

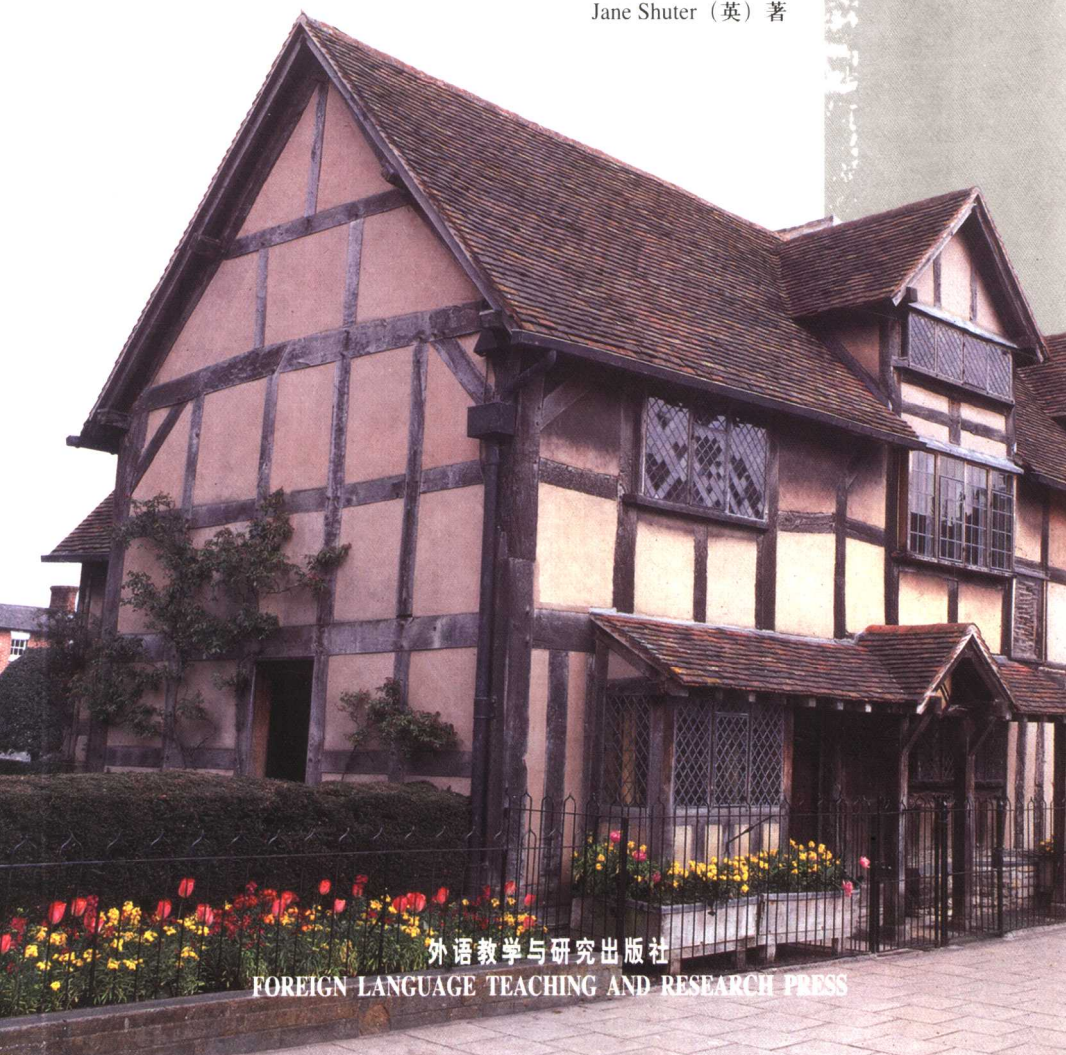
# SHAKESPEARE'S

红杉树  
RED LARCH  
人文胜迹

# BIRTHPLACE

## 莎翁故居

Jane Shuter (英) 著



外语教学与研究出版社  
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# Shakespeare's Birthplace

## 莎翁故居

William Shakespeare, born in April 1564, was the son of John and Mary Shakespeare. John was a glover<sup>1</sup>, making and selling gloves and other leather goods, such as purses and belts, from his workshop<sup>2</sup> in the family home. William Shakespeare was born at a time when the skills of reading and writing became more important and more widespread. Neither John nor Mary could write, but they almost certainly sent their sons to Stratford Grammar School<sup>3</sup>.





