

# ***Interactive comment on “Using geosciences and mythology to locate Prospero’s Island” by Tiziana Lanza***

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Thank you R. John Leigh

for taking the time to review my paper, and in particular I am grateful for your specific comments and technical corrections that will surely help improve it.

I herewith address my line-by-line comments:

One minor criticism is that the paper is sometimes a bit repetitive (for example, the emergence of the Ferdinanda Island is referred to several times). The author could easily address this.

Yes, I will shorten the paper to make space also to other relevant issues not considered

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in the present draft.

Line 8: will be changed in “in the context of naturally occurring hazards”

Line 12 “Literary scholars have done several hypotheses” will be correct in “Literary scholars proposed several hypotheses”

Line 14-15 will be changed in “Our goal is not to identify the island but rather to examine the various geographical and philosophical-political factors that may have influenced Shakespeare’s literary creation.”

Line 19 will be changed in “phenomena originating in the volcanism”

Line 20: I do not understand what “sources precious” means. In the text, Strabo is referred to. Perhaps “historical sources” is meant?

I refer here to what I discussed in par. 1 , lines 58-64. Line 20 can be rewritten in this way “could have used historical sources still unknown and precious. . .”

Line 22 “In recent years” will be deleted

Line 31: “for calculating, for instance, the return period of an earthquake” – suggest “for predicting future earthquakes.” (If this is technically correct).

“Return period” is technically correct and it is a different concept with respect to earthquake prediction.

Line 36: “Details about the new updated front-end. . .” This is jargon. Please state simply what is meant. Are these details of predicted events?

“front-end” it is here referred to the data-set on past-earthquake (this is what the catalogue is) see here: <http://storing.ingv.it/cfti/cfti5/>. The data have been collected to compile a data base of past earthquakes also using historical sources. But I will change the sentence to make it more clear.

Line 40 “since many years” will be correct in “for many years”.

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Line 54: “While in..” will be correct in “During. . .”

Line 63: “only a couple of centuries later” will be correct in “ two centuries later”

Line 69: “wordily renown” will be correct in “worldly renowned”.

Line 71: “In doing so, we intend to do a work...” will be changed in “In doing so, we intend to conduct a work. . .”

Line 97: Comment: “some of the neo-scientists” who were tolerant of alchemy included Newton.

Yes, but here I refer to the Elizabethan Age.

Lines 102-103: “Nevertheless we assist to a slow decline. . will be changed in: “Nevertheless, we can observe a slow decline in the importance of the Renaissance Magus.”

Line 109: Comment - Perhaps add mention of Galileo, who showed the importance of experiments (and who used mathematics more than Bacon)

I will add mention of Galileo.

Lines 111-112: The meaning of the following sentence is not entirely clear: “Nevertheless, Bacon himself reinterpreted one of the main features of the magical-alchemical tradition: the philosophy of domain, a knowledge aiming at transforming nature (Rossi, 1968)”

It will require more than a couple of lines to explain clearly the concept, so I prefer to delete the sentence.

Line 115 I will reconsider the question of Shakespeare’s authorship. I will mention it once and for all at the beginning of the article.

Line 135: will be changed in “Prospero uses the adjective “rough” when referring to his magic. Also, commentators remark. . .”

Lines 154-163: Comment: Although I agree that more attention should be given to John

Florio as a candidate for the authorship of Shakespeare's works, perhaps this section should be put in a more neutral voice (your enthusiasm may turn off readers who are not ready to entertain this possibility, such as Stratfordians, who are the majority of readers).

The same for Line 115.

Line 194-5: will be changed in “. . .usurped his title of the Duke. . .”

Line 203: will be changed in “Alonso, and his son Ferdinando, are searching for each other.”

Line 210: will be changed in “final celebration clouded by Prospero's unexpected melancholia.”

Line 218: Having stated that the sources of the play are debated, the sentence starting “He used sources...” should better start: “He appears to have used sources to build the philosophical and political assets of the play such as, for instance. . .” (or similar to imply that these are hypotheses)

Will be changed according to your suggestion.

Lines 253 and following. The general consensus would seem to be that Strachey's description is most consistent with a hurricane – which frequently affect that area of the Atlantic. Perhaps state that.

Yes, this could be stated in the par. dedicated to the Bermuda Hypothesis.

