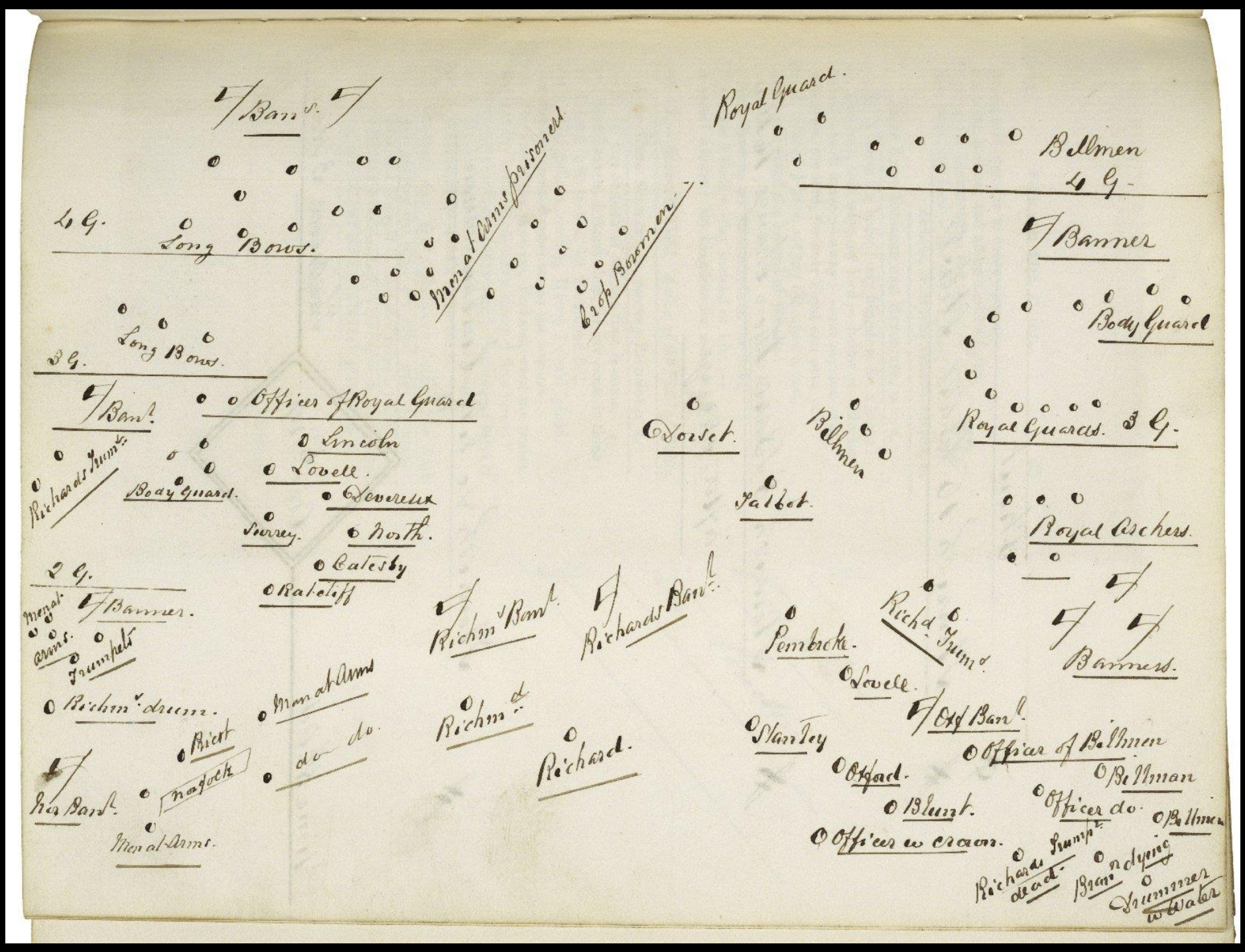

Cibber, Colley, and William Shakespeare. *King Richard the Third. A tragedy ... Adapted by Colley Cibber*. London, n.d. Folger PROMPT Rich.III 10

During the English Civil War and Interregnum (1642-1660), London's theatres were closed. They reopened after the Restoration of King Charles II in 1660. Performances of Shakespeare's plays in the rejuvenated world of London theatre bore little resemblance to the original scripts. The plays were reworked to appeal to contemporary tastes; some were cut to place more attention on main characters, while others adjusted to depict more "poetic justice" and other literary ideals. Colley Cibber was one of the playwrights and theatre managers who became deeply involved in such revisions. His 1699 adaptation of *King Richard III* retained only a quarter of Shakespeare's lines, incorporated lines from seven other Shakespeare plays, and increased the narrative focus on the Duke of Gloucester, whom Cibber portrayed in the production. Cibber's lively and engaging adaptation made his text the standard stage version of *King Richard III* through the early twentieth century.

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