



EDWARD DE VERE NEWSLETTER NO. 34

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Was Edward de Vere, 17th Earl of Oxford, the "annotator" of a copy of Hall's Chronicle? [Part 3 of 3]

In previous issues of the *Edward De Vere Newsletter*, it has been suggested that the author of the Langham *Letter* was Edward de Vere, 17th Earl of Oxford. Oxford's interest in history was remarked upon by his contemporaries, and one of the reasons for hypothesizing that the author of the Langham *Letter* was Oxford is that the author of the *Letter* is also interested in history. In the final paragraph of the *Letter*, in the course of a tongue-in-cheek description of his education, he mentions his "delight" in reading books of history:

Herewith meant I fully to bid ye farewell had not this doubt come to my mind that here remains a doubt in you, which I ought (methought) in any wise to clear. Which is, ye marvel perchance to see me so bookish . . . I have leisure sometime when I tend not upon the Council whereby now I look on one book, now on another. Stories [i.e. histories] I delight in - the more ancient and rare, the more likesome unto me (Kuin 81).

The anonymous annotator of Sir Richard Newport's copy of Hall's Chronicle also had a marked interest in history, and there is considerable other circumstantial evidence to support the hypothesis that the youthful annotator of the Chronicle was Edward de Vere.

It thus becomes of some importance to determine whether there is any similarity between the vocabulary of the Langham *Letter* and the vocabulary found in the annotations in Hall's Chronicle. A significant

similarity in vocabulary would render it more likely that the Langham *Letter* and the annotations in Hall's Chronicle are by the same author, and that that anonymous author was Oxford.

Eliot Slater has devised a rare word test by which the vocabularies in different literary texts can be compared. A "word", for purposes of Slater's test, consists of a "lexical word" having a separate entry in the *Shorter Oxford English Dictionary*:

Any word is regarded as an independent entity if it has its own paragraph in *SOED*, or is entered in bold type under the heading of the catch word in question as a distinct formation. Homonyms which are different parts of speech are taken to be different words. Modifications of a stem word by inflection, declension, conjugation, etc. are not taken to constitute a difference. Verbal nouns and adjectives, e.g. those ending in *-ing*, are regarded as not distinct from the root verb. Words in the *Dictionary* which appear hyphenated are regarded as single distinct entries. A noun used attributively as an adjective is regarded as an adjective and therefore a different part of speech and an independent word in its own right. A verb used transitively or intransitively is regarded as two different words. These points of decision have been formulated as above with a view to making allowances for authorial style, originality, flexibility and even eccentricity in the use of words. (p.103)

When this test is applied to the vocabulary of the Langham *Letter*, the total number of individual lexical words in the *Letter* (exclusive of proper nouns and foreign words) is reduced to approximately 3000. The total number of lexical words used by the annotator is a little over 800.

When the two vocabularies of lexical words are com-

pared, approximately 54% of the lexical words in the annotator's vocabulary match lexical words in the vocabulary of the Langham *Letter*.

The considerable correspondence between the two vocabularies is thus significant enough to merit further analysis, particularly when it is realized that some rather unusual words are found in common in the two vocabularies -- words such as bruit, chariot, concord, discord, embassy, fatherly, feigned, framed, historiographer, jest, maintain, malice, martial, massy, oration, pad, passage, peradventure, policy, prophecy, rail, rendered, represents, sage, skirmish, solemn, specially, spoil, stoutly, subjection, sundry, tempest, thereby, thereof, torches, treasure, triumph, utter, verses, virtues, wanton, withal, writers and yielded.

To enable the reader to form an impression of the nature of the vocabulary used by the annotator of Hall's *Chronicle*, a list of all vocabulary words (including proper nouns and foreign words) used in the annotations is reprinted below. The number following each word indicates the number of times the word is used in the annotations.

Works Cited

Kuin, R.J.P. *Robert Langham: A letter*. Leiden: E.J. Brill, 1983.
 Slater, Eliot. *The problem of 'The Reign of King Edward III': A statistical approach*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1988.

Appendix A: Vicabulary of Annotations in Hall's Chronicle

a 121
 about 1
 abroad 1
 absence 1
 acquittance 1
 act 3
 activity 1
 adoption 1
 advanced 1
 afar 1
 affirming 1
 affliction 1
 after 6

after-gotten 1
 afternoon 1
 again 4
 against 18
 age 1
 aged 1
 Agincourt 2
 aid 7
 aided 1
 Albany 1
 Alençon 1
 alive 1
 all 4
 almost 4
 alms 1
 although 1
 always 1
 ambassadors 4
 among 5
 an 19
 Ancaster 1
 and 113
 Angoulême 1
 Anjou 2
 anno 2
 Anno Domini 1
 another 5
 answer 11
 apparent 1
 appertaining 1
 appointed 6
 apprehended 2
 approached 1
 approaching 1
 April 1
 Aquitaine 2
 archbishop 2
 archers 3
 arch-fool 1
 Argentan 1
 Armagnac 2
 armed 2
 armour 2
 arms 3
 army 9
 arrived 1
 article 5
 articles 7
 Arundel 1
 as 3
 assault 1
 assaulted 2
 assembled 1
 assented 1
 assured 1
 at 27
 attached 1