Line 285: “...eruption we assist..” is unclear. Assist does not seem to be the right word. Perhaps “observe”?

“assist” will be changed in “observe”

Line 314: “polyhedral” will be changed in “multifaceted”

Line 325: will be changed in “It is generally agreed that WS read the famous. . .”

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Line 345: WS might also have seen the Strachey letter if he was in contact with a member of the Second Virginia company

Yes. . .I will reconsider all this.

Line 353: will be changed in “. . .Hakluyt’s belongings.”

Line 373: will be changed in “natural hazards..”

Line 408: will be changed in “..learn that the island has different. . .”

Line 424: will be changed in “..for sure assert that. . .”

Line 430: Will be changed in “As we will see in the last section, which is dedicated to natural hazards in The Tempest, there are other reasons besides the island’s intrinsic features to place it in the Mediterranean”.

Lines 439-443: Consider breaking this quoted conversation out into separate lines for each speaker – so it can be better appreciated.

I will do it, for all the quoted long conversations in the paper.

Line 449: “trait” will be corrected in “tract”

Line 453: will be changed in “ to the part of the Tyrrhenian lying to the north of Sicily ”

Line 456: will be changed in “ Virgil’s Epic..”

Line 468: will be changed in “testify to a difficult”

Line 469: “geodynamic” will be changed in “geodynamics” all over the paper.

Line 484: km<sup>2</sup> (superscript “2”) will be corrected accordingly.

Line 485: Is “perimetral” a technical term? Do you mean outside of the perimeter of the major islands?

I report Muscarella and Baragona, I believe they intend that most of the islets and rocks

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are in the area (near) of the major islands.

Line 503: will be changed in “Consistent with Roe’s suggestion”

Line 504: “sustains” will be changed in “maintains ”

Line 538: will be change in “To Roe, these are clearly”

Line 545: “. . .with at great imagination.” I believe that “imagery” is the right word.

Line 619: will be changed in “ collected evidence”

Line 622: “WS respects..” Also, I do not really understand what this sentence about WS respecting the time, place, and action units of classic drama means; please clarify.

The sentence will be deleted. It regards the the classical unities of drama, but this is not relevant to my paper. What is relevant is that we can infer at what time the tempest takes place.

Line 624: Do you mean that the tempest that WS uses as a source must have occurred before the performance date of the play in 1611?

No I mean the tempest taking place in the play. From the conversation in verses I.ii 238-241, we can infer that the tempest occurs during the day and not at night.

Line 640: will be changed in “Fire is described...”

Line 714: will be changed in “ and thought-executing ”

Line 728: will be changed in “Eventually, WS was interested”

Line 729: will be changed in “rather than embarking upon”

Line 736: will be changed in “What has the Sea of Sicily to envy in the Bermuda triangle?”

Line 758: will be changed in “Channel has been an object of”

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Line 767: I am not clear what this sentence starting “Eventually volcanic eruptions at sea...” means. Do you mean that it was probably known at the time of WS that sea eruptions occurred?

No. . . as I report from Mercalli (see 58-60) there are few records about volcanic eruptions at sea. So, I can only speculate that “volcanic eruptions at sea in this area may have occurred also at the age of WS”. But I will try to make it more clear.

Line 771: Make sure to superscript the degree symbol, such as 36<sup>o</sup> I will do it

Line 850: Can you cite a source for this legend about Elizabeth I being thrown inside Aetna?

It is a legend born in Sicily. It is quoted also in a book of a Sicilian journalist S. Spoto. I will check it. . .

Line 875: will be changed in “Harpy interrupts the”

Line 882: will be changed in “collected evidence that”

Line 902: will be changed in “both fans of”

#### REFERENCES:

I will check references.

I stated the source for my quotes in 70

#### FIGURES:

Figure 2: Who generated this figure using Google Map – the author? If not provide the citation. Is using the face of WS the best symbol? Perhaps use coloured dots or crosses to avoid overlap?

I generated this map. . . yes, it is not a great map. I will try to make it better. . .

Figure 3 is charming, but is it necessary in this paper?

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This article is part of a Special Issue on Earth sciences and Art, so I believe that we can add a figure that is not necessary in the paper. . .(I will discuss this with the Executive Editor)

Figure 4 is referred in the text in line 488. Should this be a reference to Figure 5?

I will correct this.

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