

REED: *Bear Gardens/Hope Playhouse*,
edited by Stephanie Hovland and Sally-Beth Maclean,
launched March 2024!

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The Records of Early English Drama is pleased to announce another new open access resource for teaching and research: the ***Bear Gardens/Hope Playhouse***, edited by Stephanie Hovland and Sally-Beth MacLean. As with other *REED Online* collections, this is an integrated digital edition of records, in this case relating to the Bear Gardens on the south bank of the Thames in Southwark, and to the Hope, Philip Henslowe's combined bearbaiting/playhouse enterprise, built in 1613-14.

The records number over a hundred and run from 1546-1640. Accompanying the records are the informative introductory chapters familiar to REED users, one on the history of the properties and one on entertainment, with links embedded to relevant records. Appendix 1 contains selected events for the post-1642 afterlife of the fourth Bear Garden. Appendix 3 contains some contemporary 'Allusions and Reminiscences' of the Bear Gardens and bearbaiting and Appendix 4 guides the researcher through the complex litigation following the death of Henslowe in 1616.

The transcribed records are fully searchable. Most are linked with images of original manuscript sources from the London Metropolitan Archives, The British Library, and The National Archives, Kew, as well as with relevant images on the *Henslowe-Alleyn Digitisation Project* website. A historically-informed GIS map of Southwark and the Bankside in the context of the wider pre-1642 London area is interoperable with the records text. The map features select contemporary roads and lanes, polygons delimiting property boundaries, identifiable sewer lines, and layers to indicate manor, ward, and parish boundaries. A timeline feature linking events with the map and the records will be uploaded by summer 2024.

The *Bear Gardens/Hope Playhouse* is now available on *REED Online* at <https://ereed.library.utoronto.ca/collections/bghop/>.