

Harding, George Perfect, d. 1853, possible artist. Mr. Bland, actor and dramatist (as Bardolph). [19th cent.]. Folger ART Box H263 no.17 (size S)

The "Mr. Bland" depicted here is probably the actor George Bland, who was married to well-known British singer Maria Bland. Bland's pose in this piece is possibly copied from a late 18th-century depiction of the actor Mr. Charteris, which can be seen in Folger ART File H496 no.12 (size XS). While both Bardolphs stand in profile, the better to see their warty noses, Mr. Charteris' Bardolph wears an eighteenth-century costume, while Bland wears Elizabethan garb.