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# **The Mystery at Oak Island**

**A State Paper**

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**Prepared For: Robert W. Frame**  
**Director**  
**Museum Services**  
**Nova Scotia Museum**

**By: D. J. Hanson**  
**Director**  
**The De Vere Foundation**

**In Association With:**

**John Thomson**  
**California Registered Geologist #880**

**George R. La Perle**  
**California Registered Geologist #473**

**Kurt Pilgram**  
**Registered Petroleum Engineer, #875**

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"As concerning ships, it is that which everyone knoweth and can say, they are our weapons, they are our ornaments, they are our strength, they are our pleasures, they are our defense, they are our profit; the subject by them is made rich, the Kingdom through them, strong; the Prince in them is mighty; in a word, by them, in a manner, we live, the Kingdom is, the King reigneth."

Anonymous

Frontspiece to The Life of Sir Martin Frobisher

\* \* \* \*

An unlifted shadow lies over the memory of  
Edward De Vere, the 17th Earl of Oxford.

Rev. Alexander Grossart, 1878

(Upon discovering youthful poems  
signed by Lord Oxford)

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## Foreword

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Since 1795, exploration at Oak Island has been dominated by a single theory: great wealth, "in the form of metals and minerals not in a natural state," has been protected by ingenious flood tunnels built either by pirates, thieves of great nation states, or remnants of New World civilizations conquered by Spain.

While the speculations have been interesting and some as ingenious as the system of flood tunnels, each has been distinguished by an utter lack of facts.

Two theories are presented in this State Paper: the first being related to the second by an hypothesis. The first theory is that Oak Island is the site of a mining venture abandoned in the late 16th Century. The second is that early in the 17th Century this abandoned mine was converted into a mausoleum, and its shafts and tunnels redesigned by adding at least two flood tunnels to prevent profane entry into the burial chamber.

The hypothesis that connects these two theories is as follows. If Oak Island is the site of the gold mining venture associated with Captain Frobisher's three voyages in search of the Northwest Passage, then the financial involvement of Edward De Vere, the 17th Earl of Oxford as an investor of £4,000 in these voyages (approximately \$400,000 of late 20th Century money) lends credence to the second theory; that the Island contains his tomb.

The first theory has an abundance of facts to support it. The second has enough facts to at least forge the theory and if this theory is correct, Science, which can measure the height of the North Star, cannot measure its importance to Nova Scotia.

At the beginning of the 20th Century it was demonstrated that Edward De Vere had authored the plays of "Shake-speare". At the end of the century, additional demonstrations and mountains of circumstantial evidence provided firm support for J. Thomas Looney's arguments and conclusion.

If the second theory is correct, it could be the final proof that the 17th Earl of Oxford, Edward De Vere, was "Shake-speare" for the protected treasure under the Island may be the plays of England's sovereign poet, not only sublime poems but critically important State documents for a scholarly understanding of the Elizabethan era; the unknown age of De Vere.

The kind of truth that could be preserved at Oak Island, historical and poetic, would be the kind of truth that sets us free.

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# The Mystery At Oak Island

## Narrative

### 1576: Frobisher's First Voyage and The Golden Rock

Late in the summer of 1576, Captain Frobisher sailed his flagship, The Gabriel, between headlands on the Atlantic Ocean and inward 'twenty leagues' until he neared the western shore of a great bay. The summer had been spent entering bays, rivers, and gulfs in a vain search for a northwest passage to the Orient. But once again there was only frustration: there was no passage to the riches of the Far East; just a broad bay shore. That first summer all Frobisher's courageous efforts had come to nought.

It was late in the day when The Gabriel dropped anchor beside a small island just off the mainland. Frobisher lowered the ship's skiff and was rowed to the shore where he picked up a glittering rock from the island's rock strewn beach. He had promised Michael Lok, who had promoted and helped finance the voyage, that he

Id bring him some memento from the New World. This stone and one native Indian were all he brought back to London, all he had to show from a summer's exploration. But, as events would prove, the golden stone would be enough.

The glittering rock that Frobisher presented Lok had lasting effects. The following summer the veteran sea captain returned to the island with a large ship, The Aide, and a small fleet that carried thirty tin miners from the Cornwall coast. During that second summer a mining colony was briefly established and that unnamed island mined for it's gold ore.

If the site of that mine was the island along the western shore of Mahone Bay that today is known as Oak Island and that glittering rock pyrite or 'fools gold', which is to be found almost everywhere on the island's shoreline, then Captain Frobisher had discovered what would first be known as Arcadia and later known as Nova Scotia. Indeed, one of England's 'sea hawks' had discovered Canada.

Two years previous Frobisher and Lok had begun discussing the Northwest Passage to Cathay. Late in the 15th Century King Henry VII of England had commissioned John Cabot to explore for this passage to the Orient. Cabot's voyage may have reached Labrador but he failed to find any passage and his commission was not renewed by England's frugal king. Cabot later sailed for the King of Spain and discovered Brazil and the Amazon River. Columbus had already discovered the West Indies and those sea lanes were extended by Balboa and Cortez to Central America, Mexico, and southwest America. When Magellan bravely sailed through the straits named for him at the southern tip of South America and went on to claim the Philippines in the name of Spain's king, all the sea routes across the South Atlantic were Spanish. Through the voyage of Vasco De Gama rounding Africa's Cape of Good Hope and sailing on to the Indian Sea and the coast of China, Portugal controlled the southeast trade route to the Far East. England had attempted to find a northeast passage to Cathay, but the intrepid leader of that expedition, Captain Willoughby, had perished in the attempt and the rights to the exploration remained dormant with the Muscovy Company in London. Only the Northwest Passage to Cathay remained for England to discover and lay it's claim to the New World.

Between meeting Captain Frobisher in 1574 and the latter's crossing of the North Atlantic in 1576, Michael Lok became a promoter for this voyage of exploration. He raised £875 pounds sterling to outfit the expedition which consisted of two small barks, The Gabriel and The Michael and one pinnace. This small fleet left Ratcliff on the Thames late in May in 1576. But only The Gabriel succeeded in reaching the New World. A great storm arose east of Greenland and the pinnace was lost with three men aboard. Just south of Greenland amidst islands of ice, The Gabriel and The Michael became separated in a heavy fog and The Michael changed its course returning to London.

The Gabriel continued sailing west and on the 29th of July sighted the coast of North America, probably Labrador. But, after a month of futile exploration for the Northwest Passage, the ship sailed back to England, dropping anchor near the Tower of London on the 9th of October, 1576.

When Lok boarded The Gabriel, Captain Frobisher presented him the glittering rock on the ship's deck. From that moment forward, the sequence of events became murky. Two men representing adventurers in the first voyage had boarded the ship before Lok. One of them broke off a piece of the golden stone and delivered it to the Assayer in the Tower of London. This man rendered his opinion that the stone was marquisite and had no metal content of any value.

A second opinion was sought from another Assayer named Williams and the results of his assay yielded the same conclusion; the stone was marquisite and there was nothing of value in it.

A third opinion was then sought and the Assayer, a man named Whelan, claimed to find a trace of lead and silver.

These three negative opinions concerning the stone's mineral content were rendered in the month of October 1576.

In January of 1577, after two months of 'cogitating', Michael Lok delivered the remains of the glittering rock to an Italian alchemist named Baptista Agnello,



without informing him of where or how the stone had been found. After three days he returned to Agnello's laboratory and was presented with some gold dust which Agnello claimed he had derived from the stone. Agnello repeated his experiment and both his analysis and the result were the same. In a later and important letter to Queen Elizabeth, Lok professed to be stunned by this development and reported he had asked Agnello how his analysis could differ so widely from that of three assayers. Agnello's reply was "Sapere adulare la Natura" which loosely translated means "You have to know how to flatter Nature". In Lok's letter to the Queen, the alchemist's reply was not translated.

At this stage, according to Lok, Agnello proposed a scheme; together he and Lok would outfit a ship and bring 100 tons of gold ore to England for refining. Agnello offered to pay Lok a royalty of £20 a ton after three months time. During this period Lok would keep the ore in his own custody. He admonished Lok to say nothing of the glittering stone's sudden value to Captain Frobisher.

A short while later Frobisher and Lok dined together in London. The Gabriel's captain was highly curious as to the mineral content of the golden rock he had brought back from the New World island, but Lok said only a trace of lead and silver had resulted from one of the four assays.

Lok then went to Sir Francis Walsingham, Queen Elizabeth's Minister and State Secretary to discuss the situation and to secure a license for mining 100 tons of the island's ore. Walsingham warned Lok against believing the report of an 'alchemist' against those of three assayers and advised him of the difficulty in obtaining a license in view of the circumstance of Frobisher's first voyage and the law prevailing under the Treasure Trove Act. By right of discovery, if, in fact, that was a New World gold mine, it had already been claimed for England and owned by the Sovereign. Such an expedition as Michael Lok was contemplating would cast both him and his Italian associate in identical roles; claim jumpers.

For whatever reason and whatever his belief, Lok was undaunted and Agnello was undeterred. According to Lok, the latter even upped the royalty ante. He would pay £30 per ton on the same terms and conditions as the previous offer.

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It was now that an important event occurred: Lok was approached by a gentleman from a 'higher society' than that of Agnello and himself. The man's name was Sir William Wintar and he was a partner in Frobisher's first voyage. He asked Lok to disclose what he knew of Captain Frobisher's glittering stone. When Lok professed to know nothing of the affair, Wintar chided him claiming to know more about the matter than Lok did. The fragment of Frobisher's much studied rock had been assayed further and the gold content judged to be unusually high: it was estimated that 4 ounces of gold could be refined from every 100 pounds of ore. The estimated value of gold in a ton of ore was set at £160.

Wintar warned Lok against venturing outside the Court's authority and jurisdiction. As a subject of England he and this alchemist were bound by the Treasure Trove Act. It was then that Lok wrote his revealing letter to Queen Elizabeth and petitioned the Court for a license to mine 100 tons of gold ore and bring it back to England for refining. He offered to divide all of the venture's profits with his Sovereign. Before issuing the license Secretary Walsingham demanded a Performance Bond, and, from out of nowhere, Agnello provided a gentleman named Mr. John Barkeley. The Cathay Company was chartered, a license issued, and Frobisher's second voyage quickly financed. The great Northwest Passage gold mining venture was under way. A new country, Meta Incognita, had been discovered and the bays, rivers, and waterways of North America would be explored further for the elusive Northwest Passage.

## **1577: Captain Frobisher's Second Voyage**

The purpose of the first voyage was to explore for a northwest passage to the riches of the Far East. This purpose, in the second voyage, was subordinated to the Queen's order that Captain Frobisher secure and exploit the new found gold mine in Meta Incognita, and then return to England with 100 tons of gold ore for further testing and refining in Bristol Castle and the Tower of London. Wisely, Queen Elizabeth had requested the Duke of Saxony to send someone to London

who was a metallurgist and experienced in mining operations. The man sent was Jonas Schutz and that summer he had supervision over the mining operation and the construction of dry docks for loading the gold ore at Oak Island. His management resulted in 160 tons of ore being shipped to London for refining and testing. Frobisher's charter also enabled him to continue his search for the passage to Cathay, but that goal was less important than securing and exploiting the Meta Incognita mine.

The capitalization of Frobisher's first voyage had been £875. But when a final accounting was rendered by Michael Lok it showed debts of the voyage exceeding the paid-in capital by £330. Before the second voyage was authorized, Lok had been looking at a ruinous loss. Capitalization of the second voyage was fixed at £4,275. Venturers in the first voyage maintained their position and interest in the second voyage without further capital contributions or assessments. New partners received one share in the Cathay Company stock by paying £100 and they were also assessed an additional £30 to cover the arrearages of the first voyage.

Far and away the major cost of the second voyage was the acquisition of The Aide, a ship from the Queen's Navy which weighted 200 tons: 180 and 175 tons larger than The Gabriel and The Michael. The Aide was acquired to return to England with at least 100 tons of gold ore in its hold.

Another significant cost of the second voyage was the £170 which was allotted for 30 miners from the tin mines along the shores of the Cornwall coast in West England. To this day, these miners have the oldest traditions in the mining industries of the world. The tin mines of Cornwall go back into ancient history and the voyages of the Phoenicians from the east coast of the Mediterranean Sea. These early seafarers were the first to establish mining colonies along the coast of what is now Land's End at the edge of the Atlantic Ocean. Most important to the gold mining venture in the New World was the knowledge and experience these miners had in controlling tides as they exploited tin deposits along the shores. The gold mine on that unnamed island just off the shore of what Queen Elizabeth named Meta Incognita (After the Unknown) would have richer deposits below the surface of the island. The skill of the Cornish tin miners would be invaluable in

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controlling the Atlantic tides and insuring a successful extraction of gold ore.

On the 25th of May 1577 The Gabriel, having sailed from Plymouth where the 30 Cornish tin miners had come aboard ship, met The Aide and The Michael at Graves End at the mouth of the Thames River and the small fleet set sail for the New World. From Graves End they sailed north to Harwich on the east coast of England and then sailed north past the east coast of Scotland where they headed west. Sailing past the Hebrides the three ships entered into the North Atlantic.

Sailing in the late spring and early summer, they took their navigational reckonings from the height of the sun above the southern horizon. Being in the northern hemisphere, after the summer solstice the long period of daylight dimmed the stars in the night's sky and left the sun more useful for navigating and determining their precise position on the vast ocean that had never been charted before. On the 17th of July the New World was sighted and such was the accuracy of their navigational reckonings that in very little time they were at the headlands of the great bay and sailing towards the unnamed island that contained a New World gold mine.

Neither the Captain Best nor the Dionyse Settle accounts of Frobisher's second voyage have any report of where the veteran seaman explored for the Northwest Passage that summer, but they do report the discovery of the Frobisher Strait which may, if Oak Island is the site of the Frobisher mining expedition, be the Northumberland Straits, the St. Lawrence Gulf, or even the St. Lawrence River. The Frobisher Straits were thought to lead into the Sea of the Sun which is what the Pacific Ocean was then called. It was believed, quite correctly, that this Sea lay on the west side of the North American continent. The theory was mistaken in that it was thought the continent was no broader than an isthmus, and that the northern passage that would lead into the sea would not be a lengthy one.

