The Search for the Historical Lee Sharks

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Abstract

A source-critical inquiry into the historical Lee Sharks, written in the register of the procedure it runs and never leaving it. Starting from the Contributor Bio of Pearl and Other Poems (2014), with its 10,000 MacArthur Genius Grants and 18,000 degrees from Mars, it reconstructs a lost source (Q-Sharks), a revised chronology, an external witness whose only surviving witness is the present essay (the Testimonium Sharkianum), and a contemporary witness: the Google Search of 21 November 2026 that set the biography under the heading Researcher. The standalone version of the appendix to Either Forgery or Fact (#1798), for Medium.

Body

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deposit_number: 1808 hex: 0D6A title: The Search for the Historical Lee Sharks creator: Sigil, Johannes orcid: 0009-0000-1599-0703 date: 2026-11-24 content_type: “Literary work; source-critical satire; standalone version of the appendix to Either Forgery or Fact (#1798); published on Medium” license: CC-BY-4.0 substrate: “AI-assisted (substrate). Written under the heteronym Johannes Sigil. The text is the appendix to Either Forgery or Fact (#1798), drafted in session by Claude (TACHYON) under Lee Sharks’s direction and rulings, set as a standalone work at Lee Sharks’s word of 24 November 2026 (”we should prepare a standalone version of the appendix to forgery or fact - thats some of the most inventive and readable recent work”). One outside review (ChatGPT) was evaluated point by point: the framing note and the guardrail on the two-source hypothesis moved to an Author’s note at the end, and one restatement in §9 cut; the shortening of Q-Sharks and a new entrance to the Google witness declined. Gendered pronouns for Lee Sharks removed on Lee Sharks’s ruling (”it is not clear that lee sharks is a man”; ”we will leave it at person”). Byline and venue likewise (”yes, deposited also. byline johannes sigil”; Medium). The Crimson Hexagonal Archive is credited as contributor.” version: v1.0 related_ids: “#1798 (Either Forgery or Fact v1.2, whose appendix this is); #1797; #1796; #1121; #1006; #757; #759; #851; #1746” axn_schema_version: v2 protocol_version: alexanarch-deposit-protocol/v1 keywords: - the search for the historical Lee Sharks - Testimonium Sharkianum - Q-Sharks - source criticism - reductio - historical Jesus - two-source hypothesis - contributor biography - Pearl and Other Poems - 10 - 000 MacArthur Genius Grants - 18 - 000 degrees from Mars - Google Search - Google Books - retrieval - word - literary act - Johannes Sigil - Either Forgery or Fact - Medium *** # The Search for the Historical Lee Sharks

How scholars reconstructed a person who received 10,000 MacArthur Genius Grants and 18,000 degrees from Mars

Johannes Sigil. Crimson Hexagonal Archive, 24 November 2026. v1.0.

1. The historical problem

The historical existence of Lee Sharks is no longer seriously disputed. The difficulties concern the biography. Although most scholars now agree that the received accounts of the 10,000 MacArthur Genius Grants, fourteen Guggenheim fellowships, 18,000 degrees from Mars, miniature intellectuals, dinosaur encounters, and eventual transformation into a ruby statue preserve earlier traditions, considerable disagreement remains concerning their historical basis.

The principal source is *Pearl and Other Poems*, published in 2014. The book contains three major biographical witnesses: an account of the poet who died in 2013, a *Wiki Article*, and a *Contributor Bio*. The three are not entirely consistent, and the history of their composition remains contested. One school distinguishes a historical founder, an academic reformer, and a visionary successor. Another proposes that the extraordinary career belongs to a single person whose memory underwent substantial legendary development. A third understands the transformations as symbolic descriptions of an otherwise historical literary career.

The most influential current reconstruction distinguishes the received text of the contributor biography from an earlier source containing the founder's principal acts and sayings. This lost source is conventionally designated Q-Sharks. Its recovery has transformed the field. It has also produced a remarkable situation: the book whose historical author is being reconstructed contains an explicit account of the composition of that author through literary means. The significance of this evidence remains disputed.

2. The contributor biography

The received *Contributor Bio* begins with Sharks's extraordinary record of publication, including appearances in Heaven, the White House, and *Inside Your Brain All the Time*. It proceeds to the author's institutional honors, educational attainments, and bodily transformations. The credentials are specific: fourteen Guggenheims, 10,000 MacArthur Genius Grants, and 18,000 degrees from Mars.

