« HISTORY OF ACTING »



DAVID GARRICK [1717-1779]

Most likely the most well-known actor in history. Seen here studying the text of MACBETH.



David Garrick as Master of Ceremonies at the celebrated Stratford Jubilee in honor of Shakespeare in 1769.



The mug from which he pledged the memory of Shakespeare at the 1769 Stratford Jubilee.



David Garrick is seen here with Mrs. Prichard in MACBETH - notice Mr. Garrick's small stature.



RICHARD BURBAGE [1567?-1619]
Burbage was the leading actor of the company for which Shakespeare wrote.



JOHN LOWIN [1576-1658?] Lowin is reputed to have been the first Hamlet.



THOMAS BETTERTON [1635-1710] Betterton has been called the first great English actor.



Peg Woffington [1718-1760]
Peg Woffington was Garrick's leading lady in his early years.





THE ARCH STREET THEATRE



SARAH KEMBLE SIDDONS [1755-1831]Mrs. Siddons was the most popular of the Kembles.

THE ARCH STREET THEATRE

A leading theatre of stock-company days. The old "stock" companies were really repertory companies--strong organizations of first-class actors with occasional visitng stars. The "Arch" was in its heyday in the fifties and early sixties, when philadelphia was the theatrical capital of the country. The music-publishing center or tin-pan alley of the time was right around the corner in the same city, and the polka was in fashion. The illustration above is from the cover of a piece of sheet music dedicated to Mrs. John Drew, who became sole lessee of the theatre in 1861.