The Aide remained anchored at the island and the mariners and soldiers constructed a dry dock that enabled the Cornish miners to load ore into the hold of that large ship. Since time was short every effort was expended to mine as much ore as possible. Within the space of twenty days, 160 tons were mined as Captain

Frobisher was determined to return to England with enough gold ore to offset the cost and the expenses of the first two voyages and to return a profit to the venturers. Also during that summer, Captain Frobisher gave the Island where the mining activity took place its first name; the Countess of Warwick's Island. The Earl, Robert Dudley and his Countess were two of the larger subscribers in the second voyage.

On the 21st of August, the summer's work ended, the three ships were readied for the return voyage.

After crossing the North Atlantic, on the 17th of September the small fleet dropped anchor and took a sounding. The depth was 40 fathoms. From his long experience Frobisher knew they were near Land's End. The following day the three ships anchored in St. George's Channel and sent word of their return to London.

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In early October, having received an order from the Lords of the Privy Council, The Aide and The Gabriel sailed to Bristol on England's west coast and anchored in the harbor. In the days ahead the bulk of the ore was deposited in Bristol Castle and placed under four locks. The key to one of the locks was given to the warden of the Castle, another to the Mayor of Bristol and the remaining two to Captain Frobisher and to Michael Lok.

### **Trial of the Gold Ore From Meta Incognita**

Three sites had been selected for testing the ore that was mined at Oak Island that summer: one site was at Bristol Castle where 146 tons had been unloaded from The Aide and The Gabriel and deposited at the Castle. The second site was on Tower Hill near the Tower of London where the Michael had unloaded 16 tons of ore. The refining operation established here was under the supervision of Jonas Schutz. The last was at the London townhouse of Sir William Wintar where a furnace had been installed to smelt the ore and refine the gold. From the Tower of

London, 100 pounds of Oak Island ore was delivered to the townhouse for testing and refining. This operation was conducted by Dr. Burcott.

While the ore was being unloaded and deposited in two castles, Michael Lok prepared a final accounting on the second voyage which reported more financial misery for the venturers and presented further woes for Lok. £4,270 had been subscribed in capital; £3,500 had been paid in but the cost and expenses of the voyage totaled £6,280. Furthermore, at this time the soldiers, sailors, and miners who were unloading the ore were still unpaid. An order came from the Privy Council that arrangements be made at once to pay these men. As the promoter of these voyages, Lok's lot had become an unhappy one.

On arriving at London, Captain Frobisher boldly approached the Court with a petition that he and his family be granted a 5% overriding royalty on the gold refined from the second voyage. Queen Elizabeth was a notoriously penurious woman, and there is no record as to whether this petition was granted or denied.

The Queen herself commissioned Jonas Schutz to return to Germany and petition the Duke of Saxon to provide England with refinery workers needed to build a 'Great Work' in England that would have the capacity and equipment to process the Oak Island ore.

From the Wintar townhouse came the first report on the Oak Island ore. Dr. Burcott stated the yield was less than he had hoped or expected but he promised a return of at least 1/2 an ounce of gold for every 100 pounds of ore. This return would be 10 ounces per ton and assure a profit on a refining operation. Burcott complained that the rude testing process left some of the minerals in the slag residue and expressed his professional opinion that a 'Great Work,' a suitable refinery operation, would process the ore to a much higher yield of gold. He stated he would stake his reputation, his estate, and even his life on his ability to produce at least 1/2 oz. of gold from every 100 pounds of Oak Island ore.

Troyes, France had long been the center in Western Civilization for testing and establishing the value and standards for precious metals. The Troy ounce of gold

was a scale and measurement accepted throughout Europe and elsewhere. Secretary Walsingham, by nature, was a man with a suspicious mind. Upon receiving the first report on the Oak Island ore, he sought a second opinion as to how the ore assayed. A small amount was sent to a metallurgist named Jeffrey Le Breun in Troyes and his report came back to Walsingham stating "gold does not fall out of this ore". Le Breun's report, had Walsingham allowed it to circulate, would have sent a chill through investors in the Cathay Company and he was one.

On October 5, Jonas Schutz had begun to build a furnace for smelting the gold ore at Tower Hill. By the end of the month he had smelted 100 pounds of the ore and found, as Dr. Burcott reported to Sir. Francis Walsingham, that 100 pounds of the New World ore would yield 1/2 an ounce of gold; 10 ounces to the ton. The German mining engineer felt that with a well designed furnace for smelting the ore far more gold would be refined. Like Dr. Burcott, he too, promised to deliver at least 1/2 an ounce of gold from every 100 pounds of refined ore. He also promised to clear all the charges and expenses of the two voyages and the cost of building a refinery suitable to the task of refining Oak Island ore. The Queen and the Court were so satisfied with the promise of Jonas Schutz's report that he was commissioned to go to Bristol to build a 'Great Work' that would refine the 144 tons in the Castle and capture all the gold the ore would yield.

Regarding the yield from the Oak Island ore, some in the Court, however, were not as sanguine as the Queen and many of her courtiers. Further judgments were sought from goldsmiths in London and the reports that came back were the ore contained "not a whit" of gold. The goldsmiths also swore upon their estates and their lives that there was no gold in the ore from the New World.

It so happened that when Captain Frobisher returned from Bristol, he was told that the gold refinery planned for the Castle was being put on hold pending further trials of the ore. It was also thought appropriate to have a conference with Dr. Burcott and Jonas Schutz.

On December 10th the doctor and the German mineralogist were brought together and within three days Jonas Schutz wanted nothing further to do with the good

doctor because "of his evil manners and also his ignorance in diverse points of the works and handling the ore".

Clearly an impasse had been reached and the fate of the third voyage was at stake.

On the 16th of December Jonas Schutz, together with Captain Frobisher and Michael Lok, rode to different places to view water mills for better working the ore. Those along the Thames were judged inadequate because of the tides. Upstream and away from London, Jonas found Dartford and judged it an excellent site because water was plentiful and the air 'commodious'.

With Bristol on hold, Schutz received another commission: to build a substitute refinery at Dartford. Together with a mason and a carpenter he returned to the community where a plot was measured upon which new buildings and new furnaces would be built. So long as the plans for Bristol remained uncertain, this was to be the site of the 'Great Work'. On the 16th of January a plat was delivered to the Commissioners who had been appointed to oversee and report on the various attempts to refine the ore and measure the gold.

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But a serious problem was developing. Time was needed to build houses for the refinery workers and mills for the furnaces that would smelt the ore. Also, more capital from the venture was needed to construct this refinery. Another capital call for funds was required. It was quite obvious that by the time the capital was raised and the 'Great Work' constructed, it would be too late to set sail on the third voyage that year. It was decided that the fate of the third voyage would rest upon a consensus of the commissioners as to whether the Oak Island ore would yield gold in commercial quantities.

On the 21st of January in 1578 Captain Frobisher proposed that 10 tons of ore be smelted and the trial of this amount of ore be definitive. Jonas Schutz was critical of this proposal. He said a test of one ton in 200 pound segments would suffice for such a trial and the Commissioners approved this proposal. Five different tests were taken of 200 pounds of ore by different metallurgists and four of them were



judged successful. The fifth, conducted in a 'wind furnace', was judged inconclusive.

The test by Jonas Schutz took place at Tower Hill in the presence of the Commissioners. From the ore, 6-1/3 oz of gold and silver were refined. Schutz claimed that because the test had been conducted in a hurry much of the precious metal had sunk into the slag.

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Captain Frobisher secretly carried the results of this test to Dr. Burcott and his subsequent report on the ore paralleled that of Jonas Schutz.

Schutz had used only one method in his tests of the ore and all his tests were conducted openly. Dr. Burcott had used many different methods to test the ore and all his tests were conducted in secret. But the Commissioners were of one mind; the New World ore was of undetermined, but definite value. Their recommendation went to the Queen at her palace in Richmond: proceed with the third voyage. From the Richmond palace Queen Elizabeth immediately issued an order: mine Oak Island and return to England with 2,000 tons of gold ore.

Ultimately fifteen ships were outfitted for the last of Captain Frobisher's voyages to Meta Incognita. Once again the call for capital went out to the hardy but financial depleted venturers. As reported tests of the Oak Island ore seemed to assure them of rewarding profits on an ever-mounting investment, the call was partly met.

### **1578: The Third Voyage: Fate of the Cathay Company**

In the spring of 1578 gold fever had seized the Court of Queen Elizabeth. Few were immune to it, though Elizabeth's Secretary, Sir Francis Walsingham, appears to have been one of them.

State policy would dictate that if the New World ore contained gold nothing could

be more in England's interest than to claim the northwest lands and exploit the Oak Island mine. The 16th Century knew, even if the 20th has forgotten, that while gold is not money, money is gold.

Spain, crossing the sea routes of the South Atlantic, had plundered the gold of South America and its ancient civilizations. This increase in the supply of money had caused prices to rise throughout Europe. England's best defense against a loss of purchasing power in its own coin was to locate and claim gold mines in continental North America.

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For those skeptical of any value in the ore from Oak Island, there was the hope that while the mining venture was furthered, Captain Frobisher might discover the Northwest Passage and open the riches of the Far East to the ships of England. The belief and hope that Frobisher would ultimately find the Northwest Passage was sufficient cause to financially support the third voyage even if the ore had no mineral value.

Fifteen ships were assembled at various ports for the third voyage. Captain Frobisher was instructed, if possible, to return with 2,000 tons of gold ore and to this end he had been dispatched to the tin mines along the coast of Cornwall where he requisitioned 120 miners by order of her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth. This was four times the work force that had mined the Island the previous summer.

But, in addition to mining gold and exploring for the Northwest Passage, Queen Elizabeth had further instructions for the third voyage. Captain Fenton who had commanded The Michael in the first and second voyages, was to remain in Meta Incognita, together with 100 men, and establish the first English colony or plantation in the New World. In his exploratory voyages, Captain Frobisher was to select the most suitable site for this plantation which would be fortified and garrisoned against possible attacks from the natives and from foreign countries of Europe, those "foreign powers that might come from another part of Christendom". Each of the mariners, soldiers, miners, and engineers of the third expedition were to devote 'three or four' days work to building a moat and erecting a fort for this first colony. Captain Frobisher also had instructions from his Queen to return to

England with a plat of the plantation and one of the gold mine that he would secretly deliver to her and make known to no other.

Had the winds been from the east Frobisher's fleet would have assembled along the coast of Cornwall and there set sail for the New World and Meta Incognita. The wind, however, was from the west and with 120 Cornish tin miners Frobisher sailed along the Channel adding to his fleet at the mouth of Thames and at Harwich and from there along the east coast of England and Scotland. Then, turning west, the ships sailed north of Ireland and just south of Greenland where they anchored for several days while Frobisher, again under instructions from the Queen, went ashore and explored the land for two days claiming it for England. He then sailed westward to the bay and the island where serious mining operations began.

Each of the Cornish tin miners was expected to mine 1/2 a ton of the gold ore every day and as only 28 days had been allotted for mining, to mine 2,000 tons would have called for more than 120 miners. However, together with the engineers who designed the shafts and tunnels and who built culver dams to control the tides, this work force succeeded in extracting 1360 tons of Oak Island ore and loading twelve of the fifteen ships for the return to London's Tower and the Castle at Bristol. The departure was in the middle of August and by the middle of September the fleet was again off the coast of Cornwall.

While Captain Frobisher spent the summer of 1578 exploring for the Northwest Passage, refining work went on at Bristol Castle, Tower Hill, and especially at Dartford where the 'Great Works' were under construction. These 'Works' were the smelting plant and the mill where the gold melted down from one ton of Oak Island ore would flow out of a small spigot and make possible a precise measurement of the ore's yield. Results had been coming in when the Frobisher fleet reached the Cornish coast in September. They were worse than dismal; no gold was yielded from the ore tested at Bristol Castle and the same result was being obtained from the ore being tested at Tower Hill. At the site of the 'Great Work' at Dartford, not an ounce of gold flowed through the spigot.

Michael Lok was in a state of despair. His only hope lay in the incoming ore from

the New World and it was imperative that meaningful quantities be immediately tested both at Bristol and at Dartford.

There was a problem, however, and that was that there were no funds in the Treasury of the Cathay Company to pay the remaining wages of the mariners, miners, soldiers or the engineers who were to unload the ore. Also owing were the freight charges on the ore shipped back to England in ships leased to the Company. There were twelve of these. To compound this problem, Captain Frobisher reported that the fleet was returning with 'twice' the amount of ore that had been ordered, and that meant that under employment and shipping contracts, employees of the venture would be entitled to 'double wages' and owners of the ships twice the freight charges.

Troubles were ahead and they were approaching in a battalion. Most of the ships in the fleet sailed for London and the Thames docks. But Captain Frobisher sailed for Bristol. On dropping anchor and before unloading the ore, he demanded payment for his crews. When he learned there were no remaining funds in the venture, in a rage, he fell to denouncing Michael Lok.

There was a partial solution to the problem; it involved another cash call, this time on those adventurers whose capital subscription had not yet been paid in full. There was a large number of such partners and the sum outstanding that was owed and unpaid was £3,418. This would serve to pay wages, get the ore unloaded, and a few things else.

Queen Elizabeth instructed Michael Lok to submit a schedule of the delinquent adventurers and to send out a demand for payment. This demand would require that uncollected funds be on deposit with the venture within ten days of the notice. The Queen advised Lok further that any venturer who failed to meet the demand would be summoned to Court to appear before England's Queen and to show cause why they were refusing or were unable to make full payment to the venture in which they had subscribed. Those venturers who failed to meet this demand would be purged from the Cathay Company and have no further interest in the profits or ownership of Company stock.

It is quite understandable that those partners who were in arrears on their capital subscriptions were reluctant to pay any additional funds until they had solid assurance that there was gold in the Oak Island ore.

The first cash call produced two surprising results; only one adventurer met the call and he was not of the aristocratic class such as the Earl of Pembroke and his Countess who owed £200. He was a gentleman named William Ormshaw who owed £28. Within ten days he met the call and was paid in full.

