

July 1680

- DL COMMENT. The King's Company acted at Oxford during this month. See Sybil Rosenfeld, "Some Notes on the Players in Oxford, 1661-1713," *Review of English Studies*, XIX (1943), 369-70.
- Friday 30 DL COMMENT. A new agreement, intended to improve affairs in the King's Company, was signed this day. See Hotson, *Commonwealth and Restoration Stage*, pp. 264-65.

August 1680

- BF THE CORONATION OF QUEEN ELIZABETH: With the Restauration of the Protestant Religion; or, The Downfall of the Pope. [The author is not known.] Edition of 1680: As it was Acted, Both at Bartholomew and Southwark Fairs, This present Year 1680. With great Applause. No actors' names. Epilogue.
- COMMENT. A poem, "Bartholomew-Fayr," is in *A Choice Compendium; or, An Exact Collection of the Newest, and most Delightful Songs* (entered in the *Term Catalogues*, February 1680/1); it refers to some of the activities at the Fair:
- Here's that will Challenge all the Fayr,
Come buy my Nuts, Damzens, my Burgamy Pears;
Here's the Whore of Babylon, the Devil and the Pope,
The Girl is just a going on the Rope:
Here's Dives and Lazarus, and the Worlds Creation,
Here's the Tall Dutch Woman, the like's not i'th Nation.
Here is the Booth where the High-Dutch Maid is,
Here are Bares that Dance like any Ladies.
Tat, tat, tat, tat, says the little Penny Trumpet.
Here's Jacob Hall that does Jump it, Jump it.
Sound Trumpets, sound, for Silver Spoon and Fork,
Come here's your Dainty Pigg and Pork.*
- Tuesday 31 BF ENTERTAINMENTS. *The Diary of Robert Hooke*: At Barthemy fair saw fellow walk on Stilts 12 foot high.
- COMMENT. John Perin paid £1 10s. for a booth at the Fair in 1680. See Rosenfeld, *Theatre of the London Fairs*, p. 6.

September 1680

- SF THE CORONATION OF QUEEN ELIZABETH. See Aug. 1680, BF.

Sheppey; Marmaduke Watson; Mrs Sarah Cook; Mrs Mary Corbett; Mrs Anne Quin.

The Duke's Company: Thomas Betterton; John Bowman; John Downes (prompter); John Freeman; Thomas Gillow; Henry Harris; Thomas Jevon; Anthony Leigh; Mr Leitherfull; James Nokes; Henry (?) Norris; Thomas Percival; John Richards; William Smith; Cave Underhill; David Williams; Joseph Williams; John Wiltshire; Mrs Elizabeth Barry; Mrs Mary Betterton; Mrs Crofts; Mrs Elizabeth Curren; Mrs Elinor Leigh; Mrs Norris; Mrs Anne Gibbs Shadwell; Lady Slingsby [Mrs Mary Lee].

In addition to those plays listed in the daily Calendar, others, by virtue of composition, publication, or performance not more precisely dated, pertain to this season.

The Ambitious Statesman. By John Crowne. A second edition in 1681 may represent a revival in the 1680-81 season.

The Indian Emperour. By John Dryden. Reprinted in 1681, this play may have been revived at this time.

The Old Troop; or, Monsieur Raggou. By John Lacy. Reprinted in 1681, this play may have been revived at this time. It is also referred to in *Poeta de Tristibus; or, The Poet's Complaint* (entered in *Term Catalogues*, November 1681; published in 1682). The author refers to the *Epilogue to Monsieur Ragooe*.

Otbello, Moor of Venice. By William Shakespeare. Reprinted in 1681, this play may have been revived at this time. The cast in this edition has previously been assigned to a performance on 25 Jan. 1674/5.

The Plain Dealer. By William Wycherley. Reprinted in 1681, The Third Edition, this play may have been revived at this time.

Sophonisba; or, Hannibal's Overthrow. By Nathaniel Lee. This play, reprinted in 1681, may have had a revival at this time. In addition, the edition of 1681 has: *The Prologue to the University of Oxford, Written by J. Dryden, Esquire, and Epilogue Spoken to Sophonisba at its Playing at Oxford*. It is not certain when the play was acted at Oxford.

