

Christopher
Marlowe
(1564–1607)

A Biography



Louis Ule

A Hearthstone Book

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Acknowledgments



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Preface to the 1994 Private Printing



A first private printing of fourteen copies of this biography of Christopher Marlowe was produced in April of 1992. Marlowe's life span, 1564–1607, is included in the title because Marlowe did not die in 1593 as hitherto believed, but lived on to the year 1607.

New insights and hitherto overlooked evidence on the circumstances of Marlowe's "death" in 1593 have required a revision of Chapters XIII and XIV especially. Additional evidence regarding Marlowe's association with Thomas Nashe has provided further corroboration for their joint travel to Italy in 1593.

The evidence that we have of Marlowe's death in 1593, like the evidence in a typical murder mystery, is deliberately misleading and under the circumstances it can only be resolved by delving into the motivation of the persons involved. What could possibly be the motive for defaming England's greatest living poet, for documenting his death in a coroner's report or announcing it in a separate anonymous report which implied that Marlowe died as the result of God's wrath upon a blasphemer?

A rather unsatisfactory answer to the above questions appeared in *The Reckoning, The Murder of Christopher Marlowe* by

Charles Nicholl, published in 1992, namely, that it was the result of a quarrel over "a sum of pence," a quarrel precipitated by Marlowe himself. Nicholl, unsatisfied with this explanation, finally laid Marlowe's death to the rivalry between the Earl of Essex and Sir Walter Raleigh. Nicholl has performed a useful service in his preoccupation with the circumstances of Marlowe's murder, especially in his revelations regarding the Reverend Richard Baines, the informer, and the calling attention to an anonymous, post-dated, marked-up copy of the Baines's note on Marlowe.

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