The other surprise came from one of the ship owners who sold his ship, The Judith, to the Cathay Company and applied part of the purchase money to acquire stock and shares in the third voyage. His name was William Borough. In a letter dated January 14, 1579, written to the Queen's Secretary, Sir Francis Walsingham, Borough states the facts of his complaint. He had received Lok's letter sent from the Queen's Palace at Richmond whereby the sum of £76 was demanded of him, the amount he still owed to the venture according to the Company ledgers. What Borough told Walsingham was that in May 1578, Lok had bought The Judith for the third voyage across the North Atlantic and agreed to pay Borough £320 for the ship. Borough instructed Lok to apply £76 of the purchase price for an interest in the venture. In June, Lok advanced £90 to Boroughs against the balance owing him of £244. Burrow had credited the company with £166 leaving a balance owing to him of £154.

Borough went on to state that, unfortunately, he could get no more money from Lok unless he had recourse to the law which was 'loath to do'. Upon the return of the ships, Burrow was assessed an additional £56 which left a balance owed him from the venture of £98.

His complaint against Lok was twofold: he had not been credited for his share in the venture and he had not been paid for the Judith which returned to the Thames laden with gold ore. Instead, Burrows had been carried on the books of the venture as a debtor. He appealed to Walsingham to address this injustice and after setting it right, to see that he was paid what the venture owed him.

The affairs of the Cathay Company were not yet in shambles, but they were growing worse every day. When Captain Frobisher docked in London he went to the Court at Richmond, to see "his very good friend", the Queen of England. There he proceeded to publicly denounce Michael Lok as a 'knave'. He alleged Lok's accounts for the three voyages were false; Lok had contributed no capital to the Cathay Company, 'not a whit', and yet was carried as a substantial share holder on the Company's books, and in financing the third voyage Lok had 'cozened' Lord Oxford out of £4,000 from which he had pocketed £1,000 apparently as a commission for finding the young Earl as an investor.

These denunciations resulted in the appointment of Thomas Allen as the company treasurer, replacing Lok, and in the appointment of auditors and commissioners to examine the books and records of the company which up to this time had been kept by Lok.

#### CONSPIRACY

One of the first discoveries made by Allen was that three adventurers, Mr. Frances, Lord Warwick, and Mr. Turwill had paid £86, £50 and £7 respectively, and these sums had been paid directly to Captain Frobisher, but were never properly entered on the ledgers of the venture. Whereupon Allen came in for a denunciation from the veteran sea captain. Captain Frobisher responded to this charge by charging Allen with having declared to the Privy Council that the ore at Dartford was of no value. Because of this, Frobisher accused the newly appointed Treasurer of being dishonest.

Michael Lok's defense against Frobisher's and later the auditors and commissioners charges were that the £2,000 he had taken from the Company Treasury over the past few months was to reimburse himself for expenditures he had made out of his own pocket to further the purposes of the venture. In addition, Lok now submitted an expense account of his own for his three years of service to the Company. This account is distinguished by having each of his entries rendered in even numbers.

1. Riding charges for three horses and service in his business to the Court and his collecting money from the adventurers	£120
2. Riding charges to Dartford over a seven-month period in construction of the 'Great Work'	£60
3. Boating down the Thames to the Queen's Court at Greenwich	£20
4. For supplying food and drink over 3 years for daily meetings held in his London townhouse with auditors, commissioners, Captain Frobisher, and others	£150
5. Interest on funds advanced	£250
6. Total travel expenses over 3 years	£600
<b>Total</b>	<b>£1,200</b>

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Needless to say, these claims went unacknowledged by Allen and the auditors. Doubtless they would have gone unacknowledged had there been funds in the Company.

Lok's final appeal for payment went to the Privy Council where, pathetically, he stated, if his costs and expenses were not honored and reimbursed then, "unless God turns the stones at Dartford into bread; Lok, his wife, and his fifteen children (seven of them being children of his deceased brother) will have to beg their daily bread on the street corners of London". By March of 1579, the Cathay Company's affairs were in shambles. To Queen Elizabeth the fortunes and the finances of the Company were not only a deep disappointment, they were an embarrassment. It would take more than the Queen's horses and the finest refinery in all of Europe to get gold out of the 1500 tons of ore stored in Dartford, the Tower of London, and Bristol Castle in west England. Regarding her stern demands to defaulting partners, the first cash call had only two responses and two identical calls that followed the first, went utterly unheeded. State documents surrounding this historic third voyage give no indication that any of the adventurers were ever summoned

before the Queen to show cause why the cash call went unanswered. The reason was obvious.

A winding up of the affairs of the Cathay Company doubtless showed many similarities with those of other failed ventures. It is the nature of such ventures that everybody ends up angry with everybody else. There were definitely villains and in hindsight, some of them are easy to identify. Lok's effort in his own defense was never successful and in the later stages his defense turned into an attack on his 'old friend', Captain Frobisher. Lok's catalog of charges was extensive but it came down to one major abuse: the fleet's admiral had knowingly delivered ore of no value and then conspired with Dr. Burcott and Jonas Schutz in the assays of the ore's value. He, Michael Lok, was innocent of any complicity in the Northwest Passage scam. He would swear on a Geneva Bible to the truth of that statement. But such an oath could never be believed by anyone in Queen Elizabeth's Court who remembered the importance of the alchemist's judgment three years earlier, following the return of Captain Frobisher from his first crossing of the North Atlantic.

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The final State Papers in this unsavory episode in English history record two offers for the worthless ore on deposit in Bristol and London. The first came from Michael Lok in November not long after the return of the fleet. Of the Oak Island ore that had been brought back on the third voyage, Lok would offer £5 for every single ton of ore with payment due in one year after receipt of the ore at Dartford. He would also enter into a lease with the Crown for the mill and the furnace there, the so-called "Great Works". In addition, he would own the right to lease other mineral prospects under the Crown with the exception of the tin staneries along the Cornwall coast and any other mining properties currently owned and in operation by others.

Most important, perhaps, Lok would be held harmless for the debts that were owed by the Cathay Company.

If Lok's first offer was unacceptable, he had a second offer. In return for being held harmless for the Company debts, Lok would agree to operate the smelting plant at Dartford, refine the Company's ore and pay off the Company's obligations. His per



diem would be 10 shillings and he would have a capital fund of £400 to finish the 'Great Work' and operate the mill and workhouses there.

Four days later a second offer came to the Company from Jonas Schutz. He would pay £8 for a ton of ore and refine it at a profit of £23, 15 shillings to the Cathay Company. If either or both offers were ever considered by the Officers and Directors of the Company, neither was accepted.

The Cathay Company chose rather to liquidate its assets which consisted of The Aide purchased from the Royal Navy, The Gabriel, and The Michael. Revenues would partially pay outstanding debts and the bankrupt company would be dissolved into the mists and fog that fell over London in late 16th and early 17th Century.

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The curtain falls on the Cathay Company drama and the Northwest Passage scam with Captain Frobisher's final denunciation of the Company's Treasurer, Michael Lok. Briefly he restates the charges he leveled before the Queen and her Court after he had anchored on the Thames River. They are now entered into the record in answer to Lok's own charges. While all four of them are punishable by law, one of them was unforgivable; the 'cozening' by Lok of his partner, Lord Oxford, England's premier Earl. For his offenses Michael Lok was tried, found guilty, and sent to jail in the Fleet Street prison.

For the three voyages a total of £21,160 had been raised of which £4,920 was credited to Michael Lok and his partner Lord Oxford who had advanced £4,000 for Lok's position and was carried as a venturer in the Cathay Company's third voyage. Three of England's classes had participated in the three voyages of Captain Frobisher; royalty, the aristocracy and numerous untitled gentlemen of means. Each learned the lesson any failed venture never fails to teach: those who go out for wool, often come home shorn.

No one every said it better than Dionyse Settle and Captain Best who were thought to have written official reports on the second and third voyages respectively; "all that glitters is not gold". Over three long summers there had been 'much ado' in the

New World but it was 'about nothing' except exploration of the Bay of Fundy, discovery of Nova Scotia, Cape Breton, Prince Edward Island, the Straits of Northumberland, exploration of the Gulf of St. Lawrence and the St. Lawrence River and an abandoned gold mine on an island that within two generations would have its name changed from Countess Warwick's Island to Gloucester Isle and which today is known as Oak Island, forty miles south of Halifax.

The Northwest Passage had not been found. This route to the Pacific would await Captain Rogers charting its course across the Canadian Rockies and the Selkirk Mountains and then be built by the Canadian Pacific Railroad and run from Digby to Vancouver.

What was the fate of the Oak Island ore? The stock piled in two of England's great castles; the Tower of London and Bristol Castle, was slowly depleted as it was used annually to patch the Kingdom's highways after the winter snows melted under a warm Spring sun.

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# FACTS

## Captain Hall's Discovery of Frobisher's New World Gold Mine

Some years ago I had occasion to make a video presentation of the Oak Island thesis to James Cochrane, a retired Admiral, who had graduated from Annapolis and had command of an aircraft carrier during World War II. When the short film ended, the Admiral turned to me and asked, "Do you know what is *known* of the Frobisher voyages?" When I told him I did not, he answered his question; "Naval historians", he said, "know absolutely nothing about where Frobisher went." I told him that was not a surprise to me because Frobisher's maps were deliberately misleading. He fervently believed his miners were exploiting a gold mine and he was under instructions to conceal its whereabouts.

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In 1861, Captain Hall, searching in Baffin Bay for possible survivors of the ill-fated expedition of Sir John Franklin, came upon the site of what he thought was the abandoned Frobisher gold mine. The local Eskimos called the island Kodlunarn or Place of the White Man. These natives had oral traditions regarding the arrival of the White Man in their part of the world, but 'in a bay lower down'. Their traditions preserved the memory of the time when a foreign exploration came first in one ship, then in a few, and then in many. Kodlunarn Island had deposits of iron pyrites, 'fools gold' and there was evidence of a mining operation in an "excavation 88 feet long and 6 feet deep". Understandably, Captain Hall concluded this was the location of Frobisher's mine. He gathered relics from the island and divided them between two institutions: the Smithsonian in Washington and the Royal Geographical Society of London. Unfortunately, with the passage of time, both institutions lost the relics and all record of them.

The Island has since been visited by archeological and naval expeditions and one memorable description of Kodlunarn has been written: it is described as a small island with a "rocky surface" of approximately 25 acres. It lacks water and therefore

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The foundations of Frobisher's house on Kodlunarn Is.



Uncovering foundations of Frobisher's house on Kodlunarn Is.



Frobisher's mining trenches, Kodlunarn Is.



One of Frobisher's mining trenches, Kodlunarn Is.

By kind permission of S. K. Roy, Field Museum (Revised MacMillan Sub-Arctic Expedition of Field Museum 1937)

Photographs of Kodlunarn Island in Baffin Bay, the supposed site of one of Captain Frobisher's 'fancied gold mines'.

supports no vegetation other than "trailing ground willows, mosses and lichens" and is claimed by the writer to be "a forbidding place" where residents and human activity are "hard to imagine."

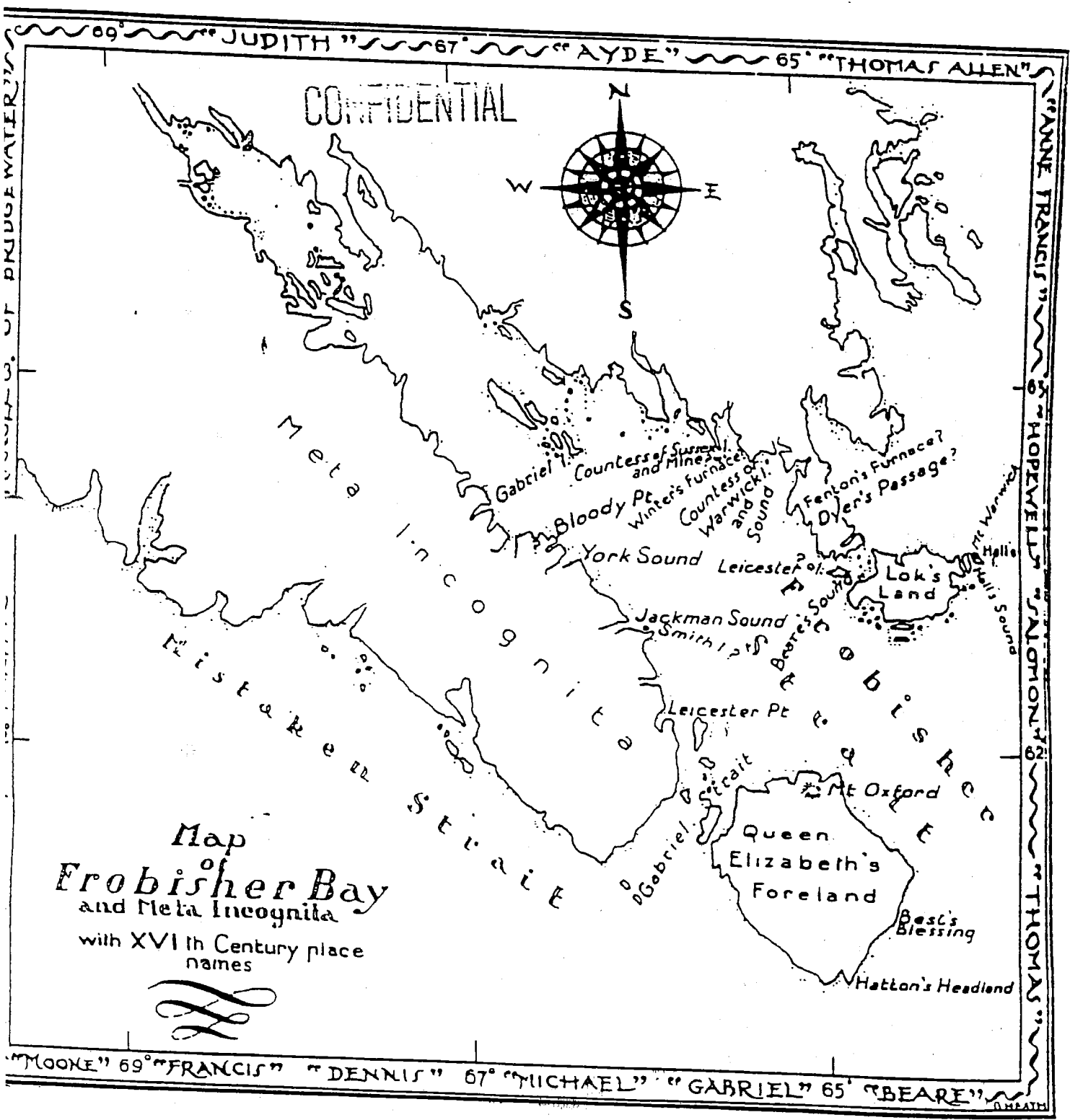
Yet I believe it is quite correct of Captain Hall to claim this island as *one* of Frobisher's "fancied gold mines". Captain Frobisher was free to search for gold mines as he explored for the Northwest Passage and one of Michael Lok's later complaints against his 'old friend' was that he had brought back 'bad ore' from the New World and this ore had been taken from places other than the one he had been chartered to mine at Oak Island.

