



FBRT Information Sheet

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Dates of Bacon & Shakespeare Works

The following chart gives the dates of composition and publication of the Francis Bacon and William Shakespeare literary works. The dates are given as accurately as possible, although some of these (such as for the writing of the Shakespeare plays) can only be approximate. The dates of certain key events in Bacon's life are included so as to provide an overview of his life and work.

Key to the Chart:

Bacon

Ph = Philosophical & Literary

Ph# = Great Instauration, # referring to which Part of the G.I. the writings belong.

L = Legal

O = Other

Po* = Poetic

Shakespeare

Po† = Poetic

underlined = publications during Bacon's lifetime

Blue text = other important events

Dates of Francis Bacon's Life and Works and the Shakespeare Works		
22 Jan. 1561		Birth of Francis Bacon
1572-4		<u>Supernova in Cassiopeia</u>
April 1573-1575		Student at Trinity College, Cambridge
June 1576		Admitted <i>de societate magistrorum</i> of Gray's Inn
Sept. 1576-1579		Resident in France, attached to the English Embassy to the French Court
20 Feb. 1579		<u>Death of Sir Nicholas Bacon</u>
Oct. 1579		Took up residence in Gray's Inn to study law
Dec. 1579		<u>Anthony Bacon leaves for France</u>
1581		MP for Bassiney, Cornwall
1582	O	<i>Notes on the State of Christendom</i>
27 June 1582		Utter Barrister of Gray's Inn
1584	L	<i>Letter of Advice to the Queen (issued in Burghley's name)</i>
March 1584		Visit to Scotland
1584		MP for Melcome Regis, Dorset
1585	Ph	<i>Temporis Partus Maximus ('The Greatest Birth of Time')</i>

10 Feb. 1586		Bencher of Gray's Inn
1586		MP for Taunton
Nov. 1587		Reader of Gray's Inn
1587/8	Po*	Dumb show in the Gray's Inn Christmas Revels
Feb. 1589		MP for Liverpool
1589		Dean of the Chapel of Gray's Inn for the year
1589	L	<i>An Advertisement Touching the Controversies of the Church of England</i>
Nov. 1589		Granted reversion to the Clerk of the Counsel in the Star Chamber
1589-90	Ph	<i>New Method</i> begun
Feb. 1592		Anthony Bacon returns to England
1592		Queen's Counsel Learned, Extraordinary
1592	Po*	<i>A Conference of Pleasure</i> (Speeches composed for the Earl of Essex for the Queen's Accession Day Tilt, 17 Nov.): <i>In Praise of Knowledge, In Praise of Fortitude, In Praise of Love, In Praise of Truth.</i>
1592	L	<i>Certain Observations made upon a Libel</i>
1592-4	Po†	<i>Titus Andronicus</i> on tour with Lord Pembroke's Men. Also performed by Sussex's Men and Derby's Men.
1592-4	Po†	<i>The Taming of the Shrew</i> on tour with Lord Pembroke's Men
1592-4	Po†	<i>3 Henry VI (Richard Duke of York)</i> on tour with Lord Pembroke's Men
1592-4	Po†	<i>3 Henry VI (Richard Duke of York)</i> on tour with Lord Pembroke's Men
1592	Po†	<i>2 Henry VI (The First Part of the Contention)</i> performed at Rose by Lord Strange's Men
1592-4?	Po†	<i>King John</i>
1592-4?	Po†	<i>1 Henry VI (Henry VI Part 1)</i>
1592-4?	Po†	<i>Richard III</i>
1592-4?	Po†	<i>The Two Gentlemen of Verona</i>
Nov-Dec 1592		Two new stars (novae) in Cassiopeia
Jan-Mar 1593		MP for Middlesex – FB fights for Parliament's rights – in disgrace with the Queen because of his stand against the Queen's demands
1593		Theatres closed because of the plague
June 1593	Po†	<i>Venus and Adonis</i> (First appearance of the name "William Shakespeare" as author)
28 Jan. 1594		Co-Treasurer of Gray's Inn for the year
Jan-Feb 1594		FB pleads his first three cases in the King's Bench

