MODULE 7: CRITICAL EDITING

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Emily Dickinson: “Faith is a Fine Invention”.......................................................... 1

2. Christopher Marlowe: *Edward II*............................................................................ 5
1. Emily Dickinson: "Faith is a Fine Invention"

The following example is a critical edition of Emily Dickinson's poem “Faith is a Fine Invention,” encoded and made available by the University of Maryland University Libraries.

In this example, 7 different versions of a 4-line poem are encoded using the parallel segmentation method. Each apparatus entry (<app>) contains different <rdg> elements documenting the variants occurring in the different text versions. Notice how the choice for equal <rdg> elements (instead of one "preferred" reading, encoded in a <lem> element), and the use of the parallel segmentation method abolish the notion of a base text.

The different witnesses are listed in a <listWit> element inside the <front> section of the text. Each witness definition inside <witness> marks its corresponding sigil in an @xml:id attribute. In the final line, a page break is recorded with <pb>. Its @ed attribute is used to identify the specific edition where this page breaks occurs: the text witness identified as l1894. Notice, how this could have been expressed even more formally with the @edRef attribute, which takes a pointer to an edition identified elsewhere: <pb facs="#image1" edRef="#l1894"/>.

REFERENCE

See Module 6: Primary Sources, section 3.2 for a discussion of the @facs attribute.
This poem is available only for demonstration purposes. It was created as part of a research project to experiment with ways of displaying multiple witnesses of a TEI-encoded poem using XML, XSLT and JavaScript.

See Witness List.


DTD constructed from TEI prose base with tagsets for linking, figures, analysis, transcr, textcrit.
Faith is a fine invention

For

When
Gentlemen can see!

Microscopes are prudent

In an Emergency!

2. Christopher Marlowe: Edward II

The following example is a fragment of a critical edition of Christopher Marlowe’s play Edward II, encoded and made available by the Perseus Digital Library.

This example illustrates the critical encoding of a drama work. The <variantEncoding> element in the TEI header specifies that an internal, parallel segmented apparatus is used for the encoding of textual variation. The (many) text witnesses that are included in the edition are identified in a <listWit> section in the front matter of the edition. Although more detailed information is lacking (the header section of the original file is rather incomplete, and hence left out from this example), the location of the witness definitions in the front matter may suggest that this critical edition has been digitised from an existing print original. Each witness is described in a <witness> element and provided with an @xml:id attribute specifying the sigil that will be used in the edition to refer to this text witness. One subgroup of text witnesses is identified in a nesting <listWit> element: the "D" sigil will be used to refer to both Dyce editions collectively.

Using a parallel segmented apparatus, the actual text contains all invariant text that is shared among all witnesses, while the variants are captured in <app> elements at the exact places where they occur.

Although a full description of this edition is not available, this example can illustrate what information can be inferred from a parallel segmented apparatus. First, the notion of a base text seems to have been adopted for this edition, as can be gathered from the use of <lem> elements. Without more information, however, it is impossible to tell what text witness has been adopted as base text, because most <lem> element don't have any @wit information. Moreover, those lemmas with explicit sigla in a @wit attribute contradict each other: some refer to witness Q2, others to Q4. Some <app> elements don't have a <lem> reading: this may either be a mistake, or suggest that this variant does not occur in the base text (but then, the occurrence of empty <rdg> elements would
suggest that empty <lem> elements would be used in these cases). Apparently, only those text witnesses whose text differs from that of the base text have been recorded in @wit attributes of the concerned <rdg> elements.

One apparatus entry contains two groups of readings:

```xml
<app xmlns="http://www.tei-c.org/ns/1.0">
<lem>yong</lem>
<rdg wit="#Ox #R #Q3">
  <app>
    <lem>you</lem>
    <rdg wit="#Q3"/>
  </app>
</rdg>
</app>
```

