

(2) Period 1575-1579

Time	Event	Edward de Vere, 17th Earl of Oxford	William Shakespeare of Stratford
1575		January: Sets out for travels on the Continent, with authorization.	
		March-April: in Paris.	
		July 2: Birth of eldest daughter Elizabeth	
		November 27: Letter from Padua to Burghley. Asks Burghley not to stay the sale of his lands.	
1576	<p>The anthology <i>Hundreth Sundry Flowers</i> appears in a new edition as <i>The Posies of George Gascoigne</i>.</p> <p>James Burbage establishes The Theatre in Shoreditch, a suburb northeast of the City, the first commercial theatre of note.</p> <p>Plague in Venice. Titian, the famous painter, is among the victims; he dies on August 27.</p> <p>Negotiations are started in view of marrying Queen Elizabeth to the (much younger) French heir, Henri III's brother François, Duke d'Anjou and d'Alençon.</p> <p>June 7: Start of Martin Frobisher's first expedition purposing to discover the North West Passage.</p>	<p>January 3: Letter to Burghley from Siena authorizing him to "sell any portion of his lands" to pay his creditors.</p> <p>April: On his return from Italy his ship is intercepted by Dutch pirates.</p> <p>At his return he suspects that Elizabeth be not his own child.</p> <p>April 27: Letter to Burghley, his wife Anne Cecil leaves the household and returns to her parents. Oxford complains that she has always been more Burghley's and his wife's daughter rather than his wife. (1)</p> <p>July 13: In a letter to Burghley Oxford admits his egocentrism: "For always I have and will still prefer my own content before others."</p>	

	<p>September, 21: death of the Renaissance philosopher, mathematician and physician Girolamo Cardano in Rome.</p> <p>October 9: Return of Frobisher.</p> <p>November 7: Antwerp falls into the hands of the Spaniards.</p> <p>November 23: Don John of Austria appointed Spanish governor of the Low Countries.</p>	<p>Thomas Bedingfield publishes his English translation from Latin of Girolamo Cardano's <i>De Consolatione (Cardanus Comforte)</i> "by commandement of the right honourable the Earle of Oxford".</p>	
1577	<p>May 1577: Second North West passage expedition by Martin Frobisher.</p> <p>June 1577: Edmund Grindal, Archbishop of Canterbury, is temporarily suspended by the queen.</p> <p>September 23: Frobisher returns from his second expedition with a load of valueless mineral stone that will be mistaken for gold ore.</p>	<p>John Brooke dedicates <i>The Staffe of Christian Faith</i> to him.</p> <p>Sells three estates.</p>	<p>John Shakespeare runs into serious financial troubles and remains absent from the meeting of the town council.</p>
1578	<p>June 3: Start of Martin Frobisher's third expedition for "Meta Incognita" ("the farthest unknown point").</p> <p>August: Death of the young Portuguese king Sebastian in the battle of Ksar El Kebir (Portuguese: Alcácer-Quibir). Succeeded by his uncle Cardinal Henrique. (4)</p>	<p>Oxford enters the adventure, at first with £25, later to be increased to £3,000.</p> <p>July: At Audley End, near Cambridge, the Cambridge rhetor Gabriel Harvey addresses in 5 speeches: Queen Elizabeth, Lord Burghley, the Earl of Leicester, the Earl of Oxford, Sir Christopher Hatton, and Philip Sidney (though a courtier of repute, not yet knighted). Harvey praises Oxford for his literary achievements in Latin and English but urges him "to throw away the insignificant pen" and entirely to devote himself to "arms" instead of "letters".</p>	

	<p>October 1: Death of Don John of Austria.</p> <p>October (Beginning). Return of Frobisher. The stone thought to be gold ore proves valueless.</p>		
1579	<p>July: Edmund Tilney is formally appointed Master of the Revels, in charge of court entertainment and the control of the public stage (not the private theatres).</p> <p>Edmund Spenser's <i>The Shepherds Calender</i> is published under the pseudonym Immerito.</p> <p>The Duke d'Anjou arrives in France to arrange for his marriage to Queen Elizabeth.</p> <p>August:</p> <p>John Stubbs publishes his criticism of this match: <i>The Discovery of a Gaping Gulf whereunto England is like to be swallowed by another French Marriage if the Lord forbid not the bans by letting her Majesty see the sin and punishment thereof.</i></p>	<p>July: Registration in the Stationers' Register of John Lyly's <i>Euphues and His England</i>, dedicated to Oxford.</p> <p>Publication of <i>Mirroure of Mutabilitie</i> by Anthony Munday, who calls himself Oxford's servant. The work is dedicated to him.</p> <p>In the October eclogue Oxford is referred to as Cuddy. "In Cuddy is set out the perfect pattern of a Poet, which finding no maintenance of his state and studies, complains of the contempt of Poetry, and the causes thereof."</p> <p>Like Lord Burghley and the Earl of Sussex, Lord Chamberlain of the Queen's Household, the Earl of Oxford is favourable to the French match.</p>	

	<p>Both Stubbs and the publisher William Page are punished by cutting off their right hands.</p> <p>Philip Sidney also opposes Elizabeth`s French marriage in a letter to the Queen (the letter circulated only in manuscript) and was banished from the court.</p>	<p>September: Quarrel with Philip Sidney at the tennis court. Oxford calls Sidney “a puppy”. Sidney gives him the lie. (2)</p>	
--	---	--	--

- (1) “Wherefore as your Lordship very well writes unto me that you mean if it stands with my liking to receive her into your house, this are likewise to let your Lordship understand that it doth very well content me, for there as your daughter or her mother’s more then my wife you may take comfort of her and I rid of the cumber thereby, shall remaine well eased of many grieves.”
- (2) See “Brief Glossary” “to give the lie”.