined not only with members of Gray's Inn and other Inns of Court but also with Essex and his circle of friends. This 'Essex group', which had been linked with Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester, Sir Francis Walsingham and Sir Philip Sidney until their deaths in the 1580's, and with the Areopagitae of English poets that used to meet at Leicester House (later Essex House), included: Robert Devereux, 2nd Earl of Essex; Henry Wriothesley, 3rd Earl of Southampton; Ferdinando Stanley, Baron Strange, 5th Earl of Derby; William Stanley, 6th Earl of Derby; Charles Blount, 8th Baron Mountjoy; Frances Walsingham, Countess of Essex, Essex's wife, daughter of Sir Francis Walsingham and widow of Sir Philip Sidney; Penelope Rich, Essex's sister, wife of Robert Rich, 3rd Baron Rich, and, after his death in 1586, Mountjoy's mistress; Elizabeth Vernon, Essex's cousin and Southampton's mistress (whom Southampton married in 1598); and Mary Sidney, the Countess of Pembroke, sister of Philip Sidney and mother of "the Two Noble Brethren", William and Philip, to whom the 1623 Shakespeare First Folio was dedicated. To these should be added Fulke Greville, Francis Bacon and Anthony Bacon.

Associated with this group of aristocrats and friends were other poets, writers and dramatists whom the group patronised, which included Samuel Daniel, Ben Jonson, John Florio, George Wither, Edmund Spenser, Thomas Nashe and John Lyly. Thomas Lodge, George Peele, Robert Greene and Christopher Marlowe were also connected with this group. In effect, the overall group of patrons and poets formed what might be called 'The Shakespeare Circle', with direct access to acting companies.

Mary Sidney's husband, Henry Herbert, 2nd Earl of Pembroke, whose country estate at Wilton borders on the Wiltshire River Avon, was the patron of his own professional acting company, the Lord Pembroke's Men, who had in their repertoire several of the earliest Shakespeare plays. Their tour of 1592-4 featured *The Taming of a Shrew* (an earlier version of the one published in the Shakespeare Folio), *Titus Andronicus* and *3 Henry VI*. The play, *Titus Andronicus,* was also performed by Sussex's Men and Derby's Men. The latter company was that of Ferdinando Stanley, Baron Strange, who became the 5th Earl of Derby on his father's death in 1593. Previous to that the company had been known as the Lord Strange's Men, who gave what might have been the first performance of *2 Henry VI* at The Rose playhouse in 1592.

When Ferdinando Stanley died in 1594, most of the members of Derby's Men joined the newly reconstituted Lord Chamberlain's Men under the patronage of Sir Henry Carey, 1st Baron Hunsdon, and the leadership of the Burbages.

Royal Disfavour – Birth of 'Shakespeare' – *Venus and Adonis*

Francis's new position as Queen's Counsel was severely challenged in the Parliament of January-March 1593. He appeared there as an MP representing Middlesex, and took part in various debates and motions and committee meetings. The challenge came about when he opposed an attempt by the Queen and House of Lords to diminish the House of Commons' vitally important prerogative of raising taxes and discussing such matters in private. He also thought that the triple subsidy (taxation) being demanded by Burghley, on behalf of the Queen and Lords, which was to be raised in three years rather than the two subsidies raised in four years that had first been proposed by the House of Commons, would be too great for ordinary people to bear; and so, although agreeing that a substantial subsidy was needed to offset the costs of defending the country against the Armada, he recommended that the proposal be moderated somewhat.

Ultimately the Commons voted to debate the taxation proposals with the Lords, but with the caveat that it was extraordinary and not to be taken as a precedent. When the Commons met again afterwards to agree on what subsidies to provide, Francis agreed with the other MPs that the extra three subsidies should be provided, but he strongly suggested that they should be spread over six years instead of the three years that Burghley was demanding. In the end it was agreed by the Commons that three subsidies would be provided, spread over four years. The Queen was furious at Francis' behaviour, and immediately he was made to feel her displeasure, being denied access to her presence and told "that he must nevermore look to her for favour or promotion".

Very soon after this, in June 1593, 'William Shakespeare' as an author's name was officially launched onto the public scene for the first time with the publication of the highly scholarly and erotic poem *Venus and Adonis*. Notably, it had been entered into the Stationers' Register on 18 April 1593, a date close to St George's Day, 23 April, the legendary birthday of William Shakespeare. This, the "first heir" of Shakespeare's "invention", was dedicated to Southampton, as was the second Shakespeare poem, *Lucrece*, published the next year (1594). A few years later, the writer Joseph Hall and poet John Marston, in an exchange of satires published during 1597-8, stated that the true author of the poems was a jurist, whom they nicknamed "Labeo", who used a living person, a "swain", to mask his authorship. They ultimately identified "Labeo" as Francis Bacon.

The royal disfavour precipitated a major crisis for Francis who—although helped by his mother, Lady Ann Bacon, and his brother Anthony, who sold two estates to assist Francis—supported himself and his literary work mainly by loans and credit based on his standing with the Queen.

In an attempt to prove his worth to the Queen, to his uncle Burghley, and to others, as a barrister and Queen's Counsel, as well as to earn some money, Francis Bacon pleaded his first case in the King's Bench and Exchequer Chamber in January 1594, and his second and third in February. His first pleading was so successful that Burghley, content with Francis as a lawyer

and pressured by his own family who had taken pity on Francis' predicament, undertook to make a report "where it might do him the most good".

During this time the case of Dr Roderigo Lopez, the Queen's physician, was being dealt with. For the last six months of 1593 Essex had been investigating a circle of Spanish and Portuguese plotters, which led to the uncovering of a conspiracy to poison the Queen through the agency of her Portuguese physician, Dr Lopez. The latter, who had been working as an intelligencer for Spain, was arrested on 21 January 1594 and brought to trial on 28 February 1594.

Francis Bacon was commissioned by Essex to draw up a paper, *A True Report of the Detestable Treason intended by Doctor Roderigo Lopez,* outlining the case for proceeding against Lopez. Sir Edward Coke, as Solicitor-General, conducted the proceedings, which were heard in relative secrecy before a special commission of twelve persons appointed by the Queen. Lopez was found guilty of leaking secret intelligence to Philip of Spain, attempting to stir up rebellion against the Queen, and of conspiring to poison her. Francis was commissioned to draw up a report of the trial, which was ready by the end of March but withheld from publication.

The Queen played a game of punishment or reward with Francis, trying to make him her creature in all ways, including the Parliamentary one. In 1593 the position of Attorney-General had fallen vacant and was kept vacant for a whole year, and several times it was intimated to Francis Bacon that the Queen might appoint him to this position and that it was only his conduct in Parliament that stood in the way. Essex, eager to help Francis, urged the Queen to appoint him to this position. But Francis would not recant, and there were other factors afoot. Robert Cecil suggested to Essex that if Sir Edward Coke, the Solicitor-General, were to be appointed as Attorney-General, which he felt the Queen would prefer, then perhaps Francis might be content with the lesser position of Solicitor-General instead. But Essex would not have it. Only the higher office would do for the friend of Essex! As Essex saw it, his own reputation was at stake.

Francis was in a difficult situation. He didn't really want the onerous legal position of Attorney-General, but he needed a position that brought him sufficient income as well as standing. Creditors were a continual problem, as his project was costly and he never had enough money. He wrote direct to the Queen, assuring her of his wish to serve her in whatever way was best pleasing to her, "to the end to have means to deserve your benefit and to repair my error," and emphasising that his request to serve her was not for any personal gain, for his "mind turneth upon other wheels than those of profit".[39]

Eventually the Queen announced that the position of Master of the Rolls was going to be given to Sir Thomas Egerton, the Attorney-General, and that of Attorney-General to Sir Edward Coke, the Solicitor-General. On 10 April 1594 they were officially appointed to their offices. Although a disappointment to Essex, it left the position of Solicitor-General free, and Essex, who had been made a member of the Privy Council in February 1594, now pursued this position for Francis. Even Burghley and Robert Cecil supported Francis Bacon for this office, as well as the Vice-Chamberlain, the Attorney-General (Egerton) and all the judges. Francis himself argued that, as he was the Queen's "first man, of those who serve in Counsel of Law", and had precedence over the Sergeants-at-Law, he was therefore the one who should rightly be considered as the first in line for the office of Solicitor-General—an office that was the next

one above his own and that of the sergeants—and that he was not only available for the post but also would take it if asked.

It was about this time that Fulke Greville began to take an active part on Francis Bacon's behalf with the Queen. Whether because of this, or because Francis declared his intention of retiring to Cambridge with a couple of men to spend his life in studies and contemplation, there seemed to be a shift in the Queen's demeanour towards Francis. In May 1594 the Queen appointed Francis as the Deputy Chief Steward of the Duchy of Lancaster, a lawyer's post devoted largely to adjudicating land and property disputes in the Crown's Lancastrian domains; in June 1594 the Queen appointed Francis to assist the investigation into the 'Walpole Plot' (associated with the Lopez conspiracy)'; and sometime in the summer of 1594 the Queen conferred on Francis some woodland in Somerset at a nominal rent, from which he could raise some finance.

On the 18 or 19 July 1594, Francis Bacon set out for the north on some important business of the Queen. However, on this mission he only reached as far as Huntington when he fell ill, writing to tell the Queen of it on 20 July. As we next learn that he was in Cambridge on 27 July to receive his degree of Master of the Arts at a specially convened ceremony, the assumption is that, because of his brief illness, his mission was aborted—or else the 20 July letter was written in code and deliberately designed to mislead an unofficial reader. In August-September 1594 Francis was back in London, examining prisoners on behalf of the Queen in yet another Catholic conspiracy.

So the Queen not only resumed employing Francis but also, in small ways, began to compensate him for the work he was doing for her, although financially it was not nearly enough. Moreover, she continued to remain undecided regarding the position of Solicitor-General, thereby prolonging Francis' agony and punishment.

Gray's Inn Revels – *Knights of the Helmet, Comedy of Errors, Loves Labours Lost*

On 28 January 1594 Francis Bacon took over the role of Treasurer of Gray's Inn from a Mr Poley. At that time there were two Treasurers who headed the Inn of Court. Since 19 November 1590 Mr Fuller and Mr Poley had been the Treasurers; from 28th January 1594 until 26 November 1594 the positions were filled by Mr Fuller and Francis Bacon.[40] As head of the Inn, the Treasurers were responsible for the Gray's Inn Christmas revels. Because the revels had been intermitted for three or four years as a result of the outbreaks of bubonic plague, the Inn was determined to redeem this lost time with something out of the ordinary, so they specifically asked Francis Bacon to redeem their good name in this respect with some extra-grand Christmas Revels at the end of that year. In other words, Francis Bacon was made a Treasurer for this purpose.

The revels were by custom designed, organised, written and performed by the members of the Inn, as part of their education and training for both the court of law and the royal court. These particular revels would have needed to be prepared some time in advance, in the holidays, and this could explain why Francis Bacon explained in a letter to Essex that he neither had much hope nor much desire or appetite for the position of Solicitor-General, this being because he was so preoccupied with "the waters of Parnassus" which almost entirely

quenched his thirst for other things, and the lack of hope because his only real reason for having the office, other than serving the Queen, was so as to be able to pay off his old debts and take on new ones.

It was decided that Gray's Inn was to be turned into a mock royal court and kingdom, ruled by a 'Prince' (the customary Lord of Misrule), in jesting imitation of the Queen's royal court, complete with masques, plays, dances, pageants, ceremonial and 'serious' business. The revels, which took place over the Twelve Days of Christmas, were called *The Prince of Purpoole and the Honourable Order of the Knights of the Helmet*—the former part of the title referring to the Manor of Purpoole or Portpoole, the original name of Gray's Inn, and the latter part of the title referring to the philosophical ideal of the revels. The theme of these revels was built around the idea of errors being committed, disorder ensuing, a trial being held of the 'Sorcerer' responsible, who then restores order and transmutes everything to a higher and better level than before.[41]

On 20 December 1594 the Gray's Inn Christmas Revels began, with "The High and Mighty Prince Henry, Prince of Purpoole," proceeding in royal state to the great hall of Gray's Inn and taking his seat on the throne. On St Steven's Day, 26 December 1594, Francis Bacon was ceremonially called upon by the Prince of Purpoole and his Council to assist in "recovering the lost honour of Gray's Inn". For this, certain Grand Nights were decreed to take place during the Twelve Days of Christmas, to provide something special for the entertainment of strangers (i.e. guests). Those to be invited included the Lord Keeper, the Lord Treasurer, the Vice-Chamberlain and others from the royal Court, including their ladies, plus an embassy from the Templars (the Inner Temple Inn of Court, with whom Gray's Inn is twinned).

The first Grand Night took place on the evening of Holy Innocent's Day, 28 December 1594. The ambassador of the Inner Temple was to come "as sent from Frederick Templarius, their Emperor, who was then busied in his wars against the Turks." A special stage was constructed, and tiered seating set up "to the top of the House" for the purpose. The entertainment was to include a masque performed by the lawyers of Gray's Inn, followed by a play called *"a Comedy of Errors (like to Plautus his Menechmus)"* played by "the Players".

However, "there arose such a disordered tumult and crowd upon the stage, that there was no opportunity to effect that which was intended," causing the masque to end abruptly in general confusion and the Temple barristers, led by their Ambassador, to return to their Inn, feigning offence.[42] Those who remained were then set to "dancing and revelling with gentlewomen", after which the Shakespeare play, *A Comedie of Errors like to Plautus his Menæchmi*, was performed by torchlight.[43] The evening concluded with a masque of the Knights of the Helmet returning from a campaign in Russia against "Negro-Tartars".

The following day, 29 December 1594, a mock trial was held, at which the "Sorcerer or Conjurer" was arraigned at the bar and accused for causing the previous night's disarray, for disgracing the "State of Templariá", and for foisting "a company of base and common fellows, to make up our disorders with a play of Errors and Confusions". However, the Conjuror was acquitted with the resolution that "the Prince's Council should be reformed, and some Graver Conceits should take their places" in order to recover their honour. The Conjurer (Francis Bacon) then conjured up a new entertainment called *The Honourable Order of the Knights of the Helmet*, which was presented on the second Grand Night, 3 January 1595, the Feast of

the Most Holy Name of Jesus. Unlike the previous Grand Night, there was no disorder or "errors", and the evening concluded with dancing and celebration.

In *The Honourable Order of the Knights of the Helmet* Francis Bacon presented his philosophical ideals and an Order of knighthood dedicated to carrying them out. The purpose of the Order was to correct the errors of the past and bring order out of chaos. The knights vowed to keep nineteen articles, full of Baconian philosophy and precepts, including vows to defend God and the State, to attack ignorance, and to defend truth and virtue ceaselessly and secretly.

The name of this philosophical Order of knights refers to the divine Spear-shaker, Pallas Athena, the Tenth Muse and Patroness of the Arts and Sciences, whose helmet guards the sacred diadem of the Prince of Purpoole. In addition, the goddess presents golden helmets to her knight-heroes: hence the Order of the Knights of the Helmet.

