



November 12, 2009

Dear Ms. Hershey and Professor Verre,

Thank you for allowing me access to the play “The Most Excellent and Tragical Historie of Arthur, King of Britain.” The discovery of such an item is, as you may well imagine, an extraordinarily exciting moment in my field of study, as well as personally to me as a reader, theatre-goer and lover of Shakespeare’s works.

It is my considered opinion after extensive study that the play is incontrovertibly the work of William Shakespeare, but only in part. I would suggest that it is—like *Edward III* and the *Henry VI* trilogy, which I would suspect are approximately contemporaneous with *Arthur*—a collaborative effort.

Computer analyses of several grammatical and stylistic traits have confirmed my instincts from reading the play. Shakespeare certainly wrote

- Act I, scene i beginning at line 68 until I.iii, and then nothing until I.v
- None of Act II or IV
- The entirety of Acts III and V.

It has been an honor and pleasure serving on your Advisory Committee, and offer myself to you should you have any further need.

With every good wish,

Prof. Roderick McGarrick
Francis Black Professor of Shakespearean Literature
University of South East Anglia, UK.