

(3) Period 1580-1584

Time	Event	Edward de Vere, 17th Earl of Oxford	William Shakespeare of Stratford
1580	<p>January/February:</p> <p>Death of Cardinal Henrique, King of Portugal. There were several claimants, among them King Philip II of Spain and Dom Antonio, who was the most determined opponent to Philip II's claim. (1)</p> <p>June :</p> <p>The Jesuits Edmund Campion and Robert Parsons (also spelled Persons) arrive in England. This can be considered as the start of the Jesuit mission to re-convert England to the Old Faith. (2)</p> <p>July 24:</p> <p>Dom Antonio proclaims himself King of Portugal.</p> <p>Philip II becomes King of Spain and Portugal in personal union.</p>	<p>Early in the year Oxford takes over the theatre playing company of Ambrose Dudley, Earl of Warwick (elder brother of the Earl of Leicester).</p> <p>Anthony Munday dedicates to him <i>Zelauto</i>.</p> <p>Gabriel Harvey publishes his <i>Three proper familiar letters</i>, being one letter by Edmund Spenser to him and two by him to Spenser. The third letter contains a satirical poem on the Earl of Oxford, mocking his apparel and his "<i>Italionate</i>" (i.e. "Italianized")</p> <p>Oxford accuses his former friends Lord Henry Howard, Charles Arundel and Francis Southwell of treason. He is in turn vilified by them. (3)</p> <p>Sells thirteen estates.</p>	

1581	<p>July 1581: The Jesuit Edmund Campion captured, executed in December of the same year.</p> <p>The Duke d'Anjou leaves England.</p> <p>Toward the end of the year Martin Frobisher is preparing a fourth expedition. This time Oxford invests £500.</p>	<p>January: Wins a prize in a tournament.</p> <p>March: A son, Edward, is born from his affair with Anne Vavasour, a lady-in-waiting to the queen. The queen commits both to the Tower.</p> <p>Oxford is released but remains in disgrace and banished from the Court.</p> <p>December: resumes living with his wife.</p>	
1582	<p>January : The Duke of Anjou arrives in the Low Countries, is created Duke of Brabant and thereby recognized as sovereign of the Low Countries (the provinces of Holland and Zealand did not recognize him).</p> <p>But unsatisfied with the limited powers he was granted, he took the fatal decision of taking some fortified cities in the Low Countries, whose alleged sovereign he was, by force.</p> <p>March 18: Attempt on the life of William of Orange. He was heavily wounded but survived.</p> <p>Martin Frobisher resigns his command. Edward Fenton takes over. Oxford seems to have withdrawn his investment.</p>	<p>March: In the wake of the affair with Anne Vavasour a series of street battles ensue between the followers of Oxford and those of Sir Thomas Knyvet, a kinsman of Anne Vavasour. In one of them Oxford is seriously wounded.</p> <p>Thomas Watson publishes a volume of poems under the title <i>Hekatompathia</i> or <i>Passionate Centurie of Love</i>, dedicated to Oxford.</p> <p>Sells four estates.</p>	<p>November 27: Licence for marriage of Willelmum Shaxpere to Anne Whateley of Temple Grafton.</p> <p>November 28: Marriage bond names William Shagspere and Anne Hathwey of Stratford.</p>

1583	<p>January 16: Sir Roger Williams, a famous English soldier of Welsh origin, then fighting in the service of the Prince of Orange, praises the qualities of Oxford's first cousin Francis Vere.</p> <p>January 18: The Duke of Anjou tries to make himself master of Antwerp by ruse and violence. The enterprise proves disastrous for him and seals the end of his military career.</p> <p>March 10: The playing company of the Queen's Men are set up by order from the Privy Council. The players are sworn in as Grooms of the Queen's Chamber by none other than Sir Francis Walsingham.</p>	<p>Leases the private Blackfriars theatre where a company of children, The Children of the Chapel, is playing under the direction of John Lyly and Henry Evans. The lease ends the next year.</p> <p>September 6: Robert Greene's <i>Mamillia, second part</i> is entered in the Stationers' Register.</p>	May 28: His daughter Susanna is baptized.
1584	<p>June 10: Death of the Duke of Anjou. Henry III being childless, the Protestant Henry of Navarra becomes heir to the throne of France.</p> <p>July 10: Assassination of the Prince of Orange.</p> <p>July: Execution of the conspirator Francis Trockmorton (also spelled "Throgmorton"). Plotted to kill Queen Elizabeth and to put Mary Stuart on the throne. Apparently, an invasion of England would have been planned under Mary Stuart's cousin Henri de Guise,</p>	<p>John Southern (likely a pseudonym of Oxford's follower Denis the Frenchman) publishes <i>Pandora</i>, containing an encomium on Oxford's poetic achievements.</p> <p>Robert Greene dedicates to Oxford <i>Gwydonius – The Card of Fancy</i>.</p> <p>March 15: The humanist John Sturm writes from Strasbourg to Queen Elizabeth urging her to send "some faithful and zealous personage such as the Earl of Oxford, the Earl of Leicester, or Philip Sidney" in command of an expedition into the Low Countries.</p> <p>April 6: Birth of second daughter Bridget.</p>	

