

HAMLET.

Act V.

Scene I.



Alas, poor Yorick!

Published according to Act of Parli April 1773. by John Bell

Edwards, Edward, artist. *Hamlet, act V, scene 1: Alas, poor Yorick!* John Hall, printmaker. London: John Bell, 1773. Folger ART File S528h1 no.61 (size XS)

This engraving by John Hall, after a design by Edward Edwards, is the earliest known depiction of the moment in Act 5, Scene 1, when Hamlet addresses Yorick's skull, 'Alas, poor Yorick!' The graveyard scene is a popular one for illustrating the play, as its *memento mori* ('remember you shall die') motif emphasizes the transience of life. The engraving was published in John Bell's 1773 edition, and in this case, hand colored.

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