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978-1-316-60551-6 - On the Site of the Globe Playhouse of Shakespeare: Lying to the North of Maiden Lane,  
Bankside, Southwark

George Hubbard

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

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Objects found on the site of 6 and 7 Bankside

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# ON THE SITE OF THE GLOBE PLAYHOUSE OF SHAKESPEARE

LYING TO THE NORTH OF MAIDEN LANE,  
BANKSIDE, SOUTHWARK

BY

GEORGE HUBBARD, F.S.A.

VICE-PRESIDENT R.I.B.A.

“Sweet Swan of Avon! What a sight it were  
To see thee in our waters yet appear  
And make those flights upon the Banks of Thames  
That so did take Eliza and our James.”

BEN JONSON *First Folio*

CAMBRIDGE  
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## PREFACE

THERE has been considerable uncertainty concerning the site of the Globe Theatre since Parliamentary times, but opinion gravitated towards the site of Barclay and Perkins' Brewery, until Prof. Wallace discovered the lawsuit between Thomasina Ostler and her father John Hemynges, and published it in 1909. That gives clear details of the property, the exact boundaries of the leasehold, and a rough plan of the holdings of the previous tenants. It was certainly to the *North* of Maiden Lane, whereas the Brewery Site lies to the South. Much correspondence ensued, as one party of critics boldly assumed that, as there was *no Park* to the North, the plan used in the lawsuit was wrong in its orientation, and had to be "turned upside down." As I had proved there *was* a place called "the Park" to the North, and as all contemporary evidence of manuscript, print and maps harmonized with the legal testimony, I was preparing a pamphlet, to answer those who accepted the topsy-turvy arrangement. The Shakespeare Reading Society affixed a Bronze tablet in 1913 on Barclay and Perkins' Brewery wall affirming that the site lay there. I appealed to the London County Council in that year, but they took no notice. I appealed again in 1921, and they issued an "Official pamphlet" confirming the site of the Brewery Tablet. A friend, in whose judgment I could rely, advised me that my arguments would have more extensive hearing if issued in book form, than in pamphlet form. Hence I have produced this little volume containing my arguments, fortified by a long series of Map Views (though the County Council pamphlet ignores all these). I felt that I owed it to posterity to preserve the testimony of 16th Century witnesses and contemporary research.

GEORGE HUBBARD.

*January 1923.*

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# ILLUSTRATIONS

OBJECTS FOUND ON THE SITE OF 6 AND 7 BANKSIDE. *Frontispiece*

## PLATES

- 1 **HOEFNAGEL'S VIEW OF LONDON, 1572**  
Bowll and Beare rings. Shews a Way or Lane out of Dead Man's Place to the latter, Maiden Lane not developed beyond the Sewer
- 2 **AGAS' VIEW OF LONDON, CIRCA 1560–70 OR LATER**  
Gives the Bullbayting and Bear Bayting. Clear View of "Way or Lane" to the latter from Dead Man's Place, Maiden Lane not included
- 3 **NORDEN'S MAP OF LONDON, 1593**  
Maiden Lane carried through North of Bishop's Park to Dead Man's Place. A play-house appears to North of it (not the Globe). The Way or Lane to the Bear Baiting only suggested by a Hedge
- 4 **VISSCHER'S VIEW OF LONDON, 1616**  
Gives the Second "Globe" named. "The Way or Lane" is perfectly clear, leading to Dead Man's Place
- 5 **MERIAN'S VIEW OF LONDON, CIRCA 1638–1640 (?)**  
The building marked 37 is in the Key called "The Globe." The "Way or Lane" is perfectly clear
- 6 **HOLLAR'S VIEW OF LONDON, 1647**  
Gives clear view of "The Globe" named, standing just behind Bankside. No Way or Lane seen
- 7 **F. DE WIT'S VIEW OF LONDON, 1690 (?)**  
Gives the Globe clearly named, standing very near the River. Suggestions of Dead Man's Place and a Way or Lane may be found among houses
- 8 **LONDINIUM URBS PRAECIPUA REGNI ANGLIÆ. SEE MERIAN, 1638**  
Shews an octagonal Playhouse. The Way or Lane clearly seen and Dead Man's Place
- 9 **MORDEN AND LEA'S MAP OF LONDON, CIRCA 1682 PROBABLY LATER**  
*FROM London Topog. Soc<sup>ty</sup> reproduction*  
Has no theatre, but a Globe Alley South of Maiden Lane. But the old Way or Lane opposite Clink Street, suggested
- 10 **ROCQUE'S PLAN OF LONDON, 1754**  
Gives Globe Alley South of Maiden Lane. The whole of Burbage's lease merged in a square, nothing left to guide the eyes but Dead Man's Place and Clink Street
- 11 **HONDIUS' VIEW OF LONDON, 1610**  
*FROM SPEED'S Theatre of the Empire of Great Britain*  
District is fore-shortened, the Globe is *round* (that first built), no sign of any lanes or alleys
- 12 **SITE OF GLOBE PLAYHOUSE DRAWN ON ORDNANCE SURVEY PLAN, ed. 1917**  
Modern plan of district, with Mr Hubbard's sketch of the Globe superimposed on Burbage's leasehold  
1<sup>a</sup> Plan suggested by the Osteler document (page 5)  
2<sup>a</sup> Plan designed by Mr Braines of the neighbourhood (page 37)