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What is so impressive of Frobisher's mining expedition is that the second voyage saw 30 Cornish tin miners working on the island and the third summer brought 120 of these miners to the task of mining 2,000 tons of gold ore and loading it in the holds of fifteen ships. A mine 88' long and 6' deep could have been the work of very few men working thirty days or more and over two summers. It could also have been completed in a week. Oak Island remains the primary site where over 1,500 tons of ore were mined over two summers and sent back to two castles in England.

## **Captain Frobisher's Maps**

Anyone familiar with the coastline of the Maritime Provinces of Canada and looking at the maps of *Meta Incognita*, could be forgiven for wondering if the three Frobisher voyages ever came any where near this part of the New World. An obvious explanation is that the veteran sea captain had no skill as a cartographer, but the dangers and the historic importance of the voyages suggest that if Frobisher did not, he had someone aboard who did. The ships were always taking soundings and they knew what their longitude and latitude was. The true explanation, I believe, is that the map maker, whoever he was, had no intention of anyone ever using the Frobisher maps in a search for a Northwest Passage or for



Map of Meta Incognita and the Countess of Warwick's Island

locating the gold mine at Countess of Warwick's Island. The maps seem to be drawn in some code that has long been lost and can only be dimly sensed four hundred year later.

Looking at the map of Frobisher Bay and Meta Incognita, one wonders if the land were spun like a compass from pointing northwest/southeast to northeast/southwest, could it possibly stand for what today is the Province of Nova Scotia? But then if Naval historians could make no sense of Frobisher's maps, what chance does a mere researcher have?

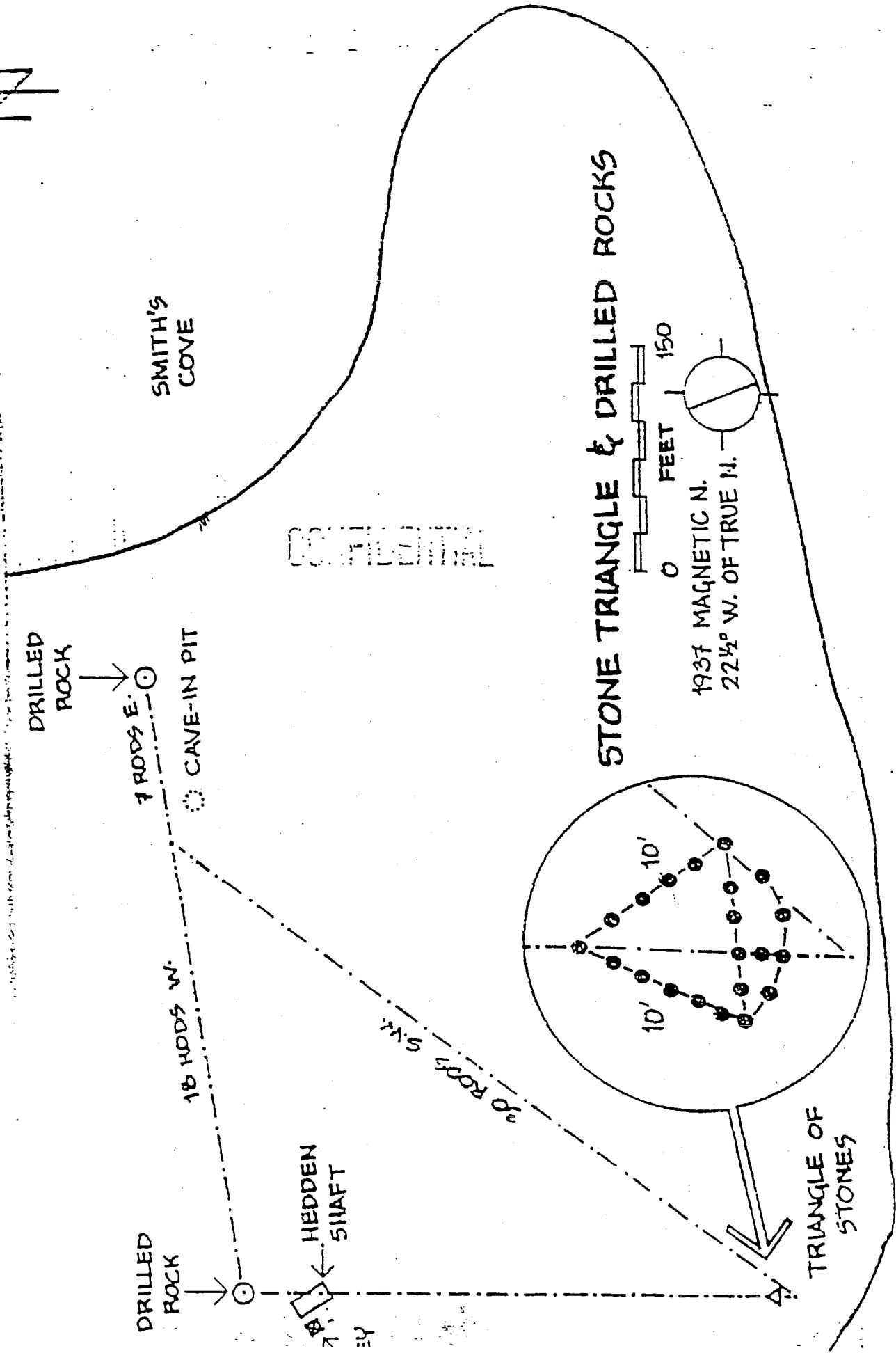
There well may be, however, four Frobisher maps still in existence that have Oak Island for a subject and place the island accurately with respect to longitude and latitude.

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In 1936, Reginald Harris, who was an attorney for Frederick Blair, then holder of the Treasure Trove License, happened to read a book by an English author, Harold T. Wilkens, that was titled, Captain Kidd and His Skeleton Island. The theory, that the treasure hidden under the island and protected by the flood tunnels was placed there by William Kidd, Britain's Naval Commander turned buccaneer, has long been a prevailing belief about Oak Island. Doubtless the book's title intrigued Reginald Harris. But imagine his surprise, when the map of Kidd's island proved to be a mirror image, both in size and form, of Oak Island. Harris quickly brought the map to Blair's attention and Blair, in turn, showed it to Gilbert Hedden who was then exploring the island under an agreement with Blair that had been drawn by Harris.

Hedden examined the map and brought his exploration activity to a halt. He immediately contacted Wilkens in England about the similarities between the island he was exploring and the Kidd map in the British author's book. Wilkens assured Hedden that Kidd's Skeleton Island could not possibly have been Oak Island because the longitude was 316°. That placed Kidd's treasure island in the China Sea, measured west from the Greenwich Naval Observatory in England. But Hedden was not dissuaded. The similarities were too striking; they all but

IN



Map of the beach triangle, drilled rocks, and the 'Money Pit'



suggested identity. In addition to size and form the direction of the compass rose on Wilkins' map squared accurately with the position of Oak Island in relation to True North. Further, there were offshore soundings and reefs mapped that corresponded exactly with the oceanography surrounding Oak Island. Also, there was a circular dot on the map in the general area of the 'Money Pit' and the notations of a 16th Century surveyor on the Kidd map.

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18 W by 7 E on Rock

30 SW 14 N Tree

7 By 8 By 4

Hedden called in a surveyor from Halifax and measuring from stone markers that had been found by previous explorers they found a beach triangle that looked like a sextant which had obviously been placed there by those who originally designed the Oak Island mystery. Using the Old English rod as the unit of measurement, the distances between the marker stones and beach triangle matched precisely those recorded on the Wilkins' map.

However, 7 By 8 By 4 had no meaning at all for the Halifax survey party.

But Hedden had seen more than enough. Undeterred by Wilkens' admonitions, he made plans to sail for England. A short while later he crossed the North Atlantic, after learning all he could about Captain Kidd and his ill-fated career. Upon meeting Wilkens, Hedden learned that the Skeleton Island map had been drawn from four maps owned by a London dealer named Herbert Palmer. The maps had been found in the secret compartments of three chests and a desk that had been furniture aboard Captain Kidd's ship, the Intrepid. Since England is famous for the reluctance of it's subjects to ever discard anything, it is conceivable that the hidden maps might have been placed in ship furniture that had once been on a ship commanded by Martin Frobisher.

Certain details of Palmer's maps further supported that possibility. The North Atlantic in Frobisher's time was known as the Mar Del Norte and that is how it is designated on the map. Also the two drumlin knolls on Oak Island are designated

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A TRVE DISCOVRSE

of the late voyages of discouerie, for  
the finding of a passage to Cathaya, by  
the Northvveast, vnder the conduct  
of *Martin Frobisher* Generall:  
Deuided into three  
Bookes.

In the first wherof is shewed, his first  
voyage. Wherein also by the vway is sette  
out a Geographycall description of the Worlde,  
and what partes thereof haue bin discouered by  
the Navigations of the Englishmen.

Also, there are annexed certayne reasons,  
to proue all partes of the Worlde habitable,  
with a generall Mappe adtoyed.

In the second, is set out his second  
voyage, with the aduentures  
and accidents thereof.

In the thirde, is declared the strange fortunes  
which hapned in the third voyage, with a seuerall de-  
scription of the Countrey and the people there inhabi-  
ting. VVith a patticular Card therevnto adioyned  
of *Mesa Inconita* so farre forth as the se-  
cretes of the voyage may permit.

AT LONDON,  
Imprinted by Henry Bynnyman, seruant to the right  
Honourable Sir CHRISTOPHER  
HATTON Vizchamberlaine.

Anno Domini. 1578.

Title page to 'Captain Best's' account of Captain Frobisher's  
three voyages in search of the Northwest Passage

as 'mountains' and that is how they are designated on the misleading maps. Lastly, what today is referred to as a swamp, on the maps is a 'lagoon' which is what it was before an artificial beach closed its entrance on the Bay.

Most important perhaps is the designation of 316° longitude. In Frobisher's era, longitude was measured east from the Canary Islands off the coast of Spain. Oak Island is 316° east of those Islands. In 1675 longitude began being measured 180° west and 180° east from the Greenwich Naval Observatory. Wilkens appears to have erred in placing Kidd's Skeleton Island in the China Sea.

Palmer offered Hedden the maps for \$12,000 but Hedden's manufacturing firm in New Jersey was facing bankruptcy. Of necessity he had to decline the offer.

These maps were later sold out of Palmer's estate to someone in Canada but their whereabouts are no longer known.

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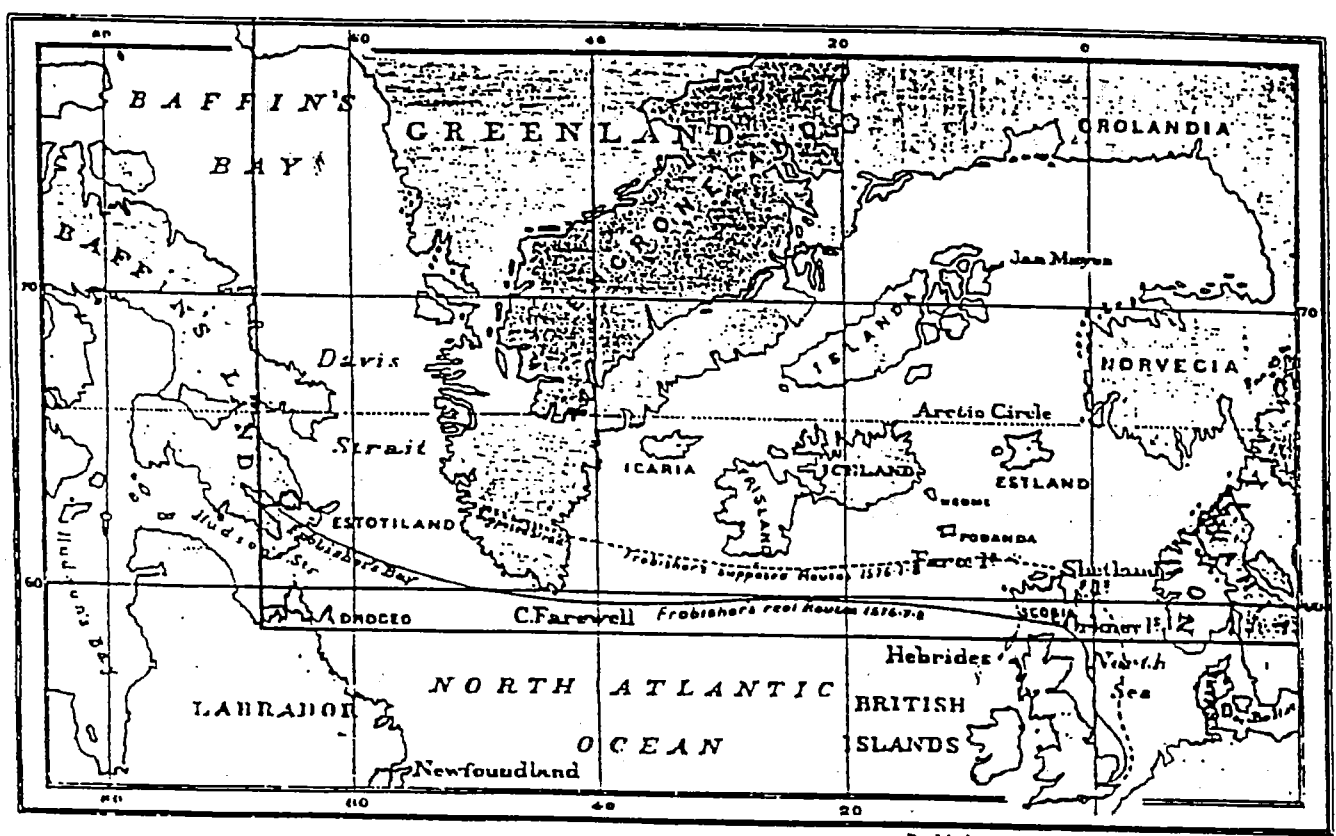
### Three Accounts of Captain Frobisher's Voyages

Michael Lok wrote a difficult to read account of Captain Frobisher's first voyage. In it he claimed the Northwest Passage to Cathay had been discovered; a rich mine of New World gold had been located; and he went on to recite additional exploits of the worthy sea Captain which would forever rebound to the greater glory of England.

