



GLOSSARY

- Ancient Liberties** Traditional rights of the people enshrined in the Magna Carta and encroached on by the Tudors, Stuarts, and other monarchs
- Anti-Stratfordians** Those who doubt Shakespeare wrote the works attributed to him, largely because they believe Will lacked the education or aristocratic pedigree
- Arbella** (Lady Arbella Stuart) Royal maiden, a leading candidate to succeed Elizabeth as queen, and the focus of many conspiracies. She may have been tutored by Marlowe during his prolonged absences from Cambridge in the mid-1580s
- Babington Plot** Catholic conspiracy in 1587 to replace Queen Elizabeth with Mary Queen of Scots, uncovered (or stage managed) by the Crown, including several spymasters and double agents later associated with Marlowe's "death" in 1593
- Baines Note** Indictment of Marlowe by Richard Baines, an informer and ex-priest, accusing him of atheism, blasphemy, and sedition
- Blank Verse** Iambic pentameter popularized by Marlowe's "mighty line" in *Tamburlaine* and subsequently adopted in the Shakespearean works
- Buckhurst** (Thomas Sackville) A powerful privy councilor, member of the ecclesiastical High Commission, and former playwright who, under Archbishop Whitgift's aegis, set in motion the events leading up to Marlowe's arrest
- Bulls** Family at whose house in Deptford Marlowe's "death" took place, including Elizabeth, who had high connections at court and was related to the Cecils; her husband, Richard, a court official; and possibly son Nicholas, a classmate of Kit's
- Burghley** (William Cecil) The Lord Treasurer and Elizabeth's principal councilor, who sympathized with religious dissenters, freed Marlowe after the Flushing incident, and evidently masterminded, with the help of his son Robert Cecil, Marlowe's "death" and the Shakespeare Compact
- Cambridge** Site of the university where Marlowe studied for seven years and alma mater of many of the principals in his story
- Canterbury** Ancient pilgrimage city and site of Marlowe's birthplace, family residence, and the King's School where he studied the classics and music
- Cecil** (Robert Cecil) Burghley's son and Elizabeth's principal secretary, who ran the government during her final years, arranged James' accession, and probably oversaw the Deptford Affair, Marlowe's exile, and the Shakespeare Compact
- Cholmeley** (Richard Cholmeley) An informer who may have been the "Tamburlaine" who smeared Marlowe in the Dutch Church libel and whose charges in the Remembrances played a role in his investigation
- Commons** The common people, the incipient democratic movement in England
- Coroner's Report** The official account of Marlowe's "death" in Deptford on May

- 30, 1593, concluded that he died following a quarrel over a bill of fare with Ingram Frizer. According to Poley and Skeres, the other two men present, Marlowe stabbed Frizer from behind and was in turn killed in self-defense. Questions have been raised about the severity of the wounds, as well as the venue of the meeting, the intelligence background of the men present, and Marlowe's recent arrest
- Deptford Affair** Marlowe's "death" on May 30, 1593 at Madame Bull's residence in Deptford, London's port, and the events immediately surrounding it
- Der Bestrafte Brudermord*** The German *Hamlet*, a version of the play that may incorporate the original *Ur-Hamlet* on which the Shakespearean versions were based. *Der BB* includes a prologue by Hecate, the goddess of Night, who is invoked in *Hamlet's* play-within-the-play
- Dreshout Engraving** The familiar likeness of William Shakespeare that appeared on the title page of the First Folio
- Drury** (Thomas Drury). An informer for Buckhurst and Puckering who may have extorted the Baines Note and other material incriminating Marlowe
- Dutch Church Libel** Defiant posters that appeared on a London church wall in May 1593 inciting apprentices to rise up against foreign workers. Signed by "Tamburlaine," the hero of Marlowe's play, they led to the arrest of Thomas Kyd
- Elizabeth** England's queen, who ordered Marlowe's M.A. degree at Cambridge be granted because of his "good service" to his country. Her harsh policies toward religious reform and dissent are assailed in the Marlovian and Shakespearean works
- Essex Rebellion** An uprising in 1601 against Queen Elizabeth led by the Earl of Essex. The conspirators arranged a performance of Shakespeare's *Richard II*, depicting the overthrow of a monarch, to steel themselves
- Flushing Incident** The arrest of Marlowe in 1592 in Flushing, an English outpost in the Netherlands, in which Baines accused Kit of treason, counterfeiting, and apostasy. Marlowe was sent back to England and quietly released by Burghley
- Folio** A sheet of paper folded in half to make two leaves (four pages), or a book bound with large pages such as the First Folio of Shakespeare's works
- Frizer** Ingram Frizer, a servant of Walsingham, and Marlowe's alleged assailant
- Geneva Bible** An English bible prepared by Protestant exiles in Switzerland that was used by Puritans and favored in the Marlovian and Shakespearean works
- Globe** A theater constructed in 1599 on Bankside at which the Lord Chamberlain's Men performed many of the Shakespearean plays, probably including *Hamlet*
- Hamlet*** Based on the ancient Scandinavian saga of Prince Amleth, the Shakespearean play was probably first performed in 1600 or 1601, registered in 1602 on St. Christopher's Day, and published in the First Quarto of 1603, the Second Quarto of 1604–1605, and the First Folio of 1623
- Hecate** The queen of Night and goddess of magic invoked in the play-within-the-play in *Hamlet*. She or her furies appear in most of the Marlovian and Shakespearean works. Marlowe's "death" in Deptford fell on May 30, her annual festival day
- High Commission** The ecclesiastical court administered under the aegis of Archbishop Whitgift that persecuted reformers, Puritans, Separatists, and freethinkers
- Howard, Charles** Lord Admiral, Marlowe's theater patron, and possibly a key figure in his rescue and arrangement to bring out the Shakespearean works
- Jewel Inestimable** The exercise of liberty and freedom of conscience as described eloquently by James Morice in a speech in Parliament in the spring of 1593
- Kyd, Thomas** Dramatist with whom Marlowe shared a room and who, under torture, implicated him in atheism and blasphemy

