

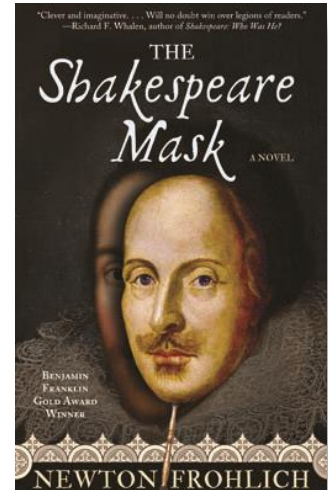
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

AS SUMMER SHAKESPEARE FESTIVALS KICK OFF, CONTROVERSIAL NEW NOVEL ASKS IF WE HAVE THE STORY ALL WRONG

Cape Cod, MA - When he was researching his acclaimed novel *1492* (St. Martin's Press), Newton Frohlich stumbled across an even more controversial moment in history and evidence for a possibility he'd never considered: that the author of the greatest texts in the English language wasn't who we think he was.

Frohlich dove into the research for more than a decade, and the result is *The Shakespeare Mask* (Blue Bird Press), a novel that explores the life of Edward de Vere, the 17th Earl of Oxford—and, Frohlich says, a more logical choice for the author of the works attributed to “Shakespeare.”

The Shakespeare Mask was recently named the Benjamin Franklin Gold Award Winner for historical fiction.



“Because de Vere was the premier nobleman of England, he was unable to publish and present his plays in his own name,” Frohlich says. “Social strictures considered that inappropriate for a man of his status. So he did what nobles of the time did: he used a pen name and employed a front man, the Stratford man.” Frohlich’s work recreates the Tudor period and de Vere’s place in it, including his remarkable education, his travels in Italy, where half of Shakespeare’s plays are set, and his affairs—sexual and otherwise—with Elizabeth, the Queen of England, as well as with several other women, including a lover his sonnets describe as the “dark lady.”

Frohlich reviewed as many original documents from the time as he could and even met with a descendant of the Earl of Oxford to make his story as accurate as possible. The resulting novel has been well received, coming on the heels of the movie *Anonymous* and a growing popular and academic push to reexamine the authorship question.

Frohlich is available for interviews, book club appearances, speaking engagements, and/or guest articles or blogs.

The Shakespeare Mask is available at bookstores nationwide as a paperback and e-book and is distributed to the trade by SCB Distributors.

Trade paperback, 5.5" X 8.5", 374 pp., \$15.95
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ISBN: 978-0-9960484-4-6 (e-book)

For more information, to request a review copy, or to schedule an interview, please contact the author, Newton Frohlich:

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About Newton Frohlich



Newton Frohlich is a former attorney and the award-winning author of the novels *The Shakespeare Mask* and *1492* (St. Martin's Press) as well as the nonfiction book *Making the Best of It: A Common-Sense Guide to Negotiating a Divorce* (Harper & Row). He spent fifteen years traveling and researching for *The Shakespeare Mask* and is a member of the Shakespeare Oxford Society and the De Vere Society. He has lived in Washington, DC, the south of France, and Israel. He now makes his home on Cape Cod with his wife, Martha, a musicologist.

Suggested Interview Questions

1. Tell us how you got started with this story – what got you interested in researching who was the real author of the works of Shakespeare?
2. What did you uncover in your research that convinced you that Edward de Vere is a more likely candidate to have written the works of Shakespeare?
3. You wrote *The Shakespeare Mask* as a novel. Why did you write it as a story rather than as a detailed scholarly work?
4. Your research took you all across Europe, and you even met with a descendant of Edward de Vere at the Oxford castle in Essex. What was his reaction to your research?
5. There have been a number of notable supporters of the idea that the “Stratford Man” didn’t write the sonnets and plays of Shakespeare. Who are some of the famous writers, actors, and scholars who believe this?
6. Even though celebrities from Mark Twain to Supreme Court Justice John Paul Stevens believe de Vere wrote the works of Shakespeare, why do you think there is so much resistance to the idea? Have you met that resistance yourself?
7. What’s next for you as a writer? Any other projects planned or underway?

The Shakespeare Mask is available at
your favorite neighborhood bookstore or online bookseller.

To learn more:

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Praise for Newton Frohlich and His Novels

The Shakespeare Mask: A Novel

Winner of the Benjamin Franklin Gold Award in Historical Fiction

“A clever and imaginative merging of fact and fiction. . . . Will no doubt win over legions of readers with Frohlich’s appreciation of Oxford as a flesh-and-blood man of the Renaissance – and the author of the Shakespeare canon.”

– **Richard F. Whalen, author of *Shakespeare: Who Was He?***

“Frohlich makes the history of the period come alive and makes a convincing case for De Vere’s identity as the true author of Shakespeare’s work. But more importantly, he makes it a good tale – worthy of one of the finest writers in history whether De Vere is truly the man or not.”

– **My Reader’s Block book blog**

“Newton Frohlich, an attorney and the author of the celebrated historical novel *1492*, spent fifteen years researching unexplored questions about the poet and playwright we today know as Shakespeare. His is an intimate tour of English castles, Venetian canals, and a complex man who penned the most beloved works of the English language.”

– **The de Vere Society Newsletter**

1492: A Novel of Christopher Columbus, the Spanish Inquisition, and a World at the Turning Point

“Captivating, extraordinarily vivid first novel. . . . Frohlich, an attorney, spent eight years researching his book and brings remarkable realism to his chilling depiction of the fanaticism fueling the Inquisition. . . . This is a convincing, detailed re-creation of the Old World on the brink of discovery.”

– ***Publishers Weekly***

“Frohlich . . . shows a fine gift for storytelling, and his recounting of the horrors of the Inquisition is striking. Columbus himself emerges as a man of great talent with an almost mystical self-confidence. . . . The sheer power of the historical events is likely to keep the reader engaged.”

– ***Booklist***

“A rollicking, readable, and fascinating story. . . . For a grand, sweeping tale of the history of Spain at the end of the 15th century, *1492* is hard to beat.”

– ***St. Louis Post Dispatch***

“*1492* is a novel. And a very fine one. . . . Newton Frohlich labored for eight years in the creation of this well-spun tale. . . . Impressive scholarship supports Frohlich’s fiction. . . . I read this excellent novel until the wee hours several nights successively until the final page. The presence of terror is keenly conveyed. The sense of injustice is breathtaking. The characters of queen and inquisitor and explorer take form and walk the pathways of your mind.”

– ***National Catholic Reporter***

To learn more, visit: NewtonFrohlich.com Email: newton.frohlich@gmail.com