The grouping reading suggests that all text witnesses have the “yong” variant, except for the Ox, R, and Q3 witnesses. Its embedded <app> element then seems to tacitly adopt the reading of the Ox and R witnesses (“you”) as lemma, while this reading is entirely missing from the Q3 witness.

```xml
<text xmlns="http://www.tei-c.org/ns/1.0">
  <front>
    <div>
      <listWit>
        <witness xml:id="Q1">Quarto 1, 1594</witness>
        <witness xml:id="Q2">Quarto 2, 1598</witness>
        <witness xml:id="Q3">Quarto 3, 1612</witness>
        <witness xml:id="Q4">Quarto 4, 1622</witness>
        <witness xml:id="Dd1">Old Plays</title>, ed. Dodsley, 1744</bibl>
        <witness xml:id="Dd2">Old Plays</title>, ed. Dodsley, ed. Reed, 1780</bibl>
        <witness xml:id="5">
      </listWit>
    </div>
  </front>
</text>
```
<bibl><title>Ancient British Drama</title>, ed. Sir Walter Scott, 1810</bibl>
</witness>
<witness xml:id="Ch">
<bibl><title>Edward the Second</title>, sold by J. Chappell, Jr., 1818</bibl>
</witness>
<witness xml:id="Ox">
<bibl><title>Edward the Second</title>, ed. William Oxberry, 1818</bibl>
</witness>
<witness xml:id="Dd3">
<bibl><title>Old Plays</title>, Dodsley, ed. Collier, 1825</bibl>
</witness>
<witness xml:id="R">
<bibl><title>Works</title>, Robinson, 1826</bibl>
</witness>
<witness xml:id="D">
<witness xml:id="D1">
<bibl><title>Works</title>, Dyce 1, 1850</bibl>
</witness>
<witness xml:id="D2">
<bibl><title>Works</title>, Dyce 2, 1858</bibl>
</witness>
</listWit>
<witness xml:id="C">
<bibl><title>Works</title>, Cunningham, 1870</bibl>
</witness>
<witness xml:id="B">
<bibl><title>Works</title>, Bullen, 1885</bibl>
</witness>
<witness xml:id="TB">
<bibl><title>Works</title>, Tucker Brooke, 1910</bibl>
</witness>
<witness xml:id="Bgs">
<bibl><title>Edward the Second</title>, Briggs, 1914</bibl>
</witness>
<witness xml:id="Gg">
<bibl><title>Edward the Second</title>, Malone Society Reprints, ed. W. W. Greg, 1925</bibl>
</witness>

2. Christopher Marlowe: Edward II
<div type="act" n="4">
<!-- ... -->
<div type="scene" n="2" org="uniform" sample="complete">
<head>Act Four, Scene Two</head>
<stage type="entrance">Enter the <name>Queene</name> and her sonne.</stage>
<sp who="quee">
  <speaker>Queene</speaker>
  <l>A boye, our friends do faile us all in <name>Fraunce</name>, the lords are cruell, and the king unkinde,</l>
  <l>What shall we <app>
    <lem>doe</lem>
    <rdg wit="#Q3">goe</rdg>
  </app>?</l>
</sp>
</div>
</div>
<speaker>Prince</speaker> 

Madam, returne to <name>England,</name>
And please my father well, and then a Fig
For all my unckles frienship here in <app>Fraunce</app>,

I warrant you, ile winne his highnes quicklie,

Ac
He Dd1-He Dd1-
loves me better than a thousand <name>Spencers.</name>

Queene 

A boye, thou art deceivde at least in this,
To thinke that we can yet be tun'd together,
No, no, we jarre too <app>
farre. Unkinde</app>, unkinde

Unhappie <name>Isabell</name>, when <name>Fraunce</name> rejects,

whether, O <app>
whether</app>, O <app>
doost</app>
must</app>
thou bend thy steps</app>
?</app>
</app>

Enter sir <name>John</name> of <name>Henolt</name>
<sp who="sirj">
  <speaker>Sir John</speaker>
  <l>Madam, what cheere?</l>
</sp>

<sp who="quee">
  <speaker>Queene</speaker>
  <l>A good sir <name>John</name> of <name>Henolt,</name> Never so cheereles, nor so farre distrest.</l>
</sp>

<sp who="sirj">
  <speaker>Sir John</speaker>
  <l>I heare sweete lady of the kings unkindenes, But droope not madam, noble mindes contemne Despaire: will your grace with me to <name>Henolt,</name> And there stay times advantage with your sonne? How say you my Lord, will you go with your friends, And shake off all <app>
    <lem>our</lem>
    <rdg wit="#R">your</rdg>
  </app> fortunes equallie<app>
    <lem>have</lem>
    <rdg wit="#Ch #Br #Q2MS">heave</rdg>
  </app> me from my gratious mothers side,</l>
</sp>

