[Review of] The Eloquent Shakespeare: A Pronouncing Dictionary for the Complete Dramatic Works with Notes to Untie the Modern Tongue

Robert A. Aken
University of Kentucky, robaken@uky.edu

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Logan (Academy for Classical Acting, George Washington U.) designed this pronouncing guide for North American theater professionals. Its 17,500 alphabetically arranged entries present International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) pronunciations of significant words, proper names, and foreign phrases from the Arden Shakespeare editions of the plays and poetry in "Standard American Stage Dialect." While essentially prescriptive, the work includes excellent notes in cases where alternative considerations are warranted, including puns (e.g., Naso, Ovidius; nothing), natural speech (e.g., murther), intended mispronunciations (e.g., Got), British adherence (e.g., lieutenant), and scansion–indicated variations (corollary). Definitions are provided only when necessary to elucidate pronunciations. References to detailed discussions are sometimes included (e.g., the he'ld entry refers to the New Variorum discussion). The introduction gives a useful overview of IPA and a basic guide appears on each recto. Dale Coye's *Pronouncing Shakespeare's Words* (CH, Nov '98, 36-1297) is more accessible, with more definitions, a play–by–play presentation, and traditional dictionary pronunciations. Louis Scheeder's *All the Words on Stage* (CH, Sep '02, 40-0019) emphasizes scansion in IPA style but provides fewer explanatory notes. Logan's work belongs in collections serving English departments (for its usefulness in linguistic analysis) and classical theater programs. Summing Up: Recommended. Upper–level undergraduates through professionals/practitioners.

--R. A. Aken, University of Kentucky

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