



Tom Clayton (December 15, 1932 – August 9, 2023)

Tom Clayton's death, at the age of 91, from complications of prostate cancer, has been registered as a sad loss for the world of Shakespeare Studies, in the US and elsewhere. Everyone who knew Tom would join Hamlet in saying "He was a man, take him for all in all: / I shall not look upon his like again" (*Hamlet*, 1.2.187-188). Indeed, his native Minnesota can be proud of such a Shakespeare scholar, father, husband, and friend, internationally known and respected throughout the world of English studies. His memory will be living in our minds and in our hearts long after his passing.

Tomas Swoverland Clayton was born in New Ulm, MN, in 1932. The family lived in several towns in Wisconsin, before settling in Winnona in 1943. Tom Clayton was Regents Professor Emeritus at the University of Minnesota, and a distinguished scholar of Shakespeare, seventeenth-century British Literature, and Classics. He graduated the University of Minnesota *summa cum laude* in English and Latin. At university, he met Ruth (Madson), his future wife, and "fell in love with her at first sight," as he would confess to me many years later. Tom was awarded a Rhodes Scholarship to study at Wadham College, Oxford (Classical Honour Moderations), then he married Ruth (in September 1955) and joined the US Army, training at Ft. Knox, KY as a radio operator. Tom served with the 3rd Battalion 14th Armored Cavalry at McPheeters Barracks in Bad Herzfeld, Germany, until his discharge from active duty in 1957. During the conversations we had about his youth, Tom used to speak with nostalgia about the time spent in

Germany as an active soldier in the US Army. After his army duty, Tom returned to Oxford and earned his D.Phil. in English Literature in 1960. He began his teaching career at Yale, then at UCLA for six years, before joining the faculty of the English Department at the University of Minnesota in 1968. During the forty-seven years at the University of Minnesota, Tom Clayton taught seventeenth-century English literature, with a focus on Shakespeare and the Classics. He mentored undergraduate and graduate students, chaired the interdisciplinary Department of Classical and Near Eastern Studies, and served on the University Faculty Senate.

Professor Clayton's main academic area was textual criticism, and his work was brilliantly acerbic, displaying acute critical acumen. Among his chief works are: the Oxford English Text edition of *The Works of Sir John Suckling: The Non Dramatic Works* (1971); the Oxford Standard Edition of *The Cavalier Poets: Selected Poems* (1978); *The "Hamlet" First Published (Q1, 1603): Origins, Form, Intertextualities* (1992); *The "Shakespearean" Addition in "The Booke of Sir Thomas Moore": Some Aids to Scholarly and Critical Shakespearean Studies* (1969); and many editorial and critical essays on William Shakespeare, Andrew Marvell, John Donne, and John Suckling, published in academic journals and as book chapters. Many of these works continue to be cited today and I am certain that his last essay, published in the current issue of *Multicultural Shakespeare: Translation, Appropriation and Performance* will find its place among the essential critical scholarship related to Shakespeare's *All's Well That Ends Well*. I know that this last "baby" of Tom's brilliant mind was much cherished and desired in the last year of his life, so he worked hard on it, and he barely managed to submit the essay to this journal before he became too ill to do any further work.

Tom Clayton received numerous grants and awards, most importantly a Guggenheim Fellowship, the Morse-Amoco Award for Outstanding Contributions to Undergraduate Education, the Morse-Alumni Award for Outstanding Contributions to Graduate and Professional Education, and the Regents Professorship (1999), the highest recognition given by the University of Minnesota to a member of its faculty.

Tom was blessed with boundless energy and a wry sense of humour. Many friends enjoyed his pleasant company for a drink, whether at *The Founder's Arms* (London), *The Dirty Duck* (Stratford-upon-Avon) or *George & the Dragon* (Minneapolis). Personally, I had several occasions of enjoying Tom's company at the biennial International Shakespeare Conference in Stratford-upon-Avon and at the Shakespeare parties "among his private friends" hosted by Roger Pringle at his residence. Wherever he went, Tom Clayton impressed everyone with his warm and friendly personality. His partner, Janice Derksen, died in 2024. Tom will be greatly missed by his friends and colleagues, and by his family: his daughters (Pamela Schultz, Katherine Clayton); his sons (John Clayton, David Clayton); his grandchildren (Dayna Cosetta, Samuel Clayton); and his great-grandchildren (Miles, Thomas, and Ava). As for Tom's passing to eternity, we should join Horatio in saying, "And flights of angels sing thee to thy rest" (*Hamlet*, Act V, scene ii, 365).

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