



**EDITORIAL
PREFACE**

Speaking of Shakespeare: A Note on the Special Issue

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Welcome to this Special Issue—approximately a year in the making—that addresses an intriguing historical controversy known as the Shakespeare Authorship Question. We thank Professor Don Rubin for taking the lead as Guest Editor, a role that involved enticing top authorities in this domain to contribute their latest arguments and ideas, coordinating various administrative tasks, and facilitating the peer review process.

The authors represented here are primarily literary scholars who insisted on presenting their material in a way that they deemed the most readable and impactful. Therefore, the *Journal* allowed the authors' to use their most familiar referencing style versus strictly adopting our standard APA format. We emphasize that their alternative styles have substantially different requirements for citation and references compared to APA, but we consider this lenience as an experiment in bridging two academic cultures with different approaches to writing papers.

Note that all the works here were peer-reviewed for accuracy and suitability of the content, as well as copyedited per standard *JSE* normal procedures with the help of Ramsés D'León. However, finalization of the articles (including the extent to which authors heeded the Managing Editor's suggestions for APA-related edits) was deemed optional, and ultimately the decision of the Guest Editor in consultation with the literary authors.

The *JSE* editorial team agreed to these key accommodations because this Special Issue constitutes an important "time capsule." Indeed, this is perhaps the last time that these Shakespeare experts will come together in this manner to offer frontier scientists and general academics alike a primer on the question of who wrote the monumental works traditionally attributed to "William Shakspeare" of Stratford-Upon-Avon. However, it is important to note that the *Journal* neither claims that this historical figure definitely was not the author, nor officially endorses any of the perspectives presented here. Our goal in publishing this collection of papers is simply to increase awareness of this literary mystery, as well as buttress its legitimacy as a topic of study and future research within mainstream academia.

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