	<p>October 19: Bond of Association, mainly aiming at Mary Stuart, since 1568 (4) prisoner in England. November: Lord Burghley is trying to get renewed the bill he had been successful in passing in 1563. The bill was known as "Cecil'fast". By it Wednesday was made an additional fish day (5).</p>	<p>October 30: Oxford writes an angry letter to Burghley.</p>	
	<p>December 31: The second Catholic League constituted in France under Henri de Guise to prevent Henry of Navarra's accession to the French throne.</p>		

- (1) Through his mother Isabella of Portugal Philip II was the grandson of Manuel I, king of Portugal from 1495-1521. Dom Antonio, Prior of Crato, was a bastard son of Prince Luis, the second son of King Manuel I. Dom Antonio's claim was supported by both France and England. The union of the then two biggest colonial powers considerably disturbed the balance of power. This may partly explain the prolonged negotiations for the marriage of Queen Elizabeth and the Duke d'Anjou, which, finally, came to nothing.
- (2) The Jesuit Mission was definitively crushed after the Gunpowder Plot in November 1605.
- (3) Their wild accusations remained without any consequences for Oxford.
- (4) Subscribers of this bond were "binding themselves under a vow and promise before the Majesty of Almighty God, ... faithfully to serve and obey the Queen, and to defend her against all Estates, Dignities, and earthly Powers whatsoever, and to pursue to utter extermination all that shall attempt by any act, counsel, or consent to anything that shall tend to the harm of Her Majesty's Royal Person, or claim succession to the Crown by the untimely death of Her Majesty; vowing and protesting in the presence of the Eternal and Everliving God to prosecute such persons to the death."
- (5) Another hint to the thesis that Shakespeare has given the character of Polonius more than one trait of Burghley. Because of his zeal for the introduction of an additional fish day, a device probably also intended to promote shipbuilding, Lord Burghley may be called "a fishmonger". This is what Hamlet, feigning madness, took Polonius for in II.2.173-4: Polonius: Do you know me, my lord? Hamlet: Excellently well. You are a fishmonger."

APPENDIX

Robert Brazil's Lists of the Printed Dedications to Edward de Vere

No	Year	Author	Title
1	1564	Arthur Golding	History of Trogius Pompeius
2	1569	Thomas Underdowne	An Aethiopian History (translation of Heliodorus Aethiopica)
3	c. 1570	Edmund Elviden	Peisistratus and Catanea
4	1571	Arthur Golding	Psalms of David
5	1573	Cardanus Comfort	Translation by Thomas Bedingfield

6	1573	Thomas Twyne	The Breviary of Britain
7	1574	George Baker	Oleum Magistrale
8	1577	John Brooke	The Staff of Christian Faith
9	1579	Anthony Munday	The Mirror of Mutability
10	1579	Gefrey Gates	Defense of the Military
11	1580	Anthony Munday	Zelauto
12	1580	John Lyly	Euphues and His England
13	1580	John Hester	Phiravanti ... on Surgery
14	1581	Thomas Stocker	Diverse Sermons of Calvin
15	1582	Thomas Watson	Hekatompathia
16	1584	John Southern	Pandora
17	1584	Robert Greene	Carde of Fancy
18	1586	Angel Daye	The English Secretary
19	1588	Anthony Munday	Palmerin d'Oliva part 1
20	1591	John Farmer	Plainsong Diverse & sundry
21	1599	John Farmer	English Madrigals
22	1599	Angel Daye	English Secretary Revised
23	1599	George Baker	Practice of New & Old Physic
Multiple Dedictees including Oxford			
24	1578	Gabriel Harvey	Gratulationes Valdinensis
25	1590	Edmund Spenser	Faerie Queene
26	1597	Henry Lok	Ecclesiastes
27	1603	F.D.	Anagrammata