

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 *Prophetess*, 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.

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.] Thursday 7 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: 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. DL

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.