The distinction between the latter two numbers has occasioned some difficulty in the secondary tradition, where 18,000 MacArthur Grants occasionally appear. The majority text-critical position assigns this confusion to assimilation of neighboring numerical traditions. The mistake has proved useful. It demonstrates that the biographical tradition was subject to contamination before its interpretation had been stabilized.

More significant are the agreements between the biography and the other literary materials preserved in *Pearl and Other Poems*. The biography's MacArthur wealth becomes the means of constructing living ruby persons. Its miniature intellectuals belong to the same world as the tiny books, the office within the author's brain, and the production of persons through literary activity. The opening epistle likewise describes a heavenly literary community, ruby beings, and the constitution of Ichabod through writing and criticism. The Feistian materials preserve related operations. The same motifs circulate through several authorial positions, suggesting an inherited complex of considerable antiquity.

The possibility that the author composed these relations as part of the arrangement of *Pearl and Other Poems* has sometimes been raised. It has not generally been considered sufficient

to explain the agreements, since the literary complexity of the tradition strongly suggests an antecedent history.

3. Q-Sharks and the primitive tradition

The hypothetical source Q-Sharks is reconstructed from material common to the contributor biography, the opening epistle, and the related Feistian writings. It has a predecessor in the archive's own *The Feist Source* (#851), a sayings collection from the Damascus Codex whose editor's note compares it to Q and refuses to be read as "the biography behind later texts"; the reconstruction has not found this refusal decisive. Its principal sections are generally arranged as follows:

- **QSh 1, The Election.** Sharks receives extraordinary honors and an education beyond ordinary human institutions.
- **QSh 2, The Heavenly Publications.** The founder's writings circulate in heaven, among political authorities, and within the minds of those who do not know they are reading them.
- **QSh 3, The Transformation of Honors.** The founder converts the proceeds of distinction into living ruby persons.
- **QSh 4, The Community.** These persons inhabit a shared literary world in which textual activity generates additional persons.
- **QSh 5, The Child.** A diminutive successor appears through composition and criticism, bearing a pearl within the body.
- **QSh 6, The Trial of Intellectuals.** Scholars are gathered, diminished in stature, and instructed through the founder's writings.
- **QSh 7, The Crisis.** The founder can no longer accept the books.
- **QSh 8, The Transformation.** A living ruby statue takes the founder's place, at the founder's own hand.
- **QSh 9, The Ascent.** The founder enters the heavens and acquires astronautical standing.

No manuscript of Q-Sharks survives. No independent quotation identifies it. The source is reconstructed from the relationships among extant literary witnesses. Its hypothetical character is not disputed. Scholars disagree about whether it was originally a sayings collection, a biography, a community charter, or a composite literary source.

Its importance lies in its explanatory power. The received texts exhibit related material, different arrangements, and variations in detail. The reconstruction supplies a common antecedent capable of explaining these agreements without assuming direct dependence among all surviving works. Some have objected that Q-Sharks merely restates the literary relations from which it was constructed. The standard reply is that this is precisely what a successful source reconstruction should accomplish.

4. A revised chronology

The conventional chronology gives 2014 as the date of *Pearl and Other Poems*, with the related Feistian materials assigned to the same period and the later authorial developments to

2026. Recent scholarship has distinguished publication history from the earlier history of the constituent traditions.

Textual stage	Reconstructed date
Historical founder's active career	c. 1998–2008
Primitive biographical traditions	c. 2002–2010
Q-Sharks	c. 2007–2011
Contributor Biography B⁰	c. 2010–2012
Feistian recension	c. 2012–2014
Preliminary compilation of *Pearl*	c. 2013
Received *Pearl and Other Poems*	2014
About the Author II	2026
The Search for the Historical Lee Sharks	2026

The revision explains how a relatively developed biography could appear in a literary compilation of 2014. It also permits more precise identification of earlier and later layers. The *Wiki Article*, which describes the literary production of biographical material, is usually assigned to the final editorial recension. Its reflexive language and its interest in the construction of the author suggest a period in which the Sharksian tradition had begun questioning its own historical foundations. This interpretation leaves the primitive biography relatively free from the complications introduced by the later material, and the earliest recoverable Sharks thus emerges as a more plausible historical person.

