

Early Theatre

**2023 Prize for Best Note or Issues in Review Essay, Volumes 24-25
Honourable Mention**

Neil Younger
The Open University

‘New Light on Henry Lanman, Owner of the Curtain’
Early Theatre 25.1 (2022), 117–26
<https://doi.org/10.12745/et.25.1.4532>

Younger presents external evidence from the recorder of London in June 1584 of the attempt ‘for the suppressing and tearing downe of the Theatre and the Curtain’. This essay argues convincingly that while James Burbage acted publicly in hope that his master, Lord Hunsdon, would protect the theatres, a more influential factor in preventing their closure was the behind the scenes intervention of Christopher Hatton, a patron of Henry Lanman who enjoyed ‘near-daily encounters with the queen in private’. Younger’s article illuminates an important chapter of the politics of playing in Elizabeth’s England and provides fascinating evidence of the careful influencing of the queen’s decisions by her courtiers.