attainted 1	breasts 1	Christian 2	cowardly 1
author 2	Britain 1	Christmas 3	created 1
author's 1	Brittany 3	chronicle 1	crime 1
away 3	broken 1	churches 1	crosses 1
bailiff 1	brother 2	churchyard 1	crown 8
ballads 1	brought 5	city 4	crowned 1
balls 1	Bruce 2	civil 3	cry 1
banished 4	bruit 1	claim 1	dainties 1
banquet 1	Brutus 1	claimed 2	dangerous 1
barbarous 1	Burgundy 15	Clarence 1	date 1
barons 1	Burgundy's 1	clergy 2	daughter 3
barren 1	burial 2	cloth 1	dauphin 14
base 1	buried 2	Cobham 3	dauphin's 1
battle 7	burned 2	coin 1	David 3
Bayeux 1	business 1	combat 1	day 2
be 10	but 9	come 1	days 5
beaten 1	by 35	cometa 1 (La.)	dead 2
because 2	Caen 3	coming 2	death 10
become 2	Calais 6	commandment 2	decayed 1
Bedford 5	calamity 1	commission 1	decease 1
been 2	called 6	committed 1	declare 1
before 6	came 4	committeth 1	declared 1
began 3	Camoyoys 1	companion 1	defacing 1
begin 2	camp 2	companions 2	defeating 1
beginneth 1	Cant 1	complain 1	defendeth 1
beginning 1	Canterbury 2	complices 1	defiance 2
beheaded 2	Capet 1	conclude 1	delight 1
being 1	captain 3	concluded 1	deliverance 2
Belgique 1	captains 5	concludeth 1	delivered 2
Bellona 1	Carlisle 1	conclusion 2	Denmark 1
Berry 1	carrack 1	concord 1	deposed 2
besides 1	carracks 1	condemned 2	deprived 1
besieging 1	Carthage 1	condition 1	descend 1
betrayed 1	case 2	confess 1	desired 1
better 1	cast 2	confessed 2	destroy 1
between 5	caster 1	confutation 1	destroyed 3
bill 1	castle 5	conquer 1	detected 1
bills 1	castles 2	conquest 1	device 1
bishop 4	Cato 1	consented 1	devil 1
bishop's 1	Cato's 1	conserve 1	did 5
bishoprics 1	cats 1	conspiracy 4	died 7
bishops 1	Caudebec 1	conspirator 1	Dieppe 1
black 1	causes 1	conspirators 1	discomfited 2
Blackheath 1	Celtic 1	Constance 1	discord 1
Blanchetaque 1	Censorius 1	content 1	disme 1
blew 1	censers 1	continued 2	dispatched 1
blood 2	certain 2	cofes 1	dissension 3
body 3	challenge 1	copy 1	divers 2
Bois de Vincennes 1	challenged 1	corn 1	divided 1
book 2	chance 1	council 1	division 2
borders 1	chaplains 1	councillors 1	divisions 1
born 1	charge 1	counsel 3	dominus 1 (La.)
both 3	chariot 1	countries 2	doctor 1
bountifulness 1	Charles 6	country 1	dogs 1
Bourges 2	Charleroi 1	courage 3	doth 2
bows 1	chief 1	courageous 2	dragon 1
brake 1	child 1	court 1	dreadful 1
break 1	chosen 1	cowardice 1	ducats 1

