



'A brilliant academic study which can also be thoroughly enjoyed by any layperson. ... an outstanding achievement'
Dr Paul C Doherty

'Her theory makes obvious sense of a long mystery'
A. N. Wilson, Evening Standard

'Superimposing the models revealed perfect matches'
Rob Edwards, New Scientist

HHH 'succeeded in proving that the Davenant Bust depicts William Shakespeare's authentic lifelike features' **GEO**

'I was not only impressed but also convinced by the author's arguments, in view of which not a few leading scholars were made to look mere amateurs'
Professor Peter Milward, The Renaissance Bulletin

HHH's 'elegantly produced volume will surely stand as the definitive work which solves many of the mysteries surrounding the few images of Shakespeare that we possess. ... the author shows that the so-called Chandos and Flower portraits are ... painted during the playwright's lifetime. This establishes that the 1623 Droeshout engraving ... was copied from the Flower portrait, not vice versa ... [She demonstrates] that [the Darmstadt death mask's] features exactly reproduce those of the other images of Shakespeare.'
Professor Michael Patterson, Theatre Research International

'Over the past decade, Hildegard Hammerschmidt-Hummel ... has been a scholarly leader in discovering more about Shakespeare' **Douglas Galbi, U.S., FCC, Purple Motes**

In this ground breaking study, Hildegard Hammerschmidt-Hummel offers a convincing solution to the centuries-old question of what William Shakespeare really looked like and also of what appears to have caused his death.

What the Bard Truly Looked Like

Professor Hammerschmidt-Hummel is the first scholar to apply state of the art forensic techniques to the study of Shakespeare's portraits and the publication of her findings is a major addition to our understanding of this iconic poet and playwright.

By combining exhaustive academic research with the latest technology and collaborating over many years with specialists from the most varied disciplines - including forensic experts from the German Federal Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BKA=CID), Professors of Medicine, 3D imaging engineers, archivists and an expert on old masters - Hildegard Hammerschmidt-Hummel has proved the authenticity of the Chandos portrait, the Darmstadt death mask and the Flower portrait (recently incorrectly dismissed as a 'fake' by the National Portrait Gallery, as shown by the author's latest evidence). Her revolutionary research has also authenticated another true face of Shakespeare - the Davenant bust. This haunting sculpture has resided in the Garrick Club since 1855 and was thought to be the work of an eighteenth century sculptor. According to the author's new documentary sources, it derives from the collection of Sir William Davenant (1606-1668), Shakespeare's godson, who also owned the Chandos portrait.

By tracing the development of certain signs of illness in each of the images, first noticed by Hildegard Hammerschmidt-Hummel, the author's medical experts have identified and verified the most probable cause of Shakespeare's death. The conspicuous growth on the upper left eyelid, they interpreted as Mikulicz Syndrome (a probably cancerous abnormality of the tear glands), the swelling in the nasal corner of the left eye as a fine caruncular tumour, and the considerable swelling on the forehead (in conjunction with the other pathological symptoms) as systemic sarcoidosis, an inner disease that affects the organs and takes a very protracted course, but proves to be fatal.

Professor Hildegard Hammerschmidt-Hummel teaches English Literature and Culture at the University of Mainz. Her many publications include the seminal three volume study *Shakespearean Illustrations 1594-2000*, *The Secret Surrounding Shakespeare's Dark Lady*, and *The Secret Life of William Shakespeare*. Her major biography, *The Life and Times of William Shakespeare*, will be published by Chaucer Press in October 2007. For more information see: www.hammerschmidt-hummel.de

Chaucer Press, London, 2006

Retail price £25.00, Free postage and packing

Illustrated Hardback

208 pp., 132 illustrations, mostly in colour

ISBN - 1 904449 56 5

To order a copy of the book please contact LBS

Tel - 0044 (0) 1903 828 503

Email - mailorders@lbsltd.co.uk

For further information please contact MGA

Tel - 0044 (0) 20 7836 4774 - Fax - 4775

Email - chaucer@mga-pr.com