



Medieval English Theatre Society

Saturday 28 March 2026

Theatre in the Archives:
A *REED* Retrospective



University of Durham

Elvet Riverside 1, New Elvet, Durham DH1 3AQ.



9:00 Registration and Coffee

9:20 Welcome

9:30–11:00 **Panel 1: Reconsidering ‘Performance’ in the Archive**

Ben Parsons – ‘Mum’s the Word: E.K. Chambers, Horatia Eden and the Lutterworth St George Play’

Phil Butterworth – ‘The York Mercers’ “pottying stang”: Further Consideration of its Function’

Sarah Carpenter – “Is this a Drama Record?”: Sir David Lyndsay and Pursuing Traces of Performance’

11:00 Coffee

11:20–12:50 **Panel 2: ‘Celebrating’ Performance in the Archive**

James Cummings – ‘Re-examining the Records: The Bishop’s Lynn Christmas Play of 1444/45’

Daisy Black – ‘Apple, Spice, Wine, Ale: Mundane and Sacred Foods in Early Performance Cultures’

Mark Chambers – ‘50 Years of the *Records of Early English Drama*: The New, the Notable, the Necessary’

12:50 Introduction to the afternoon play – Mark Chambers and/or
Cecilia Istria-Dorland

13:00–14:00 Lunch

14:00–15:30 **Panel 3: Recontextualising Performance in the Archive**

Diana Wyatt – 'Contempt and disdayne' or Satirical Theatre? Alice Walker's Cross-dressing Turn in Driffeld Church, 1582, and its Status as a REED Record'

Isabelle Lepore-Thompson – 'The Lost Miracle Play: Contextualising the *Ludus de Sancta Katerina* (c.1110–1115)'

Patrick Durdell – 'The Group Theatre's *Fulgens and Lucrece*: Modern Archival Records and Practice-as-Research'

15:30 Break

16:00 Play performance of the York Skinners' 'The Entry Into Jerusalem' pageant, Scena Mundi Theatre Co., directed by Cecilia Istria-Dorland, St Oswald's Church, Church Street.

17:00–18:00 **METH business meeting, with wine**

Friday Evening Conference Dinner:

We will hold an informal conference dinner on Friday at attendees' own expense. This will take place in the '**Rabbit Hole**' restaurant on Hallgarth Street (Cantonese/ 'fusion' cuisine; menu available [here](#)). Please inform Mark in advance if you'd like to attend (mark.chambers@durham.ac.uk).



Prior Laurence of Durham (d. 1154), composer of the Durham *Peregrini* play (mid 12th cent.),
'The Works of Laurence of Durham', Durham UL Cosin MS. V.iii.1, f.22v