1594	L	<i>A True Report of the Detestable Treason intended by Dr Roderigo Lopez</i>
May 1594		Deputy Chief Steward of the Duchy of Lancaster
July 1594		Visit to Scotland
1594	Po*	<i>The Device of the Indian Prince</i> (Speeches composed for the Earl of Essex for the Queen's Accession Day Tilt, 17 Nov.): <i>Squire, Hermit, Soldier, Statesman.</i>
1594	Po†	<i>The Rape of Lucrece</i> (Second appearance of the name "William Shakespeare" as author)
1594	Po†	<i>The Comedy of Errors</i> (written for the 1594/5 Gray's Inn Revels)
1594	Po†	<i>Love's Labour's Lost</i> (written for the 1594/5 Gray's Inn Revels but not performed then)
1594	Po†	<i>Love's Labour's Won</i> (a lost play)
1594-5	Po†	<i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i> (prob. composed for the marriage of Elizabeth Vere and William, Earl of Derby on 26 Jan. 1595 at Greenwich)
1594/5	Po*	<i>The Prince of Purpoole and the Honourable Order of the Knights of the Helmet</i> + <i>Comedy of Errors</i> (Gray's Inn Christmas/New Year Revels)
1595	Po†	<i>Romeo and Juliet</i>
Oct. 1595		Anthony Bacon takes up residence in Essex House
1595	Po†	<i>Richard II</i>
1595	Po*	<i>The Philautia Device</i> and <i>Device of the Indian Prince</i> (composed for the Earl of Essex, for the Queen's Accession Day Tilt, 17 Nov.)
1596	L	<i>Maxims of the Law</i>
1596	Po†	<i>1 Henry IV</i>
1596	Po†	<i>2 Henry IV</i>
1596	Po*	<i>The Sussex Speech</i> (composed for the Earl of Sussex, for the Queen's Accession Day Tilt, 17 Nov.)
1597	Po†	<i>The Merry Wives of Windsor</i> (composed for the election of Lord Hunsdon, the new Lord Chamberlain, as Garter Knight on 23 April)
Jan. 1597	Ph	<i>Essays</i> (1st ed.) + <i>The Colours of Good and Evil</i> + <i>Meditationes Sacrae</i>
1597		MP for Southampton & Ipswich
1597-8		Courtship of Elizabeth Hatton
1597-8	Po†	<i>The Merchant of Venice</i>
1598	Po†	<i>As You Like It</i> (poss. written for the marriage of the Earl of Southampton to Elizabeth Vernon in 1598)

1598	Po†	<i>Much Ado About Nothing</i>
1599	Po†	<i>Henry V</i> (deliberately likens Essex to Henry V)
Mar. 1599		Essex leads military expedition to Ireland
1599		Interview with the Queen re Hayward's book & ' <i>Richard II</i> '
1599	Po†	<i>Julius Caesar</i> (prob. written for the opening of the Globe Theatre at midsummer)
1599	Po†	<u><i>Shake-speare's Sonnets</i></u>
Nov. 1599		Double Reader of Gray's Inn
June 1600		Essex arraigned before the Council
1600-1	Po†	<i>Twelfth Night, or What You Will</i> (prob. written for the Gray's Inn Christmas/New Year revels 1600/1, after which it was performed in the Middle Temple at the beginning of Feb. 1601.)
1600		Nova in Cygnus
Feb. 1601		Essex's Insurrection, Trial and Execution
May 1601		Death of Anthony Bacon
1601	Po†	<u><i>The Phoenix and Turtle</i></u> (publ. in <i>Love's Martyr</i>)
1601	Po†	<i>Hamlet</i>
1601	L	<u><i>Declaration of the Practices and Treasons attempted and Committed by the late Earl of Essex and his Complices</i></u>
1602-3	Po†	<i>Troilus and Cressida</i> (prob. written for the Gray's Inn Christmas/New Year revels 1602/3)
1593/1600	Po†	<i>Sir Thomas More</i>
Mar. 1603		Death of Queen Elizabeth I. James VI of Scotland succeeds.
23 July 1603		Knighthood
25 July 1603		James VI of Scotland crowned King James I of England
1603	Ph	<i>Valerius Terminus of the Interpretation of Nature</i> – beginning of the tracts that were the forerunners of <i>The Great Instauration</i>
1603	L	<i>A Brief Discourse touching the Happy Union of the Kingdoms of England and Scotland</i>
1603-4		Great conjunction and massing of planets in Sagittarius
Aug. 1604		King's Counsel Learned, Ordinary
1603-4	Po†	<i>All's Well That Ends Well</i>
1604	Po†	<i>Measure for Measure</i>
1604	Po†	<i>Othello</i>

