Imprint No.: **1768.015**

Short Title: **Performance Handbill, May 27, 1768.**

Author: Virginia Company of Comedians

Title: [By permission of the worshipful the Mayor of Williamsburg (for the benefit of Miss Yapp) ... on Friday the 27th instant [May] will be presented a comedy, written by Shakespeare, called Merchant of Venice. ... To which will be added a comedy of two acts, never performed here, called High Life Below Stairs.]

Place Issued: Williamsburg

Issuing Press: Purdie & Dixon

Description: 1 sheet [1 pg.]; unknown (broadside).

Notes: The mayor of Williamsburg was merchant James Cocke (1 Dec. 1767 to 30 Nov. 1768). The Virginia Company of Comedians conducted at least nine performances between April 4 and June 8 of 1768. Each show was advertised in advance, with a promotional handbill for each show printed in advance, and a detailed playbill the issued the day of the performance. Of the nine known performances, promotional handbills for only four of the advertised shows and one show-time playbill have survived.

Imprint is non-extant, and so title assumed from advertising notice in the Purdie & Dixon *Gazette* of May 19, 1768. Production of all of the company's imprints is assigned to Purdie & Dixon based on the company's advertising. They advertised all of their performances in the Purdie & Dixon *Gazette*, but only about half of them in that of William Rind; moreover, these performances were concurrent with the meetings of the General Assembly and the General Court, when Rind's press was producing work for the public-printing concession, making the Purdie & Dixon press the most likely origin.

IVP Associated Names: Alexander Purdie (345); John Dixon (140)

Bibliographic Notations

Early American Imprints? N Series: Title No.:

Evans, *American Bibliography*:	---	Clayton-Torrence, *Colonial Virginia*:	---
Bristol, *Supplement to Evans*:	---	Swem, *Bibliography of Virginia*:	---
Shipton/Mooney, *Imprints thru 1800*:	---		---
Shaw/Shoemaker, *Checklist...1801-19*:	---		---
Shoemaker, *Checklist...1820-29*:	---		---
Hummel, *Southeastern Broadsides*:	0	Hummel, *Virginia Broadsides*:	0