



very Rare engraved about 1745
for a watch case

the only one known
L. J.

cf. B.M. cat. No 5.

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Sayer, R., publisher. *Mrs. Woffington in the char. of Mrs. Ford in The merry wives of Windsor*. London: ca 1745. Folger ART File W844 no.3.

Notes from a Folger cataloguer assert that this engraving of Peg Woffington as Mistress Ford is its only known copy. Woffington was an Irish actress who became famous in the mid-eighteenth century for her comedic skills, though she played several tragic roles, like Cordelia in *The Tragedy of King Lear*, alongside David Garrick. After beginning her career in Dublin, she moved to London, where she began honing her comedic skills in earnest, performing in *As You Like It* and *The Comedy of Errors*, as well as in Restoration comedies like George Etherege's *The Man of Mode*. Woffington was apparently skilled at portraying ill-treated wives, which perhaps prepared her well to add Mistress Ford to her stock of performances. (Cave, Richard Allen. "Woffington, Margaret [Peg]," *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*, 2004.)

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