TEI BY EXAMPLE

MODULE 7: CRITICAL EDITING

Ron Van den Branden

Edward Vanhoutte

Melissa Terras

Centre for Scholarly Editing and Document Studies (CTB), Royal Academy of Dutch Language and Literature, Belgium, Gent, 9 July 2010

Last updated September 2020

Licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution ShareAlike 3.0 License
TABLE OF CONTENTS
Below is a brief critical edition of “Nocturne,” a short poem by Thomas McGreevy. In a parallel-segmented apparatus, the edition encodes the variants of 4 versions:

**a1**

Nocturne, Saint Eloi, 1918 (TCD 7878/1/2)

**a2**

Nocturne of St. Eloi, 1918 (TCD MS 7989/1/3)

**a3**

Nocturne, Saint Eloi (TCD MS 79891/1)

**pub**

This poem was published in Poems as “Nocturn”

Let’s assume this has been encoded as follows:
To the memory of Geoffrey England Taylor, 2nd Lieutenant, R.F.A., died of wounds received in action, in France, September, 26, 1918.


I labour in a barren place,
Afraid, aware, little blundering, lonely thing:
Far away, stars wheeling on through space.
Above me, Far away stars wheeling in space,
Far above, stars wheeling in space,
Far away, stars wheeling in space,
Example 1. This encoded fragment was based on a TEI P4 XML encoded critical edition of
"Nocturne" (McGreevy), made available for the Versioning Machine. Please note, that for the purpose
of this example, the encoding has been simplified and some errors have been deliberately inserted.

1. Spot the obvious mistake, and correct it.
2. Although this encoding is perfectly valid, it takes the entire verse line as the unit of variation. In terms
   of variant representation, this could be made more informative, by encoding the variants under the line
   level. Try this.
3. This variant encoding at word level allows you to group readings and qualify them (punctuation, spelling,
   substantial variation, ...). Enrich your variant encoding with such categories.
4. Complete this critical edition by documenting the list of witnesses the @wit attributes then can properly
   refer to.