### **Reading Hamlet – Transcriber's Manual**

(Last updated 7/12/2017)

"Reading Hamlet" focuses on one of the earliest surviving prompt books of Shakespeare's *Hamlet*, a copy of the quarto of 1676, which contains annotations from the English stage manager and actor John Ward (1704-1773). Ward annotated his copy of *Hamlet* sometime in the 1740s in preparation for a production of the play at his theater in Birmingham, England. This project proposes to create an online research environment in which scholars can explore high definition digitized images of the prompt book, together with encoded and searchable transcriptions of Ward's annotations. In order to produce machine-readable transcriptions, the annotations will be encoded using XML and following a standard paradigm known as an XML schema. The Transcriber's Manual provides an overview of this schema with examples taken from Ward's annotations.

Each page of the Hamlet book is represented by an individual XML file, which translates each mark found on the page—such as marginal note, deletions, and textual changes—into a discrete XML element. To facilitate the transcription of each page, each transcriber should download the file Template.xml, which demonstrates the proper formatting and syntax for transcribing annotations. A new copy of the Template should be made and renamed for each individual page.

It is important to remember that XML formatting is very precise, and even the smallest changes can lead to an error. In order to have a properly formatted—also known as validated—XML file, you must have certain elements. Each page must begin with the following lines, with no spaces or extra lines before them:

The document must also end with these lines:

```
97 </annotation>
98 </transcription>
```

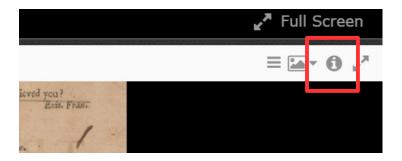
The two starting lines refer to an external schema and DTD, which allows for the use of special characters. The lines must always look like this. The elements for **transcription**, **page**, and **annotation** must always be present and must always be closed. The **page** element closes at the end of its line, while **transcription** and **annotation** remain open until the end of the document.

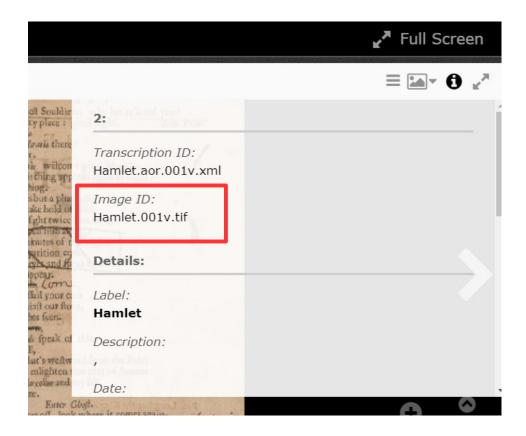
Before working on the annotations, the transcriber must modify several attributes of the **page** element in order to correctly identity the page being transcribed.

```
<page filename="Hamlet.002r.tif" pagination="3" signature="I.1" reader="John Ward"/>
```

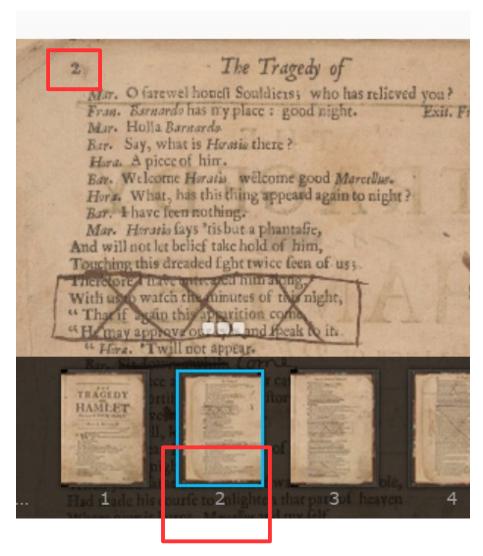
The transcriber must change filename, pagination, and signature—the reader remains the same across the work.

