



Brock, H.M. *Sketches at the Shakespeare Ball in aid of the Actor's Benevolent Fund*. 1905. Folger ART Box B864 no.1 (size L).

The Actor's Benevolent Fund was founded in 1882 by Sir Henry Irving and other members of the theatrical profession to help the theatrical community in times of need. The fund historically raised money through donations, benefit performances, annual dinners, and other social events. The "Shakespeare" Ball was held on May 4th, 1905 at the Royal Palace Hotel, Kensington. The charity event featured leading actors and actresses of the day dressed as famous Shakespearean characters, including Walter Rowley as Henry VIII, Lillian Ford as Juliet, Ellen Terry as Portia, and Viola Tree as Hero.

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