

not be a very easy Matter for the next Poet that writes a Play, to Out-hat and Out-muff his Predecessors, and consequently to Out-wit him? DL

Downes, *Roscius Anglicanus*, p. 42: Mr Dogget perform'd the part of Solon Inimitably. *Gentleman's Journal*, p. 454, February 1691/2 (licensed 12 Feb. 1691/2): I send you the Marriage-hater match'd, a new Comedy by Mr Durfey; it hath met with very good success, having been plaid six days together, and is a diverting Play.

Gentleman's Journal, January 1691/2: Now I speak of Music I must tell you that we shall have speedily a new Opera, wherein something very surprising is promised us; Mr Purcel who joyns to the Delicacy and Beauty of the Italian way, the Graces and Gayety of the French, composes the Music, as he hath done for the *Propbetess*, and the last Opera called *King Arthur*, which hath been plaid several times the last Month [presumably December 1691].

COMMENT. A prologue entitled *Haynes His Reformation Prologue, Spoke in Black* (beginning "Thus Cloath'd with shame, which is one step to Grace") was printed in 1692. Luttrell's date of acquisition is dated 2 Jan. 1691/2. This copy is in the possession of Mr. Louis Silver of Wilmette, Illinois, who has graciously permitted me to list it and the date. Saturday 2 [DL or DG]

KING ARTHUR. [By John Dryden.] See May 1691. Thursday 7

COMMENT. The United Company. This performance is on the L. C. list, 5/151, p. 369: y^e Q a Box & a Box for y^e Maids Honr K Arthur. See also Nicoll, *Restoration Drama*, p. 352. Luttrell, *A Brief Relation*, II, 331: The queen and queen dowager went this evening to the play of Mr Drydens opera. [See also the reference to this play under January 1691/2 above.] DG

COMMENT. Thomas Shadwell to Earl of Dorset, 19 Jan. 1691/2 (summary): Asks that he will order 'The Innocent Impostors' to be the next new play to be acted. He would have had it acted in Roman Habits and then, with a mantle to have covered her hips, [if] Mrs Barry would have acted the part; but Thomas Davenant has with a great slight turned him off, and says he will trouble himself no more about the Play. Asks Dorset to favour the author and him. Complains of priority being given to Durfey's play and a play by Dryden (HMC, 4th Report, Appendix [1874], pp. 280-81). Tuesday 19

Saturday 30

A FAST DAY FOR THE MARTYRDOM OF CHARLES I

February 1692

THE RAPE; or, The Innocent Impostors. [By Nicholas Brady.] Edition of 1692: DL
Prologue Spoke by Mr Betterton. Epilogue, By Mr Shadwell, Spoken by Mrs Bracegirdle. Gunderic - Betterton; Genselaric - Williams; Briomer - Hodgson; Albimer - Zibber; Rodoric - Freeman; Almeric - Harris; Agilmond - Mrs Butler; Valdaura - Mic. Lee; Amalazontha - Mrs Betterton; Rhadegonda - Mrs Lee; Eurione - Mrs Bracegirdle; Merinda - Mrs Richardson.

COMMENT. The United Company. The date of the first performance is not known, but the *Gentleman's Journal*, March 1692 (licensed 9 March 1691/2), refers to its having already been produced. See also a letter concerning it dated 19 Jan. 1691/2. Probably the play was given in early February 1692. A song, "How long must women wish in vain," the music by Robert King, is in *Comes Amoris*, The Fourth Book, 1693.

- DL *Gentleman's Journal*, March 1692: We have had lately a new Play, called, *The Innocent Impostors*. It hath been acted four times. Mr Shadwell Poet-Laureat, usher'd it into the Stage. It is said that the Author of it is not one of the Laity; therefore since he desires not to be known, I shall not presume to let you know his Name, tho the Play being Historical, and altogether of the Tragick kind, and withal treated with all the decency imaginable, can never be inglorious to its ingenious Author.
- Tuesday 9
DL THE ORPHAN. [By Thomas Otway.] Cibber probably played the role of the Chaplain.
COMMENT. The United Company. This performance is on the L. C. list, 5/151, p. 369: y^e Q a Box & a Box for y^e Maids Honr Orphan. See also Nicoll, *Restoration Drama*, p. 352. Cibber, *Apology*, I, 183: There is in this Character [Chaplain] (of one Scene only) a decent Plesantry, and Sense enough to shew an Audience whether the Actor has any himself. Here was the first Applause I ever receiv'd, which you may be sure, made my Heart leap with a higher Joy than may be necessary to describe.
- Saturday 12 COMMENT. *Gentleman's Journal*, February 1691/2 (licensed 12 Feb. 1691/2): Mr Dryden has compleated a new Tragedy, intended shortly for the Stage, wherein he hath done a great unfortunate Spartan no less justice than Roman Anthony met with in his *All for Love*. You who give Plutarch a daily reading, can never forget with what magninimity (under all his tedious misfortunes) Cleomenes behaved himself, in the Aegyptian Court. This Hero, and the last Scene of his Life, has our best Tragic Poet chose for his fruitful Subject. . . . Mr Dryden makes his Spartans, in this, speak as manly heroic Lacedaemonians, those more than Romans ought to speak, and since I am certain of your assent, at least, to my faith, I shall be bold to add, That tho I cannot but grant that Cleomenes alone could be author of his own glorious performances, yet I am most confident that their intire lustre will be fully maintained by Dryden's lively description, and Mr Betterton's natural imitation.

March 1692

- DL THE TRAYTOR. [By Anthony Rivers.] Edition of 1692: Duke of Florence – Hodgson; Lorenzo – Kynaston; Sciarrha – Williams; Pisano – Cibber; Cosmo – Harris; Florio – Alexander [Verbruggen]; Depazzi – Haynes; Frederico – Mich. Lee; Alonzo – Bright; Petruchio – Freeman; Rogero – Tommy Kent; Amidea – Mrs Bracegirdle; Oriana – Mrs Lassells; Morossa – Mrs Cory.
COMMENT. The United Company. The date of the first performance is not known, but the play was noticed in the *Gentleman's Journal*, April 1692 (licensed 13 April 1692) as having been acted “last month” (March). It was entered in the *Term Catalogues*, May 1692.
Gentleman's Journal, April 1692 (licensed 13 April 1692): The Traytor, an old Tragedy, hath not only been revived the last Month, but also been reprinted with Alterations and Amendments; It was suppos'd to be Shirly's, but he only usher'd it in to the Stage; the Author of it was one Mr Rivers a Jesuite, who wrote it in his Confinement in Newgate, where he died. It hath always been esteemed a very good Play, by the best Judges of Dramatick Writing.
- Thursday 3
DL COMMENT. An order to pay Mrs Barry £25 for *The Orphan* (L. C. 5/151, p. 30; Nicoll, *Restoration Drama*, p. 358) probably represents payment for the performance on 9 Feb. 1691/2.