

OXFORDIAN NEWS

- **Barnabe Rich was *not* referring to the Earl of Oxford as ‘verie womanly’**

Robert Prechter has convincingly denounced the myth that Barnabe Rich was referring to Edward de Vere in his frequently quoted piece,



‘It was my fortune, at my last beying in London, where I met one coming towards me [...] in his hande a great fanne of feathers, bearing them up (verie womanly) at the side of his face’. It is simply not true and was wrongly inferred by B. M. Ward in *The Seventeenth Earl of Oxford* (p.194) and Oxford’s ‘apologists’ (Nelson, *Monstrous Adversary*, p.228) including the Ogburns *Star of England* (p.642–3). Rich was talking about an army captain: *The Adventures of Don Simonides* (1581) p.iii–iv. He extolled Oxford, as does Prechter in ‘The True Testimony of Barnabe Rich: Countering Another of B.M. Ward’s Unfounded Charges’, *Shakespeare Oxford Newsletter*, Fall 2023, p.18–20. We should keep an eye on Ward, as recognised by Jim Warren in his introduction and footnotes to his 2022 edition of *The Seventeenth Earl of Oxford*.