duchess 1	favourer 1	good 3	Huss 1
duchies 1	feats 1	goodly 1	I 1
duchy 2	February 1	goodness 1	if 2
duke 49	feigned 1	goodwill 1	ill 1
dukedom 1	fell 2	got 1	imprisoning 1
dukes 5	fetch 1	governor 6	in 43
during 1	fire 1	grant 1	incensing 1
durst 1	first 5	granted 1	indenture 1
dying 1	flatterers 1	grave 1	infidels 1
E 2	flattery 1	grave-ground 1	infirmity 1
ear 1	flea 1	great 6	injuries 2
earl 9	fled 3	grow 1	intended 2
earls 2	flesh 1	grudge 1	into 7
earth 1	Flint 1	Guyenne 2	invaded 2
eat 1	flow 1	had 11	inveigheth 1
eaten 1	foiled 1	Hampton 1	inventing 1
Edmund 1	followed 1	hand 1	Ireland 1
Edward 4	following 1	handmaids 1	Irishmen 1
elected 1	foolish 1	hanged 2	is 4
embassade 1	for 42	hardy 1	Isabel 3
embassy 1	ford 1	Harfleur 7	issue 2
emperor 7	foreign 1	hatchet 1	it 5
end 1	forever 1	hath 1	Italico 1
ended 4	forsake 1	have 1	James 3
enemy 1	forsook 1	he 21	Jane 1
England 17	fortune 1	heavily 1	Jerome 1
England's 1	fought 2	heir 3	jest 1
English 12	framed 1	heirs 1	John 11
Englishman 1	France 31	held 1	journey 1
Englishmen 7	frayed 1	Henry 31	jousting 2
Enguerrand 1	free 1	Henry's 6	jousts 1
entered 6	freely 1	Henrys 1	Julius 1
entertained 1	French 15	her 2	June 1
entertainment 1	Frenchman 1	here 1	justice 1
espied 1	Frenchman's 1	Hereford 4	justified 1
esse 1 (La.)	Frenchmen 19	heresy 1	Katherine 3
est 1 (La.)	friendly 1	heretics 1	keep 1
etc. 2	friends 2	high 1	keeping 1
Evreux 1	friendship 1	him 5	Kent 1
even 1	from 13	himself 2	kept 3
evil 1	frost 1	his 42	killed 2
excellent 1	full 1	historiographer 1	Kilmaine 1
excepted 2	fully 1	hold 1	king 107
executed 2	further 2	holding 1	kingdom 1
execution 4	Gascony 1	holy 1	king's 8
Exeter 2	gat 1	homage 2	kings 5
exhortation 1	Gaunt 1	home 1	kinsmen 1
exposition 1	gave 2	honour 2	knights 2
face 1	Germany 1	honourably 1	laboured 2
fact 1	gird 1	horsemen 4	lack 3
fair 1	given 2	Hotspur 1	lady 4
fall 1	Glendower 1	Hounslow Heath 1	laid 2
fallen 1	Gloucester 2	houses 4	laity 2
fame 1	go 1	Hugh 1	lamentable 1
famine 2	God 3	hulks 1	lamented 1
father 1	God's 1	Humphrey 1	Lammas 1
fatherly 1	goddess 1	hunger 1	Lancaster 3
favour 2	godly 1	hunger-starved 1	land 1

lands 2	Meaux 1	Oldcastle 1	pity 1
late 2	mice 1	on 7	place 5
law 2	Michel 1	once 1	placed 1
lay 1	middleward 1	one 2	plague 1
le 2 (Fr.)	mile 1	only 1	pleasure 2
league 4	milk 1	openings 1	pledges 1
learned 1	mischief 1	opinions 1	plentiful 1
learning 1	monasteries 1	oportet 1 (La.)	pleurisy 1
left 1	money 3	or 2	policy 2
Leicester 1	months 3	oration 4	Ponthieu 1
lent 1	more 3	order 3	Pontoise 1
let 1	morris pikes 1	Orleans 9	pope 1
letter 2	Mortimer 2	other 3	populous 1
lion 1	mother-in-law 1	others 1	possessions 1
Lisieux 1	mother's 1	ought 1	posts 1
lists 1	mouldwarp 1	our 4	power 1
lived 2	Mountjoy 1	out 4	Powis 1
London 2	mourner 1	over 3	practice 1
long 3	much 1	Overies 1	Prague 1
lord 9	murder 2	Owen 3	praised 1
lords 1	must 1	own 2	prayeth 1
love 3	nam 1 (La.)	Oxford 1	preacher 1
Louviers 1	name 2	pad 1	preparation 1
Luca 1	names 1	paid 2	presence 1
lying 2	nature 1	Pannonia 1	present 1
made 9	nephew 3	pardoned 1	pride 1
Magdalen 2	never 3	Paris 8	prince 7
magnus 1 (La.)	new 10	Parisians 1	princes 2
Maine 1	nigh 1	park 1	principal 1
maintain 1	no 6	parliament 7	prisoner 3
Malcolyn 2	noble 1	parties 1	prisoners 4
male 1	noblemen 1	parts 2	procession 2
malice 1	nobles 1	pass 2	proclaimed 2
man 1	Norfolk 2	passage 4	proclamation 1
manfully 1	Normandy 4	Paul's 1	promise 1
manifold 1	Normans 2	peace 14	promised 5
manners 1	Northumberland 2	pedigree 1	promoted 1
many 3	not 13	peer 1	promotions 1
marches 1	nota 2 (La.)	peers 1	prophecies 1
mark 1	notable 4	Pentecost 1	prophecy 1
Marke 1	note 7	people 3	protector 3
marriage 2	noted 1	peradventure 1	prothodaw 1
married 3	noteth 1	Percy 1	provision 4
marry 1	now 1	Percys 2	provocation 1
martial 1	number 2	Périgueux 1	quarterly 1
marvellous 1	Numeri 1 (La.)	perplexity 1	queen 5
Mary 1	oath 3	person 1	queens 1
massy 1	obsequy 1	persons 2	quis 1 (La.)
mast 1	October 1	persuaded 2	quit 1
master's 1	odds 1	Petit 1	raid 1
matter 3	of 264	Philip de Valois 4	rail 1
May 2	off 2	phrenetic 1	raised 1
meeting 3	offended 1	pieces 1	ran 1
memorem 1 (La.)	offenders 1	pioneers 1	ransoming 1
men 7	offer 3	piteous 1	rare 1
mendacem 1 (La.)	offered 2	pithy 1	rather 1
Mendmarket 1	offers 2	pitifully 1	rats 1
mete 1	old 2	pits 1	Ravenspur 1

