

The "additional symbols" in Figure 7.2 require some further explanation.

- 1) The colon [:] is used to indicate length, specifically vowel length. German vowels are sufficiently differentiated from each other by vowel **quality** to make the use of a **quantity** marker like : for the most part superfluous, but there may be occasions when we wish to use it, e.g. to distinguish long [ɛ:] in *spät* from short [ɛ] in *Bett*.
- 2) A vertical accent mark *above* the line [ˈ] is used to indicate so-called **primary** stress, and an accent mark *below* the line [ˌ] is used to indicate **secondary** stress. Stress marks are put before the relevant syllable. Primary stress is louder than secondary stress, as in the German word *Rathaus*, where the first syllable bears primary stress and the second syllable bears secondary stress. *Rathaus* is therefore transcribed [ˈratˌhaus]. German also has syllables which bear no stress at all, e.g. the second syllable of *Häuser*. An unstressed syllable is not marked with any accent, e.g. [ˈhɔɪzɐ]. Note that there are at least three degrees of stress: primary stress, secondary stress and **no** stress (unstressed).
- 3) The glottal stop is symbolised by [ʔ].
- 4) Square brackets [-] are used to indicate phonetic transcription.

Following is a list of four German pronouncing dictionaries with commentary based on Moulton 1987. All of them have their virtues and their faults. One fault which they tend to share is the prescription of [ɔʏ] or [ɔø] instead of what most people actually say, namely [ɔɪ]. This fault is also shared by the Collins dictionary recommended for another part of this course and by most other German dictionaries which give any information about the pronunciation of German. This is a testament to the power of the Siebs, which has the following to say about this vowel (Siebs 1961:58f): "Der Diphthong ɔø, in der Schrift durch *eu, äu* wiedergegeben, entsteht durch eine Gleitbewegung von kurzem offenem *o* zu sehr kurzem geschlossenem *ö* (ɔ-- > ø)... (S)tarke Emphase darf das geschlossene *ö* (ø) des zweiten Diphthongteiles nicht in ein *ü* verwandeln, **oder gar mit Entrundung zu i.**" (emphasis mine:EMW) The "Entrundung zu *i*" is precisely what most Germans do in the pronunciation of this vowel.

## References - German Pronouncing Dictionaries

These dictionaries are all put together by committees and are, with the exception of the WDA, prescriptivist in nature. The WDA is based on empirical data, namely the pronunciation of East German radio announcers.

Siebs 1961. *Siebs: Deutsche Hochsprache, Bühnenaussprache*. Herausgegeben von Helmut de Boor und Paul Diels. 18., durchgesehene Auflage. Berlin: Walter de Gruyter.

(Very prescriptive. As the name states, this is *Bühnendeutsch*, German as it is to be spoken on the stage. The various versions of the Siebs have been considered the last word on German pronunciation for decades.)

Siebs 1969. *Siebs: Deutsche Aussprache, reine und gemäßigte Hochlautung mit Aussprachewörterbuch*. Herausgegeben von Helmut de Boor, Hugo Moser und Christian Winkler. 19., umgearbeitete Auflage. Berlin: Walter de Gruyter.

(Still prescriptive, but now allows modified (*gemäßigte*) versions of the standard, which it describes. It also includes a short section on "*Abweichungen von der gemäßigten Hochlautung*", and the opposition to "Nichthochlautung" is not as vehement as in Siebs 1961.)

Duden 1974. *Duden Aussprachewörterbuch: Wörterbuch der deutschen Standardaussprache*. 2., völlig neu bearbeitete und erweiterte Auflage. Bearbeitet von Max Mangold in Zusammenarbeit mit der Dudenredaktion. Mannheim/Wien/Zürich: Dudenverlag, Bibliographisches Institut. (Duden, Band 6.)

(Claims to have abandoned the "19th century stage norms" in favor of what it terms a "more general norm of usage" which it calls *Standardaussprache* - standard pronunciation. What its source is for this *Standardaussprache* is not made clear.)

WDA 1982. *Großes Wörterbuch der deutschen Aussprache*. Herausgegeben von dem Kollektiv Eva-Maria Krech, Eduard Kurka, Helmut Stelzig, Eberhard Stock, Ursula Stötzer und Rudi Teske unter Mitwirkung von Kurt Jung-Alsen. Hauptverantwortlich für die Bearbeitung: Ursula Stötzer. Begründer der Arbeit des Redaktionskollektivs: Hans Krech. Leipzig: VEB Bibliographisches Institut.

(This is a new edition of the original *Wörterbuch der deutschen Aussprache* published in 1964, with subsequent editions in 1969 and 1971. The word *Großes* was added because the data base was enlarged for this edition. As mentioned before, this is based on observation, specifically on tape recordings of radio news broadcasts, including instrumental analysis.)