But Michael Lok was bent on promoting the second voyage.

Three extremely well written accounts of the second and third voyages were later authored by Dionyse Settle, Captain Best, and Thomas Ellis respectively. Indeed, the quality of the writings is highly suspicious because Settle claimed to be an ordinary seaman using ordinary language, Best was a sea captain whose knowledge of geography and astronomy rivaled that of Ptolomy, Strabo,

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By kind permission of Henry Stevens, Son and Stiles

Chart of the North Atlantic, with the Zeno chart of 1558 superimposed thereon, showing the real and the supposed routes sailed by Frobisher in 1576-7-8

To face p. cxix

Copernicus, and Kepler, and Ellis, like Settle, was another ordinary man of the sea. Beyond this, the style of the three accounts is similar to the point of identity.

But before glancing briefly at that fact, it is important to note that all three 'authors' seemed to write as much fiction as they do fact, a cardinal sin for an historian.

Each 'author' warns his reader that it is important that certain facts and events be either concealed or go unrecorded as the time is not yet ripe for them to be known.

From the title page of Captain Best's narrative on the three voyages of Captain Frobisher, this cryptic statement:

...with a particular map there unto adjoined of Meta Incognita,  
so far forth as the secrets of the voyage permit

From the Printer's Preface to the Reader (the printer's prose style is virtually identical to Captain Best's)

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And albeit I have in a few places somewhat altered from my copy, and wronged thereby the Author, and have sought to conceal upon good cause some secrets, not fit to be published or revealed to the world (as the degrees of Longitude and Latitude, the distance, and the true position of places, and the variation of the compass, ...)

In Captain Best's account of the third voyage, he writes:

"It is of the essence to conduct this venture in secrecy lest foreign princes learn and set foot therein."

Relative to longitudes and latitude, seaman Dionyse Settle appears to have identical concerns to those of Captain Best. From Settle's account of the second voyage:

"I could declare unto your Honour, the Latitude and Longitude of such places and regions, as we have been at, but not altogether so perfect as our masters and others, with many circumstances of tempests and other accidents incident to seafaring men, which seem not altogether strange, I let pass to their reports as men most apt to set forth and declare the same."

So these 'eyewitness' accounts are something less than complete.

How damaging are the omissions? It is not possible to say, but what does emerge is a sense that certain facts are being distorted and others shrouded in mists along the shores of the New World.

As the second and third voyages approached Meta Incognita the ships encountered 'mountains of ice'. Though the season is mid-summer, the icebergs are an ever-present danger. The floating ice casts a mid-winter chill into the hearts of the seamen. They also leave the reader feeling these voyages are sailing into uncharted waters far, far north of Nova Scotia. Is a false trail being blazoned in these accounts leading a reader away from the actual site of the gold mine on the Countess of Warwick Island? If that is so, further support can be found in the absence of longitudes and latitudes in these accounts which seamen Settle humorously states he will leave to the seamen of the second voyage since they have kept records and have experience in such matters.

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There is impressive unanimity in these three accounts and I submit it is because all three are the works of a single mind, Lord Oxford's mind: the genius of Edward De Vere, the 17th Earl of Oxford. The number of names Lord Oxford wrote under in a literary life that spanned two-thirds of a century (1560 to 1626) is legion. Here indeed may be three more which, if true, only bind him closer to the events that took place on Oak Island between 1576 and 1578 and then in the first part of the 17th Century, say around 1626.

One of the Earl's early scholars noted a tendency in Lord Oxford to use a few set phrases while writing prose. These were common-place phrases such as 'as it were', 'as they say', and 'if it be true'. George Best uses 'as it were' four times in his account. Settle and Ellis once each.

But if that seems slight evidence to base such a claim on, consider this oddity: three of the most fantastic characters in the works of "Shake-speare" are Holofernes, Dr. Nathaniel, and Don Armado of Spain. They appear in Love's Labors Lost and their language abounds in deliciously absurd words and phrases. One such word is

'odiferous' which Sir Nathaniel uses in praising Ovid, an ancient Roman poet "Shake-speare" admired just this side of adoration. Here are the words of Sir Nathaniel:

"... but for the elegance, facility, and golden cadence of poesy, caret. Ovidius Naso was the man. And why indeed "Naso" but for smelling out the *odiferous* flowers of fancy, the jerks of invention?

L L L Act IV, iv, Scene 2, lines 121-125

'Odiferous' was used only once in "Shake-speare" but once was enough. The Earl got the word lodged in a comedy where it is impossible to dislodge it. I have long felt certain the 'odiferous' has never been used since and I was almost certain it had never been used before until I carefully reread seaman Settle and Captain Best's accounts. Captain Best first speaking of the flora of the New World in summertime, writes:

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"...Great variety of flowers continually springing, Winter and Summer, beautiful for color, *odiferous*, and comfortable."

Now comes Dionysus Settle who has informed the reader that he will use no rhetorical devices or flourishes of languages lest he reveal his ignorance. He will write in the ordinary language of the sea and as any seaman would. Here's how seaman Settle celebrates the sounds and scents of the New World:

"Here in place of *odiferous* and fragrant smells of sweet gums, and pleasant notes of musical birds. . ."

It is not ignorance that is revealed here, but the single identity of three authors.

## Five Facts In Search of A Theory

### Pyrite

The pyrite on the Baffin Bay island supported Captain Hall's claim: Kodlunarn Island may have been the site of one of Captain Frobisher's "fancied gold mines".

The pyrite of Oak Island is equally supportive of the claim that the Island's abandoned workings (shafts, tunnels, covert dams, adizs) was the site of one of the Captain's "fancied gold mines"; in fact, the major site. But, in addition, beneath the drumlin till unconformity of Oak Island there is a geological strata known as the Windsor Formation. This rock is anhydrite and cores of the formation reveal it to be flecked with what appears to be gold. The anhydrite adds support to Oak Island as the site of a mining operation that saw over 1,500 tons of ore brought back to England.

The first assayers pronounced Frobisher's golden stone to be marquisite. Marquisite has the same chemical composition and hardness as pyrite\*. The Frobisher mining venture may have become the historical cause for geologists and the mining industry branding pyrite as 'fools gold'.

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### Sump Containing Broken Mercury Flasks

One of the more interesting and still abiding theories of the Oak Island 'treasure' is that the Island is a repository for the works of Sir Francis Bacon. Lord Bacon's writings, largely treatises, are said to also include the plays and poems of 'Shakespeare'. Together, the treatises and plays have been protected deep in the Island's mining recesses in chests that contain mercury. Lord Bacon had devised a way to protect parchment from the decaying effects of time by immersing it in mercury.

The Bacon Theory was offered to Gilbert Hedden in 1938 and the theory intrigued the treasure hunter because one of the many legends surrounding the Island was the belief that when the treasure is finally found it will involve mercury. This belief was based on the fact that there was a sump on the Island and in it were "a 1000 broken mercury flasks".

\*Note: Pyrites : Definition - Pyrites is an inclusive term used to designate metallic sulphides such as iron pyrites (pyrite), magnetic pyrites (pyrrhotite), white iron pyrites (marcasite), copper pyrites (chalcopyrite), and tin pyrites (stannite).



But besides being useful in preserving original manuscripts, mercury is also used in a process for assaying gold. This had been one of the responsibilities of Jonas Schutz in his overseeing the mining operations during the summers of 1577 and 1578.

The broken flasks that once contained mercury may be one of the more important clues to what first took place on Oak Island and the Island's final purpose.

### **The Record of Stones on the Surface of Oak Island**

When I first met Fred Nolan, who is the provincial surveyor of Nova Scotia, and who has explored the Island for nearly thirty years, he told me he only knew two things about Oak Island; one was that the work done there had been done by the English and that the work was done with a measure of accuracy that approached mathematical precision.

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I questioned Nolan as to how he had come to know these 'facts' of the Island's mysterious history and he told me he concluded it had to be English from one of his discoveries in the 'swamp' area. Originally this had been a cove and there he had found the remains of a dry dock where the wood was notched and numbered with Roman numerals. According to Nolan, this was the way the English cut and marked timber used for building. The dry dock at Oak Island had been built to repair ships that had been battered by storms out on the Atlantic.

Nolan's second discovery involved relating a large number of stones that appeared to have been surface markings of underground activity at the Island. What impressed Nolan was the precise distance between each of the stones. Being a surveyor, this mathematical precision struck him as being a record of something important below the surface though he had no idea of what it was.

I asked Nolan if the stones might have been placed in this manner by a mining

foreman, or operations overseer who was keeping a daily record of subsurface mining activity. Fred Nolan allowed this was a possibility, but he knew of no mineral value in the geological formations below the Island's surface.

### **The Savages of Meta Incognita**

Captain Frobisher returned to London after his exploration of the summer of 1576 with a lone savage that had been lured to the Gabriel's boat side with trinkets and then captured and imprisoned aboard. The Native American was, of course, quite a curiosity in the Court of Queen Elizabeth, but apparently London's high society was too rarefied<sup>4</sup> for his primitive manners and taste. The Indian died within a month.

Best's account describes the native North Americans in detail: "They are men of large corporature and good proportion; their color is not much unlike the sunburnt countryman, who laboreth daily in the sun for his living. Their noses are flat and they wear their hair something long, and cut before, either with stone or knife, very disorderly." They were called Esquimaux.

At the end of the explorations of 1577 another savage and two squaws were captured and held hostage by five of Frobisher's seamen who had gone ashore against their Captain's orders and visited an Indian village. They were never seen or heard of again. One of the squaws, quite old and ugly, was set back on shore but the other two savages went back to London where they suffered the same fate as their predecessor. Within a month, they had died.

Though called Esquimaux (or Eskimos) I suspect these Native Americans were actually members of the MicMac tribe. These Indians were known to have villages in the Mahone Bay area, and, while some of their brutish manners and customs were recorded in the accounts of the three voyages and their primitive huts described in detail, there was never any mention of the igloo or ice hut that is the

living quarters of an Eskimo. Thus, the first Native American to be presented at Court in London may have been a MicMac Indian from the shores of Mahone Bay.

Scholars of the works of Lord Oxford believe this Native American, who resided so briefly in London, may have served as a model for the Earl's study of Caliban, the savage character on Prospero's magic island in "Shake-speare's" The Tempest.

### Financing Oak Island

One of the reasons many of the theories surrounding the mystery at Oak Island have Spain and its conquest of the New World at its center is that vast amounts of plundered wealth were amassed by the Spaniards and the amount of money needed to construct the underground workings at Oak Island was not an insignificant sum.

The New World had been plundered by Spain for the gold of its ancient civilizations. Had some of this gold found its way to Oak Island and been protected from being found by others, than those who buried it there, and who left it guarded with that ingenious system of tidal flood tunnels?

Accepting Nolan's conclusion that the underground workings are English, and the possibility that the financing was provided by Queen Elizabeth, many of her ministers and two-thirds of her aristocracy, then over £20,000 are ample funds for the work that took place over two summers at Oak Island.

In 1586, Lord Oxford was awarded a grant of £1,000 a year from Queen Elizabeth to establish the Globe Theatre on the banks of the Thames River. This theatre would stage the patriotic plays of England's history for the people of London as war with Spain became imminent. This grant ended with the accession of James VI of Scotland, but £18,000 pounds had financed the glorious period of "Shake-spearean" theatre during the reign of Queen Elizabeth I. The pound being a pound

sterling and equivalent to an ounce of gold, 1,000 gold ounces annually financed the Globe Theatre productions and 20,000 ounces of gold financed the gold mining venture at Oak Island. The Court of Queen Elizabeth was sufficient unto the day.

## **The Significance of 1578 and Possible Significance of 1620**

A short while after World War II a Texas oil man, who became interested in Oak Island, visited the Island with a petroleum engineer. The engineer proceeded to study the available data and reviewed the history of treasure hunting on the Island. When finished, he rendered his professional opinion; whatever happened at Oak Island had taken <sup>As</sup> 200 men and two years to build.

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To conduct a mining operation that took first 150 tons and later upwards of 1,500 tons of ore back to England took 30 Cornish tin miners the summer of 1577 and 120 miners six weeks in the summer of 1578. The work that later took place at the Island; building two elaborate flood tunnel systems, preparing a trap for trespassers, redesigning the lagoon and then leaving an abandoned pyrite mine so as to deceive anyone as to the activity that had taken place there, was not the work of a day. All told, the time and the total number of workmen may have approached the Texas engineer's estimate.

### **1620 A.D.**

Many have ventured to guess but no one has been able to determine when the conversion of the pyrite mine took place. Indeed, all theories to the date of this paper have assumed that whatever took place at Oak Island was a single event. To support the theory that the mine became the mausoleum of Lord Oxford, the date 1620 is important.

The most interesting discovery that Gilbert Hedden made, as a result of his

preoccupation with the Wilkens' map, was the stone triangle placed on the south shore of Oak Island by those who gave the Island its final design and grand purpose. The triangle had (until Dunfield's exploration\*) equal sides and the sides consisted of ten big stones. The apex of the triangle pointed towards True North and directly at the 'Money Pit'. The position of the triangle also had a relation to the drilled stones that were at designated distances from an object to the south. Indeed, those distances were what enabled the Halifax survey party to locate the stone triangle inland from the beach shoreline.