Each helmet bestowed by the goddess is said to bestow invisibility on the wearer. The helmet was a *wil-helm* (German), from which the name William, meaning 'resolute protector', is derived. The German words *wil-helm* mean 'strong-willed protector'. The German root of *helm*, which is *kel*, means 'to cover, protect, conceal, save'. Pallas Athena's golden helmet refers to strong goodwill combined with clear perception or judgement, which provide both protection and concealment. Such a combination of goodwill and good judgement leads to a powerfully good action, which in turn produces illumination—hence the symbolism of the golden helmet, because the head of a person in a state of illumination shines like a sun, creating a halo. All such knights are, metaphorically, spear-shakers or shake-speares, like the Gemini brothers and St George. Their spears are symbolic of their rays of golden light, which can inspire and illumine others. They are also 'invisible brethren', a term used to describe the Rosicrucian fraternity, as their real status is unknown or unrecognisable to the outer world.

On Shrove Tuesday 1595 a specially adapted masque of *The Prince of Purpoole and the Honourable Order of the Knights of the Helmet* was performed before the Queen at Greenwich. The entertainment concluded with a performance of *Proteus and the Rock Adamantine*. This marked the culmination of the 1594-5 Gray's Inn Revels. Both this Gesta Grayorum and Gray's Inn became much celebrated as a result.

In this entertaining and dramatic way, these Christmas Revels presented Francis Bacon's grand project for a complete reformation of philosophy and regeneration of all arts and sciences, so as to bring order out of chaos, and knowledge of truth out of ignorance and confused thought.

Sadly, the last two Grand Nights were cancelled, but there are many indications that on one of those nights it had been intended to perform the Shakespeare play, *Love's Labour's Lost*. There are many allusions in the revels to *Love's Labour's Lost*, and vice versa, inferring that *Love's Labour's Lost* was already written and rehearsed, and designed as part of the theme of the revels. Love's labour, which Francis Bacon notes is what is called charity in human terms,[44] is the means by which we may discover and know Truth, the summary or universal law, which is divine Love in action, "the work that God works from beginning to end", as Francis Bacon defines it, using a quote from Ecclesiastes.[45] This is the ultimate purpose of Francis Bacon's Great Instauration.

Royal Entertainments and Reconciliation – Essays

In October 1595 the Earl of Essex invited Anthony Bacon to take up residence in Essex House, offering him the apartments in which Antonio Perez had previously been lodged. Anthony accepted and moved into Essex House to act, in a voluntary way, as the Earl's virtual 'Secretary of State'. There he set up a secretariat dealing with political intelligence, cryptography, translations of correspondence and books in foreign languages and the classics, invention of new words, and literature generally.

Besides Anthony's own secretariat, Essex also had four secretaries working at Essex House, including Henry Cuffe, a Greek scholar, and Henry Wotton, the friend and cousin of the Bacon brothers who published his memoirs, *Reliquiae Wottonianae*, in 1651. At various times the 'Shakespeare Circle' would meet in the house, some of them staying as guests for a while.

1595 was also the year in which the Lord High Treasurer Burghley completed his personal coup d'état by seeing his son Robert Cecil, who was knighted and made a member of the Privy Council in 1591, achieve the politically powerful position of Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster. This climb to power culminated the following year when Robert was officially made the Principal Secretary of State, cementing the father-son combo which together held the reins of power in the Queen's Government. (When Burghley died in 1598, Robert Cecil continued as Secretary of State, and Thomas Sackville, 1st Earl of Dorset, was made Lord High Treasurer.)

On 6 November 1595 the Queen formally appointed Thomas Fleming, the Queen's Serjeant-at-Law, as Solicitor-General. Essex was mortified by this result, feeling it as a matter of pride. As a result, he bestowed on Francis Bacon a gift of land (assumed to be adjoining Twickenham Park) in recompense for what he felt was his failure to help his friend. Francis was able to raise money on this land to ease his situation, and later he sold it.

For Queen Elizabeth's Accession Day celebration on 17 November 1595, Francis Bacon wrote *The Philautia Device* and *The Device of the Indian Prince* for Essex to perform before the Queen, filled with flattering and adulatory references to her Majesty. This helped to reconcile her to Essex, who had, thanks to a book published abroad, been under a shadow of suspicion concerning his influence with the Queen upon the matter of succession. The device was sponsored by Essex and took place at York House. It was successful in its intention, with the result that the Queen was not only reconciled to both Essex and Francis Bacon but she also granted Francis the reversion of the lease of Twickenham Park lodge and parkland for 21 years.

Twickenham Park was where Francis Bacon had been spending, and now was able to continue to spend, a lot of his time. He referred to it as his "earthly paradise". On one occasion he had the honour of entertaining Queen Elizabeth at Twickenham park, when he presented her with a sonnet in praise of the Earl of Essex. On many other occasions he was accompanied by his lawyer-friends from Gray's Inn, and sometimes also students from Oxford and Cambridge universities, all of whom he called his "good pens", in order to translate and copy out intelligence matters supplied by his brother Anthony, or legal and philosophical letters and treatises composed and dictated by himself, or to help invent poetic works for the Gray's Inn revels and other devices and entertainments. Anthony himself also retreated there on

occasions, such as when his intelligence work and necessary comradeship with Anthonio Perez became too much to bear, or when he needed private time with his brother Francis.

A year later, Francis Bacon was again involved in composing a device for the 1596 Accession Day Tournament, this time for Robert Ratcliffe, the fifth Earl of Sussex. One of the speeches from the device, written by Francis, is preserved in the Northumberland Manuscript collection of manuscripts.[46]

In January 1597 Francis had a book published under his own name of 'Francis Bacon' for the first time, this being the first version of his *Essays*, which he dedicated with affection to his "Loving and beloved Brother", Anthony, "you that are next myself". Not only was Anthony Bacon Francis' brother, friend, co-writer and partner in Francis' grand scheme, but also Anthony was a major provider of the finance required for the brothers to not only live on but also sponsor their philosophical and poetic work, and to pay the spies and messengers in the intelligence service.

Courtship – *Merchant of Venice* – Essex's Insurgency – *Richard II*

Besides his deep brotherly love for Anthony, Francis Bacon was also enamoured of his cousin, Elizabeth Cecil, one of Burghley's grand-daughters, with whom he had flirted when younger. He continued his friendship with Elizabeth after she was married to Sir William Hatton in 1594, which friendship deepened over the years. When Elizabeth was widowed in 1597, Francis courted her seriously, requesting her hand in marriage. She had been left a very wealthy young woman by her deceased husband, and so marriage with her could bestow a double grace and solve Francis' financial problems. But another disappointment was in store, and once again Sir Edward Coke, now Attorney-General and wealthy, won the day.

A romanticised account of this courtship, turned into an allegory, can be seen to underlie the Shakespeare play, *The Merchant of Venice*, as also the friendship between Francis Bacon and Anthony Bacon, the difficulties they endured through being forced year after year to raise loans from usurers, and the potential bankruptcy of Anthony on his brother's behalf. In the play Antonio is a caricature of Anthony, who did trade abroad (but in intelligence rather than merchandise) and who hazarded all for his brother's sake, whilst Bassanio is a caricature of Francis, whose 'Portia' he sought after was, in a philosophical sense, Wisdom on her Mountain of Beauty ('Belmont'), and, in a personal sense, his cousin Elizabeth Cecil, Lady Hatton, whose beautiful house and gardens (Hatton House, in London) he often visited.

Many times either one or the other brother had to attend court and pay the forfeits demanded for late repayment of the loans. Being a lawyer and 'learned in the law', Francis often pleaded his own case. He was even arrested for debt at one time (September 1598), unjustly as it happened, because of the maliciousness of a particular debtor, and had to be rescued from the awful possibility of incarceration in the Fleet.

In 1599 trouble between the Queen and Essex flared up dangerously, with Essex consistently acting against the advice of Francis Bacon who, knowing the Queen's wishes, urged Essex not to seek a military position and not to go to Ireland at the head of the English army—both of which Essex nevertheless did. Essex was appointed Lord Lieutenant of Ireland on 24 March 1599 and set out for that country at the head of 17,000 troops, with orders to put an end to the rebellion led by the Earl of Tyrone.

Just before Essex set out for Ireland, a potentially volatile situation arose, in which the Shakespeare play of *Richard II* was indirectly involved. A book based on the play had been published by a young doctor of civil law, John Hayward, a friend of both Essex and Francis Bacon, which in its preface likened Essex to Bolingbroke and seemed to exhort Essex to rise up against the Queen and usurp the throne. Hayward was arrested and threatened with torture. Francis Bacon, as Queen's Counsel, was immediately called before the Queen to advise whether it was treasonable, and to explain and sort matters out, which he successfully did. As a result, Hayward, although remaining in prison until James Stuart came to the throne of England, was spared any torture or trial for treason.

Fifteen months later Francis Bacon was again involved on the same subject, when Essex, having unexpectedly returned from Ireland, was arraigned before the Queen's Council on a charge of disobeying Her Majesty's orders in Ireland. Francis, as the Queen's Counsel, was given the specific role of charging Essex concerning his actions that seemed to echo what was portrayed in the preface of Hayward's book and the Shakespeare play of *Richard II*—a role to which Francis objected, remarking that "it would be said that I gave in evidence mine own tales".

When all this culminated in February 1601 with Essex's abortive attempt to raise an armed insurrection against the Queen and her government, which led to his trial for treason and subsequent execution on 25 February 1601, the Bacon brothers were devastated. Both of them had been misled for several years by Essex, who had been secretly plotting and preparing his insurrection, and they only learnt the full truth during and after the trial. Both brothers had worked hard to try to prove the supposed innocence of Essex, and Francis did all he could to mediate with the Queen on Essex's behalf, right up to the end, at the expense of his own relationship with her.

Moreover, Francis was ordered by the Queen to take part in Essex's trial as her Counsel, to assist the State Prosecutor, Sir Edward Coke, and protect her person, which landed him in the unenviable position of having to spell out Essex's guilt, as Coke kept wandering off on extraneous matters.

As if these tragic events were not enough, a few months after Essex's execution Anthony Bacon, who had not been well, was reported to have died shortly before 27 May 1601, heavily in debt. Essex appears to have intended to reimburse Anthony for the substantial expenses incurred on the earl's behalf, having promised Anthony £2,000, set against Essex House in lieu of default. The Queen thoroughly disapproved of this arrangement;[47] but, as things turned out, the arrangement was never fulfilled, as the Queen confiscated Essex House because of the treason of Essex.

Before Essex's house arrest, on 10 March 1600 Anthony—together with Lady Leicester, Lord and Lady Southampton, and Sir Fulke Greville—was ordered by the Queen to quit Essex House. It seems likely that Anthony went to Lady Walsingham's house in Seething Street, because his body was seemingly buried in a vault in St Olave's Church, Hart Street, located nearby.[48] Francis, who inherited Anthony's estate and therefore his debts, was only just able to save having to sell Gorhambury.

Once this was all over, the Queen ordered Francis to write the official government account of the trial. After being heavily edited by the Queen and her ministers until it read as an entirely different document to what Francis had first penned, it was published in 1601 as *A Declaration of the Practices and Treasons attempted and committed by Robert late Earle of Essex and his Complices, against her Majestie and her Kingdoms*.[49]

King James – Knighthood – King's Counsel – *Advancement of Learning*

Queen Elizabeth died two years later, on 24 March 1603, and on 25 July 1603 King James VI of Scotland was crowned King James I of England. Anthony Bacon had over the years done some good service for the Scottish king, and so Francis Bacon, who pleaded his case before King James as a "concealed poet" who was for the most part one with his brother in "endeavour and duties", was helped by the King as a result.

In Queen Elizabeth's reign Francis Bacon had been continually by-passed in terms of being given a position wherein he could command a sufficient income and influence for the needs of his great project. Moreover, his service under the Tudor queen as Queen's Counsel had gone largely unpaid, except for the promise of the reversion of the position of Clerk to the Star Chamber when it became vacant, the granting under favourable terms of the lease of Twickenham Park, the lease of the Rectory of Cheltenham, the lease of some woodland in Somerset at a nominal rent, and the payment of a fee of £1200 for his services at Essex's trial. With James, after a cautious start, it was to be different.

Francis Bacon's philanthropic literary work in the reign of Elizabeth, and the largely unpaid legal work for his sovereign, had left him in dire straits financially. Anthony Bacon had died with debts that had to be paid, whilst Francis had his own debts, to cover which Francis mortgaged his Twickenham Park lease. The literary work was still continuing and had to be supported, and yet meaningful and sufficient patronage was still not forthcoming. Therefore, even though Francis inherited the manors and estates of Gorhambury from his brother Anthony, which brought a modicum of financial security, Francis still needed to earn a reasonable income, even if it meant practising law more fully and trying to obtain an official position in the King's service.

First, Francis Bacon was knighted on 22 July 1603 at Whitehall, along with three hundred others, two days before the coronation in Westminster Abbey of King James and his Queen, Anne of Denmark, on 24 March 1603. Then, a year later, on 25 August 1604, Francis was confirmed by letters patent as the King's Counsel Learned Ordinary,[50] with a pension of £40 per annum. He was also appointed as one of the "Commissioners for Suits", who were tasked with examining and refereeing petitions for monopolies (including patents and licenses) of industrial processes, productions and commerce.

It was at this time that Francis Bacon started writing the treatises that would form the various parts or "books" of his Great Instauration, including his first version of the first "book", which was published in October 1605, in English, with the title, *Of the Proficience and Advancement of Learning, Divine and Human*.

Marriage – Solicitor-General – Gray's Inn Treasurer – Virginia Company

In 1603 Francis Bacon was introduced to Alice Barnham,[51] a wealthy alderman's daughter, "an handsome maiden," to whom he took a liking with a view to marriage when she was old enough (she was only eleven years old when they first met). A little over two years later, on 10 May 1606, when she was fourteen and he forty-five, they married in St. Marylebone Chapel, two miles from the Strand.[52]

Francis wrote two sonnets proclaiming his love for Alice; the first was written during his courtship and the second on his wedding day. At their wedding he was clad from top to toe in purple, she in fine raiments of cloth of silver and ornaments of gold.[53] She brought with her a dowry of £6000 plus an annual income of £220, which Francis allowed her to keep for herself, whilst he settled on her a further income for life of £500 per annum. Francis treated his wife with much conjugal love and respect, and for nearly all the years of their marriage they appear to have lived together in peace and contentment, as well as in style.[54] However, for whatever reason, there were no offspring, although Francis clearly hoped there would be, as can be seen from legal arrangements he made.

It also appears that after his marriage (and having sold the lease of Twickenham Park) Francis Bacon was living with his wife Alice in Fulwood House, which lay adjacent to Gray's Inn, whilst he still retained the Bacon Chambers within Gray's Inn for his work.[55] Fulwood House looked out onto "The Field" that became Gray's Inn Gardens, as also did the windows of his chambers. During 1606 these gardens began to be laid out in earnest, with Francis Bacon being the principal person responsible for designing and directing the garden development. Because of the avenues of walks that formed the main feature of the gardens, they became known as "The Walks". Francis Bacon not only designed the gardens himself but also selected all the plants, including elm, birch, beech, sycamore, osiers and apple trees, privet, woodbines (honeysuckle), violets, primroses, pinks, sweetbriers (i.e. eglantines, single-petalled hedge roses) and red roses (damask). It was there that he started the experiments that eventually gave Gray's Inn flowering roses throughout each winter.

