



Unknown artist. *[Sir John Falstaff]* [realia]. Derby: 1795-1797. Folger ART Inv. 1079.

Sir John Falstaff, rollicking and depraved knight, was an immensely popular character, even in Shakespeare's day. His popularity continued through the eighteenth century, as attested by this Derby Porcelain figure. The grapes on his waistcoat -- wine's precursors -- hint at his debauched lifestyle. Such figures were sold as theatrical souvenirs, often depicting beloved actors in starring roles, though the actor in this figurine remains unknown.

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