

# Remembering Falstaff

by David P. Gontar (April 2015)??

## I. Falstaff Dismembered

**I**n *The Life of King Henry the Fifth* there is no appearance by Falstaff. After all, he's been irrevocably barred from the royal presence. Yet he is expressly remembered. (II, i, 112-122; II, iii, 5-41; IV, vii, 38-49) Why? He's not a part of the tale of King Henry's invasion of France, which occurs after Sir John has died, the victim of Hal's egregious betrayal. Yet Shakespeare goes out of his way to see that he's not forgotten, and that the grim slaughters at Harfleur and Agincourt take place in Jack Falstaff's ample shadow. Becoming acquainted with Shakespeare's dedicated memorializing of this plus-sized literary hero may help us to better understand Sir John's character and meaning in the canon. [more>>>](#)