On 25 June 1607, the year after his marriage to Alice, Francis Bacon was appointed Solicitor-General with a pension of £1000 per annum. This was not a particularly onerous position, but one which Francis had previously hoped for and which would leave him enough time to pursue his philosophical and poetic programme, and with funds to pay his "good pens". In July 1608 the reversion of Clerk of the Star Chamber fell to him at last, which boosted his financial resources even further. On 17 October 1608 Francis Bacon was elected Treasurer of Gray's Inn, a position he continued to hold for a further nine years (until 26 October 1617). In 1611 he was appointed Judge of the Marshal's Court and President of the Court of the Verge.

During this early Jacobean period, Sir Francis Bacon became a founder member of both the Newfoundland Company[56] and the Virginia Company, both of which established colonies in North America.[57] Sitting with him on the Virginia Company council were the Earls of Pembroke, Montgomery and Southampton, amongst others. He was largely responsible for drawing up, in 1609 and 1612, the two charters of government for the Virginia Colony. These charters were the beginnings of democratic constitutionalism in North America and the germ of the later Constitution of the United States of America.

1609 also saw three other important and related events: the death of the magus John Dee, a champion of colonisation and a model for Prospero in the Shakespeare play, *The Tempest*; the confidential report sent to the Virginia Company council members by William Strachey concerning the shipwreck on the Bermudas of the Company's flagship, the Sea Adventurer, which provided source material for *The Tempest*; and the publication of *Shake-speares Sonnets* with the cryptic dedication page mentioning "The Well-Wishing Adventurer" (a term for a Virginia Company member) and signed with the Masonic "TT".

In August 1610 Lady Anne Bacon died, enabling Francis to take over Gorhambury completely and introduce his new ideas. He began to redesign and lay out the park with new vistas, avenues, gardens, woods and summerhouses, as well as building near the river a new mansion, called Verulam House. Close to and on the north side of Verulam House he designed and had constructed what he called "pond yards", wherein the central pond had an island with a two-storey octagonal banqueting house upon it, floored with black and white marble, covered with Cornish slate and neatly wainscoted inside. Upon the highest point of Gorhambury estate he built a pyramidal mound with a structure on top known as "Bacon's Observatory",[58] which acted as the centre of a vast and meaningful geometric pattern that Francis laid out across his estate.

On Valentine's Day, 14 February 1613, the marriage of James I's daughter, Princess Elizabeth, to Frederick V, the Elector Palatine, took place in the royal chapel at the Palace of Whitehall. Elaborate celebrations followed, organised by Francis Bacon, which included two masques—*The Masque of the Inner Temple and Gray's Inn*, otherwise known as *The Marriage of the Rhine and Thames*, and *The Memorable Masque of the Middle Temple and Lincoln's Inn*, otherwise known as *The Virginia Masque*.

The Virginia Masque was written by George Chapman, with costumes, sets and stage effects designed by Inigo Jones, and was performed in the Great Hall of Whitehall Palace on 15 February 1613, the day after the wedding, by members of the Middle Temple and Lincoln's Inn.

The Marriage of the Rhine and Thames was written by Francis Beaumont, and performed on 20 February 1613 in the Banqueting House of Whitehall Palace by members of Gray's Inn and the Inner Temple. It should have taken place on Shrove Tuesday, 16 February 1613, the second day after the wedding, but had to be postponed due to the fatigue of the King.

Although Francis Beaumont is said to have written *The Marriage of the Rhine and Thames*, the chief contriver of it was, according to the Lord Chamberlain, Francis Bacon. When the masque was printed, the dedication began with an acknowledgement that Sir Francis Bacon, with the gentlemen of Gray's Inn and the Inner Temple, had "spared no pain nor travail in the setting forth, ordering, and furnishing of this Masque". The dedication continued: "And you, Sir Francis Bacon, especially, did by your countenance and loving affections advance it."

Attorney-General – Privy Counsellor – New Method – *Masque of Flowers*

On 26 October 1613 Sir Francis Bacon was appointed as Attorney-General and Chief Advisor to the Crown. As Attorney-General he became far more fully immersed in the King's business, with far less time for writing. What little time he had for literary matters he mainly devoted to perfecting the writing and presentation of his *New Method*, the first two books of which

were translated into Latin (the international language of his day) and published in 1620 as the *Novum Organum*.

At the end of 1613 Francis Bacon devised, organised and paid for, at enormous cost, a beautiful and elaborate masque, *The Masque of Flowers*, to celebrate the nuptials of Robert Carr, Earl of Somerset, with Frances, Countess of Essex. This was presented at Court on 26 December 1613 by the gentlemen of Gray's Inn as a unique wedding gift to the couple. This came about because the four Inns of Court, having been asked to present a masque for the wedding celebrations, decided that they could not manage it. Francis Bacon, who was Treasurer of Gray's Inn, then stepped in to fill the gap, thereby providing a magnificent gift for the wedding that was also in the nature of a 'thank-you' complement to Somerset, who claimed to have used his influence with the King to secure Bacon's promotion to Attorney-General. At the same time it gave honour to Gray's Inn.

On 9 June 1616 Francis Bacon was made a Privy Councillor. That same year he took on a forty-year lease of Canonbury Manor, a fine mansion set in parkland on Islington's hill, with panoramic views over London and fine oak-panelled rooms decorated with Masonic and Rosicrucian symbolism. This was the year when the "Invisible College" (which eventually gave rise to the Royal Society and other societies, academies and orders, based on Francis' proposals and inspiration) was reputedly founded. Francis referred to this College in his *New Atlantis* as "the College of the Six Days' Work". This was a telling description, as Francis Bacon's whole project or 'Great Instauration' was based on his profound understanding of the biblical Six Days of Creation.

Lord Keeper – Regent – Lord Chancellor – Baron Verulam of Verulam – Viscount St Alban

On 7 March 1617, Francis Bacon was appointed Lord Keeper of the Great Seal. Having made this appointment, King James immediately left Francis to act as his temporary regent in England whilst he departed for Scotland for a six-month visit—the first of his reign as King of Great Britain. In the King's absence, Francis Bacon took his place in Chancery with magnificent ceremony, and dressed in purple satin as he was on his wedding day.

Having taken up his new position, Francis Bacon worked hard to make up for the delays in Chancery caused by the illness of his predecessor—his old friend Lord Ellesmere,[59] who still held the title of Lord High Chancellor—and by the tortuous workings of Chancery generally. He doubled the amount of time that he personally, together with his staff, were traditionally expected to spend on Chancery matters, in order to expedite and clear the cases of the court, although he made sure to reserve the depth of the vacations "for studies, arts, and sciences", to which, he said in his inaugural speech, he was in his nature most inclined.

Ten months of hard work later, and after Ellesmere's decease, on 4 January 1618 King James bestowed the honour of Lord High Chancellorship upon Francis Bacon. By this time Francis had moved into York House, the home of his father as Lord Keeper of the Great Seal (and of all subsequent Lord Keepers), and where his father had died and he, Francis, had been raised as a child. This was a home which meant a great deal to Francis, and he set about making it into a beautiful mansion, repairing and furnishing it lovingly and lavishly, connecting it by pipe

to the City's main water supply, building an aviary in its gardens, and installing in it a huge household of servants and retainers, dressed in his livery.

Fittingly, on 12 July 1618 his Majesty raised Francis Bacon to the peerage, creating him Baron Verulam of Verulam.

Two and a half years later, on 22 January 1621, Francis Bacon celebrated his 60th birthday at York House, at which his friend, Ben Jonson, gave an ode in tribute to him:-

> Hail, happy genius of this ancient pile!
> How comes it all things so about thee smile?
> The fire, the wine, the men; and in the midst
> Thou stand'st as if a mystery thou didst.

Then, five days later, on 27th January 1621, at Theobalds Palace, Francis Bacon was created Viscount St Alban by King James. Noticeably and uniquely, this title is named after the saint and not the place, St Albans. Thanking the King, Francis remarked:-

> This is now the eighth time that your Majesty hath raised me… the eighth rise or reach, a diapason in music, even a good number and accord for a close. And so I may without superstition be buried in St. Alban's habit or vestment.

"The eight in music," Francis Bacon wrote elsewhere,[60] "is the sweetest concord". But perhaps he had a premonition of what lay ahead, for he also noted that "Swans are said at the approach of their own death to chant sweet melancholy dirges".[61]

The Sacrifice – Last Years – Major Publications

Almost immediately upon receiving the title of Viscount St Alban, at the height of his public glory, a plot which had been hatched against him by those who envied him and his position came to fruition. It fell upon Francis Bacon like a bombshell, even though friends such as Tobie Matthew had tried to warn him that something dangerous was afoot.

By the end of April 1621, the Lord Chancellor Francis Bacon, Viscount St Alban, had been made the scapegoat for complaints about the abuse of monopolies awarded by the King. Because Francis Bacon couldn't actually be held responsible for this, but at the same time Parliament did not want to condemn the King, and the King wanted to protect Buckingham, Francis Bacon, as Lord Chancellor, was charged instead with accepting bribes. Having been asked by the King to submit without defence, on 30 April, he sent to the House of Lords a "Confession and humble Submission" in which he declared himself guilty of corruption, but then on each of the 23 charges he noted that he was, in law, not guilty. Nevertheless he was then impeached for corruption in his office as a judge.

Francis Bacon's fall was contrived by his adversaries in Parliament and the Court so as to save Buckingham, the King's favourite, and others, from public anger and retribution, and to preserve the good name of the King. In the notes of his interview with the King, Francis refers to himself as being both as innocent as any babe born upon St. Innocent's Day and an oblation (sacrificial offering) to his Majesty.

The next day, 1 May, the great seal that Sir Francis Bacon, Viscount St Alban, held as Lord Chancellor was taken from him. He was relieved of the Great Seal by four lords—the Duke of Norfolk and Duke of Suffolk, plus the Earl of Surrey and the Lord Chamberlain—exactly as described in the Shakespeare play *Henry VIII* when Cardinal Wolsey was relieved of the Great Seal (*Henry VIII.* Act 3. Sc 2).[62] Historically, however, Wolsey was relieved of the Great Seal by only two lords, the Duke of Norfolk and Duke of Suffolk, a fact that was well recorded and reasonably well known. This deliberate 'signposting' (one of many) gives an insight as to who wrote the Shakespeare play.[63]

On 2 May, when Francis was meant to attend on the Lords, the Gentleman Usher and the Serjeant-at-Arms found him sick in bed and unable to attend. On 3 May 1621, sentence was given in Francis' absence. He was stripped of his office as Lord Chancellor and banned from holding any further office, place or employment in the State or Commonwealth, or from sitting in Parliament. He was banished from the verge of Court (12 miles), fined the enormous sum of £40,000 (the equivalent of about £9 million today), and imprisoned in the Tower of London.

(After Bacon's impeachment and loss of office, John Williams, Bishop of Lincoln, was given the office of Lord Keeper of the Great Seal on 16 July 1621.[64] Soon after, Williams was elected Bishop of Lincoln on 3 August 1621. When James I died and was succeeded by Charles I in 1625, Williams was quickly removed from the office of Lord Chancellor. The next Lord Keeper was Sir Thomas Coventry, who was appointed to this high office by Charles I on 1 November 1625, followed by being created 1st Baron Coventry on 10 April 1628.)

Francis Bacon's imprisonment in the Tower of London at the end of May was brief, and after a few days he was released, although banished from London and commanded to retire to Gorhambury until the King's pleasure should be further known.

Gorhambury was a beautiful and relaxing place for vacations, but to live there month after month meant that Francis and his wife were largely cut off from society, from their friends, and he from many of his books and papers and helpers, with the exception of Ben Jonson and some other "good pens" who accompanied the Bacons to Gorhambury. Francis longed to return to the metropolis and he grieved greatly that his wife had to suffer on his behalf. He pleaded with the King to be allowed to return to London. He begged also for financial help in being able to at least live, having sold his plate and jewels and other commodities to pay his creditors and servants what he owed them, so that they should suffer as little as possible.

On 16 September 1621 King James issued a licence permitting Francis Bacon to return to London, but to lodge at Sir John Vaughan's house (Elm House in Parson's Green, Fulham) rather than York House, the lease of which Bacon still held, and only for six weeks. Four days later, on 20 September 1621 James assigned the fine of £40,000 to four trustees of Francis' own choosing, which meant in effect that Francis was freed of its burden. Then on 12 October 1621 James signed a warrant for Francis Bacon's pardon.

From the historical evidence and the tone of Francis Bacon's letters to Buckingham and the King, this pardoning of Francis would seem to have been because of an agreement King James had made with Bacon, that if his Lord Chancellor pleaded guilty to the charges made against him, the King's forgiveness would be quickly given. Nevertheless, despite the pardon, the

damage was done, and as a result Francis Bacon's good name was and remains to this day tarnished in the eyes of the world.

Francis Bacon's bitter experience was not yet over. Although the King had granted his pardon, the new Lord Keeper, Bishop Williams, delayed putting his seal on it. Until this was done, Francis was still not a completely free man legally and, more to the point, was shut out of London, his six weeks at Sir John Vaughan's house having elapsed. Eventually it was made known to Francis that the delay was caused by Buckingham, who desired York House for his own purposes. Until Francis surrendered it, he would not be given either his full pardon or his freedom.

Francis Bacon tried every way he could not to lose his London home, with its strong sentimental value and into which he had poured so much of himself and his finance, but eventually he had to give way. In mid-March 1622 he surrendered York House to Buckingham, the Marquis contracting to buy the lease for £1,300. Immediately after this was done, Francis' pardon and freedom arrived, signed, sealed and delivered, and by November his pension and a grant from the petty writs, both of which had been illegally stopped, had been restored to him—but not without him having to borrow money from friends and write to the King as a supplicant in great extremity.

Now that he could return to London, sometime at the end of March 1622 Francis Bacon, Viscount St Alban, moved with his wife and household to a house in Chiswick, but this was only temporary; for by June 1622 they had taken up residence in Bedford House on the Strand,[65] which Bacon leased from Francis Russell, the heir of his long-time friends and poet-patrons, Edward Russell, third Earl of Bedford,[66] and his wife Lucy Russell (née Harington; 1581–1627), Countess of Bedford,[67] who had reserved the right to reside in the house whenever they pleased. Bedford House now became the Bacons' London home, whilst Gorhambury (which Francis Bacon owned) remained their country abode and family estate. Canonbury Manor in Islington, a short distance north of the City of London, was also still leased by Francis Bacon, and is where he carried out his scientific experiments and, in Canonbury Tower, led Freemasonic-Rosicrucian ceremonies.

During his time of banishment from Court and forced retirement at Gorhambury (June 1621–March 1622), Francis Bacon was able to spend time on the final planning and organisation of the presentation of his Great Instauration to the world at large, gathering further material for his *Natural History*, the third part of his Great Instauration, and writing his greatly enlarged final nine-book version of the two-book *Advancement and Proficience of Learning,* which was translated into Latin under the title *De Dignitate et Augmentis Scientiarum* ('Of the Proficience and Advancement of Science').