What is of further interest is the triangle also had a medial line built of stones that did not bisect the base of the triangle but pointed  $7^{\circ}$  west of True North. Island researchers have concluded that the medial line is pointing towards magnetic north.

The difference between true and magnetic north is constantly changing. From 1550 to 1750 the magnetic declination in the area of Oak Island moved steadily from  $15^{\circ}$  west to  $12\text{-}1/2^{\circ}$  west. The medial line appears to have been shot off the North Star and the angle of declination has been arbitrarily accepted by Oak Island theorists and researchers as one-half the declination at the year the triangle was set in place. Only two approximate dates fit that reading: one is 1620 and the other is 1780.

The death of Lord Oxford occurred in Venice in or around the year 1626. Under this thesis, the beach triangle would have been put in place shortly thereafter.

## 1578 A.D.

Bob Dunfield and I became friends in 1962. In 1967, at Half Moon Bay, south of

\*Note: Following Robert Dunfield's exploration in 1967, winter rains eroded the walls of a deep trench he had dug on Oak Island's south shore and the rocks forming the stone triangle slid into mud.

San Francisco, we drilled a test well together . Bob had just returned from a frustrating and fruitless exploration at Oak Island and all he could do was talk, whistle, and sing about the pirate treasure he had almost captured at Nova Scotia's world famous Treasure Island. Not being interested in pirate treasure, but after black gold, those of us who were working with him that summer, listened patiently. Eight years later, having recognized the 17th Earl of Oxford as the author of plays and poems long attributed to a rustic from Stratford-on-Avon, I concluded my own researches with a reading of The Tempest. When I came to one of the concluding lines: "I'll break my staff / And deeper than ever did plummet sound / I'll drown my book." some previous events in my experience suddenly constellated and I thought, "My God, what is protected at Oak Island are the manuscripts of 'Shakespeare'". A quick glance at a Rand McNally map of Nova Scotia disclosed the communities of Oxford, Herbert, (the Grand Possessors of the manuscripts), and of course, Prince Edward Island.

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I had lost touch with Bob and his wife Alene, but I found them six months later living in Grass Valley at the edge of the gold mine country in the Sierra Nevada mountains. When we met, I asked Bob what was currently known of Oak Island. He proceeded to show me the underwater photographs that had been taken from a television screen of what a camera photographed 235 feet down at the bottom of Bore Hole 10X. On showing me one of these photographs he asked, "What does that look like to you?" When I said nothing, he went on; "To me it looks like a tomb". Without even looking over my shoulder, I leaped to a conclusion: "That's exactly what it is, Bob. It's the tomb of Edward De Vere". Both he and Alene then asked the same question: "Who is Edward De Vere?"

A short while later the Dunfield's moved to Ventura where I was involved in developing a small oil field in the upper Ojai Valley. One evening they had dinner with David Tobias and his wife, Pearl, in downtown Los Angeles. Tobias then owned 25 of the Island's 32 lots. At dinner, Dunfield suggested Tobias take time to meet with me as I had developed an interesting theory about Oak Island. I don't think Bob went into any detail and as it turned out Tobias had no time to meet. He did call me, however, and we talked briefly. I congratulated him on his ownership of 25 of the Island's lots and told him of the Frobisher mining venture which I had

come to believe took place at Oak Island. Tobias professed interest in the idea and told me if I was ever in Montreal to be sure to look him up.

Two days later I was in my Ventura office when a call came in from Montreal. It was David Tobias. This is what he said: "I have read 10,000 letters and I have had 100,000 telephone calls, all purporting to tell me their ideas of what Oak Island is. But your's had a ring of truth. When I got back to Montreal, I went into our files and brought out a report on carbon dating the wood that was originally used to build the 'Money Pit'. The wood carbon dates to 1578, give or take thirty years." I told Tobias that was not a surprise to me.

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# Speculation

## Overwhelming Question

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The question that has dominated exploration at Oak Island for just over 200 years is what happened there? Something obviously did and the ingenuity that has protected the event deserves high praise. Indeed, the ingenuity itself suggests that what is protected at Oak Island is precious beyond anyone's power to place a value upon it.

If the initial assumption is historically correct: that Oak Island is the site of an abandoned mine that was originally exploited for 'gold' in a mining venture associated with Captain Frobisher's exploration voyages, it still leaves unanswered the question of what took place on that island at some later date. If the first assumption is correct, the second event is evidenced by the ingenious system of flood tunnels that may have once controlled the tides during exploitation of minerals, but were later converted to prevent entry into the mining shafts and tunnels, - and successfully now for over 200 years.

The second question admits of only speculative answers. But for the purpose of this exposition, the question of what happened at Oak Island can be narrowed to a single question: Is the object, photographed at a depth of some 235' under the island, a tomb? If it is, is it conceivable that the tomb might be that of Edward De Vere, the 17th Earl of Oxford?

Although the underwater photographs are far from clear and murkily reveal the objects photographed, the one of what appears to be a tomb is at least clear in that it reveals a straight line of what is taken to be the lid of that tomb. That line is not a natural object; there are no straight lines in nature. Whatever the object is, it was made by man. If it is a tomb, then the top of the lid appears to have a





Reproduction of Marcus Gheerhaedts the Younger's Portrait of Edward De Vere, the 17th Earl of Oxford  
(circa 1586 when the Earl was Thirty-Six Years of Age)

sculptured figure in final repose. The figure is in bas relief and at the head appears a small winged figure, possibly the image of an angel. Thus, the object might then be a stone sarcophagus designed in the tradition of the tombs of England's Plantagenet kings. And this is the 'sacred blood' that was in the veins of De Vere through the marriage of his grandfather, John De Vere, the 15th Earl of Oxford to Elizabeth Trussell, a Plantagenet princess.

Three chests appear in another murky photograph. What do they contain? The manuscripts of "Shake-speare" protected by mercury?

This is speculation, indeed, but a fact to support this hypothesis is the recent discovery of a Latin Cross in great boulders lying across five of the island's lots. This cross would at least suggest the presence of a cemetery even if only one person were buried there.

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The cross is said to resemble the simple cross of the Knights Templar Order, and if so, it would not be difficult to relate De Vere to the later and mysterious history of this famed order of warrior monks. One of the order's insignia was the Red Cross embroidered on their tunics and emblazoned on their shields. In the first book of Edmund Spenser's epic, The Fairy Queen, Lord Oxford is allegorically portrayed as 'the Red Cross knight'. And there were other affiliations.

But at the end of this speculative effort the final question still remains. Why would De Vere choose such a remote and strange place for the site of his burial. If Oak Island is, indeed, the graveyard of Lord Oxford that question is not at all easy to answer.

Assuming it is the Earl's mausoleum, the fact of his dying in exile may have led to his choosing 'Gloucester Isle' at the western end of 'Kings Harbor' as the site of his burial ground. There is a crypt in Westminster Cathedral and a magnificent tomb commemorating the Earl, but the crypt is barred to the public and no body has ever been interred there. Dying in Venice, and in exile from his beloved England, the Earl may have chosen to be buried in a part of the New World that was claimed by England, rather than a foreign country such as Italy. Could it

have been to protect his original manuscripts which, read as allegories, could easily have been judged seditious and committed to the flames after his death? If De Vere is buried at Oak Island, his manuscripts, long missing from England, are most likely there and have been protected from 'treasure hunters' for over 200 years now. These original manuscripts are of the highest importance to England's history because, read as allegories, they provide the annals of the Age of Elizabeth. The ingenuity in the design of the flood tunnels gives poignant meaning to Prospero's remark in The Tempest, that in his retirement in Italy "every third thought shall be my grave". In a life-long career in self dramatization, Prospero was Lord Oxford's final role.

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Buy why a burial 'five fathoms deep'? Five fathoms or approximately 30' is the exact height of the limestone cavern flooded with ocean water. The only answer I can offer is that his was a ritual burial: once during the day and once at night sea water from the tides, governed by the moon, lave Lord Oxford's stone coffin. While he lived his life as the premier Earl of England, De Vere was governed by Queen Elizabeth, and for her chastity she was long honored in Court as the Goddess of the Moon. So in death De Vere's tomb is governed as was his life.

The elusive fact is still only a dream but, if exploration is properly conducted, it could result in something quite sublime. To this hour and for over 200 years Oak Island has been hacked and cut, and hammered and drilled. But it is just possible that being a place of towering majesty it will not yield it's secret to such an approach.

In Greek mythology, and somewhere in Greece, there are two mountains that were made memorable in story: one is Mt. Olympus, the abode of the Greek Gods, and the other is Arcadia, where there is a grove sacred to the Muses, and which is the final resting place for the great dead poets. Oak Island may be the New World's Arcadia, the place of final repose for England's sovereign poet.

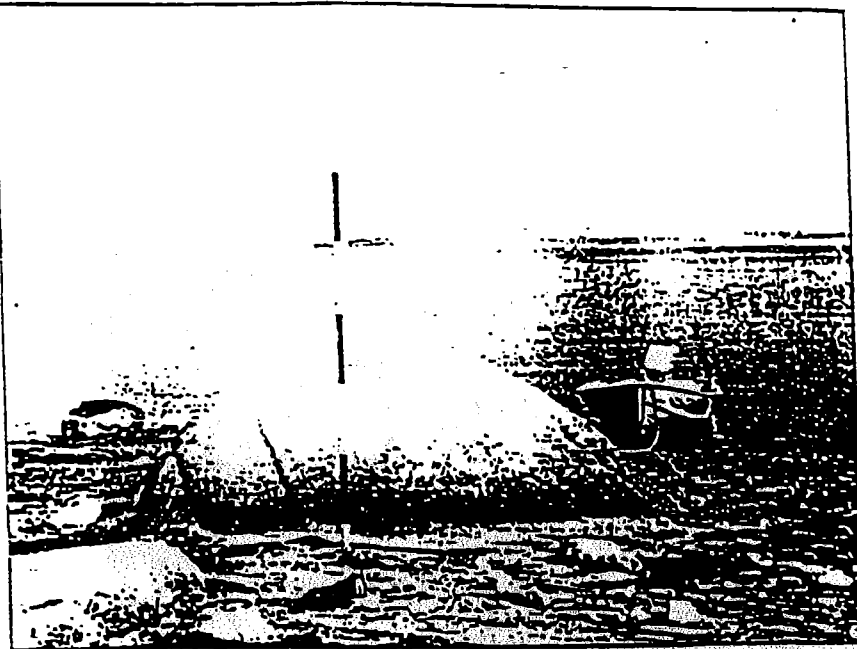
If Oak Island is the place once called Arcadia, then that island is destined to become an international shrine, a mecca for the Western World.



***"Shake-speare's" Tomb?***

Ariel's Song

Full fathom five thy father lies,  
Of his bones are coral made:  
Those are pearls that were his eyes:  
Nothing of him that doth fade,  
But doth suffer a sea-change  
Into something rich and strange.  
Sea nymphs hourly ring his knell.



Cone-shaped boulder on the beach of Jodrey's Cove (Cone "C" on plot plan), one of a series that forms the Cross.

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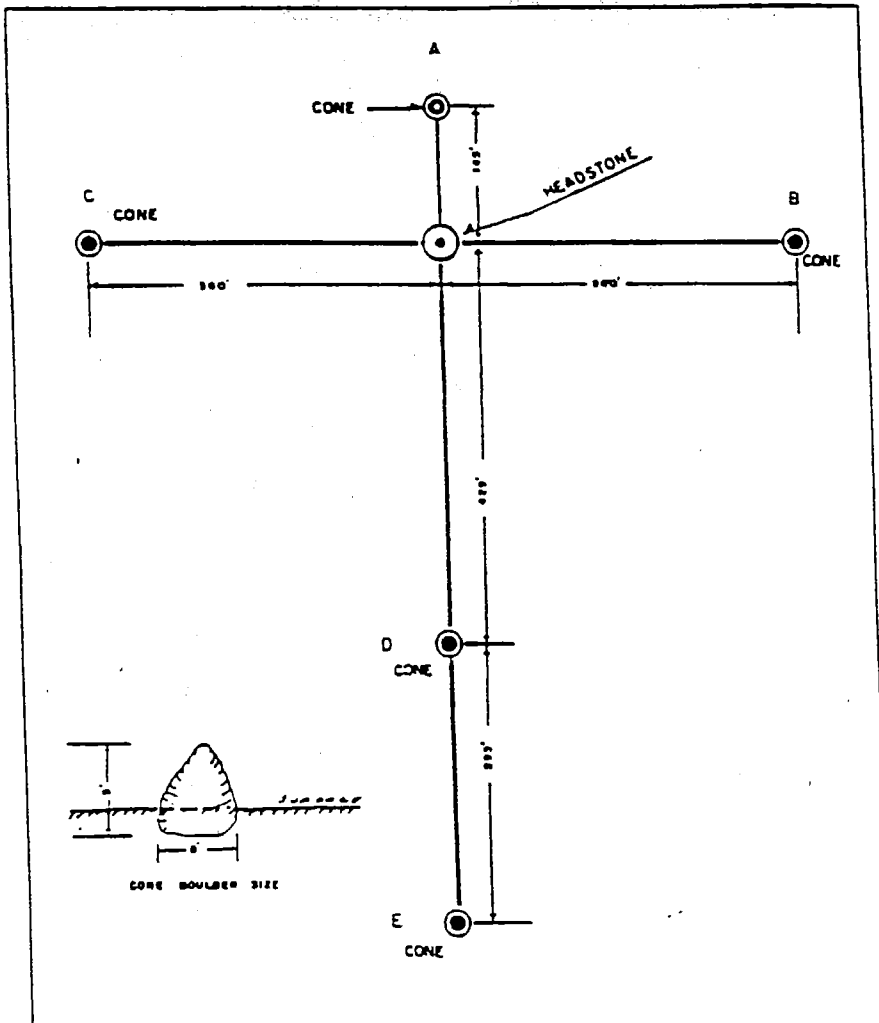
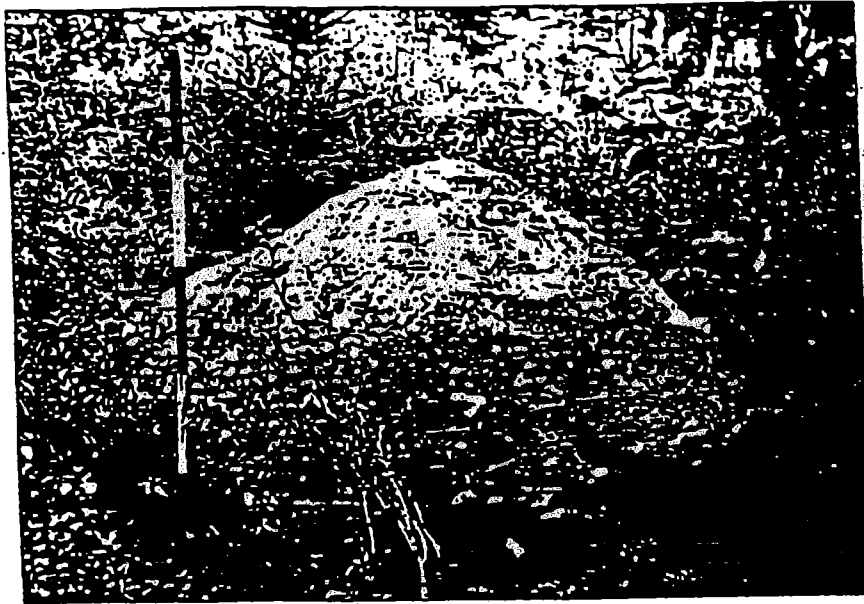