1604	Po†	<i>Timon of Athens</i>
1604	Ph	<i>Cogitations de Natura Rerum</i> ('Thoughts on the Nature of Things')
1604	O	<i>Apologie concerning the late Earl of Essex</i>
1604	L	<i>Certain Considerations touching the better pacification and Edification of the Church of England</i>
1604		Supernova in Ophiuchus
1604		MP for St Albans & Ipswich
1604-5	Po†	<i>King Lear</i>
Oct. 1605	Ph	<i>The Advancement and Proficiency of Learning</i> (2 Books)
1605	Ph	<i>Temporis Masculus Partus</i> ('The Virile Offspring of Time')
1605-6	Po†	<i>Macbeth</i> (prob. composed for James I and King Christian of Denmark: perf. at Hampton Court, 7 Aug. 1606)
1606	Ph	<i>Filum Labyrinthi, sive Formula Inquisitionis</i> ('Thread of the Labyrinth, or Formula of Enquiry')
1606	O	<i>In Felicem Memoriam Elizabethae</i> ('In Happy Memory of Queen Elizabeth')
10 May 1606		Marriage to Alice Barnham
1606-7	Po†	<i>Anthony and Cleopatra</i>
early 1607		Visit to Scotland
1607	Po†	<i>Pericles</i>
1607	Ph	<i>Cogitata et Visa de Interpretatione Naturae</i> ('Thoughts and Conclusions on the Interpretation of Nature')
June 1607		Solicitor-General
1608	Po†	<i>Coriolanus</i>
1608	Ph	<i>Redargutio Philosophiarum</i> ('The Refutation of Philosophies')
Oct. 1608		Treasurer of Gray's Inn (until 28 Oct 1617)
July 1608		Clerk to the Star Chamber
1608-9	L	<i>The Plantation of Ireland</i>
1609	Ph3	<i>De Sapientia Veterum</i> ('Wisdom of the Ancients')
1609		First Charter of Government for the Virginia Colony
1609		Death of John Dee
1609	Po†	<i>Shake-speares Sonnets</i>
1609	Po†	<i>Cymbeline</i>
1609		Shipwreck of Virginia Company's 'Sea-Adventurer' on the Bermudas

1610	Po†	<i>The Tempest</i>
Aug. 1610		Death of Lady Anne Bacon
1611	Po†	<i>The Winter's Tale</i>
1611		Judge of the Marshal's Court
1611		President of the Court of the Verge
1612		Second Charter of Government for the Virginia Colony
1612	Ph	<i>Descriptio Globi Intellectualis</i> ('A Description of the Intellectual Globe')
1612	Ph	<i>Thema Coeli</i> ('Theory of the Heavens')
1612	Ph	<u>Essays</u> (2nd edition –38 essays)
1612-13	Po†	<i>Henry VIII (All Is True)</i> (poss. written for the marriage of Princess Elizabeth to Prince Frederick, Elector Palatine, on 14 Feb. 1613)
1612-13	Po†	<i>The History of Cardenio</i> (a lost play – co-authored by Fletcher)
1613	Po†	<i>The Two Noble Kinsmen</i> (co-authored by and title-paged to Fletcher)
14 Feb. 1613		Marriage of Princess Elizabeth to Frederick V, Elector Palatine – celebrations organised by Francis Bacon which included two masques, <i>The Marriage of the Rhine and Thames</i> (contrived by Bacon) and <i>The Virginia Masque</i>
26 Oct. 1613		Attorney General
1614	L	<u>Charge...touching Duels</u>
1614		MP for St Albans, Ipswich & Cambridge
16 June 1616		Privy Councillor
7 Mar. 1617		Lord Keeper of the Great Seal
1617		Temporary Regent of England for a few months
4 Jan. 1618		Lord High Chancellor
12 July 1618		Baron Verulam of Verulam
1620	Ph2	<u>Novum Organum Scientiarum</u> ('New Method of the Sciences') (2 Books)
22 Jan. 1621		Bacon's 60th Birthday
3 Feb. 1621		Viscount St. Alban
3 May 1621		Impeachment
12 Oct. 1621		Warrant for Bacon's pardon signed by the King
1622	Ph3	<i>Historia Naturalis</i> ('Natural History'): <i>Introduction to six Natural Histories</i>
	Ph3	<i>Historia Ventorum</i> ('History of Winds')
1622	Ph3	<i>History of the Reign of King Henry VII</i>
1622	Ph	<i>Abcedarium Naturae</i> ('Alphabet of Nature')

