

concludes Mason, than "the Voltairean spirit, preaching tolerance and intellectual freedom, hating oppression."

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE:
Records and Images
by S. Schoenbaum
Oxford, 1981
276 pp. \$98



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Scholars have reconstructed William Shakespeare's life and character from the merest fragments. Of the Bard's handwriting, for example, no more than six signatures and two small words ("by me") are extant—only 13 letters of the alphabet. In this handsome volume, laden with facsimile plates, Schoenbaum, a professor of Renaissance studies at the University of Maryland, has pulled all of the documentary and pictorial evidence together: Shakespeare's last will and testament, deeds and depositions, portraits authentic and spurious, a physician/astrologer's eyewitness account of "Mackbeth," and much more. In his learned, lively commentary, Schoenbaum covers a wide area. One chapter is devoted to 18th- and 19th-century forgers. The most brazen of these was William-Henry Ireland, who, in 1794-95, gave his credulous father, "an antiquarian collector with magpie tendencies," a treasure trove—Shakespearean IOUs, a letter to Anne Hathaway (with lock of bardic hair), a pen-and-ink self-portrait, and an entirely new play, *Vortigern*. The London debut of *Vortigern* was cut short after the discovery that Ireland's "finds" were all fakes. Schoenbaum's latest effort makes a fine companion to his *William Shakespeare: A Compact Documentary Life* (1977).

Science & Technology

GENESIS:
The Origins of Man and the Universe
by John Gribbin
Delacorte, 1981
360 pp. \$13.95

Taking science to the layman, Gribbin formulates a reply to the creationists' version of the origins of man and the universe. In the beginning, argues the Cambridge astrophysicist, was the Big Bang; then followed the expansion of the universe and the formation of the galaxies. Surveying the "mainstream of cur-