

1614-1615

# REBUILT GLOBE OPENS



Rischgitz

## Henslowe in Row with Actors and Writers

1614: Philip Henslowe, the most powerful figure in the theatre world, has built up a series of contracts and arrangements which means he has financial control over most of London's theatre companies. In an attempt to further extend his overall control he is demanding all final rights in plays which are performed at his theatres. This has, naturally, upset the playwrights, who feel they already receive little enough financial reward for their plays. Henslowe is also on a collision course with the actors in his employment. He has introduced a series of "fines" to be deducted from the money due to actors. Being late for rehearsal will mean a fine of one shilling. Not being ready by the starting time of the performance will mean a fine of three shillings. Being drunk during a show will lead to a fine of ten shillings, and failure to appear at all will lead to a fine of twenty shillings.

## "Hope" Actors Accuse Henslowe

1615: Misappropriation of funds, abuse of hired actors, withholding of scripts, use of loans as a means of control, enslaving actors by means of exorbitant fines, double-dealing and manipulation on a grand scale, and a demand of £567 owed to Lady Elizabeth's Men - these were the "Articles of Grievance" laid against Philip Henslowe by his company at the Hope. Henslowe vigorously rebutted these charges, though he finally agreed to pay the actors £200 - but only if they would agree that they owed him £400. Henslowe claims that business at the Hope has declined dramatically since the Globe re-opened last year, and that the actors' claims are inappropriate and unrealistic.

## Newly Built Theatre to be Demolished

1615: Philip Rosseter, who has worked with Henslowe, trained the Children of the Revels, and has been a lessee of the Whitefriars Theatre, has built a new theatre - Porters' Hall, or the Puddle Wharf Theatre in Blackfriars. Just as the building was nearing completion the authorities have succeeded in taking his licence away and have ordered it to be pulled down.

1614: The Second Globe Theatre has been constructed - this time with a tiled roof to prevent any further disaster of the kind that destroyed the original building. It continues to be managed by Richard Burbage, universally acknowledged as England's greatest actor, and is likely to continue its enormous popularity with the citizens of London. The rebuilding costs have been partly raised by public subscription and a royal grant - and the fact that the money and the building was raised so quickly attests to its popularity.

## Death of Armin, the Clown

1615: The successor to Will Kempe. Robert Armin was London's favourite clown. Witty and musical where Kempe was more physical and knockabout, Armin was the original Feste, Touchstone and Fool in "Lear". He joined the Chamberlain's Men sixteen years ago. Apart from his Shakespeare roles he created his own highly popular comedy routine as a simpleton called John of the Hospital. He wrote two books of comedy routines and jokes - "Foole Upon Foole" and "Quips Upon Questions", and in 1598 he also wrote the play "The Two Maids of Moreclacke". He was around 43 years old.

## Swansong as playhouse closes

1614: The Swan Playhouse seems to have closed its doors for the very last time, unable to cope with the competition from rival theatres. The building opened nearly twenty years ago, but during its lifetime seems to have been used as often for sports and fencing displays as for plays. In 1602 the interior was damaged following an audience riot. The last play to be presented there was three years ago and was Middleton's "A Chaste Maid in Cheapside". The building will now be used exclusively for prize fights and other such exhibitions.