

Gentleman's Journal, May 1692: The Opera of which I have spoke to you in my former hath at last appear'd, and continues to be represented daily: it is call'd, *The Fairy Queen*. The Drama is originally Shakespears, the Music and Decorations are extraordinary. I have heard the Dances commended, and without doubt the whole is very entertaining. [As the May issue of the *Gentleman's Journal* was licensed on 14 May, the statement that *The Fairy Queen* continued to be acted daily may indicate consecutive performances from 2 May to at least 14 May 1692.]

Monday 2
DG

COMMENT. *Gentleman's Journal*, May 1692 (licensed 14 May): We are promised Mr Crown's *Regulus*, before the Long Vacation; As also a Comedy by Mr Shadwell, whose Genius for that sort of Poetry, is sufficiently known to the Ingenious.

Saturday 14

June 1692

REGULUS. [By John Crowne.] Edition of 1694: Regulus – Betterton; Metellus – Kynaston; Fulvia – Mrs Barry; Asdrubal – Mountford; Gisgon – Leigh; Hiarbas – Underhill; Batto – Dogget; Hamilcar – Sandford; Xantippus – Williams. Prologue. Epilogue spoken by her that acts Elisa's part [Mrs Bracegirdle].

Early June
DL

COMMENT. The United Company. The date of the first performance is not precisely known, but it was certainly before 17 June 1692, as the *Gentleman's Journal*, June 1692 (licensed 17 June) states: *Regulus*, with the Factions of Carthage, by Mr Crown, was acted the last week; that Tragedy is intermixed with a vein of Comedy. You have seen his Works in both. Terence tells us, *Dubiam fortunam esse scenicam*; and if that great Author had occasion to complain, those of our Age may well comfort themselves if the Town deceives their expectation.

A song, "Ah me! to many deaths decreed," the music by Henry Purcell, and set by Mrs Ayliff, is in Purcell's *Works*, Purcell Society, XXI (1917), vii. But see 24 Aug. 1692.

THE FAIRY QUEEN. See 2 May 1692.

Monday 13

COMMENT. The United Company. Newdigate newsletters, 11 June 1692: And on Monday [the Princess Anne] comes to see the new opera (Wilson, "More Theatre Notes from the Newdigate Newsletters," p. 59).

DG

Wednesday 15
A FAST DAY

July 1692

COMMENT. BM Add. Mss. 34096, folio 63r 64v, Whitehall, 15 July 1692: The Prince and Princess of Danemarke . . . yesterday . . . tooke barge to goe to y^e Play House. [See Benjamin Bathurst, *Letters of Two Queens* (London, 1924), p. 225, for a letter by Princess Anne ordering boats to take her to the theatre.]

Thursday 14
[DL or DG]

COMMENT. *Gentleman's Journal*, July 1692 (licensed 20 July 1692): We have had no new Play since *Regulus*, and 'tis very likely that we shall have none till the next Term.

Wednesday 20
[DL or DG]