1623	P4	<u><i>Shakespeare's Comedies, Histories & Tragedies</i></u> (First Folio)
1623	Ph1	<u><i>De Dignitate et Augmentis Scientiarum</i></u> ('Of the Dignity and Advancement of Science') (9 Books)
1623	Ph3	<u><i>Historia Vitae et Mortis</i></u> ('History of Life and Death')
1623	Ph3	<u><i>Historia Densi et Rari</i></u> ('History of Density and Rarity')
1623	Ph3	<u><i>Historia Gravis et Levis</i></u> ('History of Gravity and Levity')
1623	Ph3	<u><i>History of the Sympathy and Antipathy of Things</i></u>
1623	Ph3	<u><i>History of Sulphur, Salt and Mercury</i></u>
1623	L	<u><i>A Discourse of a War with Spain</i></u>
1623	L	<u><i>A Dialogue touching an Holy War</i></u>
1623	Po*	<u><i>The Fable of the New Atlantis</i></u>
1623	L	<u><i>A Digest of the Laws of England</i></u>
1623	Ph3	<u><i>History of the Reign of King Henry VIII</i></u> (unfinished)
1624	Ph	<u><i>Cogitationes de Natura Rerum</i></u> ('Thoughts on the Nature of Things')
1624	Ph	<u><i>De Fluxu et Refluxu Maris</i></u> ('Of the Ebb and Flow of the Sea')
1625	Ph3	<u><i>Essays, or Counsels Civil and Moral</i></u> (3rd/final edition – 58 essays)
1625	Ph3	<u><i>Apothegms New and Old</i></u>
1625	Po*	<u><i>Translation of Certain Psalms into English Verse</i></u>
1625	Ph3	Translation into Latin of the <i>History of King Henry VII</i>
1625	Ph3	Translation into Latin of <i>Counsels Civil and Moral, or Essays</i>
1625	L	Translation into Latin of the <i>Dialogue of the Holy War</i>
1625	Po*	Translation into Latin of the <i>Fable of the New Atlantis</i>
1625	Ph3	Revision of <i>De Sapientia Veterum</i> ('Wisdom of the Ancients')
1625	Ph3	<u><i>Inquisitio de Magnete</i></u> ('Enquiries into Magnetism')
1625	Ph3	<u><i>Topica Inquisitionis de Luce et Lumine</i></u> ('Topical Inquisitions into Light and Luminosity')
9 April 1626 (Easter Day)		Death of Sir Francis Bacon, Baron Verulam, Viscount St Alban

See following pages for Francis Bacon's works published after his death ►

FRANCIS BACON'S WORKS PUBLISHED AFTER HIS DEATH		
1627	Ph3/ Po*	<i>Sylva Sylvarum</i> and <i>New Atlantis</i> published together by Rawley
1629	L L L Ph3	CERTAIN MISCELLANY WORKS (publ. by Rawley):- <i>Considerations touching War with Spain</i> <i>An Advertisement touching an Holy War</i> <i>An Offer to our Late Sovereign King James of a Digest to be made of the Laws of England</i> <i>The History of the Reign of King Henry VIII</i>
1629	L	<i>Use of the Law</i>
1629	L	<i>Elements of the Common Laws</i>
1638	Ph3 Ph3 Ph3 O Po* Ph1 Ph3 Ph3	OPERUM MORALIUM ET CIVILIUM (publ. by Rawley):- <i>Historiam Regni Henrici Septimi, Regis Angliae</i> <i>Sermones Fideles, sive Interiora Rerum</i> <i>De Sapientia Veterum</i> <i>Dialogum de Bello Sacro</i> <i>Novam Atlantidem</i> <i>De Augmentis Scientiarum</i> <i>Historia Ventorum</i> <i>Historia Vitae et Mortis</i>
1641	L	<i>Cases of Treason</i>
1641	O	<i>Confession of Faith</i>
1641	L	<i>Speech concerning Naturalisation</i>
1641	L	<i>Office of Constables</i>
1641	L	<i>Three Speeches: 1) Post-Nati; 2) Naturalisation; 3) Union of England & Scotland</i>
1641	L	<i>Discourse concerning Church Affairs</i>
1642	L	<i>An Essay of a King</i>
1642	L	<i>The Learned Reading of Sir Francis Bacon (to Gray's Inn)</i>
1642	L	<i>Ordinances</i>
1648	O O	THE REMAINS OF THE RIGHT HONORABLE FRANCIS LORD VERULAM:- <i>Letters</i> <i>Confession of Faith</i>
1651	L	<i>Relation of the Poisoning of Overbury.</i>