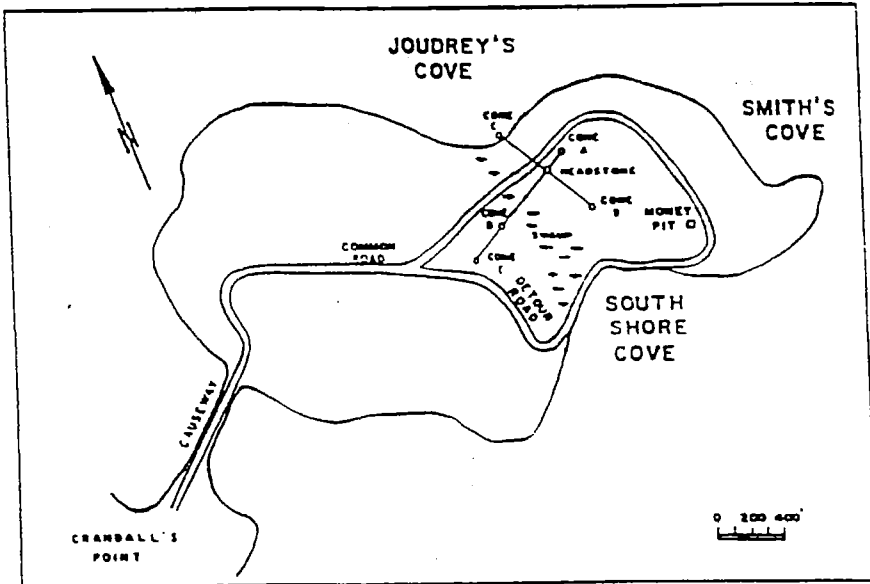
Diagram of the "Christian Cross," obviously a manmade clue to the mystery of Oak Island.



William S. Crooker

*Cone-shaped boulder on stem of Cross. (Cone "D" on plot plan.)*

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*Diagram of Oak Island showing size and location of Cross.*

## Exhibits

**A. Aerial Photograph of Oak Island Showing Lagoon (inverted 'V' shape) and Artificial Beach**

**B. Sarcophagus of Lord Oxford (Assumed)**

**C. Mythical Bird (bas relief)**

**D. Entrance to Limestone Cavern from Adiz (surface entrance along shore of the lagoon)**

**E. Oak Island 'Solution' Rendering**

**F. Possible Rendering of Lord Oxford's Sarcophagus (in Arcadia) in a Landscape Painted by Nicolas Poussin (circa 1628)**

**G. 201 Years of Oak Island Exploration**

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## EXHIBIT A.

Aerial photograph of Oak Island showing lagoon  
(inverted "V" shape) and artificial beach  
(undistinguishable from the rest of the shore).

An interesting fact of Oak Island, observed by Bob Dunfield, is that the shore was strewn with boulders while being formed during the last Ice Age when the ice was receding. This is very obvious in the colored aerial photograph in the beginning. There is an exception to this shore, and that is the shoreline that borders the island lagoon. There is evidence that this was once an inlet where ships docked and were repaired after crossing the North Atlantic. Later, for some reason, an artificial beach was made to contain the lagoon and this is why that stretch of the island shore has no boulders.





Aerial Photograph of Oak Island Showing Lagoon (Inverted 'V' shape) and Artificial Beach

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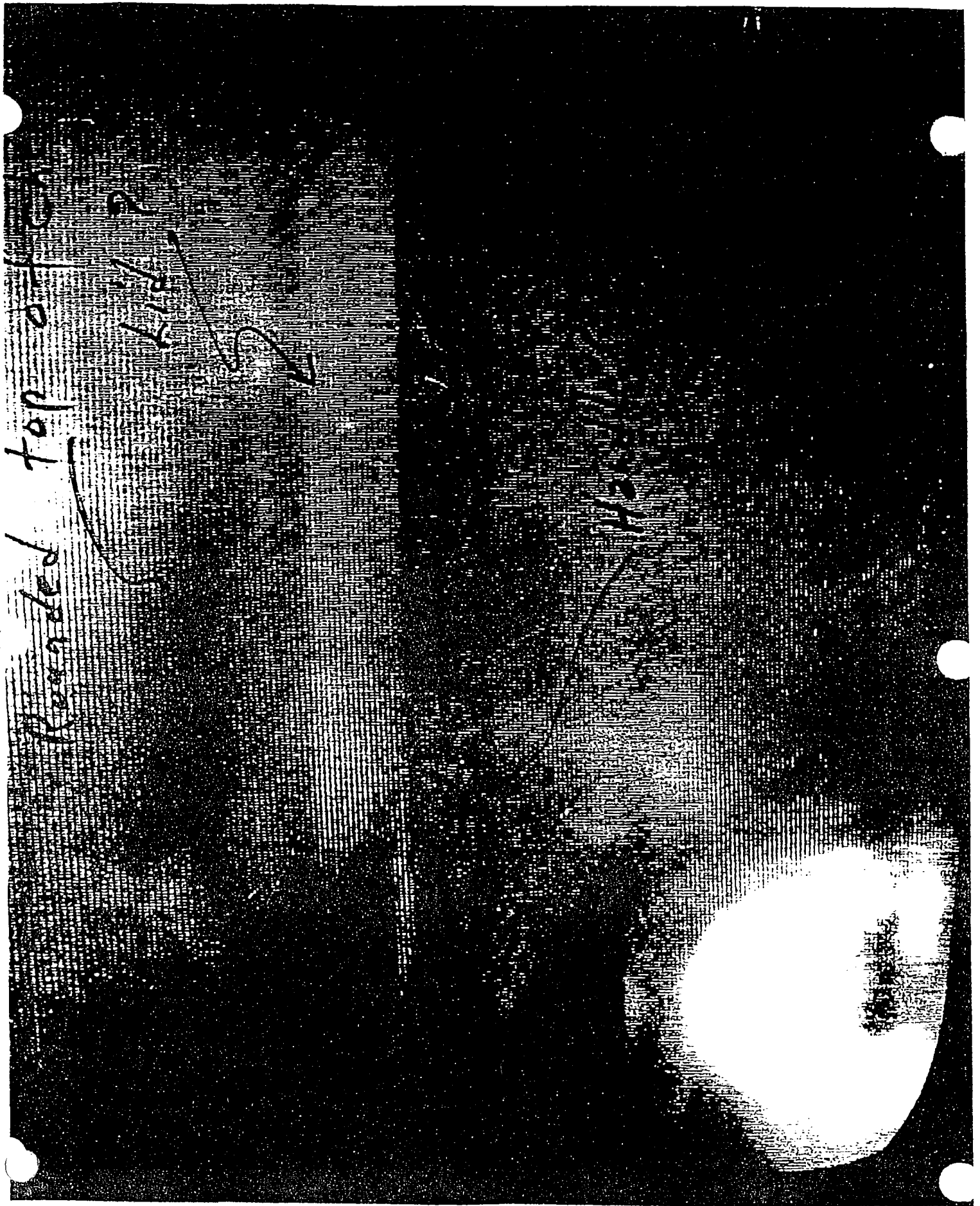
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## EXHIBIT B.

Sarcophagus of Lord Oxford

This is what appeared to Bob Dunfield to be a stone coffin. The figure at the head appears to be that of an angel and the bas relief on the lid of the sarcophagus appears to be the body of a man, a Plantagenet King (?), in repose.



Underwater Photograph of the Earl of Oxford's Tomb (Assumed)

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## EXHIBIT C.

Mythological Bird  
(bas relief)

This bird was first noticed by Dex Ragatz while doing his rendering of the 'Pilgram Solution'. Because of another work pertaining to death and the transmigration of soul, which some researchers believe is a late work of Edward DeVere, this bird has taken on more than ordinary interest.



1340  
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## EXHIBIT D.

The Adiz  
Entrance to Limestone Cavern from adiz  
(upper entrance along shore of lagoon)

The fact that the underwater photograph appears to capture this entrance here at an angle suggests it is an adiz and not a tunnel and certainly not a shaft. If it is, in fact, an adiz, then it lends a strength and credence to the Pilgram concept.

Circled is Nail

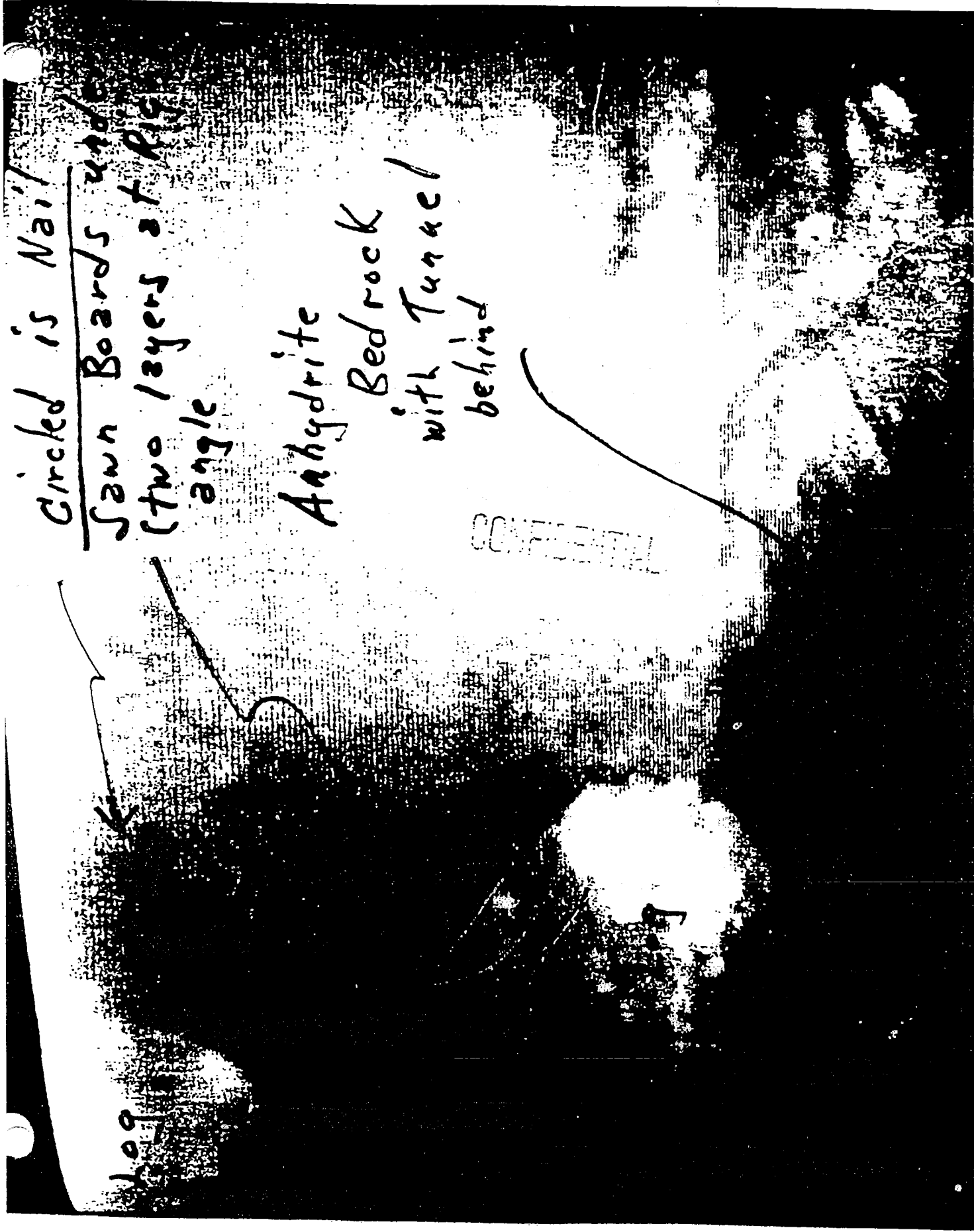
Sawn Boards under  
(two layers at right  
angle

Anhydrite

Bedrock  
with Tunnel  
behind

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## EXHIBIT E:

### Oak Island 'solution' rendering

Kurt Pilgram devised what some have come to believe is the solution to the engineering problem caused by the flood tunnels that prevent any entry by way of the "money pit."

This solution was later rendered by Dex Ragatz, a Pasadena commercial artist, and appears opposite this page. The shaft to the right from the island's highest elevation is the "money pit." The deeper shaft to the left is bore hole 10X which penetrated the limestone cavern at 220 feet and into which a television camera was lowered to photograph the contents of the cavern among which are thought to be the sarcophagus of the 17th Earl of Oxford, who might have been the last of the Plantagenet kings.

