

Birrell, A., printmaker. Castle at Rouen, The First Part of King Henry VI, act 3, scene II. London: E. Harding, 1790. Folger ART File R852.2 no.2 (size XS)

The first part of Shakespeare's Henry VI cycle builds up to the English dynastic conflict of the Wars of the Roses by tracing the final years of the Hundred Years' War. Between 1337 and 1453, this war intermittently occupied France and England in intense battle over which royal house maintained the right to rule French lands. The First Part of King Henry VI depicts the twilight years of that war. In the play, Rouen, known as Roan, is the site of Lord Talbot's last important victory as Constable of France before his death at the end of the play.