



SEASON OF 1665-1666

THE CONTINUANCE of the plague drastically curtailed all forms of entertainment in London during 1665-66. The theatres remained closed. There was no Lord Mayor's Day pageant. Although Pepys attended some exhibitions of puppetry in the late summer of 1666, the authorities forbade the holding of Bartholomew Fair and Southwark Fair.

One play which was published at this time apparently was not acted: *St. Cecily; or, The Converted Twins*. The title page states: Written by E. M. [The dedication is signed by Matthew Medbourne.] Licensed on 11 June 1666, the play was published in 1666. The edition of 1666 has no prologue, no epilogue, no actors' names.

March 1666

COMMENT. Pepys, *Diary*: After dinner we walked to the King's play-house, all in dirt, they being altering of the stage to make it wider. But God knows when they will begin to act again; but my business here was to see the inside of the stage and all the tiring-rooms and machines; and, indeed, it was a sight worthy seeing. But to see their clothes, and the various sorts, and what a mixture of things there was; here a wooden-leg, there a ruff, here a hobby-horse, there a crown, would make a man split himself to see with laughing; and particularly Lacy's wardrobe, and Shotrell's. But then again, to think how fine they show on the stage by candlelight, and how poor things they are to look now too near hand, is not pleasant at all. The machines are fine, and the paintings very pretty.

Monday 19
Bridges