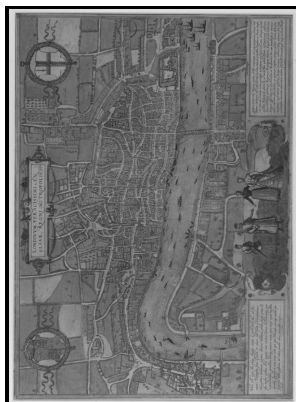


# Thomas Platters Travels in England, 1599

## Cape - Thomas Platter's visit to Shakespeare's theatre



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He demanded quite a high remuneration for it, which was approved, but under the condition he wouldn't disclose it to the public.

### Thomas Platter's visit to Shakespeare's theatre

For whoever cares to stand below only pays one English penny, but if he wishes to sit he enters by another door, and pays another penny, while if he desires to sit in the most comfortable seats which are cushioned, where he not only sees everything well, but can also be seen, then he pays yet another English penny at another door.

### Thomas Platter's travels in England, 1599 (1937 edition)

Thus anyone who remains on the level standing pays only one English penny: but if he wants to sit, he is let in at a farther door, and there he gives another penny.

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His sons and both studied medicine, a thwarted ambition of Platter's own early life. The playhouses are so constructed that they play on a raised platform, so that everyone has a good view. The actors are most expensively costumed for it is the English usage for eminent Lords or Knights at their decease to bequeath and leave almost the best of their clothes to their serving men, which it is unseemly for the latter to wear, so that they offer them for sale for a small sum of money to the actors.

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### Thomas Platter's travels in England, 1599 (1937 edition)

And during the performance food and drink are carried round the audience, so that for what one cares to pay one may also have refreshment.

Especially every quarter when the law courts sit in London and they throng from all parts of England for the terms, to litigate in numerous matters which have occurred in the interim, for everything is saved up till that time; then there is a slaughtering and a hanging, and from all the prisons of which there are several scattered about the town where they ask alms of the passers by, and sometimes they collect so much by their begging that they can purchase their freedom people are taken and tried; when the trial is over, those condemned to the rope are placed on a cart, each one with a rope about his neck, and the hangman drives with them out of the town to the gallows, called Tyburn, almost an hour away from the city, there he fastens them up one after another by the rope and drives the cart off under the gallows which is not very high off the ground; then the criminal's friends come and draw them down by their feet, that they may die all the sooner. .

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