
Ira Aldridge

The African Roscius

EDITED BY BERNTH LINDFORS



UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER PRESS

Contents

List of Illustrations	ix
Acknowledgments	xi
Introduction	1
<i>Part One: The Life</i>	
1 Memoir and Theatrical Career of Ira Aldridge, the African Roscius <i>London: Onwhyn (n.d., but ca. 1848)</i>	7
2 Ira Aldridge (1860) <i>James McCune Smith</i>	39
3 Men We Have Known: Ira Aldridge (1867) <i>Philip A. Bell</i>	48
4 “Nothing extenuate, nor set down aught in malice”: New Biographical Information on Ira Aldridge <i>Bernth Lindfors</i>	50
5 Ira Aldridge’s Swedish Wife <i>Gunner Sjögren</i>	68
6 “African Tragedian” in Golden Prague: Some Unpublished Correspondence <i>James J. Napier and Stanley B. Winters</i>	73
7 A Garland of Love Letters <i>Cyril Bruyn Andrews</i>	79

Part Two: The Career

8	Ira Aldridge's Fight for Equality <i>Hazel Waters</i>	97
9	Ira Aldridge in Manchester <i>Ruth M. Cowhig</i>	126
10	Acting Black: <i>Othello</i> , <i>Othello</i> Burlesques, and the Performance of Blackness <i>Joyce Green MacDonald</i>	135
11	Ira Aldridge: Shakespeare and Minstrelsy <i>Nicholas M. Evans</i>	157
12	"Mislike me not for my complexion . . .": Ira Aldridge in <i>Whiteface</i> <i>Bernth Lindfors</i>	180
13	Ira Aldridge as Macbeth and King Lear <i>Herbert Marshall</i>	191
14	Creating the Black Hero: Ira Aldridge's <i>The Black Doctor</i> <i>Keith Byerman</i>	204
15	The First American on the Zagreb Stage <i>Nikola Batušić</i>	216
16	A Heartwarming, Radiant <i>Othello</i> in the Netherlands, 1855 <i>Joost Groeneboer</i>	222
17	<i>Ira Aldridge's Performances in Meiningen</i> <i>Ann Marie Koller</i>	234
18	" <i>Othello's Occupation's Gone!</i> " The African <i>Roscus</i> in Poland, 1853–67 <i>Krzysztof Sawala</i>	243
	Notes on Contributors	267
	Index	271