AHCIP: Stream Format Syntax

### Updated: 2014-08-26

A Homer Commentary in Progress (AHCIP) uses notation files that are in a stream format, called a Stream Format File (SFF). These SFFs will be used both by human beings, and by a computer to load the data into the AHCIP system. The computer expects the files to follow the specification, or else it gets confused and the files must be edited and resubmitted.

If you need to create notation syntax that is not described herein, please talk to Lenny and/or Rob (rjenson@chs.harvard.edu) before using it so that we can alter the computer programs to expect it.

This document describes the syntax that the computer expects in SFFs. Many of the notes include examples of what we have seen in earlier files that cause problems and have to be fixed manually before resubmission to the computer. Problems to avoid are marked in **bold** throughout.

# Filenames

It is desirable that the filenames are consistent, and that they do not contain symbols that cause problems for machine processing. **Specifically, punctuation marks of any kind other than the period are BAD.** Please don't create file names with spaces or commas or semicolons or other punctuation marks. Especially spaces. These make the computer very unhappy.

For consistency, it is best to use the following scheme for naming files: two letters, all capitals, indicating the author, followed by two or three letters, all caps, indicating the commentary reference work, followed by one of Iliad, Odyssey, or HomHymns ... literally. (Abbreviations for commentary sources should be two or three characters). Examples:

DEPCIliad.docx = David Elmer, *The Poetics of Consent*, references to the *Iliad*

GNHPCHomHymns.docx = Gregory Nagy, *Homer the Preclassic*, references to the Homeric Hymns

LMAAOdyssey.docx = Lenny Muellner, *The Anger of Achilles*, references to the *Odyssey*

# Preamble

The first few lines of the file should include the author and title of the work, and a note what edition was used (print or online; if online - URL and the date(s) processed). The author and title should be written out, not abbreviated. It would be very helpful if the abbreviation that you're using for the commentary reference (e.g., "HPC" for Homer the Preclassic) also be noted in that preamble. The computer won't do anything with the preamble but ignore all lines up to the first Passage Reference Line. Example:

Gregory Nagy [GN], *Homer the Preclassic* [HPC](2010) [Print edition]

On the *Homeric Hymns*

HHDemeter.2.494-495

Everything preceeding the line beginning with HHDemeter is the preamble

# Structure of the Rest of the File

There are Passage Reference Lines (PRL) and Commentary Reference Lines (CRL).

A commentary notation comprises one PRL, followed by one or more CRLs, followed by one or more blank lines.

**There must not be blank lines between the PRL and the first CRL** referencing that passage. **There must not be blank lines between CRLs.**

Lines that contain text that are not recognized as a valid PRL will be ignored until the next valid PRL is detected. Example of several complete commentary notation (lines truncated)

HHApollo.3.225-228

HN 709: reference; analysis of Apollo’s journey from Olympus and the hymn’s northern geography

HN 709n122: quoted and translated; contra Guillon 1963 who considers the hymn’s treatment of Thebes anti-Theban

I.24.354 / I.24.358 / I.24.366-367 / I.24.374-377

MR 154: quoted and translated; quoted and translated; analysis of the role of nóos ...

O.04.561-569

BA 167: reference; analysis of the Homeric descriptions of the island of Leuke, Isles of the Blessed, ...

BA 171: reference; comparison of Elysium in this passage with the description of the Golden Age in ...

BA 179: reference; comparison of the description of the Isles of the Blessed (Pindar O.2), the First ...

BA 196: reference, quoting and translating 567-568; Okeanos as a landmark for both the Isles of the ...

BA 206: reference; Okeanos as a landmark for both the Isles of the Blessed (W&D) and Elysium, as here, ...

BA 210: reference; analysis of the stylization of immortalization in Epos, with xanthos ‘blond’ as applied ...

# Passage Reference Lines (PRLs)

Must begin with either:

* I followed by a period (for *Iliad* references) .
* O followed by a period (for *Odyssey* references)
* HH followed by an indicator of which HH followed by a period (for Homeric Hymns). **The computer recognizes the following formats for Homeric Hymns**:
* HH3Apollo.
* HHApollo.3.
* HH.3.
* HH3.

Note that HHApollo3. is not valid!

**Note that every PRL should explicitly indicate the number of the HH**.

**Note that using a variant spelling of the God's name other than those below is not valid.** Capitalizing any letters other than the first of those names is not valid.

For *Iliad* and *Odyssey* the first period must be followed by the book/scroll number, in Arabic numerals, followed by another period, followed by a line number or a line number range.

For Homeric Hymns the first period must be followed by a line number or a line number range.

**Nothing else may follow the above in a PRL**. References to Scholia should not be indicated in the PRL, but in the CRL in either the commentary reference, or in the commentary text itself. **Anything put into parentheses following the passage reference will be chopped off and appended to the commentary text.**

**A PRL must not end in a period.**

**PRLs should not use the f. or ff. notation** ... please use an explicit range, or make a passage reference to the first line and indicate in the commentary that the commentary refers to lines that follow.

