

Werk

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Ich erfülle nur meine Pflicht, indem ich dem untenstehenden Schreiben unverkürzten Raum in diesem Bande gewähre, und würde es auch thun, selbst wenn der Schreiber mir nicht Bestätigungs-Material für meine im vorigen Jahre ausgesprochene Vermuthung zur Verfügung stellte: *Per se*, wie der Brief sagt, hat die New Yorker Shakespeare-Gesellschaft allerdings mit der *so called Baconian Theory* nichts zu thun, um so mehr aber wohl *per praesidem*, und Das war es, was ich meinte. Appleton Morgan, der Verfasser des Buches *The Shakespearean Myth* (siehe Jahrbuch XX, pg. 190—227, meinen Aufsatz: Die Bacon-Gesellschaft) ist Vorsitzender der New Yorker Shakespeare-Gesellschaft, und wenn man voraussetzen darf, daß die geistige Richtung einer wissenschaftlichen Gesellschaft sich mit der ihres Präsidenten identifiziere, so wird der Schluß kein unrichtiger sein, daß eine Gesellschaft, deren Präsident Appleton Morgan ist, „*in majorem Baconis gloriam*“ arbeite.

Sir: I find in the last Jahrbuch, issued under your authority, the following:
„In New York hat sich eine Shakespeare-Gesellschaft gebildet, welche ‘*in majorem Baconis gloriam*’ eifrig arbeitet.“

*If, as I am informed it does, this passage refers to the Shakespeare Society of New York, I can only say that it is matter of the greatest regret and surprise to me that a scholar so conservative and conscientious as yourself should feel at liberty to authorise a statement in a volume issued under the authority of your own reputation, and only annually — without the slightest attempt at first verifying it. Even had you shrunk from the labor of writing to this Society for information upon a subject concerning which you speak so glibly and finally, your fellow-countryman Dr. Elze — our esteemed honorary member — could have set you right. In England Mr J. O. Halliwell-Phillipps, who distinguishes us by accepting our honorary membership, could have advised you that this Society has nothing *per se* to do with the Baconian Theory (so called) of the Authorship of Shakespeare — and has never even discussed it. And had you seen fit, in your enumeration of publications for your current year, to have paused to include the first four volumes of this Society’s Publications, you would have at once inferred the ignorance and injustice of the passage above quoted.*

It is not for us to suggest that the accuracy and value of the Jahrbuch would be largely increased by a more careful verification of its statements before going to press, especially since you will yourself perceive the necessity — to the efficiency of the Jahrbuch — of the earliest possible correction in the premises you are able to make.

*I am, Sir, with great respect,
your most obedient servant,
Appleton Morgan,
President of the Shakespeare Society of New York.*