The *De Dignitate et Augmentis Scientiarum* was to represent the first 'Book' or part of the Great Instauration. The second 'Book' or part of the Great Instauration, the *Novum Organum* ('New Organum or Method') had already been published in 1620. The translation into Latin of the nine-book *De Dignitate et Augmentis Scientiarum* was accomplished with the help of the metaphysical poet George Herbert and poet-playwright Ben Jonson, and other "good pens which forsake me not", as Bacon wrote to his friend Tobie Matthew in 1623:

> It is true my labours are now most set to have those works I had formerly published, as that of the *Advancement of Learning*, that of *Henry 7th*, that of the *Essays* being retractate and made more perfect, well translated into Latin by the help of some good pens which forsake me not. For these modern languages will at one time or the other play the bank-rowtes with books: and since I have lost much time with this age, I would be glad as God shall give me leave to recover it with posterity.[68]

Other writings of Bacon's were also translated into Latin, as Thomas Tenison[69] records in his *Baconiana* of 1679:

> And, knowing that this Work [*The Advancement of Learning*] was well read beyond the Seas, and being also aware, that Books written in a modern Language, which receiveth much change in a few Years, were out of use; he caused that part of it which he had written in English to be translated into the Latin Tongue, by Mr. Herbert, and some others, who were esteemed Masters in the Roman Eloquence.[70]
>
> The Latine translation of them [*Apothegms*, *Essays, Colours of Good and Evil,* and the nine-book version of the *Advancement of Learning*] was a Work performed by divers Hands; by those of Doctor Hacket (late Bishop of Lichfield), Mr. Benjamin Johnson (the learned and judicious Poet), and some others, whose Names I once heard from Dr. Rawley; but I cannot now recall them.[71]

His other "good pens which forsake me not" included Thomas Hobbes,[72] Peter Böener, Dr. William Rawley, Thomas Meautys,[73] and Doctor John Hacket.[74] Tobie Matthew[75] was also a "good pen", having been a close friend of Francis Bacon since 1595, and corresponding with Francis when he was abroad, and assisting Francis with translations of his essays and other works into Italian when he was staying with Francis.

Moreover, it was probably during the six weeks in London (September-October 1621) that Francis Bacon issued instructions for the collecting together of the Shakespeare plays and the purchasing of the publishing rights for them, so that they could be published collectively as his example of the fourth part of the Great Instauration. This was to be his working model or "machine" as he called it, by which the data collected concerning natural, human and divine nature might be "set as it were before the eyes".

For this he had Ben Jonson to help him, one of his "good pens who forsake me not", who had also been his Chief Gentleman Usher since 1618, and who was described as the "Keeper of the Trophonian Den" in a little volume entitled *The Great Assises holden in Parnassus by Apollo and his Assessors* published anonymously in 1645, but attributed to George Wither. "Keeper of the Trophonian Denne" is an appropriate symbolic description not only of Jonson's role as Chief Gentleman Usher to Bacon's household but also of the role Jonson played in Bacon's Rosicrucian group. It also applies to Jonson as the Doorkeeper or Tyler whose 'Portrait Poem' (signed "B.I.") begins the Shakespeare Folio, standing before the 'door' that is the title page of the Shakespeare Folio.

Once back in London and living at Bedford House in the Strand (June 1622-May 1623), and afterwards at Gray's Inn, the final translation, composition and editing of the *De Dignitate et Augmentis Scientiarum* could be done, and the printing of it in Folio format set in motion, although it was not until October 1623 that it was finally published in Folio format, with its registration occurring on 13 October 1623.

The timing of this went hand in hand with the editing and printing in Folio format of the Shakespeare plays, under the title, *Mr. William Shakespeares Comedies, Histories, & Tragedies.* The Shakespeare Folio was formally entered into Liber D of the Stationers' Company on 8th November 1623, just 26 days after Bacon's *De Dignitate et Augmentis Scientiarum* was registered on 13 October 1623, with the final publication occurring soon after.

The publication date of these two 'twin' books was evidently carefully chosen to be in the latter part of 1623, as an earthly echo of the heavenly great conjunction of Saturn and Jupiter that occurred on 16th July 1623 in the fiery zodiac sign of Leo, the Lion. In this way a double conjunction, in heaven (the sky) and on earth, was manufactured as an expression of the Double Truth that the myth of the Gemini symbolises, for such twinship is the key to everything. It is the Hermetic Wisdom. Francis Bacon had himself introduced this profound wisdom knowledge in the AA-Gemini headpiece that he had printed in the Hebrew grammar book made specially for him during his first year in France, 1576, when he was aged 15. Then, the same, similar or derivative headpieces started to appear in publications from 1579 onwards, when Francis had returned home to England. Such headpieces can be found in the *De Dignitate et Augmentis Scientiarum* Folio and the Shakespeare First Folio of 1623.

As the title page of the 1640 *Of the Advancement and Proficience of Learning* (the first English translation of *De Dignitate et Augmentis Scientiarum*) shows, in terms of the Great Instauration the two Folios represent the two types of Light that are created according to Genesis chapter 1:

- The Light of the First Day of Creation is represented by Book 1, *De Dignitate et Augmentis Scientiarum,* or 'The Divisions of the Sciences' as Bacon also calls it. This Book is depicted on the top of the pile of three books, Books 1, 2 and 3, which support the righthand 'Sun' Pillar (known as *Jachin* in the Freemasonry of Solomon's Temple).
- The three types of light created on the Fourth Day are represented by Book 4, the Shakespeare Folio of *Comedies, Histories, and Tragedies*. This Book is depicted on the top of the pile of three books, Books 4, 5 and 6, which support the lefthand 'Moon' Pillar (known as *Boaz* in the Freemasonry of Solomon's Temple).

Book 1 represents the Universal Light; Book 4 represents the individual lights. Moreover, Book 4 of the Great Instauration is referred to by Bacon under several different names, one of which is 'the Ladder of the Intellect'. This is the poetic or imaginative means by which the Pyramid of Philosophy and Science is built as a "holy temple in the human intellect on the model of the universe".[76]

Both books were printed in Folio format, which was expensive and rare to do, and produced by two different printing houses sited close together in the City of London—William Jaggard and his son Isaac for the Shakespeare First Folio, and John Haviland for the *De Dignitate et*

Augmentis Scientiarum. The Jaggard's printing house was at the Half-Eagle and Key in the Barbican, not far from the Old Bailey, and the Haviland printing house was in Eliot's Court, close to the Sessions House, which is now called the Old Bailey. Not only did Francis Bacon know both printers well, but both of these printing houses were near to Gray's Inn, where the Bacon Chambers were located. The Jaggards (William and his brother John, and Isaac, William's son), besides being the printers of the Shakespeare Folio, had also been the printers of several editions of Francis Bacon's *Essays* (1597, 1606, 1612, 1613).

Francis Bacon also busied himself at this time with researching and writing a history of the reign of King Henry VII, as part of his intended collection of histories of the later sovereigns of England. He also made a start on a collection of studies that would comprise his example of a Natural History. Both *The Historie of the Raign of King Henry The Seventh* and *Historia Ventorum* ('The History of Winds', the first of six essays on natural history) were published in 1622. The former was printed by William Stansby, who printed the first folio of *The Workes of Benjamin Jonson* in 1616. The latter was printed by John Bill, who also printed later, in 1620, Bacon's *Novum Organum*.

Francis Bacon did his best to maintain his wife in a state befitting what she had become used to, as the wife of a Lord Chancellor and a lady in her own right who was now a viscountess. Right from their marriage in May 1606 he had settled on her a suitable income for life of £500 in addition to her own private one, which she had always enjoyed throughout their marriage, and later she became used to far more. At Bedford House this high state of living again seemed possible, and it was also an ideal meeting place for Bacon's "good pens" and all his various friends. But this meant that by February 1623 Francis was again in extreme financial difficulties. He tried to sell Gorhambury to Buckingham, but the Marquis was at that time about to embark for Spain with Charles, the Prince of Wales, to pursue the proposal for the marriage of the King of Spain's daughter to the Prince. Failing to sell Gorhambury, Bedford House had to be given up, as being too expensive to run. This left Gorhambury as the Bacons only family home, so that, when in London, Lady Bacon had to rely on staying with family or friends whilst Francis retired to his "cell", his chambers at Gray's Inn.

When the provostship of Eton fell vacant in April 1623, Francis Bacon applied to the King for the position, as it would have fulfilled his original desire to have a suitable position with a small but sufficient income to sustain him wherein he could "command wits and pens" and oversee the education of bright young minds. But even in this he failed, the position having already been promised to another and King James being unable to believe that his ex-Lord Keeper and Lord Chancellor, who in title was a viscount, would want to take up such a relatively humble position. The truth of the matter was, though, that beyond granting the pardon (which was never given in full, as Francis was denied being able to sit in parliament for the rest of his life), neither the King nor Buckingham did anything whatsoever to help Francis, other than to say friendly and encouraging things in answer to his letters and pleas.

So Francis Bacon remained at Gray's Inn, writing copiously and urgently, and living at Gorhambury with his wife from time to time. Each year, usually in the summer months, he was subject to bouts of sickness, but always seemed to recover. He never lost his profound hope, his extraordinary mental faculties or his zest for completing his great work. Yet within

three years he was to die, outliving by one year the King whom he had served so well, who died on 27 March 1625 and who was succeeded by his son Charles I.

Sir Francis Bacon, Baron Verulam of Verulam, Viscount St Alban, eventually died of pneumonia on Easter Day, 9th April 1626, at the Earl of Arundel's house in Highgate. His body was interred in the vault beneath the chancel of St Michael's Church, Gorhambury, St Albans, over which a statue of him in his Lord Chancellor's robes was later erected by Thomas Meautys, his private secretary. Meautys also published Francis Bacon's natural history, *Sylva Sylvarum*, and utopia, *New Atlantis*, before the end of the year.

The several conflicting accounts of Francis Bacon's death, the burial of his body in the crypt of St Michael's Church, St Albans, and the memorial statue erected over it, are enigmatic, suggesting other possibilities—which is exactly what Francis Bacon's life and works are all about.

Francs Bacon's will contained a codicil added on 19 December 1625 which disinherited his wife from acquiring Gorhambury and its contents upon his death. Instead, he left it to his executors to dispose of all his possessions and estates (Gorhambury and some much smaller estates or lands and rentals), for them to be sold for the benefit of his creditors, to whom he owed a huge amount of money.[77]

For whatever reason, the will remained unexecuted by the executors for 15 months, resulting in letters of administration being granted on 18 July 1627 to two of his creditors, Sir Robert Rich and Thomas Meautys, who were owed the most. Gorhambury estate, which included Gorhambury House and Verulam House, was not for the common market because of the symbolism and other things which had to be protected, and it wouldn't have reached its true value anyway. So Gorhambury was conveyed to trustees for the use of Thomas Meautys, Bacon's private secretary and close friend.

Francis Bacon's wife, Lady Alice (née Barnham), was a consenting party in all this, and received for life an annuity of £530, in addition to her widow's rights and all the wealth she already possessed. The sale of all the other properties and possessions in Bacon's ownership, which seemingly included his library of books, failed to reach the sums owed. The sales raised about £13,000, but the debts amounted to about £22,400.[78]

Tributes – Legacy

Within a few weeks of the death of Lord St Alban (Francis Bacon), a remarkable set of tributes—"tokens of love and memorials of sorrow"—were published in commemoration of him. These tributes, known as the *Manes Verulamiani*, are in the form of thirty-two Latin poems or elegies plus a preface written by Francis' private chaplain, Dr William Rawley. The elegies, selected by Rawley from a much larger number of tributes to Francis, were largely written by scholars and Fellows of the Universities, and members of the Inns of Court, including a bishop, two royal chaplains and a Regius professor of divinity.

The elegies refer to Francis Bacon as having been not only a great philosopher but also a concealed poet and playwright, "the very nerve of genius, the marrow of persuasion, the golden stream of eloquence, the precious gem of concealed literature," who "immortalised the Muses" and renewed Philosophy "walking humbly in the socks of Comedy" and rising "in

the loftier buskin of Tragedy". He is likened to Apollo, "the brilliant Light-Bearer," "Daystar of the Muses," and "leader of our choir", and to Pallas Athena, the Tenth Muse, "a Muse more rare than the nine Muses."

From then on, as Ben Jonson remarked in his tribute to Bacon, "wits daily grow downward". The unique half-century of brilliant English Renaissance culture was over. The 'light' had vanished, but not the inheritance which it has left behind for us to enjoy.

Francis Bacon left copious letters and manuscripts in various stages of completion, a library of books and a generous will—although he died so much in debt due to his misfortune that the benefits of his will could not be fully realised. Some of his letters and manuscripts were given into the care of his secretary Sir Thomas Meautys, others to his chaplain Dr William Rawley, and some to be looked after by his brother-in-law Sir John Constable and his literary friend Sir William Boswell, the English Ambassador at The Hague. Francis left them instructions to publish some and reserve others to a "private succession" of literary "sons", as they deemed fit. His extensive library he bequeathed to Constable, but it seems that the books had to be sold because of the insolvency of his estate when he died.

Many of Bacon's manuscripts were edited and published by Rawley with the help of associates led by Thomas Meautys, Bacon's secretary. When Rawley died in 1667, the manuscripts were passed on to Thomas Tenison by Rawley's sons, John and William, who were both good friends of Thomas Tenison (1636-1715). Before he became Archbishop of Canterbury in 1694, Tenison published some of these unpublished writings in a collection called *Baconiana or Certaine Genuine Remains of Sir Francis Bacon, etc..*[79] In his preface to the book, Tenison mentions how Bacon did not sign all his writings, but that, with skill, it is nevertheless possible to determine what he did write.

> And those who have true skill in the works of the Lord Verulam, like great Masters in Painting, can tell by the Design, the Strength, the way of Colouring, whether he was the Author of this or the other Piece, though his Name be not to it.[80]

Ben Jonson had once remarked that three hundred years is the period that Nature requires to produce a poet, "hence the coming up of good poets is so thin and rare amongst us." Tenison said, speaking about Bacon: "I affirm with good assurance that Nature gives the world that individual species but once in five hundred years." In a later tribute, Ben Jonson describes Francis Bacon as "a man who comes but once in an age."

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Endnotes

[1] The two families, the Cecils and the Bacons, maintained close contact with each other and often visited each other's homes, both in London and in the country.

[2] Michael Maier is alleged to have stated, in a manuscript residing at the University of Leiden (or Leipzig), that the Rosicrucian Fraternity of his time was formed c.1570 by followers of Heinrich Cornelius Agrippa von Nettesheim, who had founded a secret society in London in 1510 similar to the one in Paris, with secret signs of recognition; and that this society gave rise to the Brethren of the Gold and Rosy Cross in 1570 and founded corresponding chapters of their society throughout Europe. See Bricaud, Joanny: 'Historique du Movement Rosicrucien,' *Le Voile d'Isis,* Vol. 91, July 1927, pp. 559-574. See also Hereward Tilton: *The Quest for the Phoenix: Spiritual Alchemy and Rosicrucianism in the Work of Count Michael Maier* (1569-1622).

[3] Sir Edward Bacon (1548-1618), of Bray, Berkshire and Shrubland Hall in the parish of Coddenham in Suffolk, England, was the third son of Sir Nicholas Bacon, Lord Keeper of the Great Seal to Queen Elizabeth I, by Nicholas' first wife Jane Fernley, a daughter of William Fernley of Creeting St Peter in Suffolk.