This painting is called the 'Ely Palace' portrait<sup>6</sup> and is thought by some to show William Shakespeare. There is no portrait from the time that definitely<sup>7</sup> shows Shakespeare.

Certainly William learned to read and write somewhere and he also learned to love acting and plays. The first recorded appearance of actors in Stratford was in 1569, when John Shakespeare was mayor<sup>4</sup>. When he was about 22, William Shakespeare went to London and joined a group of actors working in the theatres there. He went on to become the most famous playwright<sup>5</sup> in history, one whose plays are still performed worldwide today.

1. glover *n.* 手套商

2. workshop *n.* 作坊

3. Stratford Grammar School  
斯特拉特福文法学校

4. mayor *n.* 民政官

5. playwright *n.* 剧作家

6. portrait *n.* 肖像

7. definitely *adv.* 明确地

Shakespeare's Birthplace, in Stratford-upon-Avon, is one of the few Tudor<sup>1</sup> houses that belonged to<sup>2</sup> an ordinary<sup>3</sup> family that has been preserved<sup>4</sup> much as it was at the time. The Birthplace shows what ordinary homes were like, and how they were built and furnished<sup>5</sup>. It also gives an idea of how people lived and worked at the time. Since 1847 the house has been cared for by the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust<sup>6</sup>, because it was the place where William Shakespeare was born and grew up. Some rooms contain<sup>7</sup> original<sup>8</sup> furniture and decoration from the time, others have been recreated<sup>9</sup> to show us what life was like in Shakespeare's age.



The Shakespeare Birthplace Trust also cares for four other houses connected with William Shakespeare in Stratford and the surrounding<sup>10</sup> area. This is Hall's Croft<sup>11</sup>, which was the home of Dr John Hall, who married Shakespeare's daughter, Susanna, in 1607.





Shakespeare's Birthplace has been restored<sup>12</sup> by the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust so that the outside looks very much as it did when he lived there. The street, however, looks very different! It is paved<sup>13</sup> and closed to traffic, whereas<sup>14</sup> in Shakespeare's time it would have been covered with an uneven<sup>15</sup> stone surface at best and full of people, carts<sup>16</sup> and even animals and rubbish.

1. Tudor *adj.* 都铎式建筑式样的

2. belong to *v.* 属于

3. ordinary *adj.* 普通的

4. preserve *v.* 保存

5. furnish *v.* 为(房间等)配备家具

6. Shakespeare Birthplace Trust

莎士比亚出生地基金会

7. contain *v.* 容纳

8. original *adj.* 原来的

9. recreate *v.* 再创造

10. surrounding *adj.* 周围的

11. Hall's Croft 霍尔小园

12. restore *v.* 修复

13. pave *v.* 铺(路)

14. whereas *conj.* 然而

15. uneven *adj.* 凹凸不平的

16. cart *n.* 大车; 手推车

# Shakespeare's Stratford

## 莎士比亚时代的斯特拉特福

Stratford was a market town with about 1,500 people living in it. As the largest town in the area, it had a market every Thursday. Here local farmers and craftsmen<sup>1</sup> sold their produce<sup>2</sup>, from butter and eggs to cattle and sheep. Glove-making was one of the most important trades in the town.



This house, called Nash's House, belonged to Thomas Nash, who married one of Shakespeare's granddaughters. Like all the buildings in Stratford, apart from the two most important churches, it was built from wood. This meant there was always a serious risk of fire. In 1594 and 1595 there were two fires that destroyed about 200 houses in Stratford.