September 1680

DG THE PRINCESS OF CLEVE. [By Nathaniel Lee.] Edition of 1689: The Prologue. Prince of Cleve – Williams; Duke Nemours – Betterton; St. Andre – Lee; Vidam of Chartres – Gillo; Poltrot – Nokes; Princess of Cleve – Mrs Barry; Tournon – Mrs Lee [Elinor Leigh]; Marguerite – Lady Slingsby; Elianor – Mrs Betterton. The Epilogue.

COMMENT. The Duke's Company. As the play was not printed until 1689, the date of composition is uncertain. In Act I, however, a reference to the death of the Earl of Rochester (26 July 1680) suggests that the play probably followed that event rather closely. On the other hand, the latest likely date for the first production seems set at late 1682 by the fact that Thomas Farmer's music for the play in BM Add. Mss. 19183-19185 is dated December 1682. The play has been placed in September 1680 as the earliest likely date (the presence of an experienced cast makes somewhat unlikely a production in mid-summer 1680). A song, "All other blessings are but toys," with music by Thomas Farmer, is in *Choice Ayres and Songs, The Fourth Book*, 1683. A song, "Lovely Selina, innocent and free," with music by John Blow, is in the same collection; and another, "Weep all ye nymphs," with music by John Blow, is in *The Theater of Music, The First Book*, 1685. DG

FATAL LOVE; or, The Forc'd Inconstancy. [By Elkanah Settle.] Edition of 1680: Prologue Written by a Friend. No actors' names. Epilogue, Spoken by Lysandra, in the Habit of a Nun. DL

COMMENT. The King's Company. The date of the first production is not known, but as the play was entered in the *Term Catalogues* in November 1680, it was probably first acted in September or October 1680. The Dedication refers to the ineffectiveness of the company at this time.

Dedication, Edition of 1680: A Play so worthless, and so Unfortunate. Nay, to sum up all its Misfortunes, it does not only owe so little to the Composers Hand, but breath'd too in a Season, when Poetry even with its softest and more Curious Aires, to the Ears of this untunable Age, sounds but harsh and unpleasant: nay, and what's yet worst of all, perform'd by the feeble Fragment of a Company.—'Tis true, the Theatre Royal was once all Harmony. . . . But when this hapless Play came forth, its sweetest Pipes were stopt; [Praise of Hart]. But, Alas, the very best of Plays now find but a cold Reception.

THEODOSIUS; or, The Force of Love. [By Nathaniel Lee.] Edition of 1680: Prologue. Theodosius – Williams; Varanes – Betterton; Marcian – Smith; Lucius – Wiltshire; Atticus – Bowman; Leontine – Leitherfull; Pulcheria – Mrs Betterton; Athenais – Mrs Barry. Epilogue. DG

COMMENT. The Duke's Company. The date of the first production is not known, but the entry of this play in the *Term Catalogues* for November 1680 suggests a first offering in September or October 1680. The music for the play was composed by Henry Purcell, his first (according to Downes) composing for the stage.

Downes (*Roscius Anglicanus*, p. 38) gives a shortened cast and adds: All the Parts in't being perfectly perform'd, with several Entertainments of Singing; Compos'd by the Famous Master Mr Henry Purcell, (being the first he e'er Compos'd for the Stage) made it a living and Gainful Play to the Company: The Court; especially the Ladies, by their daily charming presence, gave it great Encouragement.

Dedication, Edition of 1680: The Reputation that this Play received on the Stage, some few Errors excepted, was more than I could well hope from so Censorious an Age. . . . You [the Duchess of Richmond] brought her Royal Highness just at the exigent Time, whose single Presence on the Poet's day is a Subsistence for him all the Years after.

A song, "Hail to the myrtle shade," is in *Choice Ayres and Songs, The Third Book* (dated 2 Nov. 1680).

CONCERT. Evelyn, *Diary*: Came to my house some German strangers, & Signor Pietro [Reggio] a famous Musitian, who had ben long in Sweden in Queene Christinas Court: he sung admirably to a Guittar & has a perfect good tenor & base &c: & had set to Italian composure, many of Abraham Cowleys Pieces which shew'd extremely well. *Thursday 23*
Evelyn