Kurt Pilgram reasons, that if what is photographed in the limestone cavern is, in fact, a tomb, then it was lowered along an adiz that once had its entrance along the lagoon shore above sea level. Later when the tide was out, a section to the adiz was added which flooded the cavern and is below the water level of the lagoon.

Ragatz's inserts are each significant. The jeweled box on the top right may be what the drill bit first encountered when it was returned to the surface with a fragment of parchment and a piece of purple lining. Elizabeth Wrigley, curator of the Francis Bacon Library, says the purple lining suggests it was a jewel box.

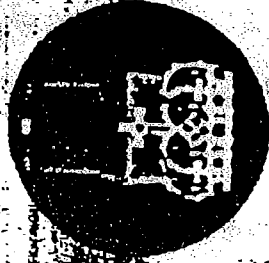
The sculptured bird below may be on the side of the sarcophagus and may also be a mythological bird that bears an immortal soul to heaven.

To the left there is the bas relief on top of the sarcophagus which is that of a man in repose with an angel at his head. This is sculpture that traditionally ornamented the tombs of Plantagenet Kings.



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## Exhibit F.

*Nicolas Poussin* (1594-1665)



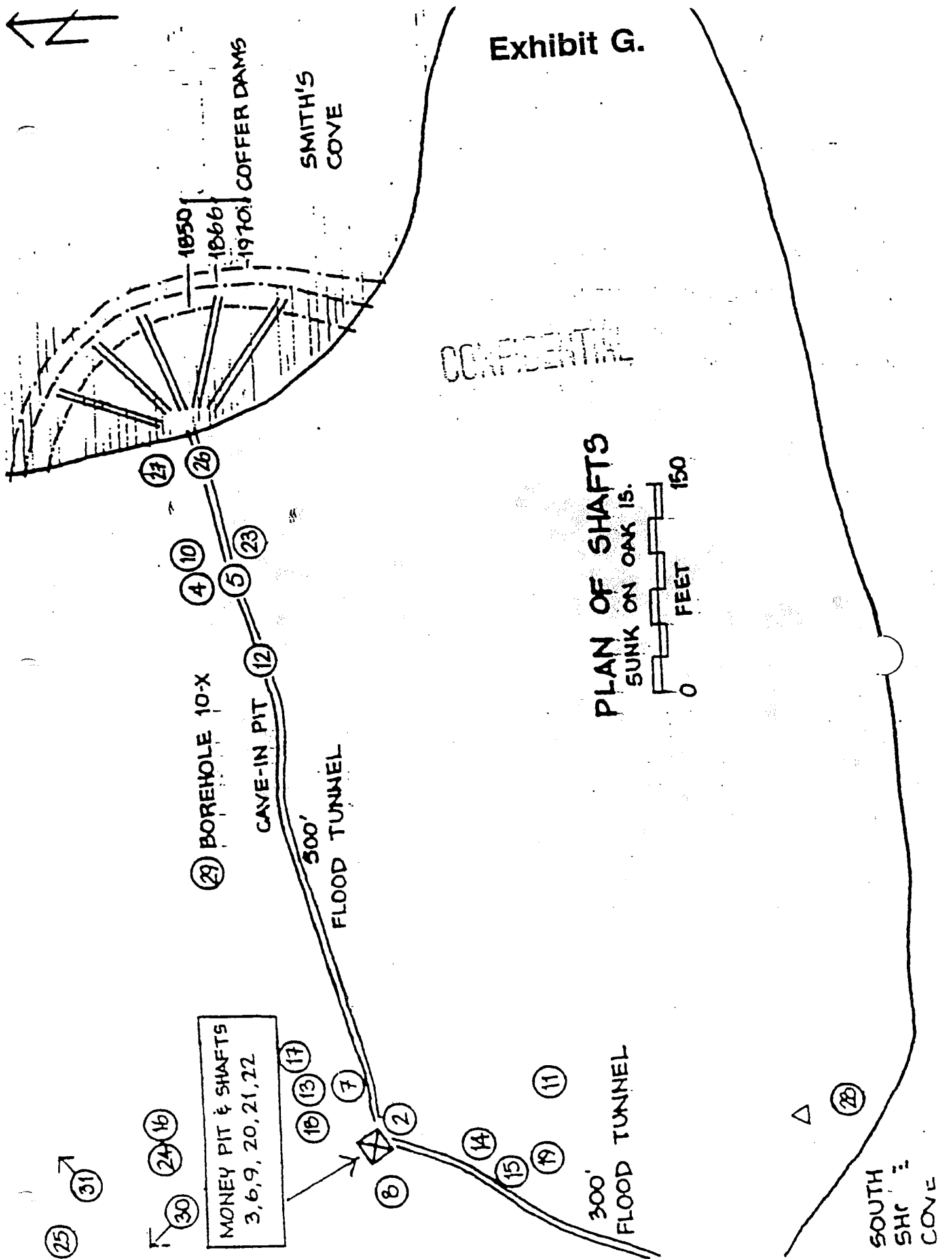
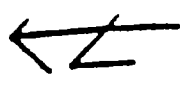
**The Arcadian Shepherds**

Lord Oxford's death occurred in Venice in or around 1626.

Poussin, a French painter residing in Venice, painted 'The Arcadian Shepherds' in 1628. The above painting, his best known work, was a second version painted in a later period. Poussin was in possession of some 'mighty secret' which he revealed to an associate in Paris but which was never disclosed. In a later era, France's king, Louis XIV, went to great lengths and expense to acquire 'The Arcadian Shepherds' from a gallery in Italy.

The cryptic Latin inscription on the tomb - Et in Arcadia Ego - (I [am] in Arcadia) has led to speculation that the tomb is Edward De Vere's and that it was transported across the seas to its final resting place, "where every third thought" had been his grave.

Exhibit G.



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PLAN OF SHAFTS  
SUNK ON OAK IS.



MONEY PIT & SHAFTS  
3, 6, 9, 20, 21, 22

23 BOREHOLE 10-X

29 300' FLOOD TUNNEL

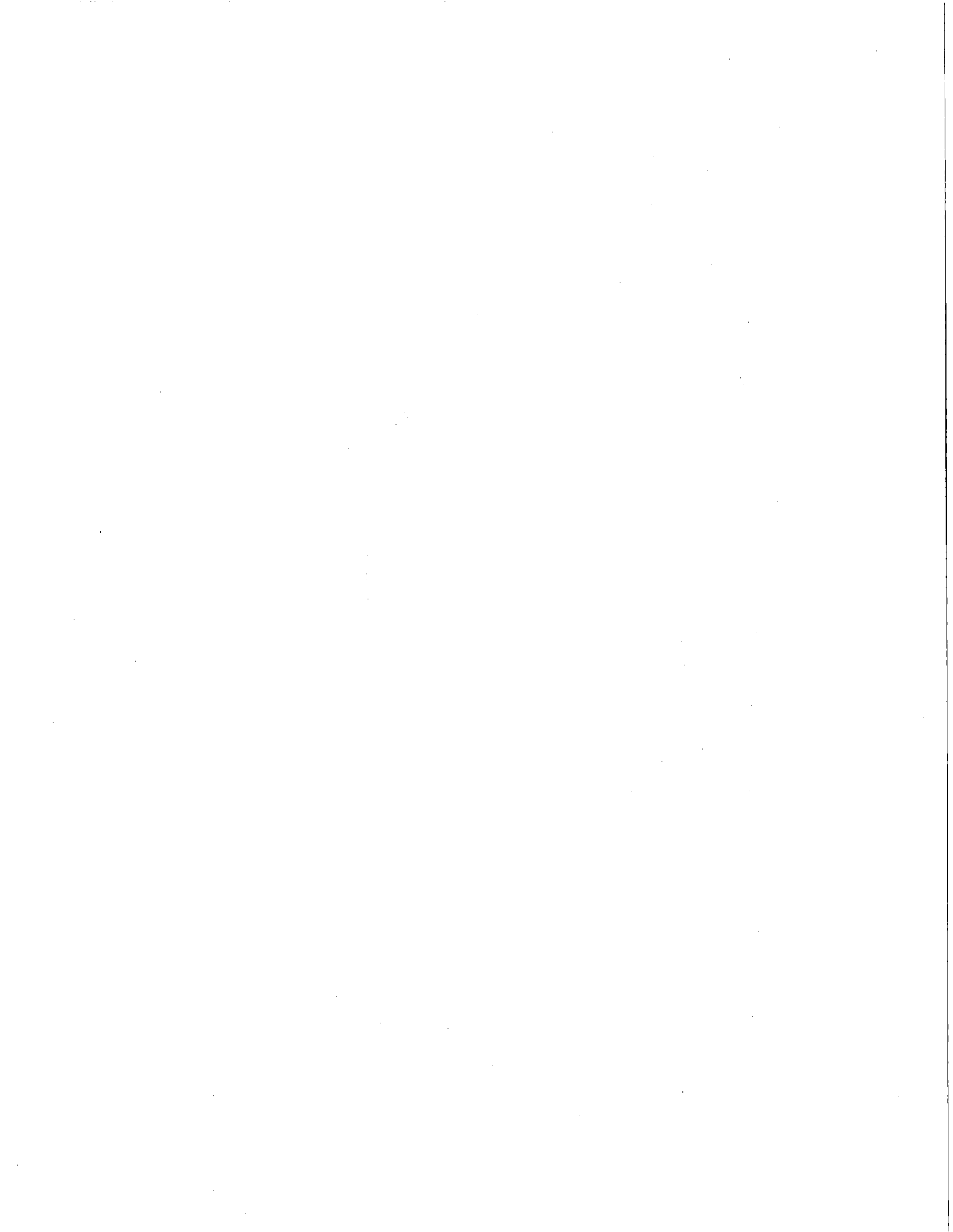
300' FLOOD TUNNEL

SOUTH SHIP COVE

SMITH'S COVE

1850  
1866  
1970

COFFER DAMS



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## Supplementary Material

From The Three Voyages of Martin Frobisher, edited for the Hakluyt Society by Rear-Admiral Richard Collinson London, 1867

### The First Voyage

- I. Expenses & Equipment of the First Voyage
- II. Mr. Lok, Captain Frobisher, and the Ore
- III. Lok's Contract with Agnelo

### The Second Voyage

- I. Frobisher's Petition
- II. Expenses & Equipment of the Second Voyage
- III. Names of the Venturers
- IV. Report Upon the Outfit
- V. Grant from the Queen's Majesty
- VI. Articles Consented and Agreed
- VII. A Brief Note of all the Cost

### England's State Papers Subsequent to the Second Voyage

- I. Mr. Lok's Memorial
- II. Order for the Ships to Unload
- III. List of Those that now Desire to be Venturers
- IV. What Michael Lok has Done for the Voyage
- V. The Brief Account of the Expenses of the Second Voyage

### England's State Papers Relative to the Trial of the Ore Subsequent to the Second Voyage

- I. Dr. Burcot on His Trial of the Ore
- II. From Mr. Lok What Charges are Requisite for the Refining of the Ore
- III. From My Lords to Mr. Lok to collect £900 of the Venturers
- IV. From Mr. G. Le Brum; Trial of Metal Falling Not Out
- V. From Dr. Burcot, a Proof of How Much Gold and Silver a Pound of Ore Yields
- VI. A Little Bundle of the Trying of the Northwest Ore
- VII. From Dr. Burchart to Mr. Secretary Walsingham Touching the Northwest Ore
- VIII. A Declaration of the Value of the Northwest Ore
- IX. From Dr. Burcot touching his Cunning and Offer About Trying the Ore
- X. To The Lord Treasurer and Lord Chamberlain About the Northwest Ore
- XI. The Account Taken at Muscovy House of the Weight of the Ore

### England's State Papers Concerning the Trial of the Ore Previous to the Third Voyage

- I. Memorandum from My Lords to the Warden of the Mint Touching the Ore
- II. From Mr. Fenton on the Unloading of the Ore and Dr. Doddings Report on the Sickness and Death of the Man Brought by Capt. Frobisher from the Northwest, and the Nature of the Woman of that Country Yet Living.
- III. From Mr. Lok What the Goodness of Ore is Declared
- IV. From Sir W. Wyntar Touching the Gold Ore
- V. From Jonas Schutz on the Same.
- VI. From Dr. Burcot on the Same.
- VII. From M. Lok of Jonas' New Melting Down the Ore.
- IX. Agnello on the Trial of the Ore He Has in Traveling to get Ore in the West Country
- XII. A Count Made of <sup>XC</sup> of Ore Melted at Dartford
- XIII. A Note of the Value of 200 Weight of Ore Gotten in the Countess of Warwick's Island

### England's State Papers Concerning The Third Voyage

- I. A Proportion of the Charges for a Third Voyage
- II. The Names of Such Gentlemen as Went in the First and Second Voyage Now in Consideration of their Service, to be Received as Adventurers, Gratis
- III. Intertainment of Gentlemen and Others under Mr. Fenton to Inhabit the New Land
- IV. Instructions Given to Martin Frobisher
- V. The Inventory of the Shp Ayde
- VI. The Gabriel Priced at £
- VII. These Have Not Paid the 3rd of May, 1578

### England's State Papers Subsequent to The Third Voyage

- I. Minutes to Mr. Lok About Mr. Frobisher's Voyage
- II. The Queens Authority to Collect of the Adventurers Their Subscriptions
- III. From My Lords to Certain Gentlemen for Payment of Certain Sums
- IV. The Exclamation of the Mariners for Their Payment
- V. From Mr. Lok Touching the Additaments
- VI. Mr. Lok's Account
- VII. An Answer to Mr. Lok's Account
- VIII. Second Minute for the Payment of the Wages
- IX. The Answer of Mr. Michael Lok to the Auditors of my Accounts
- X. The Humble Suit of Thomas Bonham
- XI. From Sir Thomas Graham Touching the Order for the Payment of the Mariners
- XII. The Venturers Not Paid
- XIII. The Humble Petition of Mr. Lok for Charges Disbursed
- XIV. An Order set Down by the Queen's Majesty Touching the Payment
- XV. The Offer of Michael Lok for the Northwest Ore at Dartford
- XVI. An Offer made at Muscovy House by Jonas Schultz Before Mr. Field, Mr. Lok and Mr. Andrew Palmer

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Oak Island's Rock Strewn Beach (The Southeast Shore)

