



E. P. Otis. Mme. Modjeska

King John

Byron Company (New York, N.Y.), photographer. [Six photographs of a production of] *King John* [starring] Mme. Modjeska [and] E. Proctor Otis. After 1900. Folger ART File M692.4 no.29 PHOTO (size M).

The fight between Eleanor of Aquitaine and Constance in Act 2, Scene 1 was frequently cut in 18th-century productions of the play. Juliet Dusinberre argues that Constance, and her interactions with Eleanor in particular, caused "some kind of male directorial embarrassment," that led to significant cuts in her part. This photograph of an early 20th-century production maintains the tension between Constance and Eleanor. Here, famed Polish Helena Modjeska as Constance clutches E. Proctor Otis as Arthur, with an unknown actress opposite as Eleanor. (Dusinberre, Juliet. "King John and Embarrassing Women." *Shakespeare Survey Online*. Vol. 42. Cambridge: Cambridge U P, 1990. 40.)

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