

certainly which was the Wild Gallant. The King did not seem pleased at all, all the whole play, nor any body else, though Mr Clerke whom we met here did commend it to us. . . . Now as my mind was but very ill satisfied with these two plays themselves, so was I in the midst of them sad to think of the spending so much money and venturing upon the breach of my vow, which I found myself sorry for, I bless God, though my nature would well be contented to follow the pleasure still. But I did make payment of my forfeiture presently, though I hope to save it back again by forbearing two plays at Court for this one at the Theatre, or else to forbear that to the Theatre which I am to have at Easter. But it being my birthday and my day of liberty regained to me, and lastly, the last play that is likely to be acted at Court before Easter, because of the Lent coming in, I was the easier content to fling away so much money.

Monday 23
At Court

March 1663

COMMENT. In the Prologue to *The Cheats* (mid-March 1663) are allusions to three plays which apparently were popular on the stage at this time: Jonson's *The Silent Woman* ("Sir Poll"); Jonson's *The Devil is an Ass* ("No little Pugge, nor Devil"); and Davenant's *The Siege of Rhodes* ("No tedious Sieges in the Musick-room").

Wednesday 4
ASH WEDNESDAY

HAMLET, PRINCE OF DENMARK. [By William Shakespeare.] *Cast not known.*
COMMENT. This play was seen by Jacques Thierry and Will Schellinks (Seaton, *Literary Relationships*, pp. 334, 336), but no theatre is named. The most recent dated performance was given by the Duke's Company, 5 Dec. 1661.

Monday 9
[IIF]

COMMENT. Jacques Thierry and Will Schellinks saw a ballet somewhere in London (Seaton, *Literary Relationships*, pp. 334, 336).

Monday 16

THE CHEATS. [By John Wilson.] Cast in MS (Library of Worcester College, Oxford): Bilboe – Shottrell; Titere Tu – Clunn; Dilligence – Loueday; Mrs Dilligence – Mrs Marshall; Jolly – Hart; Afterwit – Burt; Mrs Margt [Hughes, in edition, edited by Nahm, p. 145] or [Rutter, in J. H. Wilson, *All the King's Ladies*, p. 185]. There is a Prologue, but no actors' name in edition of 1664. Edition of 1693 adds: Whitebroth – Cartwright; Runter – Wintersal; Scruple – Lacy; Mopus – Mohun; Mrs Whitebroth – Mrs Covey [Corey].

Mid-March
Vere

COMMENT. For an account of the play, see *John Wilson's The Cheats*, ed. Milton C. Nahm (Oxford, 1935). It was licensed on 6 March (p. 124), acted, then forbade on 22 March in an order: Letter to Mr Tho. Killigrew: Signifying the Ks Pleasure that the New Play called the Cheates be no more represented till it be reuiewed by Sir Jo. Denham & Mr Waller. 22 March. 1662-3 (p. 130). Abraham Hill to John Brooke, 28 March 1663: P.S. The new play, called *The Cheats*, has been attempted on the Stage; but it is so scandalous, that it is forbidden (*Familiar Letters* [of] *Abraham Hill*, [London, 1717], p. 103).

Downes (*Roscius Anglicanus*, p. 16) concerning Lacy:

*For bis just Acting, all gave bim due Praise,
His Part in the Cheats, Jony Thump, Teg and Bayes,
In these Four Excelling, The Court gave bim the Bays.*