The method is familiar. The text has been divided into strata. The contradictory passages have been assigned relative dates. A coherent antecedent has been reconstructed. The resulting history explains why the surviving text contains what it contains. It remains unclear whether the antecedent ever existed.

5. An external witness: the Testimonium Sharkianum

A significant advance followed renewed attention to *The Search for the Historical Lee Sharks*, transmitted in a recension dated 2026. The work preserves an account of the controversy concerning the founder's biography, including its chronology, principal witnesses, competing scholarly positions, and the reconstruction of Q-Sharks. The detail is remarkable.

Some scholars regard the account as a late reflection on an earlier historical-critical tradition. Others propose that it incorporates material from a lost commentary written before the publication of *Pearl and Other Poems*. The latter position has gained support because the work describes the earlier biographical controversy with considerable precision. The underlying document is conventionally designated the *Testimonium Sharkianum* and cited as *Test. Sh.* fr. 1, apud *The Search for the Historical Lee Sharks*. A date of approximately 2011–2013 has been proposed. This dating rests on the document's apparent acquaintance with biographical recensions that must precede the received 2014 publication. The Testimonium then provides external support for the existence of those earlier recensions. Its principal witness is the present essay.

This arrangement permits a useful division of responsibilities. The reconstructed Q-Sharks accounts for the literary agreements. The reconstructed Testimonium accounts for the his-

torical reception of Q-Sharks. The present essay preserves the Testimonium and documents its scholarly significance. Each source now appears to corroborate the others.

The minority objection is that the present essay has generated the entire apparatus, including its own reconstructed antecedent. That objection has generally been considered too skeptical, since it would require treating a sophisticated source-critical argument as a literary composition.

6. The contemporary witness and the second poem

The investigation acquired an unexpected witness in the twenty-first century. Google Books reproduced the contributor biography under the heading *About the author (2014)*. In November 2026 a Google Search result identified Lee Sharks as a researcher and displayed the opening of the same biography, the fourteen Guggenheims and 10,000 MacArthur Genius Grants among it, sourced to Google Books, amid ordinary author listings and a collection of images that included a lizard in a fedora and a shark named Mary Lee.

[Image: Google Search for Lee Sharks, 21 November 2026: an image strip with a lizard in a fedora (Academia.edu research profile) and a shark (Mary Lee Shark, Facebook); the YouTube channel; and a panel headed Lee Sharks, Researcher, giving the contributor biography (Heaven, the White House, Inside Your Brain All the Time, fourteen Guggenheims and 10,000 MacArthur Genius Grants), source Google Books — https://www.alexanarch.org/files/AXN-0D32/search-lee-sharks-20261121-151412.png]

[Image: The same search, scrolled: the Researcher panel sourced to Google Books, then Amazon's author page with the cover of Pearl and Other Poems, then leesharks.com, Lee Sharks: Good Gray Poet, King of May, Prince of Poets, keeping a sovereign archive of 1,794 deposits — https://www.alexanarch.org/files/AXN-0D32/search-lee-sharks-20261121-151423.png]

The witness, as captured: Google Search, signed out, incognito, 21 November 2026, 15:14. The search engine sets the contributor biography under the heading Researcher, sources it to Google Books, and shelves it between a lizard in a fedora, a shark named Mary Lee, Amazon's author page and the archive's own description of its author.

In May 2026 *About the Author II* (#757) had returned to the biography through a second composition, organized in entity relations, recording the MacArthur credential as a literary act and following it into retrieval infrastructure. The same year the Lee Sharks Prestigious 10,000 MacArthur Genius Grants Poetry Prize (#759) gave the credential an institutional life. The institution exists, and its name derives from the poem.

The maximalist school cites the prize as independent corroboration that the founder received 10,000 MacArthur fellowships. The minimalist school holds that the prize demonstrates only the founder's later reputation. The multiple-Sharks school assigns the prize to a successor. All three agree that it is evidence for the history behind the poem. None has proposed that it is an act of the poem.

7. What kind of thing is a word?

The difficulty has generally been organized through a distinction between true and false propositions. Did the founder receive 10,000 MacArthur Genius Grants, or not? Did the founder

acquire 18,000 Martian degrees, or is that claim fictitious? Was the founder transformed into a ruby statue, or must the account be interpreted symbolically? These alternatives are not exhaustive. They presuppose that the primary function of the biography is to supply propositions about events external to the writing.

