

June 1699

- Thursday 29* THE JOVIAL CREW. [By Richard Brome.] *Cast not known.*
DL COMMENT. Rich's Company. Lady Morley attended this performance: Lady Morley and two in the Box att the Joviall Crew. See Hotson, *Commonwealth and Restoration Stage*, p. 377.

August 1699

- Wednesday 23* ENTERTAINMENTS.
BF COMMENT. *Post Boy*, 24-26 Aug. 1699: On Wednesday the Lord Mayor proclaimed the opening of Bartholomew Fair.
- Wednesday 23* FRYAR BACON; or, The Country Justice: With the Humours of Tolfree the Miller, and his Son Ralph. A playbill: At Parker's and Doggett's Booth near Hosier-Lane End, in Smithfield, during the Time of Bartholomew-Fair, will be presented a New Droll, called, Fryar Bacon: or, The Country Justice: With the Humours of Tolfree the Miller, and his Son Ralph, Acted by Mr Doggett. With Variety of Scenes, Machines, Songs and Dances. Vivat Rex. (See William Van Lennep, "Some Early English Playbills," *Harvard Library Bulletin*, VIII (1954), opposite page 237.) The *London Spy*, August 1699, describes a visit to Bartholomew Fair, including an account of Doggett's droll and another, "Dwarf Comedy, Sir-nam'd a Droll" called *The Devil of a Wife*.
BF In the *Post Man*, 15-17 Aug. 1699, is an advance notice of rope dancing and a booth run by Barnes and Appleby between the Crown Tavern and the Hospital Gate, next to Miller's Droll Booth.
- Wednesday 30* COMMENT. Tom Brown, writing to George Moulton, 30 Aug. 1699: As I have observ'd to you, this noble Fair is quite another thing than what it was in the last Age; it not only deals in the humble stories of *Crispin and Crispianus*, *Wbittington's Cat*, *Bateman's Ghost*, with the merry Conceits of the Little Pickle-herring; but it produces Opera's of its own Growth, and is become a formidable Rival to both the Theatres. It beholds Gods descending from Machines, who express themselves in a language suitable to their dignity; it trafficks in Heroes; it raises Ghosts and Apparitions; it has represented the Trojan Horse, the Workmanship of the divine Epeus; it has seen St. George encounter the Dragon, and overcome him; In short, for Thunder and Lightning, for Songs and Dances, for sublime Fustian and magnificent Nonsense, it comes not short of Drury-Lane or Lincolns-Inn-Fields (in Thomas Brown, *Works*, 4th edition, 1715, I, 212-13). [For a colorful account of Bartholomew Fair at the turn of the century, see *The London Spy Compleat*, 1703, Parts X and XI, particularly pages 228-58.]
BF