

Leandro	5 th Duke of Gloster	James, monarch.
Octavio	5 th Duke of Suffolke	John, Duke.
Barbolar	5 th Duke of Devon	Henry.
Jamy	Robt. Haryngton	Henry, X.
Henricus	Edw. Dering	Henry.
Lopiz	Thos. Dering	Henry.
Drigo	Edw. Dering	Henry.
Agricola	Edw. Dering	Henry.

1035 SHAKESPEARE.—PLAY OF KING HENRY THE FOURTH.
2 parts condensed into 1.

A CONTEMPORARY AND UNIQUE MANUSCRIPT, BEING THE ONLY ONE KNOWN TO EXIST OF ANY OF THE PRODUCTIONS BY THE "SWEET BARD OF AVON."

It is presumed to be in the Autograph of Sir Edward Dering, of Surrenden, in the County of Kent, who died in 1644, and is supposed to have been transcribed from some other MS. (as no printed copy is known to contain the various corrections and alterations therein) for the purposes of private representation, it being well known that Theatricals formed a portion of the amusements in vogue at that Baronet's country seat during the early portion of the reign of King James I.

* THIS PRECIOUS MANUSCRIPT was discovered by the Rev. Mr. Leclau, of Byssah, among the Charters and Papers of the present Baronet, at Surrenden, in 1844. It has passed under the review of J. O. Halliwell, Esq., and other distinguished members of the Shakespeare Society, all of whom decide that the handwriting is clearly of the period of James I. Mr. Halliwell remarking, that "it is unquestionably a volume of great curiosity in the absence of any other of a similar kind."

It is written on paper, 11 1/2 in. by 7 1/2, slightly stained and unbound, in perfect preservation.

the history of my enemy his ourth.

Enter
John E. of Lancaster baron

King Henry
5th Duke of Suffolke
Attendance

King
The state as we are, so war with war,
finds me a time for faggled heart to part
And breaks part wounded hearts of new enemies
To be common in friends before we are
No more of us, before of us lands
shall reap for selfe, my ser own, and others blood
No more shall from my crown be made for friends,
Nor bruise for flourish with 3 armed forces
of English pages. Soft opposed eyes,
rising like a meteor of a troubled sea,
All of one nature, of one substance brood,
Did lately meet in a protestant, for to
And furious clash of civil butyry,
shall now in mutual well-befitting ranks
march all one way, and be no more opposed
Against acquaintance, friends, and allies.
The edge of war, like an ill-sorted knife
No more shall cut his master. Therefore friends
fortwith a power of English shall we levy,
to cast these Pagans from these holy footes,
And drive yowde Mahomett from Palostine.
But this our purpose is now, to make most gile,
And bootless tis to bid you we will go
Therefore we must not now. You lett me know
Of you my good friend of Lancaster
what posternight our counsell did devise,
In forwarding this deed of violence.

Lanc.

Shakespeare, William. Copy of *The history of King Henry the Fourth*, after 1598. England: ca. 1623. Folger V.b.34.

The Dering Manuscript, titled "The History of Henrie the fourth," is the earliest surviving manuscript based on Shakespeare's dramas; it dates to 1623. The manuscript reduces *The First and Second Part of King Henry the Fourth* into one play containing 3,401 lines. A longstanding interest in theatre helped prompt Sir Edward Dering to orchestrate the adaptation of the *Henry the Fourth* plays for performance in his home. This performance is the earliest known English amateur production of Shakespeare.

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