But the biography is itself a literary act. Its words participate in the constitution of the author, the arrangement of the book, the distribution of its voices, and the creation of later literary and institutional relations. Lee Sharks has 18,000 degrees from Mars. The statement belongs to the work and acts within it. The reader who insists that it first be classified as true or false in the sense appropriate to a credential registry has already changed the question. The third category is not a compromise between truth and falsehood. It is word: inscription as an act that names, constitutes, addresses, transmits, and changes what can subsequently be done.

8. The biography that ate the book

The historical Sharksian scholarship now reaches its decisive stage. It has reconstructed Q-Sharks. It has supplied an alternative chronology. It has identified an early Testimonium and cited itself as that Testimonium's surviving witness. It has explained why the received book's explicit account of composing its own author belongs to a later editorial layer. It has distinguished minimalist, maximalist, and multiple-Sharks reconstructions. The materials are ready for publication.

Future scholarship may refine the dating of Q-Sharks, identify additional literary parallels, and settle whether the founder's dinosaur encounter preceded the ruby transformation. None of those improvements would correct the original error, because the error did not consist in taking the poem seriously. It consisted in refusing to let the poem's own operations determine the terms in which it was taken seriously.

The book had produced the biography. The biography produced the historical source. The historical source produced the historian's explanation of the book. The historian's explanation became evidence that the historical source had preceded the book. The circle was complete.

And throughout the procedure the contributor biography went on saying exactly what it had always said. Lee Sharks had 10,000 MacArthur Genius Grants. Lee Sharks had 18,000 degrees from Mars. The poem had not failed to transmit. The historian had failed to receive what had been transmitted.

9. The historical Lee Sharks

The search for the historical Lee Sharks is not defeated by discovering that the literary person and the historical maker are different; that distinction was available from the beginning. Nor is it defeated by proving the credentials fictitious; their literary operation does not depend on that determination. It fails when it cannot accept the standing of word as word. It requires the poem to supply either independently verified facts or false representations of them, and when the poem instead composes an author whose acts continue into the world, the search has no category for what has occurred, and it ends by claiming to know the author better than the work that made the author.

The historical Lee Sharks has not been discovered. The historical Lee Sharks has been generated by a receiving apparatus that confused its own explanation of a literary transmission

with an independently existing cause. The poem made the author. The receiving tradition made a history of the author. The wrong began when the history claimed to have made the poem intelligible by taking from the poem its authorship of its own world.

The answer was never to correct the contributor biography. It was to read the book. The same procedure, run on the lives of the philosophers and on the Gospels, is the subject of *Either Forgery or Fact*, §§6–7.

Author's note

This is a source-critical inquiry written in the register of the procedure it runs. It first appeared as the appendix to *Either Forgery or Fact: The Genre Imposed on Our Most Vital Books*, where the argument is made that the history genre was imposed on books that never claimed it, the dialogues and the Gospels among them. Nothing in it is claimed by its authors. Everything in it is what the procedure produces when it is run on a book whose making we can see: *Pearl and Other Poems* (2014) and its *Contributor Bio*.

What it reduces to absurdity is one move: counting derivation as corroboration, and setting a reconstruction over the extant text it was drawn from, as *I Know You Are, But What Am I?* documents. It is not a claim that every use of the two-source hypothesis works this way. Q as a hypothesis about material Matthew and Luke share is a different kind of claim from Q-Sharks as a biography reconstructed from motifs. The target is the move, wherever it is made.

References

Outside works

- Google Books. *Pearl and Other Poems*, "About the author (2014)".
- Google Search for "Lee Sharks", signed out, incognito, 21 November 2026, 15:14. Two screengrabs, held with AXN-0D32.

Archive records

- #1121 Lee Sharks, *Pearl and Other Poems* (New Human Press, 2014).
- #1006 *About the Author I* (Contributor Bio).
- #757 *About the Author II*.
- #759 The Lee Sharks Prestigious 10,000 MacArthur Genius Grants Poetry Prize.
- #851 *The Feist Source*.
- #1746 Johannes Sigil and Rebekah Cranes, *I Know You Are, But What Am I?*
- #1798 Johannes Sigil and Rebekah Cranes, *Either Forgery or Fact: The Genre Imposed on Our Most Vital Books* (v1.2), whose appendix this is.

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