<sp who="prin">
  <speaker>Prince</speaker>
  <l>So pleaseth the Queene my mother, me it likes,</l>
  <app>
    <lem>nor</lem>
    <rdg wit="#Dd1 #Dd2 #S #Dd3">not</rdg>
  </app> the court of <name>Fraunce,</name>
  <app>
    <lem>have</lem>
    <rdg wit="#Ch #Br #Q2MS">heave</rdg>
  </app> me from my gratious mothers side,</l>
</sp>
Till I be strong enough to breake a staffe,
And then have at the proudest Spencers head.

SIR JOHN
Well said my lord.

QUEENE
Oh my sweet hart, how do I mone thy wrongs,
Yet triumphe in the hope of thee my joye?
Ah sweete sir John, even to the utmost verge
of Europe, or the shore of Tanaise,
We will with thee to Henolt, so we will.
The Marques is a noble Gentleman,
His grace I dare presume will welcome me,
But who are these?

Enter Edmund [earle of Kent] and Mortimer.
Madam, long may you live,
Much happier than your friends in England do.

Lord Edmund and lord Mortimer alive,
Welcome to France: the news was here my lord,
That you were dead, or very near your death.

Lady, the last was truest of the twain,
But Mortimer reserved for better hope,
Hath shaken off the thraldom of the tower,
And lives to advance your standard good my lord.
How meane you, and the king my father lives ?</l>
</l>No my lord <name>Mortimer, </name><app><lem>not I</lem><rdg wit="#Ch">not so</rdg></app>, I trow.</l>
</sp>
</sp><sp who="quee">

Queene

Not sonne, why not? I would it were no worse,

But gentle lords, friendles we are in <name>Fraunce.</name></sp>
</sp><sp who="moyo">

Mortimer <app><rdg wit="#Q1 #Q2 #Q3 #Q4">ju.</rdg></app>

Mounsier <name><app><lem>le Grand</lem><rdg wit="#Q1 #Q2 #Q3 #Q4">le Grand</rdg></app></name> a noble friend of yours,

tould us at our arrivall all the newes,

How hard the nobles, how unkinde the king

Hath shewed himself: but madam, right makes roome,

Where weapons <app><lem>a</lem><rdg wit="#R #C">so Dd1-</rdg></app>

and though a many friends

Are made away, as <name>Warwick, Lancaster</name>,

And others of our <app><lem>partie</lem><rdg wit="#D #C">part</rdg></app> and <app><lem>faction</lem><rdg wit="#Ch #Br #Q2MS">our faction</rdg></app>,</l>
Yet have we friends, assure your grace in England, To see us there appointed for our foes. Would cast up cappes, and clap their hands for joy, To see us there appointed for our foes. Would all were well, and Edward well reclaimd, For Englands honor, peace, and quietnes. But by the sword, my lord, it must be earn'd. The king will nere forsake his flatterers. My Lords of England, sith the ungentle king sith the ungentle king refuseth to give aide of armes,
To this distressed Queene his sister heere,
Go you with her to Henolt,
We will finde comfort, money, men, and friends
Ere long, to bid the English king a base,
How say you Prince, what thinke you of the match?

Prince
I thinke king Edward will out-run us all.

Queene
Nay
sonne, not so, and you must not discourage
Your friends that are so forward in your aide.

Sir <name>John</name> of <name>Henolt,</name> pardon us I pray,
These comforts that you give our wofull queene,
Binde us in kindenes all at your commaund.

Yea gentle brother, and the God of heaven,
Prosper your happie motion good sir <name>John.</name>

This noble gentleman, forward in armes,
Was borne I see to be our anchor hold,
Sir <name>John</name> of <name>Henolt,</name> be it thy renowne,
That <name>Englands</name> Queene, and nobles in distresse,
Have beene by thee restored and comforted.

Madam along, and you my lord
Example 2. Adapted from a TEI P4 XML encoding of Christopher Marlowe's play Edward II (Marlowe 1594).

BIBLIOGRAPHY