- Libertas** The ancient Roman concept of liberty and freedom that poets and enlightened scholars like Marlowe upheld
- Literary Fingerprint** A unique statistical profile of a writer's style developed by Dr. Thomas Mendenhall, the father of modern stylometrics, the scientific study of literature. He found that Marlowe's and Shakespeare's matched perfectly
- London Stage** The popular theater performed in outdoor arenas on Bankside such as the Rose, Swan, and Globe as well as indoor playhouses such as Blackfriars
- Lopez Affair** The arrest, trial, and execution of a Jewish physician in 1594 for attempting to poison the queen. Lopez is mentioned in Marlowe's works
- Lord Chamberlain** Official who oversaw entertainment at court and on the stage
- Lord Chamberlain's Men** The troupe of players formed in 1594 by Lord Hunsdon (Henry Carey) that staged many of the Shakespearean plays
- Lord of Misrule** Mock king in the medieval morality plays and festivities
- Marlowe** Christopher "Kit" Marlowe, acclaimed prince of the London stage and loyal government agent, who evidently staged his death to prevent being burned at the stake for heresy and went on to collaborate with Shakespeare
- Marlovians** Those who believe that Marlowe wrote the Shakespearean works
- Marprelate Affair** Underground pamphlets in 1588–1589 attacked Archbishop Whitgift's ecclesiastical abuses. Satirist Martin Marprelate was never identified, but his printers were arrested and tortured and several clergy later executed
- Muscovy Company** A powerful mercantile company presided over by Anthony Marlowe's, Kit's kinsman, whose investors included Burghley, Robert Cecil, and the Walsinghams. Located in Deptford, it had a liaison office in Mrs. Bull's house where Marlowe was reputedly "killed" and probably facilitated his escape
- Parliament of 1593** Archbishop Whitgift and Queen Elizabeth supported draconian legislation against religious nonconformity over the protests of Morice, Raleigh, and other impassioned MPs. The epic contest forms the backdrop to the Marlowe affair and the subtext of *The Comedy of Errors*, *King John*, *Hamlet*, and other plays
- Pembroke, Countess of** (Mary Sidney) Poet, literary patron, and wife of one of Marlowe's theater patrons to whom he wrote a glowing dedication and to whom he may have been romantically linked. The First Folio is dedicated to her sons
- Play-within-the-Play** Prince Hamlet stages a play, *The Murder of Gonzago*, to recreate his father's murder and catch the conscience of the king
- Poley** Robert Poley, the Cecils' senior agent and third man present in Deptford
- Privy Council** Queen Elizabeth's cabinet, including Burghley, Whitgift, Robert Cecil, Buckhurst, the Lord Admiral, and other key officials
- Puritans** Godly ministers and laity who believed that Archbishop Whitgift and the queen sanctioned popish practices and sought to purify the Church of England
- Pursuivant** An authorized hunter of atheists, blasphemers, and seditious printers
- Quarto** A sheet of paper folded in quarters (8 pages) or a book composed of such sheets such as the first editions of *Hamlet* known as Q1 and Q2
- Quod me nutrit me destruit.*** Latin inscription on Marlowe's putative portrait at Cambridge—"Consum'd with that which it was nourish'd by."—a recurrent theme in the Marlovian and Shakespearean works, especially Sonnet 73
- Reckoning** The bill, or sum of pence, that reputedly provoked the fatal quarrel between Marlowe and Ingram Frizer after dining in Deptford. Known as "le recknyng" in the coroner's report, the term surfaced in Shakespeare's *As You Like It*
- Recusant** A Catholic who refused to attend services of the Church of England
- Religious Settlement** Queen Elizabeth's recognition of the supremacy of the

