

Two of the songs, with the music by Bannister, are in *Choice Ayres and Songs*, The Second Book, 1679. *The Songs in Circe*, published separately in 1677, bears a licensing date of 7 May 1677. The play was licensed 18 June 1677, and entered in the *Stationers' Register*, 19 June 1677.

Saturday 12
DG

COMMENT. L. C. 5/142, p. 38 (see also Nicoll, *Restoration Drama*, p. 355): Order to Mr Staggin, Master of his Majesty's Musick, and in his absence to Mr Lock, who officiates for him:—That all His Majesty's musitians doe attend to practise in the theatre at Whitehall at such tymes as Madam Le Roch and Mr Paisible shall appoint for y^e practicing of such musick as is to be in y^e French comedy to be acted before His Matie [the 29 May].

Tuesday 22
At Court

RARE EN TOUT. [By Madame de la Roche-Guilhen.] Edition of 1677: Prologue. No actors' names.

Tuesday 29
At Court

COMMENT. See 22 May 1677. John Verney to Edmund Verney, 31 May 1677: On Wednesday his Majesty's birth night was some gallantry at Whitehall, where was acted a French opera, but most pitifully done, so ill that the King was awearie on't, and some say it was not well contrived to entertain the English gentry, who came that night in honour to their King, with a lamentable ill-acted French play, when our English actors so much surpass; however, the dances and voices were pretty well performed (HMC, 7th Report, Appendix, Part I, 1879, p. 468).

A FOND HUSBAND; or, The Plotting Sisters. [By Thomas D'Urfey.] Edition of 1677: Rashley – Smith; Ranger – Harris; Peregrine Bubble – James Nokes; Old Fumble – Anth. Leigh; Sir Roger Petulant – Sandford; Sneak – Jevan; Spatterdash – Richards; Apothecary – Percival; Emillia – Mrs Barrer; Maria – Mrs Marshal; Cordelia – Mrs Hughes; Betty – Mrs Napper; Governess – Mrs Norrice. Prologue. Epilogue, Spoken by Fumble. Edition of 1678 adds: Jeremy – Richards.

Thursday 31
DG

COMMENT. The Duke's Company. This performance is on the L. C. list, 5/143, p. 162: At the Fond Husband. See also Nicoll, *Restoration Drama*, p. 349. Downes (*Roscius Anglicanus*, p. 36): [This comedy and Otway's *The Soldier's Fortune*] took extraordinary well, and being perfectly Acted; got the Company great Reputation and Profit.

One song, "Under the branches of a spreading tree," set by [William (?)] Turner, is in *Choice Ayres and Songs*, The Second Book, 1679. For Nokes and Leigh in this play, see Cibber, *Apology*, ed. Lowe, I, 149. According to *The Guardian*, 15 June 1713, Charles II attended three of the first five nights of this play.

June 1677

THE FRENCH CONJUROR. [By Thomas Porter.] Edition of 1678: Prologue. Avarito – Jevon; Claudio – Crosby; Dorido – Gillo; Horatio – Norris; Truro – Percival; Monsieur – Anthony Leigh; Audacio – Richards; Pedro – John Lee; Clorinia – Mrs Barry; Leonora – Mrs Hughes; Sabina – Mrs Norris; Scintilla – Mrs Leigh. The Epilogue.

DG

COMMENT. The Duke's Company. There is considerable uncertainty as to the date of production of this play. Because it was licensed for printing on 2 Aug. 1677, it was probably first acted not later than July 1677. Because some of the names in the cast represent younger actors, it has been thought to be a Lenten production (see Gray, "Lenten Casts," pp. 789–90). It seems, however, that the play, because of its reference to performances by the French comedians (the Epilogue refers to "de French Troop at toder end o'Town") and the offering of