Like his two elder brothers, Nicholas (1540-1624) and Nathaniel (1546-1622), Edward entered Trinity College, Cambridge, in 1561, aged twelve. Not taking a degree, he was admitted to Gray's Inn in 1566 for legal training.

As a county gentleman, Edward Bacon was a Clerk in Chancery in 1571, Justice of the Peace for Berkshire 1583-91, Justice of the Peace for Suffolk in 1594, Sheriff of Suffolk in 1600, and High Sheriff of Suffolk in 1601. He was knighted 11 May 1603.

Edward was also chosen as a Member of Parliament representing Great Yarmouth in Norfolk (1576-83), for Tavistock in Devon (1584), for Weymouth and Melcombe Regis (1586), and the County Seat of Suffolk (1593).

Following the special course of education that had been delineated by Sir Nicholas Bacon "for the advancement of learning and training of statesmen", in 1576 Edward embarked on a study tour of the continent, visiting notable Calvinist divines for instruction. He set out from England in the company of his younger half-brother Francis, but once in France he parted company from Francis in Paris and went on to Ravenna and Padua in Italy. He also spent some time in Vienna and remained for a long time at Geneva, Switzerland, where he lived in Theodore Béza's house as a student of Beza, and met two leading Protestants, Johannes Sturmius and Lambert Danaeus (who dedicated a book to Edward). He returned to England sometime in 1578, prior to Sir Nicholas's death on 20 February 1579.

On 23 January 1580/1, Edward married Helen Littel, daughter and heiress of Thomas Little of Shrubland Hall by his wife Elizabeth Lytton, a daughter and co-heiress of Sir Robert Lytton of Knebworth House in Hertfordshire. The marriage took place at All Hallows, London Wall, Middlesex, England. By his wife he had at least six sons and two daughters surviving to adulthood. Two sons, Nathaniel Bacon (1593–1660) and Francis Bacon (1600–1663), became Members of Parliament for Ipswich during the Civil War era.

Sir Edward Bacon became a prosperous country gentleman, with numerous properties that he acquired by inheritance from his father, from his marriage, and from his own purchases. He was the only one of the older Bacon brothers who gave substantial help to his perpetually-indebted younger half-brothers Anthony and Francis. He allowed them to use as their own the manor of Twickenham Park, which he held on a long lease from the Queen, especially after his marriage when he removed to Shrubland Hall.

Sir Edward Bacon died 8 September 1618.

[4] According to Letters Patent dated 30th June 1576 held at the Record Office.

[5] Edward Bacon spent about two years in continental Europe. Having travelled over to France in the embassy of Amias Paulet, together with his half-brother, Francis Bacon, and briefly visited Paris, he went on to Ravenna and Padua in Italy. In December 1577 he was in Strasburg. He also spent some time in Vienna and remained for a long time at Geneva, where he lived in Theodore Béza's house and met Johannes Sturmius and Lambert Danaeus (who dedicated a book to Edward).

[6] *Pleiad* was the name given in Greek literature to seven tragic poets who flourished during the reign of Ptolemy Philadelphus (285-247). The name is derived from the Pleiades, the cluster of 'seven' stars in the constellation of Taurus. In France, during the reign of Henri III (1574-89), another group of seven poets, led by Pierre de Ronsard, took the name of *Pléiade*. Their avowed purpose was to improve the French language and literature by imitation of the classics. They were not just poets but also philosophers, humanists, artists and scholars.

[7] *Sodalitium* is Latin for a fellowship or brotherhood.

[8] William T. Smedley, *The Mystery of Francis Bacon* (1910). In this book Smedley describes how he came into possession of the very rare book, *Hebraicum Alphabethum*, published in Paris in 1576, which was once owned by Francis Bacon when he was in Paris (1576-1579).

The book is made up of two Hebrew Grammars, interweaved page by page with proof-sheets of English-made paper containing Francis Bacon's handwriting, in which he translates the Hebrew into Greek, Chaldaic, Syriac and Arabic. These two Hebrew Grammars are named *"Hebraicum Alphabethum Jo. Bovlaese"* and *"Sive compendium, quintacunque Ratione fieri potuit amplessimum, Totius linguæ".* The latter ends with the sentence, "Ex collegio Montis--Acuti 20 Decembris 1576".

Then follow two supplementary pages in Hebrew, with a Latin translation over the text, which is headed "Decem Prœcepta decalogi Exod." Over this heading is the Double-A headpiece.

All these – the two grammars, the interleaved proof-sheets, the two supplementary pages – were bound together to make one book.

Other than this 1576 *Hebraicum Alphabethum*, which appears to have been a private publication, the first public appearance of the Double-A hieroglyph in print was in emblem XLV, "In Dies Meliora" ("On to better days/things"), in the 1577 edition of Andreas Alciat's *Emblemata.* The two A's appear in this emblem picture as two visible sides of a pyramid. This edition was published in Antwerp by Christopher Plantin, a Frenchman who set up a printing business in Antwerp and who was one of the most noted and ardent members of the "Family of Love". This Family of Love extended to the members of the magian society in Paris and elsewhere.

The first time the Double-A headpiece appeared in public was in *De Rep. Anglorum Instauranda libri decem, Authore Thoma Chalonero Equitite, Anglo,* published in London in 1579 by Thomas Vautrollier. This was the year when Francis Bacon returned to England. From then on many Double-A headpieces appeared in books. A slightly modified, extended version of the original *Hebraicum Alphabethum* Double-A headpiece was later used in the 1623 Shakespeare First Folio.

[9] E.g. *The Two Gentlemen of Verona, Comedy of Errors, Love's Labour's Lost, Twelfth Night, Much Ado About Nothing, As You Like It, A Midsummer Night's Dream, The Taming of the Shrew, Hamlet, King Lear, Othello, The Tempest.*

[10] *L'Academie Française* by the French writer Pierre de La Primaudaye (1546–1619) first appeared in 1577. It was dedicated to Henry III, and was published in successive volumes between 1577 and 1596, forming a compendium of scientific, moral and philosophical knowledge.

L'Academie Française appeared in English translations from 1584 onwards, the most notable one being *The French Academie* of 1618.

[11] Hilliard returned to England in October 1578, so the portrait miniature of Francis Bacon in his eighteenth year was painted before then. An alternative translation of Hilliard's full Latin inscription, "Si tabula daretur digna / Animum mallem," as given by Lisa Jardin and Alan Stewart in their book, *Hostage to Fortune*, is "If the face as painted is deemed worthy, yet I prefer the mind." (See *Hostage to Fortune: The Troubled Life of Francis Bacon 1561-1626*. Victor Gollancz, London: 1998).

[12] Amboise is quoted as an authority by Gilbert Wats in the 'Testimonies consecrate to the Merite of the incomparable Philosopher' prefixed to Bacon's *The Advancement and Proficience of Learning* published in English in 1640, wherein Wats refers to Amboise's "just and elegant discourse upon this life of our Author" and quotes from it.

[13] Pierre Amboise, 'Discourse on the Life of M. Francis Bacon, Chancellor of England,' *Histoire Naturelle de Mre. Francis Bacon* (Paris, 1631). Translated from the French by Granville C. Cuningham. See 'A New Life of Lord Bacon', *Baconiana* IV/14 (April 1906).

[14] State Paper Office. French Correspondence. (Spedding, *The Letters and the Life of Francis Bacon*, Vol.1, ch.1.)

[15] Spedding, *Letters and Life of Francis Bacon*, Vol. 1, ch.1, p8.

[16] i.e. as distinct from *de mense clericorum* ('to the clerk's table').

[17] Gray's Inn Law Terms & Vacations:-

- Michaelmas Term – from 1 October to 19 December
- Christmas (Dead/Mean) Vacation – from 20 December to 10 January
- Hilary Term – from 11 January to 31 March
- Lent Vacation – from 1 April to 24 April (Learning Vacation – 24 days)
- Trinity Term – from 25 April to 30 June
- Summer Vacation – July/Aug/Sept (Learning Vacation – 24 days – return early to Inn)

[18] William Rawley, *Resuscitatio, or, bringing into publick light several pieces of the works, civil, historical, philosophical, and theological, hitherto sleeping of the right honourable Francis Bacon : Baron of Verulam, Viscount Saint Alban* (1657), 'Other Letters, by the same Honourable Authour, Written in the Dayes of Queen Elizabeth', pp.88-89. The letter is undated.

James Spedding, in his *Letters and Life of Francis Bacon*, Chap III. 1597, pp. 49-50, dates this letter as being written in 1597, but Rawley indicates, by his placement of the letter, that he thinks it was written earlier.

[19] William Rawley, *Certaine Miscellany Workes of the Right Honourable Francis Lo. Verulam, Viscount St. Alban* (1629); *Resuscitatio*, 'The Life of the Right Honourable Francis Lord Bacon; 3rd edition (1671), includes *Certaine Miscellany Workes of the Right Honourable Francis Lo. Verulam, Viscount St. Alban*.

[20] William Rawley, *Resuscitatio*, 'Other Letters, by the same Honourable Authour, Written in the Dayes of Queen Elizabeth', pp.95-96.

[21] Walter Devereux, 1st Earl of Essex, died at Dublin in September 1576, having sent a message to Philip Sidney from his death-bed expressing his desire that Philip should marry his daughter. Later his secretary wrote to Philip's father, Sir Henry Sidney, which seems to point to the existence of a definite understanding concerning such a marriage.

[22] See Joy Hancox, *The Byrom Collection and the Globe Theatre Mystery*. (Jonathan Cape Ltd, 1997.) Joy Hancox's research indicates that it may have been the Tintern wireworks that produced the plates used to print the diagrams of the theatre designs found in the Byrom Collection, and also, later, the portrait of Shakespeare in the 1623 First Folio of Shakespeare's plays.

[23] The Pleiades star cluster is in the constellation Taurus ('the Bull'). Pleaides means 'the Seven Sisters'.

[24] The Ares Hill, named after the god Ares (Roman, Mars).

[25] St Paul is reputed to have spoken on the Areopagus to the philosophers and citizens of Athens.

[26] Edward Kirke was in all probabilty the "E.K." mentioned in *The Shepheardes Calendar*.

[27] Mentioned in letter from Nicholas Faunt to Anthony Bacon, 6 May 1583 (Lambeth Palace library MS 647, folio 150, part. 72

[28] *Notes on the Present State of Christendom,* part of which was found amongst Bacon's papers and printed as Bacon's in the supplement to the 1734 second collection of manuscripts, *Letters and*

Remains of the Lord Chancellor Bacon, studied and put together by Robert Stephens, the Historiographer Royal in the reign of William and Mary.

[29] The Pension of 21 November 1588. See Fletcher, Reginald, (ed.): *The Grey's Inn Pension Book 1569–1669*, vol. 1 (London: 1901), p.82-83.

[30] Francis Bacon kept his chambers at Gray's Inn until the end of his life. After his impeachment in May 1621, and when he was allowed to return to London, he retired to his chambers to write. On 8 November 1622 the chambers were leased to him alone for 40 years.

[31] The New Park of Richmond, later called Twickenham Park, was leased to Edward Bacon (third son of Sir Nicholas Bacon by his first wife) in 1574, and then to Edward's half-brother, Francis Bacon, in 1595. When Francis Bacon's 21-year lease expired in 1606, the lease of the property was granted to Sir Thomas Lake, who in 1607 assigned his interest to Sir Henry Goodyear and Edward Woodward. In 1608 the lease was made over to George Lord Carew and George Croke, in trust for Lucy Russell, Countess of Bedford. The countess then resided at Twickenham Park until 1618, when she gave it to her relation Sir William Harrington, who sold it in 1621 to Mary, Countess of Home.

British History Online also adds that in 1581 "a lease was granted for 30 years to Edward Fitzgarret; in 1595, a farther lease for 21 years to Francis Bacon, Esq. and John Hibbard."

If Edward Fitzgarret was the Edward FitzGarret* who was the Lieutenant of the Gentlemen Pensioners during the reign of Queen Elizabeth I, then he died in 1590, which meant that the lease would either have reverted to Edward Bacon or the property returned to the Queen lease-free. It is more likely, however, that Edward FitzGarret only leased part of Twickenham Park, because from extant letters it seems that Edward Bacon and then Francis Bacon were often at Twickenham Park and continued to be so through the years, from 1574 to 1606. It also makes sense of the record that the lease to Francis Bacon also included John Hibbart, as Hibbart could have leased that part of Twickenham Park that had previously been leased by Edward FitzGarret.

See Wikipedia, 'Twickenham Park'; Garden Visit, 'Twickenham Park'; British History Online, 'Twickenham'; 'Memoirs of the reign of Queen Elizabeth, from the year 1581 till her death… From the original papers of Anthony Bacon, esquire,…' by Thomas Birch.

*Edward FitzGarret, one-time Lieutenant of the Gentlemen Pensioners, was the third son of Gerald FitzGerald, 9th Earl of Kildare, and Lady Elizabeth Grey. After his father's death in the Tower of London in 1534, Edward lived with his mother and was later placed in Princess Mary's (later Queen Mary I) household. His career at court was advanced by friends of his mother, leading to his preferment as Lieutenant of the Gentlemen Pensioners. He retained his position under Queen Elizabeth I, and by 1584 was receiving wages of £25 a quarter. He served as a Member of Parliament (MP) for Great Grimsby and later for Lichfield. He was a significant link between the English administration and the Irish nobility, and undertook various duties for the Crown, including a mission to Ireland in 1573 to meet with his relative, the Earl of Desmond. Over the years he accumulated various properties, but became financially ruined towards the end of his life, possibly due to his son's extravagance. He died in 1590.

[32] *An Advertisement Touching the Controversies of the Church of England* was initially circulated in manuscript form. It was first printed as a separate pamphlet in 1640, and then by Dr. Rawley in *Resuscitatio* (1657). Spedding, 1, IV: 70-95.

[33] William Rawley, 'The Life of the Honourable Author,' *Resuscitatio* (1657).

[34] Francis Bacon, letter to Lord Burghley (1591): printed in Rawley's *Resuscitatio*, Supplement, p.95. Spedding, *Letters and Life of Francis Bacon*, Vol.1, ch.5, p.108.

[35] Francis Bacon, *Apology in Certain Imputations Concerning the Late Earl of Essex* (1604).

[36] Previous to this "extraordinary" appointment, the Counsel in Ordinary for the Crown had been composed of the Royal Sergeants and the Attorney and Solicitor General, and only these together with the Serjeants had previously been allowed to sit and act within the bar (the precincts of the court room reserved for the judge), while all other lawyers (i.e. utter or outer barristers) sat outside the bar and just in front of the general public.

[37] Francis Bacon, *Sir Francis Bacon his Apologie, In certain Imputations concerning the late Earle of Essex* (first published in 1604).

> "And when, not long after I had entered into this course, my brother, master Anthony Bacon, came from beyond the seas, being a gentleman whose ability the world taketh knowledge of for matters of state specially foreign, I did likewise knit his service to be at my Lord's disposing."

[38] *Ibid.*

[39] Letter from Francis Bacon to the Queen, May 1593. Lambeth MSS. 649. 315. Spedding, *Letters and Life of Bacon*, Vol.1, ch.6, p.240.

