

concerns of students and scholars and accurate representation of historical context enhances the teachability of the volume.

Indeed, Helfferich's editorial work constantly reminds readers of the need to view Luther in his own context. Her footnotes provide concise commentary throughout, adding in the relevant Bible passages where these are not specified in the original text and often a short summary of their content, as well as elucidating references to other religions, texts, sources, and historical events. Combined with judicious linguistic and thematic analysis—for example, Helfferich's observations about Luther's frequent use of contradictions (41)—we feel informed but not overwhelmed as we peruse the translations.

A key strength of this volume lies in its use of the narrative of Luther's ever evolving life and thoughts as the driving force behind the creation of, and indeed the decision to include, each text. An argument for the continued study of Luther, *The Essential Luther* also serves as a justification for the study of literature and theological texts as historical sources that teach us not only about events but also about how these events were experienced and ultimately recorded by writers and their peers.

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**Magnusson, Lynne, with David Schalkwyk, eds.**

*The Cambridge Companion to Shakespeare's Language.*

Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2019. Pp. xiii, 293. ISBN 978-1-107-58318-4 (paperback) \$28.95.

This volume of fourteen essays by established Shakespeare scholars provides a seminal guide to Shakespeare's language. Departing from the postmodernist focus on socio-cultural and political contexts, these essays mark a timely return to textual analysis by reconceptualizing what it means to close read Shakespeare's language from a diverse range of perspectives and methodologies. The essays are arranged in four categories that guide the reader through the manifold ways of approaching Shakespeare's language: by attending to the elements that make up traditional literary analysis of Shakespeare's language, such as lexis, style, metre, and rhetorical figures; by attending to early modern social and