- filename: the name of the file containing the image of the page. To find this, in the book viewer, click the "i" button on the top right and copy the name under "Image ID". Copy the name under Image ID.





- pagination: the page number, found in viewer at bottom or on the physical page itself



- **signature**: the act and scene of the current page, written with Roman numerals for the act and Arabic numerals for the scene. For example: Act 1, Scene 1 -> I.1; Act 3, Scene 2 -> III.2

#### **Annotations**:

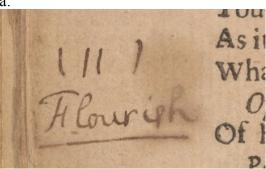
There are several types of annotations on the page, but in the XML file these types follow a specific order. The types and their order are the following:

- 1) **marginalia** anything written in the margins that does not have an explicit relationship to the printed text
- 2) **substitution** changes to the printed text, including deletions, insertions, and replacements
- 3) **symbol** a mark on the page which has a specific and unchanging meaning beyond simply drawing attention to the text. John Ward uses primarily one symbol, Hatching.
- 4) **mark** any mark on the page without a clear meaning beyond drawing attention to the text.

Each of these types requires an individual element in the file. Examples are explored below. If using the template, the transcriber must remember to delete extra elements in the file.

## **Marginalia**:

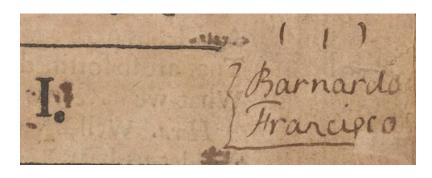
**Example 1** – Simple marginalia:



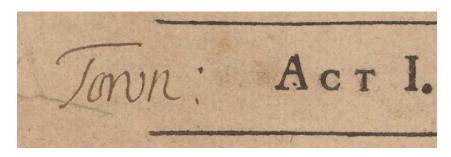
## Things to note:

- 1) Leave the language element as it is
- 2) Leave the book orientation as it is
- 3) Options for place are: head, left margin, right margin, intext, tail
- 4) The important thing is the marginalia text
- 5) Use separate tags for names of people (see example 2)
- 6) Record whether the marginalia is connected (i.e. "anchored") to the printed text (see example 3)

#### **Example 2** – People referenced:



**Example 3** – anchored text (i.e. the marginalia seems to relate explicitly to the printed text):



**Example 4** – anchored text & supplied letters:

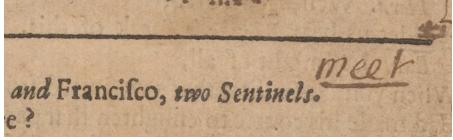
```
Hrs. My Lord, my Lord.

Mar. Lord Hamlet.

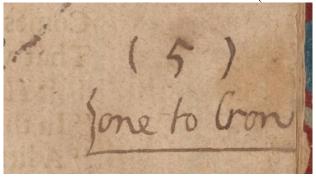
Hora. Heavens secure him.

Ham. So be it.
```

**Example 5** – Ambiguous case: anchored or not anchored? If in doubt, don't anchor.



Example 6 – Uncertainty about text: Added "Unsure" as comment ( <!-- --> )



## **Substitution – Replacement:**

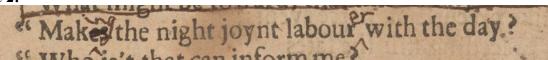
#### Example 1:

What think you of it?

Hora. I could not believe this believe,

Without the sensible and true avouch

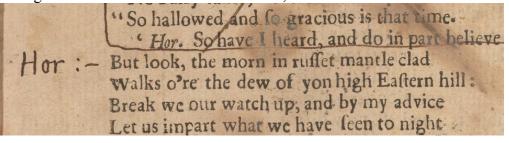
#### Example 2:



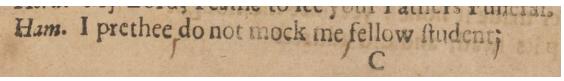
<substitution method="pen" type="replacement" copyText="Makes the night joynt labour with
the day?" amendedText="Making the night joynt labourer with the day?"/>