[40] 26 November 1594 was when the next two Treasurers, Mr. Lancaster and Mr. Betenham, were elected.

[41] *Gesta Grayorum* (first published 1688, reprinted by the Malone Society 1614). The introduction to the Malone Society reprint says: "the text in the Gesta Grayorum is not the only text of this masque extant. In Manuscript Harley 541 at the British Museum is included a thin pamphlet containing another and a better copy (art. 9, fol. 138).

[42] Because of a frenzy of excited anticipation, this first Grand Night evening entertainment attracted more guests than could be accommodated in the Great Hall of Gray's Inn. When the special embassy of "gallantly appointed" Inner Temple lawyers arrived at 9.00 pm and with difficulty been seated, "there arose such a disordered tumult and crowd upon the stage, that there was no opportunity to effect that which was intended". Not only was there no room for the actors, but the masquers were forced off the stage and the masque ended abruptly in general confusion.

The fact that the Templars "feigned offense" suggests that the Templars believed that the disorder had been prearranged as part of the theme of the revels, which was to bring order out of chaos.

[43] The Gray's Inn play called "a Comedy of Errors (like to Plautus his Menechmus)" was the first known performance of Shakespeare's play, *The Comedy of Errors*, which is a modernized adaptation of Plautus' *Menaechmi*. William Warner's translation of the classical drama, from Latin into English, had been entered into the Register of the Stationers Company on 10 June 1594, six months before the Yuletide Revels, but was not published until 1595, after the Revels. The published translation was dedicated to Sir Henry Carey, 1st Baron Hunsdon, Queen Elizabeth's first cousin, who was the Lord Chamberlain at that time and who in 1594 had become the patron of the Lord Chamberlain's Men when it was newly reconstituted under the leadership of the Burbages.

Although Gray's Inn had its own in-house company of amateur players made up of gentlemen-lawyers, and although *The Audited Account of the Exchequer* for 1594-5 records a performance of an unnamed play at Greenwich by the Lord Chamberlain's Men on Innocents Day, December 28, 1594, and royal performances were almost always at night, it is thought nevertheless that it was probably the Lord Chamberlain's Men who performed the *Comedy of Errors* at Gray's Inn that night.

It is possible, for instance, that the Lord Chamberlain's Men performed for the Queen in the afternoon rather in the evening; or, because an afternoon performance would have been unusual, performed before the Queen in the evening and then, immediately after, travelled to Gray's Inn by torchlight later that night. Another possibility is that the entry in the Exchequer Accounts was misdated, as some scholars propose, although this is unlikely.

It is in the 1594-5 Exchequer Account for that Innocents Day that William Shakespeare is for the first time recorded as being an actor with the Lord Chamberlain's Men, along with William Kemp and Richard Burbage.

[44] Francis Bacon, 'Of Goodness and Goodness of Nature,' *Essays* (1625).

[45] Ecclesiastes 3: 11. Francis Bacon, *On Principles and Origins according to the fables of Cupid and Coelum*; *Wisdom of the Ancients,* 'Cupid or the Atom.'

[46] Frank J. Burgoyne, *Collotype Facsimile & Type Transcript of an Elizabethan Manuscript preserved at Alnwick Castle, Northumberland,* transcribed and edited with notes by Frank J. Burgoyne (Longmans, Green, and Co., 1904).

The Northumberland Manuscript is a collection of manuscripts, penned in Elizabethan script, that once contained two Shakespeare plays (*Richard II* and *Richard III*) as well as a play by Nashe (*The Isle of Dogs*) and an unknown play, *Asmund and Cornelia*, all bound together with philosophical and poetical writings known to be by Francis Bacon, and a contents page that not only links Francis Bacon with William Shakespeare's name but also appears to indicate that Bacon is the actual author of *Richard II* and *Richard III*, using the name of "William Shakespeare". This name written on the contents page is the first known use of the name 'William Shakespeare' in connection with any Shakespeare play.

The collection, which consists of a parchment folder containing several manuscripts of 16th-century works stitched together, was discovered in 1867 in an old black box of papers at Northumberland House, Charing Cross, London, by a Mr. John Bruce. In 1870 it was edited and a few pages of it were printed by James Spedding. It was more fully examined and reproduced in facsimile with a transcription in modern script by Frank J. Burgoyne, the Lambeth Librarian, in 1904.

Northumberland House was a large mansion located at the end of the Strand, near to the original site of Charing Cross at the northern entrance to Whitehall and adjacent to York House in the Strand. It was built c.1605 by Henry Howard, 1st Earl of Northampton, on the site of a 13th-century Augustinian chapel and hospital for the poor of St Mary Rouncivall, that was suppressed in Edward VI's reign and turned into tenements. Henry Howard was a friend of Francis Bacon, who included three of his sayings in his *Apophthegms*, and chose him as "the learnedest councillor in the kingdom to present to the king his *Advancement of Learning*."

In 1614 Northumberland House passed from Lord Northampton to Thomas Howard, 1st Earl of Suffolk, with the mansion being then known as Suffolk House. The Earls of Suffolk were another branch of the powerful Howard family headed by the Dukes of Norfolk. In the 1640s it was sold to Algernon Percy, 10th Earl of Northumberland, and the mansion's name reverted to Northumberland House. After a fire in 1780, part of the Strand front of Northumberland House had to be rebuilt. It was this fire that damaged the edges of the Northumberland Manuscript collection.

[47] In a letter from John Chamberlain to his friend Dudley Carlton, dated 28 June 1599, he writes:

> "The Queen is given to understand that he [Essex] has given Essex house to Antonie Bacon, wherewith she is nothing pleased ; but as far as I heare it is but in lieu of 2000 l. he meant to bestow upon him, with a clause of redemption for that sum by a day." (Chamberlain's Letters. Cambridge Royal Historical Society Camden Series.)

[48] Lady Walsingham was the widow of Sir Francis Walsingham and the mother of Frances, Countess of Essex.

[49] *A declaration of the practises & treasons attempted and committed by Robert late Earle of Essex and his complices, against Her Maiestie and her kingdoms, and of the proceedings as well at the arraignments & conuictions of the said late Earle, and his adherents, as after. Together with the very*

confessions and other parts of the euidences themselues, word for word taken out of the originals. Imprinted at London, by Robert Barker, Printer to the Queenes most excellent Maiestie, Anno 1601.

[50] In the time of Queen Elizabeth I, Francis Bacon was made her Queen's Counsel Learned Extraordinary. This was the first time such a position had been created; but the term 'Extraordinary' meant that the office was unpaid. In King James I's reign, Sir Francis Bacon was created King's Counsel Learned Ordinary, wherein the term 'Ordinary' meant that he was paid. Again, Sir Francis Bacon was the first person to be created King's Counsel, but James soon followed this up by also creating other KC's.

[51] Alice Barham was one of the daughters and co-heirs of Benedict Barnham, Esquire, an Alderman and Sheriff of London.

[52] Alfred Dodd, in his second volume of his *Personal Life Story* produces remarkable evidence to prove that the mystery of Francis Bacon's marriage to Alice Barnham in 1606, when he was 45 years of age, and she 14 years of age, was because of Francis' royal birth. Francis was the eldest son and potential heir of Queen Elizabeth I, but only if she had acknowledged him openly as her son and heir, which she did not do. Because of how Francis Bacon was initially left out in the cold as King James approached London to be crowned King of England, it was suspected that James feared that Francis himself or any possible descendant of Francis might lay claim to the Throne.

In March 1603, whilst King James VI of Scotland was in the process of moving from Scotland to England to be crowned King James I of England, Francis wrote a letter to King James, offering his service. In this letter Francis offers himself as an "Oblation" to his Majesty, and says that he is most happy in such a successor as King James. As he received no answer, he drafted 'A Proclamation Drawn for the King at his Entrance' so as to show his allegiance, and sent it to Northumberland to show to the King. The King was still 400 miles away, so Francis then decided to end the suspense, and travelled north to meet the King.

Soon after, it would seem that an unwritten arrangement was made between King James and Francis Bacon, which was that Francis should marry a commoner, and if possible someone with whom he could have a non-sexual partnership, which would negate both himself and any possible descendant from making a claim to the Throne. This might have happened at Sir John Pakington's manor of Aylesbury, where King James is known to have stopped on his way to London and been received in great splendour.

According to records, Francis Bacon definitely went to meet the King, and had an audience with him, but the exact meeting place is unrecorded. However, Francis would have known Sir John Pakington, a favourite of Queen Elizabeth, who called him "lusty Pakington" for his physique and sporting abilities, and his magnificence of living. Francis would also have known of his marriage in November 1598 to the widowed Dorothy Barnham, daughter of Ambrose Smith of Withcote, Leicestershire, and of Cheapside, who was the official purveyor of silks and velvets to Queen Elizabeth. So Francis probably met Sir John and Lady Dorothy Packington, and Dorothy's four daughters by her first marriage to Benedict Barnham, at Sir John's Aylesbury mansion in Buckinghamshire, where King James stayed on his journey down to London.

Alfred Dodd thinks it likely that King James dropped a hint to Francis Bacon that Alice was someone he might think of marrying, who would suit what was needed. Whatever the truth is, the fact is that after this meeting, and Francis' letter to Cecil wherein he says that he desires to meddle in as little as he can in the King's causes, and that his ambition is quenched and will only be put upon his pen, and that he has "found an alderman's daughter, an handsome maiden, to my liking", followed by his engagement to Alice, Francis Bacon began to be officially recognised. He was duly knighted at Whitehall on 22 July 1603, two days before the coronation, made KC on 25 August 1604, and on Francis' marriage day, 10 April 1606, was able to wear purple from "top to toe", which was only

legally allowed for royalty. After his marriage, Francis was soon advanced to the office of Solicitor-General on 25 June 1607.

[53] Mary Sturt, *Francis Bacon, a biography* (London: Kegan Paul and Co., Ltd., 1932); 'Alice Barnham: Bacon's Girl Wife,' *Baconiana* Vol. XXXV. No.140; Letter from Dudley Carlton to John Chamberlain, published in Mrs Everett Green's *Calendar of State Papers, Domestic Series: James I* (published under the direction of the Master of the Rolls), p.307; James Spedding, *The Letters and the Life of Francis Bacon*, Vol.3, ch.VIII, 2.

[54] A. Chambers Bunten, *The Life of Alice Barnham (1592-1650) , Wife of Sir Francis Bacon, Baron Verulam, Viscount St. Alban / Mostly Gathered from Unpublished Documents* (Page & Thomas, London, 1919); W. Hepworth Dixon, *The Story of Lord Bacon's Life*, ch. VIII (1882); Daphne Du Maurier, *The Winding Stair.*

[55] According to Bacon's *Ancilla Memoriae* of July 1608, he appears to have been living in "Fulwood's House" at that time, and valued his furniture there at £60. This fine London house, owned and occupied by Sir George Fulwood and his family, lay adjacent to Gray's Inn (part of its grounds was sold to Gray's Inn to form the Inn's south entry from Holborn). Francis' wife Alice would not have been allowed to live with him in Gray's Inn, so it would seem that, upon getting married, Francis and Alice set up their London home with the Fulwoods. The location of the house could not have been better from the point of view of Bacon being close to his chambers in Gray's Inn.

According to the *Ancilla Memoriae,* Bacon was then (July 1608) contemplating moving elsewhere, as there are entries to "inquire of the state of Arlington's House, and get it for a rent;" "to enquire of Bath House;" of Wanstead, etc. From these he selected Bath House, and in the entry regarding the furniture, *Fulwoods* is crossed out and *Bath* substituted.

Spedding, *Letters and Life of Francis Bacon*, Vol.4, ch.2, p.56.

[56] Also known as the London and Bristol Company.

[57] In 1910 Newfoundland issued a postage stamp commemorating the 'tercentenary' (1610-1910) of the establishment of the first colony. The stamp displays a portrait of "Lord Bacon" and describes him as "the guiding spirit in Colonization Scheme."

[58] Bacon's Mount is referred to as Bacon's Observatory on a 1634 map: *The Mannour of Gorham-Burry in the County of Hartford… 1634 – map drawn by Benjamin Hare.* (Hertfordshire Record Office.)

[59] Thomas Egerton, 1st Viscount Brackley, PC (c. 1540 – 15 March 1617), known as Lord Ellesmere from 1603 to 1616.

Thomas Egerton was an English nobleman, judge and statesman, who was appointed Solicitor General on 28 June 1581, and Attorney General on 2 June 1592, when he was knighted. On 10 April 1594 he was made Master of the Rolls, in which position he excelled as an equity judge. He became a friend of Robert Devereux, 2nd Earl of Essex, and a patron of Francis Bacon.

After the death of the Lord Keeper Puckering, on 6 May 1596 Egerton was appointed Lord Keeper of the Great Seal and sworn a Privy Councillor. He remained Master of the Rolls and thus the sole judge in the Court of Chancery.

In October 1600, his second wife having died, he married Alice Spencer, widow of Ferdinando Stanley, 5th Earl of Derby, who had suddenly died, possibly poisoned, on 16 April 1594. Alice was an important patron of the arts, as had been Ferdinando Stanley, who had been patron of Derby's Men (previously known as Lord Strange's Men, before Ferdinando became the 5th Earl of Derby). Lord Strange/Derby's Men performed several early Shakespeare plays—*Titus Andronicus* and the trilogy of *Henry VI, Part 1, Henry VI, Part 2,* and *Henry VI, Part 3*.

On 19 July 1603 Thomas Egeteron was created Lord Chancellor and 1st Baron Ellesmere by King James. Towards the end of his life, because he had taken an oath of allegiance to the King, he stood out against the arguments made by Sir Edward Coke, the Lord Chief Justice, and ultimately aided the King in securing Coke's dismissal as a judge on 14 November 1616. After this, Ellesmere attempted to resign several times, as he was becoming increasingly old and infirm, but it was not until 5 March 1617 that the King finally accepted his resignation, and only after first creating Ellesmere as Viscount Brackley on 7 November 1616.

[60] Francis Bacon, *Natural History*.

[61] Francis Bacon, *Wisdom of the Ancients*, 'Diomedes or Zeal'.

[62] The Great Seal, having been taken from Francis Bacon, was committed to the custody of Henry, Viscount Mandeville, at that time President of the Council, and certain other Lords Commissioners; and upon the tenth of July after, to Doctor John Williams, Dean of Westminster, who was swiftly elevated to become Bishop of Lincoln and made Lord Keeper of the Great Seal in Bacon's stead.

[63] The Shakespeare play, *Henry VIII,* was first published in the 1623 Shakespeare First Folio, along with 17 other plays previously unpublished.

[64] John Williams (22 March 1582 – 25 March 1650) was born in Conwy, Wales, the second son of Edmund Williams of Conway and his wife Mary, daughter of Owen Wynne of Eglws Bach. He attended Ruthin School before graduating from St John's College, Cambridge BA 1601, MA 1605, BD 1613, and DD 1616. He became a fellow in 1603 and was a University Proctor in 1611–12.

In 1605 Williams entered the clergy and was appointed a living in Honington, Suffolk, whilst still a fellow at St John's College, Cambridge. In 1610, Archbishop Bancroft conferred upon him the archdeaconry of Cardigan. On 3 Nov. 1611 he obtained the rectory of Grafton Underwood on the king's presentation, and upon his surrender of Honington.

