The Cambridge Edition of the Works of Joseph Conrad is invaluable to scholars of Conrad, modernist literary composition and late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century literary practices and processes. There is still much of this valuable work to come, and perhaps the availability of scholarly editions of less well-known texts such as Suspense and The Shadow-Line will encourage wider exploration of the darker recesses of the Conrad œuvre. These elegant and comprehensive volumes are a must for university libraries. At the moment, the Cambridge Conrad complements existing paperback editions; the Cambridge volumes are not portable, and that is not their point. As Penguin used the Cambridge D. H. Lawrence for their subsequent editions, hopefully the editors of this edition will be able to make a link with a major paperback publisher. To hold sway over reprints of the uncopyrighted early editions, the corrected texts need to be widely available. Despite my minor reservations, the Cambridge Edition of the Works of Joseph Conrad is without question a definitive piece of scholarship.

Bibliography


Andrew Frayn


In December 2012, the Folger Shakespeare Library (http://www.folger.edu) announced the launch of the Folger Digital Texts, describing them as “reliable, expertly edited, and free digital
Shakespeare texts for use by researchers”. With this resource, the Folger Shakespeare Library has added an essential component to its offerings, which besides the physical library itself and its many research, teaching and outreach activities, includes a Digital Image Collection of more than 50,000 Shakespeare-related items as well as a complete series of single-volume editions of Shakespeare’s plays and poems. The Folger Digital Texts are a welcome addition, as well, to existing Shakespeare texts available online: The Internet Shakespeare Editions offers plays in different editions, but does not provide full text downloads (http://internetshakespeare.uvic.ca/); The Shakespeare Quartos Archive offers many different editions and copies with facsimiles and transcriptions, but is currently limited to Hamlet (http://www.quartos.org/). The Oxford Text Archive’s Plays of William Shakespeare provides downloads in various formats, including XML, EPUB and plain text; here, the first folio edition’s text is reproduced without any normalization or modernization (http://www.ota.ox.ac.uk/desc/3014).

The Folger Digital Texts are based on the existing single-volume reading editions originally edited by Barbara Mowat and Paul Werstine. These are modernized editions with textual and explanatory notes aiming at a general reading public, and are available in both print and electronic formats. They purport to give “what the editors consider the best early printed version” of each play (as stated on the “About the Editions” web page on the single-volume editions, at http://www.folger.edu). However, the new digital texts differ from their model in that they only offer the text itself and do not currently include the full textual notes (although these are announced for a later release). Therefore, readers or users need to refer back to existing critical editions of Shakespeare’s plays for any questions of a text-critical nature. Also, the digital texts discussed here do not and will not include the extensive explanatory notes and the illustrations of the Folger Library’s single-volume reading editions, in a publication strategy which follows a “freemium” business model.

The Folger Digital Texts are published under a CC-BY-NC license and currently include all of the plays, with the sonnets and other poems due to be made available in the course of the year. The website provides a reading view of each play, with some useful search functions as well as a basic way of making some editorial