1653	Ph4 Ph5	SCRIPTA IN NATURALI ET UNIVERSALI PHILOSOPHIA (publ. by Isaac Gruter):- An important collection of Bacon's minor writings including:- <i>Scala Intellectus sive Filum Labyrinthi</i> (Intro. to Part 4) <i>Prodromi sive Anticipationes Philosophiae Secundae</i> (Intro. to Part 5)
1653	Ph	<i>Cogitationes de Natura Rerum</i>
1653	Ph	<i>De Fluxu et Refluxu Maris</i>
1656		THE MIRROR OF STATE AND ELOQUENCE (= REMAINS)
1657	O O O Ph3 O	RESCUSCITATIO Part 1 (publ. by Rawley):- <i>The Life of the Honourable Author</i> <i>Speeches in Parliament</i> <i>Certain Treatises written or referring to Queen Elizabeth's times</i> <i>Certain Letters</i> <i>Fragment of an Essay Of Fame</i> <i>Confession of Faith</i>
1658	O O O O	OPUSCULA VARIA POSTHUMA, PHILOSOPHICA, CIVILIA ET THEOLOGIA (publ. by Rawley):- <i>In Felicem Memoriam Elizabethae</i> <i>Imago Civilis Iulii Caesaris</i> <i>Imago Civilis Augusti Caesaris</i> <i>Confessio Fidei</i>
1661	O	<i>Letter of Advice to the Duke of Buckingham</i>
1662	L	<i>Charge given for the Verge</i>
1663	O O O O L	OPUSCULA VARIA POSTHUMA, PHILOSOPHICA, CIVILIA ET THEOLOGIA (publ. by Rawley):- <i>In Felicem Memoriam Elizabethae</i> <i>Imago Civilis Iulii Caesaris</i> <i>Imago Civilis Augusti Caesaris</i> <i>Confessio Fidei</i> <i>Dialogus de Bello Sacro</i>

1665	Ph1 Ph2 Ph3 Ph3 Ph5 Ph3 Po* Ph3 Ph3 Ph3 O O O O	OPERA OMNIA:- <i>De Dignitate et Augmentis Scientiarum</i> <i>Novum Organum Scientiarum, cum Parasceve ad Historiam Naturalem & Experimentalem</i> <i>Historia Ventorum</i> <i>Historia Vitae et Mortis</i> <i>Scripta de Naturali & Universali Philosophia</i> <i>Sylva Sylvarum, sive Historia Naturalis</i> <i>Nova Atlantis</i> <i>Historiam Regni Henrici VII, Regis Angliae</i> <i>Sermones Fideles, sive Interiora Rerum</i> <i>De Sapientia Veterum</i> <i>Dialogus de Bello Sacro</i> <i>Opus Illustre in felicem memoriam Elisabethae Reginae</i> <i>Imago Civilis Iulij Caesaris</i> <i>Imago Civilis Augusti Caesaris</i>
1670	O O O Ph5 O	RESCUSCITATIO Part 2 (publ. by Rawley):- <i>The Life of the Honourable Author</i> <i>Speeches in Parliament</i> <i>Certain Treatises written or referring to Queen Elizabeth's times</i> <i>Certain Letters</i> <i>Fragment of an Essay Of Fame</i> <i>Confession of Faith</i>
1679	Ph	BACONIANA (publ. by Archbishop Tennison):- incl. <i>Abcedarium Naturae, or a Metaphysical piece</i>
1734	Ph	LETTERS AND REMAINS:- incl. <i>Valerius Terminus or the Interpretation of Nature</i>
1861	Ph	<i>Promus</i>