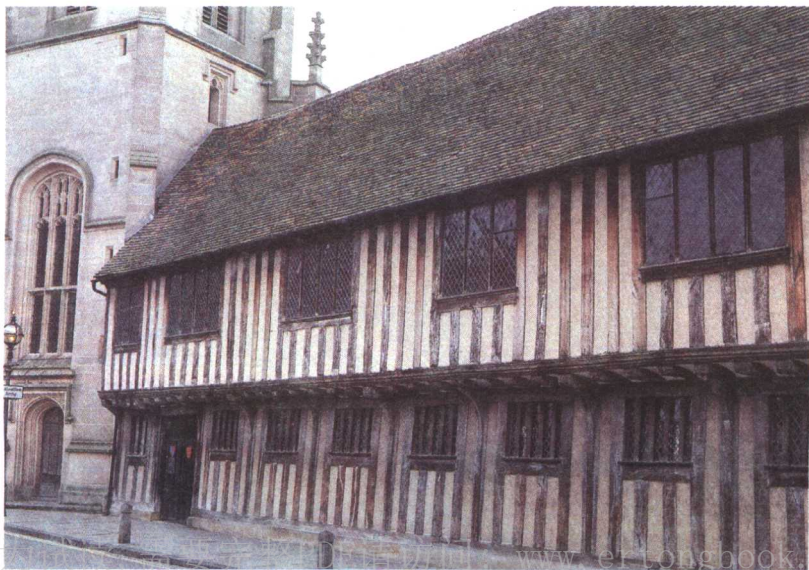


The town council<sup>3</sup> had strict rules about how the markets should be run and made sure that shoppers were not being cheated. It set prices, checked measuring equipment<sup>4</sup> and checked the quality of food for sale. For instance<sup>5</sup>, butter, cream and beer, all sold at market, went bad easily. The council appointed<sup>6</sup> people to sample<sup>7</sup> these things, to make sure only 'wholesome'<sup>8</sup> foods were sold. One of John Shakespeare's first jobs for the council (he eventually<sup>9</sup> became mayor) was as a beer taster.

|                        |           |           |               |             |       |
|------------------------|-----------|-----------|---------------|-------------|-------|
| 1. craftsman           | <i>n.</i> | 手艺人       | 6. appoint    | <i>v.</i>   | 委派    |
| 2. produce             | <i>n.</i> | (农) 产品    | 7. sample     | <i>v.</i>   | 试尝    |
| 3. council             | <i>n.</i> | (镇) 政务委员会 | 8. wholesome  | <i>adj.</i> | 有益健康的 |
| 4. measuring equipment |           | 计量设备      | 9. eventually | <i>adv.</i> | 最终    |
| 5. for instance        |           | 例如        | 10. attend    | <i>v.</i>   | 上(学)  |



This is the Grammar School that William Shakespeare and his brother probably attended<sup>10</sup>. It was set up in 1553, paid for by money left to it by people when they died. The school was set up at a time when many towns all over the country set up schools for the first time. These schools only took local boys, not girls.







Tudor builders at work.



# *B*uilding the house

---

## 建造房屋

**P**alaces and homes of rich nobles<sup>1</sup> were built from whatever the ruler or noble wanted and could afford. The homes of most other people were built from local building materials<sup>2</sup>. In the Stratford area wood was one of the most plentiful building materials, so ordinary homes were made mainly of wood.

The builders of the Birthplace first laid a stone base<sup>3</sup> which rose about three feet above the ground. The stone came from a quarry<sup>4</sup> in nearby Wilmcote. On top of this, carpenters<sup>5</sup> built a frame<sup>6</sup> for the house, using oak beams<sup>7</sup> of various thicknesses, depending on the weight the beams had to carry. The wood came from the nearby Forest of Arden. The beams were fixed together using wooden pegs<sup>8</sup>. Wood was more expensive than the materials used to fill the gaps<sup>9</sup> between the beams, so the closer together the beams of wood are in a frame house, the more expensive it was to build and the richer the original owners were—the cost of the Birthplace was average<sup>10</sup> for its time.

