

Letters

We would be grateful if you would allow us to correct two minor misconceptions in Heidi Jansch's comprehensive review of the Moot Court Trial at Middle Temple Hall in the Spring 2023 issue of the *Newsletter*, and also to refer your members to The de Vere Society Newsletter report of the event.

First, the Moot Court was organised by Middle Temple, largely as an exercise for trainee lawyers, not by The de Vere Society (although Richard Clifford did facilitate "from our side, this event"). Second, although Richard is a trustee on the Events Team, it is now managed by Kerstin Delgado-Teglof (eventsteam@deveresociety.co.uk).

Second, we were disappointed that Heidi Jansch did not quote Alexander Waugh's explanation of the apparently disappointing result of the Trial: "The three judges were entirely sensible in my view to deliver the wrong verdict." This was supported by two legal referees for the DVS in the audience.

We were delighted that the Moot Court was able to coincide with the our Spring Meeting at the same prestigious venue; a brief report appears in the DVS Newsletter: Vol. 30, No.2, April 2023 (pp.15-16), which is available on the member-only section of the DVS website: <https://deveresociety.co.uk/the-moot-court-at-middle-temple-hall/>.

Amanda Hinds and Richard Clifford
Hon. Secretary and Vice Chairman of The de Vere Society

In the Summer 2019 issue of the *Newsletter* (p. 12) I offered a short piece titled "A Clear Declaration in 1606

That Prince Tudor Existed" It quoted the final couplet of Chapter 107 of *Albions England*, published in 1606 in the name of William Warner:

Hence Englands Heires-apparent have of Wales bin
Princes, till
Our Queene deceast conceald her Heire, I wot not for
what skill.

The words do not say that the queen *failed to name* an heir, but that she *concealed her heir*, implying that she had one and was hiding it. An obsolete meaning (Wiktionary) of *skill*, moreover, is *contrivance*, a word nicely fitting the implication of *conceal*, which means *hide, cover up or keep out of sight* (*Oxford Languages Dictionary*). Had Warner said, "I wot not by what skill," it would support my original inference.

The problem is that he does not say "by what skill," but "for what skill." Another obsolete meaning for *skill* is *reason*. Using that definition, Warner was concluding, "I know not for what reason." Had he been referring to a bastard son, the reason for concealment would be obvious.

The text can still mean, "I don't know why the queen concealed the heir we all secretly know about." But given the two options, it is prudent to default to the less spectacular reading.

I am led to conclude, then, that the author was reckless in his choice of three words. He probably meant that the queen concealed any *thoughts* she had about an heir and concluded, "I don't know why," in which case there is no implication of significance.

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