- Church of England in 1558, but retaining some elements of Catholicism
- Rippon Incident** A protest march decrying the death of Roger Rippon, an imprisoned Separatist, at the hands of Archbishop Whitgift in February 1593
- Rose** The playhouse on Bankside, home of Elizabethan tragedy, and site where Marlowe's early plays were produced by manager Philip Henslowe
- Scadbury** The manor of Thomas Walsingham, Marlowe's friend and patron, where he was arrested on May 20, 1593
- School of Night** Circle of scientists, explorers, and freethinkers led by Northumberland and Raleigh, probably including Marlowe, and alluded to in *Love's Labor's Lost*
- Separatists** Zealous Protestants who broke with the Church of England and met in their own secret congregations. Their leaders, Barrow, Greenwood, and Penry, were executed by Archbishop Whitgift shortly before Marlowe's "death." Some fled to Holland and eventually to America where they were revered as the Pilgrims
- Shakespeare** William of Stratford, a young actor who probably contributed performative elements to the Shakespearean works with Marlowe. *Venus and Adonis*, the first work under his name, appeared two weeks after Marlowe's "death"
- Shakespeare Compact** The arrangement by which Shakespeare received credit for composing the plays and poems penned by Marlowe after his "death." The deal evidently was struck by Burghley, Robert Cecil, the Lord Admiral, and the Lord Chamberlain and involved Southampton, Field, and other patrons and stationers
- Skeres** Nicholas Skeres, Frizer's partner, former agent, and second man in Deptford
- Southampton** (Henry Wriothesley) Patron who may have financed Shakespeare's early stage career and been the intermediary between Will and Kit
- Spanish Armada** Naval invasion of England providentially turned back in 1588
- Star Chamber** A court in Parliament convened by the Privy Council to hear special cases and that sanctioned the use of torture
- Stationers' Company** Guild of booksellers, printers, and publishers that licensed publications under the censorious eye of Archbishop Whitgift
- Stratford** Shakespeare's birthplace and home, several days' journey from London
- Stratfordians** Those who believe that William Shakespeare wrote the works attributed to him largely on account of his native wit and genius
- Stuarts** The Scottish dynastic line, including Mary Queen of Scots and her son James, who ruled England from 1603–1714 (except 1649–1660)
- Succession Crisis** The vacuum created when Elizabeth refused to name an heir, and civil war loomed as rival factions backed James, Arbella, or other candidate
- Tudors** The English dynastic line, including Henry VII, Henry VIII, Edward VI, Mary, and Elizabeth that ruled England from 1485–1603
- Ur-Hamlet** The lost source text of *Hamlet*, composed by Kyd and/or Marlowe, performed in the late 1580s and early 1590s, and probably incorporated in the German *Hamlet*, forming the core of the Shakespearean versions
- Verge** The 12-mile radius of the Queen's person under the jurisdiction of Knight Marshall, Sir George Carey, later patron of the Shakespeare company and *Hamlet*, and William Danby, the queen's coroner, who presided over Marlowe's inquest
- Walsinghams** Francis (Elizabeth's secretary of state and chief spymaster) and his younger kinsman, Thomas (also an intelligencer), who befriended Marlowe
- Whitehall** Elizabeth's principal London palace near Parliament in Westminster
- Whitgift** (John Whitgift) The Archbishop of Canterbury ruled the Church, the stage, and the press with an iron hand, inspired Marlowe's atheism investigation, and was satirized in several of the Marlovian and Shakespearean plays