In 1612, as soon as his duties as proctor came to an end, he entered the household of Sir Thomas Egerton, Baron Ellesmere, Lord Chancellor. On 5 July 1612 he became a prebendary of Hereford. On 10 Oct. he was installed in the prebend of Laffard in Lincoln Cathedral, holding it in addition to that at Hereford. On 29 Dec. 1613 he was installed precentor of Lincoln Cathedral, the prebend of Kilsby being annexed to the office. On the same day, having relinquished the prebend of Laffard, he was also installed in that of Asgarby in the same cathedral. On 4 May 1614 he was instituted to the rectory of Walgrave on the presentation of Richard Neile, then bishop of Lincoln, holding it in conjunction with his other living of Grafton Underwood. On 15 June 1616 he was instituted to the first prebend in Peterborough Cathedral. In 1617 he became the king's chaplain. On 10 July 1620 he was made Dean of Westminster.

On 16 July 1621, after the impeachment and fall from office of Sir Francis Bacon, Lord Chancellor, James I appointed Williams Lord Keeper of the Great Seal. Soon after, Williams was elected Bishop of Lincoln on 3 August 1621. When James I died and was succeeded by Charles I in 1625, Williams was quickly removed from the office of Lord Chancellor, and prevented from attending Parliament.

John Williams' liberal attitudes toward the Puritans led to several legal battles with the Court of the Star Chamber. In 1636 he was suspended from his benefices, fined, and imprisoned in the Tower of London until 1640. However, the Lords forced the King to release him, and Williams resumed his offices and tried to steer a course between the extreme wings of the Church. He was re-imprisoned by Parliament in 1641, but was released on bail in 1642 and went to be with the King in Yorkshire, as well as be enthroned as Archbishop of York, a position to which he had been appointed the previous year.

On 9 October 1646 Parliament deprived Williams of his See, as episcopacy was abolished for the duration of the Commonwealth and the Protectorate.

On 25 March 1650 Williams died of quinsy, aged 68, whilst staying with his kinsfolk, the Wynns of Gwydir. He was buried at the parish church of Llandygai.

[65] Bedford House, on the north side of the Strand, Westminster, London, was built for Edward Russell, third Earl of Bedford, in c. 1586.

Bedford House stood on part of the land called Friars Pyes which John Russell, later first Earl of Bedford, had acquired in 1541 and its garden occupied part of the site of the former convent garden which he had acquired in May 1552.

The Russell family already had a house on the south side of the Strand, called Russell House or Russell Place, with land running down to the Thames near Ivybridge Street. After the second Earl's death in 1585 Russell House descended to his female grandchildren, Elizabeth and Anne Russell, and the contents, which belonged to his grandson Edward Russell, the third Earl of Bedford, then a minor, were sold.

At first the family estates were managed by William Cecil. From 1586 the young third Earl of Bedford's affairs were managed by his guardians Ambrose, Earl of Warwick (d. 1590), and Anne, Countess of Warwick.

To provide the new earl with a home, Bedford House was built on Friars Pyes, which he had inherited. The money for building the house was probably lent by the Earl's aunt, the Countess of Warwick, with whom he lived. He and his aunt were evidently lodged at Bedford House in 1590, for (according to Lady Anne Clifford) Ambrose Dudley, 3rd of Earl of Warwick, died there in February of that year. Lady Anne's father, George Clifford, 3rd Earl of Cumberland, was staying at the house at this time.

On 20 December 1593 Edward Russell, third Earl of Bedford, came of age, and in the following January his aunt released to him "all maner of ymplementes, seelinges, portalles, and other houshold stuffe and furniture of myne whatsoever, nowe remayninge and being in … Bedford howse".

On 13 December 1594, aged 22, Edward married Lucy Harington, the 13-year-old daughter of John Harington, 1st Baron Harington of Exton, at St Dunstan's on Stepney Green. Bedford House became their London home.

In July 1605 the wedding of Lucy's cousin Mary Sutton Dudley to the Scottish Earl of Home was held at Bedford House in the Strand, and was part of a move to Anglicize the Scottish aristocracy.

Edward and Lucy, Earl and Countess of Bedford, mainly lived at Bedford House until c.1614/1615, when they moved to Moor Park, to live in the new mansion Edward had built on higher ground to replace the low-lying old manor house (Manor of the More) that had fallen into ruin. The Manor of the More and its estate, which lay in the parish of Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire, England, had been granted to the third earl of Bedford and his countess by the Crown.

Bedford House, however, still remained the Bedford's London town house. In April 1619 Lady Bedford stayed at Bedford House because it was conveniently near to Whitehall Palace, where she could attend on Anne of Denmark as one of the ladies in waiting at Somerset House. Later that year she transferred much of the Russell estate to the heir Francis Russell, but reserving her and her husband's right to reside in Bedford House.

From June 1622 until May 1623 Bedford House was let to Francis Bacon, Viscount St Alban, and afterwards to Francis Manners, 6th Earl of Rutland.

In May 1627 both Edward, third earl of Bedford, and his wife Lucy, Countess of Bedford, died, and Edward's titles passed to his first cousin, Francis Russell.

In 1628, Francis Russell, now 4th Earl of Bedford, ordered a statue of an old woman holding a cat as a garden ornament, and new chimney pieces for Bedford House. In 1641 he kept a gilded barge with bargemen dressed in his livery on the Thames at nearby Rayner's Yard. The Earl was declared a delinquent in October 1643 and his furniture and tapestries were confiscated from Bedford House.

Bedford House remained the London home of the Earls of Bedford until the death of the fifth Earl and first Duke in 1700. It then passed with the rest of the Covent Garden estate to the Duke's grandson, Wriothesley, who preferred to live in his mother's house in Bloomsbury. Bedford House was demolished in 1705-6.

[66] Edward Russell (20 December 1572 – 3 May 1627) was the son of Sir Francis Russell, Lord Russell, and his wife, Eleanor Forster. He was the paternal grandson of Francis Russell, 2nd Earl of Bedford. His maternal grandparents were Sir John Forster of Bamburgh and Jane Radcliffe.

Edward's father, Sir Francis Russell, third son of the 2nd Earl of Bedford, died in July 1585. Francis Russell, 2nd Earl of Bedford, died of gangrene at Russell House, now called Bedford House, in The Strand, on 28th July 1585. He was buried at Chenies on 14th September 1585.

On the death of the 2nd Earl of Bedford, because all three of his sons had predeceased him, his nephew Edward Russell became the 3rd Earl of Bedford. As a minor (he was only 12 years old when he inherited the title in July 1585), he was put under the guardianship of Ambrose Dudley, 3rd Earl of Warwick (c. 1530 – 21 February 1590), and his aunt Anne Dudley (née Russell), Countess of Warwick (1548/1549 – 9 February 1604), daughter of Francis Russell, 2nd Earl of Bedford. Anne was a lady-in-waiting and close friend of Elizabeth I. She was also the dedicatee of some 20 books, and a patron of the poet Edmund Spenser in the 1590s. She knew her brother-in-law Robert Dudley, 1st Earl of Leicester, well, as also his son-in-law Robert Devereux, 2nd Earl of Essex, and the Essex 'Shakespeare Circle' of patrons and poets. In 1602 she sold a cottage in a garden in Stratford-upon-Avon to William Shakespeare. Her husband, Ambrose Dudley, died on 21 February 1590 at Bedford House in the Strand, London, as a result of his leg having to be amputated in January of that year.

On 20 December 1593 Edward Russell, third Earl of Bedford, came of age.

Almost a year later, on 13 December 1594, Edward Russell, third Earl of Bedford, married Lucy Harington, the 13-year-old daughter of John Harington, 1st Baron Harington of Exton, at St Dunstan's on Stepney Green.

In 1601 Edward joined the rebellion of the Earl of Essex. He was taken into custody where he wrote to the Privy Council saying that Lady Rich had summoned him to Essex House on 8 February 1601, and claimed he was not invited to Essex's conference there and so he returned home. He was fined £10,000.

In July 1613 Edward was seriously injured in a fall from his horse, after which he never fully recovered his health.

Edward mainly lived at Bedford House with his wife Lucy until c.1614, when they moved to Moor Park, to live in the new mansion he had built on higher ground to replace the low-lying old manor house (Manor of the More) that had fallen into ruin. The Manor of the More and its estate, which lay in the parish of Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire, England, had been granted to him and his wife by the Crown.

In May 1627 Edward, third Earl of Bedford, died at Moor Park, Hertfordshire, England, where he had resided since 1614. He was buried on 11 May 1627 in the 'Bedford Chapel' at St. Michael's Church, Chenies, Buckinghamshire. His wife Lucy died at Moor Park in the same month. They died without surviving issue, and so the Earl of Bedford title and inheritance passed to Edward's first cousin, Francis Russell.

[67] Lucy Russell, née Harington (1581–1627), Countess of Bedford, was the daughter of Sir John Harington of Exton, and Anne Keilway. On 13 December 1594, aged 13, she married Edward Russell, third Earl of Bedford, at St Dunstan's on Stepney Green, thereby becoming the Countess of Bedford.

Lucy Harington was a member of the Sidney/Essex circle from birth, through her father, first cousin to Sir Robert Sidney and Mary, Countess of Pembroke. As Lucy Russell, Countess of Bedford, she continued to be a close friend of Essex's sisters Penelope Rich, Lady Rich (later known as Penelope Blount, lady Mountjoy), and Dorothy Percy, Countess of Northumberland. When James VI of Scotland became James I of England, Lucy became one of the ladies in waiting to James' queen, Anne of Denmark, as well as a close friend and confidante.

Lucy was well-educated for a woman of her era, and knew French, Spanish and Italian. She became a major aristocratic patron of the arts and literature in the Elizabethan and Jacobean eras, and was a patron of some of the foremost English poets of her day. She was also a letter-writer and poet in her own right, and the primary non-royal performer in court masques. She received a large inheritance from her father John Harington, 1st Baron Harington of Exton, and spent most of it financing writers.

The masques in which Lucy acted included *The Masque of Blackness* (1605), *Hymenaei* (1606), *The Masque of Beauty* (1608), *The Masque of Queens*, and *The Vision of the Twelve Goddesses* (1604).

The Masque of Blackness, staged on Twelfth Night, 6 January 1605, was written by Ben Jonson at the request of Anne of Denmark, the queen consort of King James I, who wished the masquers to be disguised as Africans. Anne was herself one of the performers (Euphoris) in the masque, along with her court ladies, all of whom appeared in blackface makeup. Lucy performed as Aglaia, one of the three Graces. The masque marked the creation of Prince Charles as Duke of York, which had occurred in a ceremony earlier in the day. (Prince Charles, Anne's second son, was still in Scotland at Dunfermline Palace at that time.) The sets, costumes, and stage effects were designed by Inigo Jones. The principal female cast of the masque were the Queen and her ladies:

- Queen Anne.....Euphoris
- Countess of Bedford.....Aglaia
- Lady Herbert.....Diaphane
- Countess of Derby.....Eucampse
- Lady Rich.....Ocyte
- Countess of Suffolk.....Kathare
- Lady Bevill.....Notis
- Lady Effingham.....Psychrote
- Lady Elizabeth Howard....Glycyte
- Lady Susan Vere.....Malacia
- Lady Mary Wroth.....Baryte
- Lady Walsingham.....Periphere

On several occasions Lucy Russell, Countess of Bedford, functioned as a theatrical producer. She was described as *rector chori* of the 1604 New Year masque, *The Vision of the Twelve Goddesses*. She instigated and organised the performance of Robert White's masque *Cupid's Banishment* that was acted in 1617 by students from the Ladies Hall in Deptford (founded c. 1615 by Robert White as the first girls' school in England). She staged Ben Jonson's masque *Lovers Made Men* that was presented by Lord Hay to the French ambassador Baron de Tour in February 1617.

In addition to the poet-playwrights Ben Jonson and John Donne, Lucy helped support poet Michael Drayton, poet and playwright Samuel Daniel, and poet, playwright and translator George Chapman.

Ben Jonson dedicated his play *Cynthia's Revels* (1600) to her, and addressed several of his *Epigrams* to her, extolling her patronage. In three of his epigrams—the 76th, 84th, and 94th—he called her his

muse, thanked her for her financial gifts, and delighted in her friendship. In the 94th epigram, he refers to her as "Lucy, you brightness of our sphere, who are / Life of the muses' day, their morning star." According to Jonson himself, he portrayed her as Ethra in his lost pastoral, *The May Lord*. John Donne also wrote several poems addressed to her, including an elegy after her death. Michael Drayton dedicated his *Mortimeriados* (1594) to the Countess, and it has been proposed that she might be the "Idea" of Drayton's pastoral Idea: *The Shepherd's Garland* (1593) and of his sonnet sequence *Idea's Mirror* (1594). Samuel Daniel dedicated his *Vision of the Twelve Goddesses* (1604) to the Countess.

The Countess of Bedford also patronised a range of lesser writers of her era, including the translator John Florio, who credited her help in his translation of the essays of Montaigne.

While best remembered for her patronage of writers, Lucy also supported musicians, John Dowland being a noteworthy example. She is the dedicatee of Dowland's *Second Book of Songs* (1600).

In addition, Lucy Russell, Countess of Bedford, was a significant figure in the development of English country-house and garden design, centring on her estates at Twickenham Park and Moor Park. An Italian writer Giacomo Castelvetro dedicated a book on fruit and vegetables to her.

As one of the most influential women at the court of King James I of England, VI of Scotland, Lucy was involved in a range of political issues. In the later part of James' reign she was among the most prominent supporters of Elizabeth of Bohemia, who had been brought up in her father's household at Coombe Abbey.

Lucy Russell, Countess of Bedford, died in the same month, May 1627, and same place, Moor Park, as her husband. None of their children survived infancy.

[68] Letter from Fr. St Alban (Francis Bacon) to Mr. Tobie Matthew, in reply to Tobie Matthew's letter of the 26th of June 1623. (*Letters and Life of Francis Bacon*, newly collected and set forth by James Spedding. Volume VI. London: Longmans, Green, Reader, and Dyer. 1874.)

[69] Thomas Tenison [1636-1715], was born on 29 Sept. 1636 at Cottenham, Cambridgeshire, the son and grandson of Anglican clergymen, who were both named John Tenison; his mother was Mercy Dowsing. He was educated at Norwich School, going on to Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, as a scholar on Archbishop Matthew Parker's foundation. He graduated in 1657, and was chosen fellow in 1659. For a short time he studied medicine, but in 1659 was privately ordained. As curate of St Andrew the Great, Cambridge from 1662, he set an example by his devoted attention to the sufferers from the plague.

In 1667 Thomas Tenison married Anne (1633–1714), daughter of Richard Love, master of Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, and dean of Ely. That same year he was presented to the living of Holywell-cum-Needingworth, Huntingdonshire, by the Earl of Manchester, to whose son he had been tutor, and in 1670 to that of St Peter Mancroft, Norwich. In 1680 he received the degree of Doctor of Divinity, and was presented by King Charles II to the London church of St Martin-in-the-Fields.

On 10 Jan. 1691/2 Tenison was made Bishop of Lincoln. In December 1694 he became Archbishop of Canterbury. Upon his appointment as Archbishop of Canterbury, he was sworn in as a member of the Privy Council of England in 1695. This gave him the Honorific Title "The Right Honourable" for Life.

