MODULE 6: PRIMARY SOURCES

Ron Van den Branden

Edward Vanhoutte

Melissa Terras
TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Jeremy Bentham: manuscript JB/116/010/001 ........................................................................................................ 1
2. Walt Whitman: “After the Argument” ....................................................................................................................... 3
1. Jeremy Bentham: manuscript JB/116/010/001

This manuscript page was written by the philosopher and jurist Jeremy Bentham (1748–1832).

Since this is a prose text, the basic structural units are encoded as paragraphs (\(<p\>)\), with line breaks encoded as \(<lb\>) where they occur. Marginal notes are encoded with the \(<note\>) element; the note occurring on the sixth line in this example contains a simple deletion (the final word “disorder”), which is marked with the \(<del\>) element. This manuscript contains many deletions and additions. Some are simple, such as the addition of the word “still” in the phrase “the same barbarity is still shown” on line 6. This is indicated in the encoding by wrapping the added content in a \(<add\>) element. More often, deletions and additions occur in combination, in which case the transcriber tries to reflect their order in the nesting of \(<del\>) and \(<add\>) elements. For example:

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{<add>forth, } & \text{<add>}
\text{<del>turned adrift</del>}
\text{<add>and thought no more of </add>}
\text{<del>gap/</del> out of</del>}
\end{align*}
\]

Figure 1. The manuscript page JB/116/010/001.
This fragment is marked as an addition. Yet, Bentham had emended this addition by adding the phrase “turned adrift” (as a second-level addition). Later, he canceled this addition by deleting it again: that’s why this phrase is encoded inside `<add>`, with a nesting `<del>`, indicating that this added text had been deleted entirely. Further, at the end of this fragment, another addition is indicated with an `<add>` element. Again, this entire second-level addition had been deleted. Yet, since the encoder could not decipher the deleted text anymore, this is indicated by the empty `<gap>` element, which signals that text was present on the manuscript, but left out from the transcription. In order to record why the transcriber had decided to omit this text, a `@reason` attribute could have been provided on `<gap>` (with a value such as “illegible”).

Where text could still be transcribed, but the encoder is not certain of the reading, this reading is recorded in an `<unclear>` element, as is the case with the word “that,” occurring in a deletion on the last but one line.

Finally, when the encoder spotted obvious mistakes, these have been identified with the `<sic>` element, as is the case with the word “compleat.” The encoder could equally have provided a correction by wrapping both the incorrect form (<sic>) and correction (<corr>) inside a `<choice>` element:

```
<choice>
  <sic>compleat</sic>
  <corr>complete</corr>
</choice>
```
Among nations, civilized in other respects, the same barbarity is shown to this at least equally unable class of patients, in whose case the disorder patient, the seat of disorder has in the mind. Not indeed to every division in this last class of patients. For patients labouring under insanity, known and characterized by that name, no man has yet thought proposed a voyage to New South Wales. The inefficacy of such a prescription however could not be more compleat, in the case of that class of patients, than in has hitherto been, and from the nature of the case ever must be, in the instance of that class to which it continues to be applied.


2. Walt Whitman: “After the Argument”

This manuscript, featuring an early version of the poem “After the Argument,” was likely written in 1890 or early 1891, shortly before the poem’s publication.
This example clearly illustrates how the TEI transcr module can be applied to verse texts as well. The entire poem is encoded inside `<lg type="poem">`, containing a heading (`<head>`) and two verse lines (`<l>`), in which physical line breaks have been marked with `<lb>` elements. As will be clear from the facsimile, this short manuscript features some complex editorial traces. Sequential deletions (`<del>`) and additions (`<add>`) are grouped into substitutions (`<subst>`). Moreover, inside the substitutions, the exact order of the editing interventions is specified by means of a sequence number in a `@seq` attribute, making explicit that the deletions occurred before the additions.¹

This example illustrates nicely how additions and deletions can nest. In both cases in the example, an addition contains further deletions. The `@rend` attribute is used on `<del>` and `<add>` in order to encode the way in which deletions ("overstrike" or "overwrite") and additions ("insertion", "overwrite", "unmarked") have been realised on the manuscript. An additional `@place` attribute on `<add>` indicates if the additions are located "supralinear", "over" existing text, or "inline".

1 The `@seq` attribute is a more advanced concept documented in chapter 11 Representation of Primary Sources of the TEI Guidelines. Notice how this explicit sequence number is not strictly needed here, as deletions logically precede additions, and only one deletion is involved.

Figure 2. A facsimile of the manuscript for "After the Argument."
Page breaks are indicated with `<pb>` elements, indicating the type of the manuscript page ("recto" or "verso") with the `@type` attribute. The `@facs` attribute points to a digital facsimile of the page indicated with the `<pb>` element.

```xml
<body xmlns="http://www.tei-c.org/ns/1.0">
  <pb facs="loc.00001.001.jpg" xml:id="leaf001r" type="recto"/>
  <lg type="poem">
    <head rend="underline" type="main-authorial">After <subst>
      <del rend="overstrike" seq="1">an</del>
      <add place="supralinear" rend="insertion" seq="2">the <del rend="overstrike">unsolv</del></add>
      'd</del></add>
    </subst> argument</head>
    <l>
      <del rend="overstrike">The</del> <add place="supralinear" rend="insertion"><del rend="overstrike">Coming</del> <subst>
        <del rend="overwrite" seq="1">a</del>
        <add place="over" rend="overwrite" seq="2">A</add>
      </subst> group of little children, and their ways and chatter,
      flow <add place="inline" rend="unmarked">in, </add>
      <del rend="overstrike">upon me</del></l>
      <l>
        <del rend="overstrike">in,</del> <add place="supralinear" rend="insertion"><del rend="overstrike">Like</del> <add place="supralinear" rend="insertion">welcome </add> rippling water o'er my <lb/>
        heated <add place="supralinear" rend="insertion">nerves and </add>
        flesh. </l>
    </closer>
    <signed>Walt Whitman</signed>
  </lg>
  <pb facs="loc.00001.002.jpg" xml:id="leaf001v" type="verso"/>
</body>
```

Example 2. Encoding of manuscript loc.00001 of the Walt Whitman Archive (Whitman 1890).
BIBLIOGRAPHY
