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P. LIGHTFOOT SCULPT

THE NINE WORTHIES.

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Hillingford, Robert. *The Nine Worthies* [act V, scene 1]. Peter Lightfoot, printmaker. London: Virtue & Co., nineteenth century. Folger ART File S52811 no.50 copy 1 (size S)

In Act 5, Holofernes suggests that the young men present the entertainment of The Nine Worthies to the ladies: "Sir, you shall present before her the Nine Worthies. ... I say, none so fit [as the present company] to present the Nine Worthies" (5.1.117 - 123). The Nine Worthies are nine idealized individuals popular in the medieval period as exemplars for ideal behavior. They include three Christians (King Arthur, Charlemagne, and Godfrey of Bouillon), three Jews (Joshua, David, and Judas Maccabeus), and three pagans (Hector, Alexander the Great, and Julius Caesar). Biographies of the nine were popular topics for stories and plays, and the pattern of nine exemplary lives was borrowed by many works, both serious and satirical.

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