

Wednesday 20  
DL

Dedication, Edition of 1690: The Play had not that Success which it deserv'd. . . . The main fault ought to lye on those who had the management of it. Had our Authour been alive she would have Committed it to the Flames rather than suffer'd it to have been Acted with such Omissions as was made. . . . And Lastly, many of the Parts being false Cast, and given to those whose Tallants and Genius's suited not our Authors Intention.

Thursday 28  
[DL or DG]

[THE COMMITTEE. By Sir Robert Howard.] *Cast not known.*

COMMENT. The United Company. A somewhat puzzling entry in the Reverend Robert Kirk's description of London in 1689 implies a performance of *The Committee* undertaken but not completed: At a play in Whitehall King Charles, his tragedy-comedy, when the actors were come to that part of seducing King Charles II, some Williamites in the pit below hissed at it (as if the play had meant the like of King James in Ireland). At this there sprang such huzzas and holloes above applauding that part of the play, that it was in a confusion, and they durst pursue it no further, lest the two parties made violence one upon another. Two or three noblemen were remarked to be forward in the acclamations of joy, and therefore are looked on as Jacobites. The play's name is *The Committee*, November 28, 1689 (*Transactions of the London and Middlesex Archeological Society*, New Series, VI, 655).

## December 1689

Chelsea

DIDO AND AENEAS. [The verse by Nahum Tate; the music by Henry Purcell.] Performed by the Gentlemen of Josias Priest's Boarding School in Chelsea. Prologue, Spoken by the Lady Dorothy Buck.

COMMENT. The date of this amateur performance is not known, but the date generally accepted is December 1689. See Alfred Loewenberg, *The Annals of Opera*, Second Edition, Columns 85-86; and R. E. Moore, *Henry Purcell and the Restoration Theatre* (Cambridge, Mass., 1961), pp. 38-69. The Epilogue is in *New Poems* (1690).

Wednesday 4  
DL

DON SEBASTIAN. [By John Dryden.] Edition of 1690: Prologue, Sent to the Author by an Unknown Hand, and Proposed to be Spoken by Mrs Mountfort, Dressed like an Officer. Prologue, Spoken by a Woman. Don Sebastian - Williams; Muley Moluch - Kynaston; Dorax - Betterton; Benducar - Sandford; Mufti - Underhill; Muley Zeydan - Powell Jr; Don Antonio - Betterton [an error; corrected in 1692 edition to Mountfort]; Don Alvarez - Bowman; Mustapha - Leigh; Almeyda - Mrs Barry; Morayma - Mrs Montfort; Johayma - Mrs Leigh. Epilogue, Spoken betwixt Antonio and Morayma.

COMMENT. The United Company. This performance is on the L. C. list, 5/149, p. 368: The Queene a Box, and a Box for the Maids Honor at Don Sebastian King of Portugal. See also Nicoll, *Restoration Drama*, p. 352. There is no certainty that this is the first performance. The play was entered in the *Stationers' Register*, 15 Dec. 1689. See also Charles E. Ward, *The Life of John Dryden* (Chapel Hill, N. C., 1961), pp. 242-46.

Preface, Edition of 1690: I am . . . to acknowledge, with all manner of gratitude, their civility; who were pleas'd to endure it with so much patience. . . . Above twelve hundred lines have been cut off from this tragedy since it was first deliver'd to the actors. They were indeed so judiciously lopt by Mr Betterton, to whose care and excellent action I am equally oblig'd, that the connexion of the story was not lost.