|                      |           |      |             |             |       |
|----------------------|-----------|------|-------------|-------------|-------|
| 1. noble             | <i>n.</i> | 贵族   | 6. frame    | <i>n.</i>   | 构架    |
| 2. building material |           | 建筑材料 | 7. beam     | <i>n.</i>   | 梁; 桁  |
| 3. base              | <i>n.</i> | 基底   | 8. peg      | <i>n.</i>   | 销钉; 栓 |
| 4. quarry            | <i>n.</i> | 采石场  | 9. gap      | <i>n.</i>   | 间隙    |
| 5. carpenter         | <i>n.</i> | 木匠   | 10. average | <i>adj.</i> | 中等的   |



This is the stone base that the wooden frame of the Birthplace was built on. There are three sets of pegs shown in the photo. Each set holds an upright<sup>1</sup> beam to the beam that is resting on the stone base.



The beams used to build the Birthplace vary<sup>2</sup> in thickness. The thickest of the upright ones support the corners of the house. The thickest beams that run across the house are the ones that support the boards for the floors of the upstairs rooms. The guttering<sup>3</sup> in the left photo is modern—houses in Shakespeare's time did not have gutters.

1. upright      *adj.*      垂直的      3. guttering      *n.*      (建築物外部的)  
 2. vary      *v.*      有不同      排水系統

# Wattle and daub<sup>1</sup>

The gaps between the beams were filled with wattle and daub. First, flexible<sup>2</sup> sticks were woven to make panels<sup>3</sup> of the right size, which were fitted into place. These were then covered in a layer<sup>4</sup> of mud and straw, called daub. This could also be made with mud and hair, or dried grasses—anything that was free or cheap locally and gave the mud texture<sup>5</sup>. Once this rough<sup>6</sup> layer had dried off, the surface was plastered<sup>7</sup> over with a finer, smooth, plaster. Unlike daub, which was made from local materials, plaster had to be bought and needed a skilled plasterer to get a good finish.



- |                    |      |         |
|--------------------|------|---------|
| 1. wattle and daub |      | 抹灰篱笆墙   |
| 2. flexible        | adj. | 柔韧的     |
| 3. panel           | n.   | 嵌板      |
| 4. layer           | n.   | 层       |
| 5. texture         | n.   | 质感      |
| 6. rough           | adj. | 初步的     |
| 7. plaster         | v.   | 在……上抹灰泥 |



The photo shows some wattle and daub, covered with a sheet of modern glass to protect it.

## The roof

The roof of the Birthplace was made as part of the timber<sup>1</sup> framework<sup>2</sup>. It was almost certainly boarded right across. This was probably first covered with a layer of straw thatch<sup>3</sup>, then by clay<sup>4</sup> tiles<sup>5</sup>.

## Windows

The frames for the windows of Tudor homes were made from wood, built as part of the frame of the house. The earliest windows of the Birthplace were probably just an opening covered by a wooden shutter<sup>6</sup>. The smaller window (a) is part of the original building, and probably just had a shutter at first. Windows were later filled in with pieces of polished<sup>7</sup> animal horn<sup>8</sup>, usually cow horn. The horn was soaked<sup>9</sup> until it could be flattened<sup>10</sup> and then cut into thin sheets. Sometimes glass was used, but it was expensive. The pieces of horn or glass were fixed together with strips<sup>11</sup> of lead<sup>12</sup>. The bottom window (b) was bigger and put in later, when glass was cheaper.

|              |           |      |             |             |       |
|--------------|-----------|------|-------------|-------------|-------|
| 1. timber    | <i>n.</i> | 大木料  | 7. polished | <i>adj.</i> | 擦亮的   |
| 2. framework | <i>n.</i> | 构架   | 8. horn     | <i>n.</i>   | 角     |
| 3. thatch    | <i>n.</i> | 茅草   | 9. soak     | <i>v.</i>   | 浸泡    |
| 4. clay      | <i>n.</i> | 黏土   | 10. flatten | <i>v.</i>   | 把……弄平 |
| 5. tile      | <i>n.</i> | 瓦片   | 11. strip   | <i>n.</i>   | 狭条    |
| 6. shutter   | <i>n.</i> | 活动遮板 | 12. lead    | <i>n.</i>   | 铅     |



