

COMMENT. According to the diary of the Reverend John Ward, ed. Charles Severn (London, 1839), Ward saw *The Alchymist* at this time. The Folger MS V.a.292, of Ward's journal, gives it as performed between 1 and 25 Sept. 1662. See *Shakespeare Quarterly*, XI (1960), 494, and XII (1961), 336. See also Dec. 1660. Friday 14
Vere

THE ALCHEMIST. [By Ben Jonson.] *Cast not known*, but see Dec. 1660 and 14 June 1661. Saturday 22
Vere
COMMENT. The King's Company. Pepys, *Diary*: To the Theatre, "The Alchymist," which is a most incomparable play.

BARTHOLOMEW FAIR. [By Ben Jonson.] *Cast not known*. Thursday 27
[Vere]
COMMENT. The King's Company. Pepys, *Diary*: With my Lady Batten, Mrs Rebecca Allen, Mrs Thompson, &c., two coaches of us, we went and saw "Bartholomew Fayre," acted very well.

[THE SIEGE OF RHODES, Part I. By Sir William Davenant.] Downes (*Roscius Anglicanus*, pp. 20-21, 34): Solyman - Betterton; Alphonso - Harris; Villerius - Lilliston; Admiral - Blagden; Roxolana - Mrs Davenport; Ianthe - Mrs Sanderson; Haly - Downes. Friday 28
LIF

COMMENT. The date of the first performance is not certainly known, but Pepys, on 2 July, saw Part II, stating that 2 July was the fourth day. If the parts were given alternately, 28 June probably represents the premiere of Part I and the opening of the Duke's Company's new theatre in Lincoln's Inn Fields.

Downes (*Roscius Anglicanus*, pp. 20-21): His [Davenant's] Company Rehears'd the First and Second Part of the *Siege of Rhodes* . . . at Potheccaries-Hall: And in Spring 1662 [1661], Open'd his House with the said Plays, having new Scenes and Decorations, being the first that e're were Introduc'd in England. . . . All Parts being Justly and Excellently Perform'd; it continu'd Acting 12 Days without Interruption with great Applause.

Downes, p. 34: I must not forget my self, being Listed for an Actor in Sir William Davenant's Company in Lincolns-Inn-Fields: The very first Day of opening the House there, with the Siege of Rhodes, being to Act Haly; (The King, Duke of York, and all the Nobility in the House, and the first time the King was in a Publick Theatre). The sight of that August presence, spoil'd me for an Actor too.

HMC, 10th Report, Appendix, Part IV, p. 21:

*For the Siege of Rhodes all say
It is an everlasting play
Though they wonder now Roxalana is gon
What shift it makes to bold out so long
For when the second part took, butt for Bully
The first did not satisfie so fully.*

[Presumably this verse was written after Mrs Davenport left the stage, in 1662(?).]

[THE SIEGE OF RHODES, Part II.] See 28 June. Saturday 29
LIF

July 1661

[THE SIEGE OF RHODES, Part I.] See 28 June. Monday 1
LIF
COMMENT. Elizabeth Bodvile, ca. July 1661: One Monday I was at the new aprer [opera] (Camden Society, 1878, XXII, 21). The Duke's Company.