

Richard Malim reviews

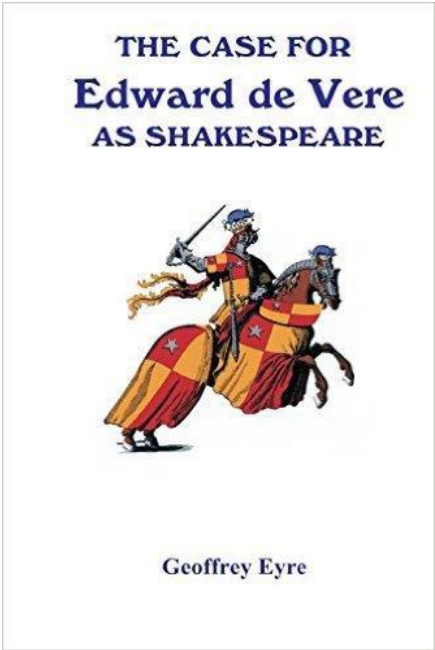
The Case for Edward de Vere as Shakespeare

by **Geoffrey Eyre**

A reviewer ought first to consider his author's purpose. Fortunately Geoffrey Eyre tells us himself in his introductory Note: 'This short study is written in non-academic language as a fair-minded introduction to the case for Edward de Vere as Shakespeare'. The author succeeds in that purpose admirably: he writes with style and clarity. The book is only 177 pages (plus 42 for Appendices, notes, etc.): so a coach and horses can be driven through the cob-web arguments of authorship 'orthodoxy', and the clear unencumbered case for Oxford can readily be grasped. Oxfordians have their own internal disagreements as to the significance of this or that piece of evidence and the deductions from it: the author uses his clear intellect to advance the simplest and most appealing, without needing to enter into debates. I follow him 99.5% down the road and both the beginner non-Oxfordian and the advanced Oxfordian may rely on his conclusions.

The 0.5% relates to his attribution of the First Part of Sir John Oldcastle

to Shakespeare. I am satisfied with the strand of 'orthodox' argument that says that this play is a desperate attempt by the Protestant extremist faction to produce a counterblast to Falstaff one of whose facets is a studied denigration of that faction's religious base and politics. Altogether, a triumph!



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