#### **Substitution – Insertion:**

**Example 1** – Marginalia or insertion? If there are doubts, confer with others.



#### **Example 2** – Punctuation:



<substitution method="pen" type="replacement" copyText="I prethee do not mock me fellow student"
amendedText="I prethee, do not mock me, fellow student;"/>

**Example 3** – Words:

By heavn I'll make a Ghost of him that letts me:

<substitution method="pen" type="replacement" copyText="I'll make a Ghost of him that letts me:"
amendedText="By heav'n, I'll make a Ghost of him that letts me: --"/>

### **Substitution – Deletion**:

Example 1 –

When he th' ambitious Normay combated.

So from d he once, when in an angry Parle

He smote the Acaded Pollax on the ice.

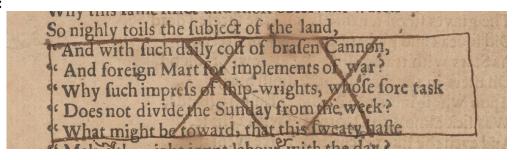
Tissurange.

<substitution method="pen" type="deletion" copyText="" So frown'd he once, when in angry Parle | " He smote the sleaded Pollax on the ice | 'Tis strange." amendedText=""/>

#### Two things to remember:

- 1) Use the vertical bar (|) after every line, except the last line.
- 2) Use two single quotation marks (') and space before lines that are preceded by quotes

#### Example 2:

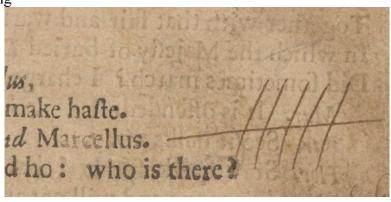


<substitution method="pen" type="deletion" copyText="</pre>

- "And with such daily cost of brasen Cannon, |
- "And foreign Mart for implements of war?
- "Why such impress of ship-wrights, whose sore task |
- "Does not divide the Sunday from the week?
- "What might be toward, that this sweaty haste" amendedText=""/>

**Symbols**:

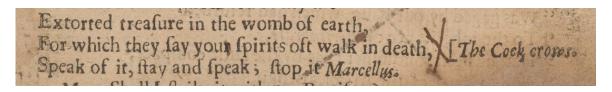
Example 1 – Hatching



<symbol name="Hatching" place="right margin"/>

### Marks:

Example 1 - X sign



<mark name="X\_sign" method="pen" place="right\_margin" text="For which they say
you spirits oft walk in death,"/>

## **Additional notes:**

Ampersand (&) -- Due to problems with XML, any use of the ampserand must be written as & amp;

When saving your file, use the name given under "Filename" (e.g. Hamlet.001r) but instead of a .tif, save it as an .xml. (e.g. Hamlet.001r.xml).

## **Checking work**:

Use the comment tag to insert remarks without affecting the code: <!-- comment here -->

#### Page information:

1. Check the filename, pagination, signature

#### Marginalia:

- 1. Check formatting: properly indented elements (marginalia, language, position, marginalia\_text), must be closed in reverse order (</marginalia\_text>, </position>, etc)
- 2. Check position
- 3. If applicable, check "anchor text" -- i.e. the section of text clearly associated with marginalia
- 4. Check text
- 5. Check person tags

#### **Substitutions**:

- 1. Check formatting: indented, and must have method, type, copyText, amendedText, each with open and close quotation marks; must be closed with "/>"
- 2. Check proper type (deletion, insertion, replacement, errata)
- 3. Check text

#### **Symbols**:

- 1. Check formatting: indented, and must have name (X\_sign or Hatching), method (pen), and place (i.e. position)
- 2. If associated with a text, check textt

## If there are red bars after checking previous components:

# 1) Check file format

</annotation> </transcription>

2) **Double check** a) proper spelling of element names, b) Use of all required attributes c) use of quotation marks to open and close attributes, d) proper closing of elements with "/>"