

## **Lost Hamlet?**

The idea that the “priceless manuscript” of Shakespeare’s original *Hamlet* was lost in the Globe theatre fire of 1613 (see Eric Villiers’s article “Boo!”, December 20, 2019) was one of the theatre historian W. J. Lawrence’s less well-supported speculations. Multiple contemporary accounts tell us that the fire started during an afternoon performance and although it was fierce there was time enough for the entire audience to evacuate and only the building was lost. It is hard to believe that in those circumstances no one from the theatre company thought to save the manuscript playbooks on which its future depended.

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