



Pub. by Tegg, Thomas, 49, Abchurch Lane, London.
NEW READING — or — SHAKSPEARE IMPROVED. Humbly Dedicated to the Keen Critic of Drury Lane, by a poor Author.

Williams, artist. *New reading--or--Shakspeare [sic] improved, humbly dedicated to the Keen critic of Drury Lane by a poor Author.* London: Tegg, Thomas, publisher, [1819]. Folger ART File K24.4 no.85 (size M)

In the early nineteenth century, bicycles were known colloquially as "hobby-horses," after the children's toy, providing a useful crux for a caricature of Georgian actor Edmund Kean as Richard III. Playing on Richard's cries in Act 5, Scene 4, lines 11-13, the caricatured king cries out for a "hobby," which an underling obligingly wheels to his liege. (Berto, Frank J. "Bicycle." *Encyclopedia Britannica*. Encyclopedia Britannica, Inc., 2017.

<https://www.britannica.com/technology/bicycle>

From an original in the [Folger Shakespeare Library](#)
Licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 4.0 International License](#) (CC BY-SA 4.0)