On 23 April 1702 he crowned King William's successor, Queen Anne, in Westminster Abbey. He was a commissioner for the Union with Scotland in 1706.

On the death of Queen Anne on 1 August 1714, he was one of three officers of state entrusted the duty of appointing a regent until the arrival of George, prince-elector of Hanover. He was the first of

the justices appointed to serve at George's arrival in England, whom he crowned as George I of England on 20 Oct. 1714.

Archbishop Tenison died on 14 December 1715, without issue, and was buried in the chancel of Lambeth parish church.

[70] Thomas Tenison, *Baconiana, , Or, Certain Genuine Remains of Sir Francis Bacon* (1679), page 24.

[71] Thomas Tenison, *Baconiana, , Or, Certain Genuine Remains of Sir Francis Bacon* (1679), page 60.

[72] Thomas Hobbes (5 April 1588 – 20 December 1679) was born on 5 April 1588 (Old Style), in Westport, now part of Malmesbury in Wiltshire, England. Hobbes's father, Thomas Sr., was the vicar of both Charlton and Westport.

Hobbes was educated at Westport church from age four, went to the Malmesbury school, and then to a private school kept by a young man named Robert Latimer, a graduate of the University of Oxford. Between 1601 and 1602 he went to Magdalen Hall, the predecessor to Hertford College, Oxford, where he was taught scholastic logic and mathematics. The principal, John Wilkinson, was a Puritan and had some influence on Hobbes. Leaving Oxford, Hobbes completed his B.A. degree by incorporation at St John's College, Cambridge, in 1608.

He was recommended by Sir James Hussey, his master at Magdalen, as tutor and secretary to William Cavendish (c. 1590-1628), son of William Cavendish (1552-1626), Baron of Hardwick. From then on Hobbes began a lifelong connection with the Cavendish family. The father of Hobbes' pupil had been created Baron Cavendish of Hardwick in 1605 and would become 1st Earl of Devonshire in 1618. In 1609 he purchased Chatsworth from his elder brother, which had been built by their parents, Sir William Cavendish and his third wife, Bess of Hardwick.

Hobbes became a companion to his pupil, the younger William Cavendish, and they both took part in a grand tour of Europe between 1610 and 1612, when William came of age. In Venice, Hobbes made the acquaintance of Fulgenzio Micanzio, an associate of Paolo Sarpi, a Venetian scholar and statesman.

Back in England, besides spending time at Chatsworth, Hobbes associated with literary figures like Ben Jonson, and worked as Francis Bacon's amanuensis, including translating several of his *Essays* into Latin.

On 3 March 1626 the 1st Earl of Devonshire died and Hobbes' pupil, friend, companion and patron William Cavendish became 2nd Earl of Devonshire. But only two years later, on 20 June 1628, William Cavendish, 2nd Earl of Devonshire, died of the plague, and his widow, the countess Christian, dismissed Hobbes. In 1629 Hobbes found work as a tutor to Gervase Clifton, the son of Sir Gervase Clifton, 1st Baronet, mostly spent in Paris, until November 1630. Then he again found work with the Cavendish family, tutoring William Cavendish, 3rd Earl of Devonshire.

In 1636 he visited Galileo Galilei in Florence while he was under house arrest upon condemnation, and was later a regular debater in philosophic groups in Paris, held together by Marin Mersenne. Hobbes came back home from Paris, in 1637, but in November 1640 returned to Paris. He did not return for 11 years.

In 1647, Hobbes took up a position as mathematical instructor to the young Charles, Prince of Wales, who had come to Paris from Jersey around July. This engagement lasted until 1648 when Charles went to Holland.

In 1651, when he published *Leviathan*, he angered both Anglicans and French Catholics. Hobbes appealed to the revolutionary English government for protection and fled back to London in winter 1651. The young king, Hobbes's former pupil, now Charles II, remembered Hobbes and called him to the court to grant him a pension of £100.

Hobbes spent the last four or five years of his life with his patron, William Cavendish, 1st Duke of Devonshire, at the family's Chatsworth House estate. The 1st Duke of Devonshire was the son of William Cavendish, 3rd Earl of Devonshire.

Hobbes died on 4 December 1679, aged 91, at Hardwick Hall, owned by the Cavendish family. After Hobbes's death, many of his manuscripts would be found at Chatsworth House.

Hobbes is best known for his 1651 book *Leviathan*, in which he expounds an influential formulation of social contract theory. Aside from social contract theory, Leviathan also popularized ideas such as the state of nature ("war of all against all") and laws of nature.

Before going up to Oxford, Hobbes translated Euripides' *Medea* from Greek into Latin verse. In 1628, his great translation of Thucydides' *History of the Peloponnesian War*, the first translation of that work into English from a Greek manuscript, was published. His other major works include the trilogy *De Cive* (1642), *De Corpore* (1655), and *De Homine* (1658) as well as the posthumous work *Behemoth* (1681).

In addition to political philosophy, Hobbes contributed to a diverse array of other fields, including history, jurisprudence, geometry, theology, and ethics, as well as philosophy in general. He is considered to be one of the founders of modern political philosophy.

[73] Thomas Meautys (1592–1649) was the son of Thomas Meautys (d. c.1618) of West Ham and of St Julian's Hospital, Hertfordshire, and his wife Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Henry Coningsby of North Mimms.

Thomas Meautys entered Lincoln's Inn 1608; Gray's Inn 1626. He is recorded in *The History of Parliament: the House of Commons 1604-1629,* as being Servant to Robert Cecil, 1st Earl of Salisbury, to 1612.

When Thomas Meautys entered Francis Bacon's household is not known, but it was probably in 1612, during the time when Sir Francis Bacon was Solicitor General, and soon to become Attorney General in October 1613. Two of Thomas' brothers also entered Bacon's household with him.

When Bacon became Lord Chancellor in 1618, Thomas Meautys and Richard Young became his private secretaries and were rewarded with a grant of the profits of sealing 6d. writs in Chancery for a term of 30 years. Soon after, Bacon appealed to the favourite, the Marquess of Buckingham, to help advance Meautys' career further, and in 1619 Meautys was admitted as a clerk (extraordinary) of His Majesty's Privy Council, replacing Sir Albertus Morton, who had just been promoted.

Lord Chancellor Sir Francis Bacon, as High Steward of Cambridge, nominated Thomas Meautys for election to one of the borough's seats in 1620, and in 1621 Meautys was elected Member of Parliament for Cambridge. On the same day he was made a freeman and elected an alderman of Cambridge. (Meautys was re-elected MP for Cambridge in 1625, 1626, and 1628, and continued to sit for the town until King Charles I began to rule without parliament in 1629.)

Thomas Meautys supported Bacon in the House of Commons during the proceedings leading up to Bacon's impeachment, stating that "for my own part I must say I have been observer of my lord's proceedings, I know he hath sworn [sown] a good seed of justice, and I hope that it will prove that the envious man hath sown these tares". (*The History of Parliament: the House of Commons 1604-1629,* ed. Andrew Thrush and John P. Ferris, 2010. Cambridge University Press.) After Bacon's impeachment, together with William Rawley and others, he remained loyal to the former Lord Chancellor in his disgrace. He remained as one of the "good pens that forsake me not", to help with the writing and translation of Bacon's works.

When Francis Bacon died on Easter Day 1626, Meautys had Francis Bacon's *Sylva Sylvarum, or Natural History*, with Bacon's utopia, *New Atlantis*, appended, published before the end of the year.

Meautys also paid for the marble funerary monument to Bacon, with a statue of Francis Bacon in his Lord Chancellor's robes, which was erected in 1630 in the chancel of St Michael's Church, St. Albans, over Bacon's tomb in the crypt below.

Sir Thomas Meautys was granted Gorhambury, adjoining St Albans, by Bacon's executors, who conveyed to him a lifetime interest; but because of protracted proceedings he was only able to finally acquire it in 1632. In addition, some of Bacon's letters and manuscripts were given into the care of Meautys, who then continued to assist Dr William Rawley's editing and publishing of many of them in the following years.

Meautys became a protégé of Lord Keeper Coventry, High Steward of Cambridge from 1626 to 1640. From 1626-31 he was clerk of writs and processes, Star Chamber. In 1634, he became clerk (extraordinary) to His Majesty's Privy Council.

In 1639 Thomas Meautys married Anne Bacon, daughter of Jane Meautys and her husband, the Rev. Sir Nathaniel Bacon of Culford, son of Francis Bacon's half-brother, Sir Nicholas Bacon of Redgrave, Suffolk. They had a daughter who died in childhood. (Anne later married Sir Harbottle Grimston, who inherited the estate of Gorhambury.)

In April 1640 Thomas Meautys was re-elected for Cambridge for the Short Parliament when the other representative was Oliver Cromwell. On 25 Feb. 1641 Thomas Meautys was knighted at Whitehall. In 1646 Sir Thomas Meautys moved into Gorhambury with his wife and daughter.

Sir Thomas Meautys died on 31 October 1649, aged 57, with his body interred in St Michael's Church, St Albans, During his funeral the Bacon vault was opened and Francis Bacon's remains were inadvertently exposed.

[74] John Hacket (Born Halket) (1 September 1592 – 28 October 1670) was born in London and educated at Westminster School. In 1608, aged 17, he entered Trinity College, Cambridge. On taking his degree he was elected a fellow of his college, and soon afterwards wrote the comedy, *Loiola*, which was twice performed before King James I. He remained as a tutor at Cambridge until 1621.

Hacket was ordained by John King, bishop of London, 22 Dec. 1618, whilst still continuing his tuition work at Cambridge.

The reputation which he enjoyed as a scholar attracted the notice of Dr. John Williams, the King's chaplain (1617-1620), who in 1603 had become a fellow of St John's College, Cambridge, and then University Proctor 1611-12, and would become Dean of Westminster in 1620. Through the influence of Williams, on 20 Sept. 1621 Hacket became rector of Stoke Hammond, Buckinghamshire, and on 2 Nov. 1621 rector of Kirkby Underwood, Lincolnshire. On 23 Feb. 1623 Hacket was elected proctor for the diocese of Lincoln; and in the same year was made chaplain to King James.

During the time when Sir Francis Bacon was Lord Chancellor (1618-1621), and continuing after Bacon's fall from office until Bacon's death in April 1626, Hacket was one of Francis Bacon's 'good pens'.

In 1624 Williams—who in 1621, after the impeachment of Sir Francis Bacon, had become the Lord Keeper of the Great Seal—presented Hacket to the living of St. Andrew's, Holborn, and of Cheam in Surrey. In 1645 Hacket's living of St Andrew's was sequestered, but he was allowed to retain the other, ceding it for practical reasons in 1662. From 1631 to 1661 he was Archdeacon of Bedford.

On the accession of Charles II, Hacket's fortunes improved; he frequently preached before the king, and on 6 December 1661 was elected Bishop of Lichfield and Coventry. He spent the rest of his life restoring Lichfield cathedral, which had been left in ruins because of the Civil War.

John Hacket, Bishop of Lichfield and Coventry, was taken ill on St. Luke's day (18 Oct.) 1670, and died ten days later on the feast of St. Simon and St. Jude (28 Oct.) 1670, aged 78. He has a memorial in Lichfield Cathedral.

John Hacket's best-known book is the biography of his patron, Archbishop Williams, entitled *Scrinia reserata: a Memorial offered to the great Deservings of John Williams, D.D.* (London, 1693). His comedy, *Loiola*, was published in London in 1648.

[75] Tobie Mathew (1577-1655) was the eldest son of Dr Tobie Mathew, Dean of Christ Church, Oxford, later Bishop of Durham and ultimately Archbishop of York. From the age of eighteen Tobie had known Francis Bacon, having acted the Squire in Essex's *Device*, written by Francis Bacon, on the Anniversary of the Queen's Accession Day in 1595. He was admitted to Gray's Inn on 15 May 1599, aged twenty-two, where he became an intimate friend of both Francis and Anthony Bacon. He became a barrister and a Member of Parliament, first for Newport, Cornwall, then in March 1604 for St Albans, taking over Francis Bacon's seat when Francis resigned it in his favour and sat instead for Ipswich.

Tobie Matthew obtained permission to visit France for six months, and on 3 July 1604 he set sail for the continent. He returned secretly to London during March–April 1605, and on 1 May 1605 set sail again for France, this time continuing on to Florence where, in June 1606, he became a Roman Catholic. In November 1605, soon after the Gunpowder Plot, Francis Bacon sent Tobie Matthew a copy of his first edition of *The Advancement of Learning,* which had been published in October 1605.

In the summer of 1607 Tobie Matthew returned to England, where he was imprisoned for sixteen months for his Catholic persuasions, until Francis Bacon managed to intercede for him and secure his release. But Tobie was then banished from England, and he left for the continent in April 1608, where he travelled widely. In 1611 he went to Rome to study for the priesthood, and was ordained there in May 1614. During all this time Tobie maintained a frequent correspondence with Francis Bacon, who sent his friend various samples of his writings and interchanged various literary ideas.

In May 1617 Tobie Matthew was allowed to return to England, where he stayed with Francis Bacon, who was by then Lord Keeper of the Great Seal. He assisted Bacon by translating Bacon's essays into Italian. Titled *Saggi Morali*, these were published in 1617 in London, and prefaced with a dedicatory letter by Matthew to Cosimo (II) de' Medici, Grand Duke of Tuscany, containing a supreme tribute to Bacon.

In December 1618 Tobie Matthew was banished for a second time and went to Saint Omer, Flanders, where he translated and published several books by different writers, including writing his own books. He continued his correspondence with Francis Bacon, and one of his letters to Bacon contained a postscript referring to Bacon as the most prodigious wit that Matthew knew, both in Britain and continental Europe, but who used another name by which he was known to others.

Tobie Matthew was eventually allowed back to England just after Francis Bacon's impeachment in 1621. He was favourably received by the King, who employed him to act as an agent at court to promote the marriage of Charles, Prince of Wales with the Spanish Infanta, Maria Anna of Spain. In spring 1623 Matthew travelled with Prince Charles and Buckingham to Madrid, to assist them in the marriage treaty negotiations (which turned out to be unsuccessful). Upon his return to England, Matthew was knighted by the King at Royston on 20 October 1623.

Except for a brief visit to Ireland in 1633 in the company of Lord Wentworth, Tobie Matthew remained in England until April 1641, when he had cause to flee abroad. He found safety in the English Jesuit college at Ghent, where he started to write again. Fourteen years later, and after a grave illness, on 13 October 1655 Tobie Matthew died unmarried at the English Jesuit college in Ghent and was buried in its chapel's crypt.

[76] Francis Bacon, *Novum Organum,* Bk I, Aph.120.

[77] Spedding, *Letters and Life of Francis Bacon*, Vol. VII (1874), ch. X, pp. 539-545,

[78] Spedding, *Letters and Life of Francis Bacon*, Vol. VII (1874), ch. X, pp. 551-552.

[79] After Archbishop Thomas Tenison's death in 1715, the collection of Bacon's manuscripts was placed in Lambeth Library, where they may still be found today.

[80] Thomas Tenison, *Baconiana or Certaine Genuine Remains of Sir Francis Bacon* (1679).