

Paul Meier's transcription of **Edmund, *King Lear*, 1:2**
In the original pronunciation

The numbers under the text refer to his “signature sounds”; the letters refer to his additional features. These are fully explained in his [*The Original Pronunciation of Shakespeare's English*](#). (Though it's a free download, it is copyright-protected.)

Thou, nature, art my goddess; to thy law
2 4 1 10 a 8 3 8
ðəʊ nɛ:tʰə a~t mɪ gadəs tʰə ðəɪ lɑ:

My services are bound. Wherefore should I
a 11 a 2 f 4 1 2
mɪ se~vɪsɪz ə~ bəʊnd ʍɛ~fɔ~ ʃʊd əɪ

Stand in the plague of custom, and permit
7 a 4 6 7 a 11
stand ɪ ðə pʰlɛ:g ə kʰɪstəm an pʰɛ~mɪtʰ

The curiosity of nations to deprive me,
4 8 5 4 h 3 a
ðə kʰjʊɹɪəsɪtʰəɪ ə nɛ:sjənz tʰə dɪpʰɹəɪv mɪ

For that I am some twelve or fourteen moon-shines
1 7 3 7 6 a/l 1 12 9 3
fə~ ðatʰ əɪ am sʊm tʰʍɛtɪv ə~ fɔ~tʰe:n mʊnʃəɪnz

Lag of a brother? Why bastard? wherefore base?
7 6 1 f 3 7 1 f 4 1 4
lag əv ə brʌðə~ ʍəɪ bastə~d ʍɛ~fɔ~ be:s

When my dimensions are as well compact,
f 3 h 10 g 7
ʍɛn ʍəɪ dəmənsjənz a~ əz wɛt kʰəmpʰaktʰ

My mind as generous, and my shape as true,
a 3 d 7 a 4 9
mɪ məɪnd əz dʒɛnɹəs and mɪ ʃɛ:p əz tɹu:

As honest madam's issue? Why brand they us
a 8 7 a f 3 7 4 6
az ʊnɪst madəmz ɪsjə ʍəɪ brænd ðɛ ɹs

With base? with baseness? bastardy? base, base?

^a ⁴ ^a ⁴ ⁷ ¹ ⁵ ⁴ ⁴
wɪ beɪs wɪ beɪsnəs bɑstərdəi beɪs beɪs