

February 1698

THE FATAL DISCOVERY; or, Love in Ruines. *Author not known.* Edition of 1698: Prologue spoke by Mr Powell in answer to a scurrilous one, spoke against him, at Betterton's Booth in Little-Lincolns-Inn-Fields. Epilogue. Cornaro – Powell; Segerdo – Evans; Conall – Thomas; Gabinius – Harland; Dandalo – Johnson; Beringaria – Mrs Knight; Arapsia – Mrs Powell; Margaretta – Mrs Verbruggen; Eromena – Mrs Cross; Cleonista – Mrs Temple.

COMMENT. Rich's Company. The date of the première is not known, but the fact that the play was advertised in the *Post Man*, 3-5 March 1697/8, suggests that the first performance occurred probably not later than early February 1697/8. The Preface is signed by George Powell, who refers to the author of the play as unknown. In addition, Powell mentions that his company has recently revived some of Dryden's plays: *Don Sebastian*, *Secret Love*; or, *The Maiden Queen*, *Marriage a la Mode*, *King Arthur*, and adds: In relation to our reviving his *Almanzor* . . . very hard crutching up what Hart and Mohun . . . could not prop.

THE SPANISH FRYAR; or, The Double Discovery. [By John Dryden.] *Cast not known.* Wednesday 2 IT

COMMENT. Betterton's Company. The fee of £20 was paid to John Miles, an officer of Betterton's Company. See *Calendar of the Inner Temple Records*, III, 342.

KING ARTHUR; or, The British Worthy. [By John Dryden.] *Cast not known.* Monday 7 DG

COMMENT. Rich's Company. Lady Morley attended this performance. Hotson, *Commonwealth and Restoration Stage*, p. 377: Lady Morley and two in the Box att King Arthur 18r. [In *The Female Wits*—see September 1696—in Act I is a reference to the enlivening of *King Arthur* created by the "Pudding and Dumbling Song."]

CONCERT. Thursday 10 YB

COMMENT. *Post Man*, No. 423, 8-10 Feb. 1697/8: This Evening, at the desire of a person of Honour will be performed in the Musick Room in York Buildings, a Song, made in praise of the Czar of Muscovy, with variety of Vocal and Instrumental Musick, beginning at the usual time.

COMMENT. On this date the Czar of Muscovy attended an opera, but the title is not given. Lady Newton, *Lyme Letters, 1660-1760*, p. 209: On Saturday last the Czar of Muscovy, attended by the Marquis of Carmarthen, and some of his Bayers, was at the King's Playhouse in Drury Lane, and saw 3 acts of the Opera. Luttrell, *A Brief Relation*, IV, 343, 12 Feb. 1697/8: This evening the czar was at the playhouse in Drury Lane to see an opera. Saturday 12 DL

COMMENT. James Brydges, *Diary*: I went to him [Brydges' father] setting my Uncle Lake down at ye playhouse (Huntington MS St 26). Tuesday 15 [DL or LIF]

CONCERT. Wednesday 16 YB

COMMENT. *London Gazette*, No. 3366, 10-14 Feb. 1697/8: An Entertainment of New Musick composed on the Peace by Mr Van Richardson, Organist of Winchester Cathedral, will be performed on Wednesday next, at 8 at night, in York Buildings, being the 16th Instant. Luttrell, *A Brief Relation*, IV, 343, 12 Feb. 1697/8: The czar . . . on Wensday will be at a performance of musick in York Buildings.