realm 2	safe 1	soon 1	them 2
rearward 1	sage 1	sore 1	themselves 3
rebellion 1	said 2	sorrow 1	then 1
rebels 2	sail 1	soul 1	there 1
received 2	Saint 2	spake 1	thereby 1
receiving 1	salute 1	spared 1	therefore 1
recognize 1	sang 1	speak 2	thereof 1
reduced 1	savageness 1	speaketh 1	these 1
reed 1	say 2	specially 1	they 2
reform 1	saying 3	spiritual 2	things 2
refreshed 1	schism 1	spoil 1	think 1
regarded 1	scholar 1	spoiled 3	third 2
regent 2	Scotland 14	spread 1	this 3
reign 1	Scots 11	square 1	Thomas 4
reigned 1	scouring 1	stakes 1	thought 3
reigns 1	sea 3	stature 1	three 2
relent 1	second 2	stomach 2	threes 1
relics 1	sedition 1	stomached 1	through 1
religion 1	seed 1	stop 1	thus 1
religious 2	seemeth 1	stopped 1	till 1
rendered 2	seen 1	storms 1	time 3
renewed 1	Seine 1	stout 2	title 2
repentance 1	seized 1	stoutly 1	to 106
report 1	send 1	straits 1	too 1
reported 1	sent 7	strake 1	took 3
reports 1	sentence 1	strangers 1	torches 1
reprehendeth 1	set 1	straw 1	Touques 1
represents 1	shamefully 1	streets 1	Tournai 1
reproved 1	sharp 1	strong 1	towards 1
request 3	sheriff 1	subdued 1	tower 2
require 1	sheweth 1	subjection 1	town 5
rescue 2	ships 1	subjects 1	towns 4
reservation 1	shortly 2	submit 1	traitors 1
reserved 1	should 3	suburbs 1	translated 1
resignation 1	sick 1	success 1	treason 2
rest 2	sickness 1	succession 1	treasure 2
restraint 1	siege 8	such 3	treasures 1
return 1	Sigismond 1	sudden 1	treaty 2
returned 3	sins 1	suddenly 2	trenches 1
revenged 2	sir 2	sufferance 1	triumph 1
rich 1	sitting 1	suffered 1	triumphs 1
Richard 16	sixth 1	sum 1	truce 2
Richard's 1	skirmish 3	sundry 1	tun 1
riches 1	skirmished 1	sunk 1	two 5
rid 1	slain 12	suspected 1	Umfreville 1
right 3	slaughter 1	T 1	undermine 1
river 1	sleeveless 1	taken 13	unity 1
road 1	slight 2	taxes 1	unto 2
Robert 4	small 1	temperance 1	untrue 1
Robin 1	so 4	tempest 1	up 1
rode 1	sober 1	temporal 1	upon 3
room 1	soldiers 3	tennis 1	usurper 2
Rouen 9	solemn 2	testament 1	utter 1
ruin 1	some 5	than 1	vaward 1
rumour 1	somewhat 1	thanks 2	Venice 1
St. Pol 1	son 4	that 20	verses 1
sacrament 1	son's 1	the 344	very 1
sadness 1	sons 1	their 9	victor 1

victory 5
virtues 1
visitation 1
voluptuous 1
voyage 1
Wales 5
wall 1
walled 1
walls 1
Walter 2
wanton 2
war 8
wars 1
was 22
weak 3
weeks 1
Welshmen 1
were 5
Westminster 3
Westmoreland's 1
when 1
where 1
which 3
while 1
who 2
whom 1
wife 2
will 2
willed 1
William 1
win 2
Winchester 2
Windsor 2
winning 1
winter 1
wit 1
with 27
withal 1
withholden 1
without 2
witty 2
wolf 1
Wolstan's 1
woman 1
women's 1
won 2
wonderful 1
Woodstock 1
word 1
worse 1
would 1
write 2
writers 2
wrongfully 1
wrote 1
Wyclif 1
yards 1
year 4

year's 1
years 4
yet 3
yielded 3
yielding 1
York 3
Yorkshire 1