**There is no range notation for "passages from here to the end."** Please don't make one up! The only way to validly indicate this in the system is to provide a range including the exact line number of the last line. Unless someone wants to send me a list of the last line number of every book of *Iliad*, *Odyssey* and each HH, so that I can program those into my scripts, please use a proper range, or make note in the commentary text to the end of the book or Hymn.

**To indicate "the entire book" or "the entire Hymn", you must indicate this with three exclamation marks** where the line number reference would go. Examples:

HH13Demeter.!!! Means the entirety of HH13

I.3.!!! Means the entirety of *Iliad* 3

O.11.!!! Means the entirety of *Odyssey* 11

A range notation states that the reference is to multiple sequential passages. It is indicated by a valid passage reference, followed by a hyphen, followed by a reference to the final line of the range. Examples:

HH.33.008-012

I.01.578-579

**There is no notation for a range of books or Hymns**. These must be written as separate commentary notations.

There is a shorthand for references to multiple passages within a book or Hymn. The shorthand can take one of two forms, both using the slash character. You may use only one form per commentary notations ... they must not be mixed.

The first form is used for indicating multiple lines or ranges of lines from the same source text. The book or Hymn is noted once, followed by the first line reference or range then a forward slash character (/), followed by the next line reference, etc. The line must end with an alphanumeric, not a slash. There must be no spaces between the slashes and the line numbers. Examples:

HHAphrodite.5.81/107/191-192 Lines 81, 107 and 191-192 in HH5

I.07.104-105/111/114/123-161 Lines 104-105, 111, 114 and 123-161 of *Iliad*

The second form is used for indicating passages from different source texts. Each passage reference must be to a single line or line range. Each passage reference must be separated from the next by a single space character, a forward slash (/) character, and another space character. Examples:

I.02.053a / I.02.164a / I.02.192b / I.02.196c / I.03.018a

HHMusesApollo.25.006-007 / HHSelene.32.001-002 / I.01.001

**The following is invalid:**

I.01.086/095/111-112 / O.24.034/485

You may use at most five (5) slashes to shorthand the passages referred to by a commentary in one commentary notation. If the author refers to more than six passages, use two notations.

**There should never be extra spaces at the end of a valid PRL.**

**There should never be any comments in a PRL.**

## Preferred Homeric Hymn Passage Reference Strings

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| HH1Dionysus | HH2Demeter | HH3Apollo |
| HH4Hermes | HH5Aphrodite | HH6Aphrodite |
| HH7Dionysus | HH8Ares | HH9Artemis |
| HH10Aphrodite | HH11Athena | HH12Hera |
| HH13Demeter | HH14Gaia | HH15Heracles |
| HH16Asclepius | HH17Dioskouroi | HH18Hermes |
| HH19Pan | HH20Hephaistos | HH21Apollo |
| HH22Poseidon | HH23Zeus | HH24Hestia |
| HH25MusesApollo | HH26Dionysus | HH27Artemis |
| HH28Athena | HH29Hestia | HH30Gaia |
| HH31Helios | HH32Selene | HH33Dioskouroi |

# Commentary Reference Lines (CRLs)

All CRLs must be of the following format:

A Commentary Reference (CR) followed immediately by a colon (:) character followed immediately by a space character followed by a Commentary Type (CT) followed by a semi-colon (;) character followed immediately by a space character followed by the Commentary Description (CD). **Do not forget the semi-colon character** or you will find a notation of [MRBTP: missing] in the CT field in the database and you will have to correct this manually for each commentary notation.

Examples (truncated)

AA 126: quoted and translated; analysis of Hephaistos’ speech to Hera ...

BA 176-177: references; analysis of the contrast between the mortality ...

HN 144n40: quoted and translated; comment on Eumelos’ “e

Commentary Description

CRLs **must not use** **the double quotation mark** (") character anywhere, ever. To quote text, you may use the single quotation mark ('), the backtick (`), or the "slanted double quotation mark" (”).

Other than the above restriction, you may use any text you wish in the CD.

Commentary Type

The CT field may also be any text, although it is recommended that these be short, consistent indicators of the type of commentary reference. It should be the case that the CT fields can be selected from a controlled vocabulary so that users of AHCIP can limit their searches to one or more of these types using a menu of types. The CT fields should not refer to specific passages or commentary text -- they should be as generic as possible. Some examples (not exhaustive by any means):

paraphrased

quoted

quoted and paraphrased

quoted and translated

reference

reference to scholia

translated

transliterated

transliterated and translated

Additional information about what is being paraphrased, quoted, translated, referenced, etc. should be indicated in the CD.

Commentary References

CRs always begin with the two- or three-letter code for the commentary source text, followed by a space character, followed by a section number reference to where the commentary is. The simplest notation is to a single section. Examples:

HPC 291

HN 24

Notations may cover a range of lines, separated by a hyphen (-) character. Examples:

PP 56-57

ME 57-61

**Do not abbreviate line numbers in ranges** (e.g., PP 56-7 is invalid, as is BA 200-2).

References to a note for a section may be indicated by following the section number with the letter "n" followed by the note number. **Please include the note number, even if there is only one note in that section.** Examples:

HN 186n81

HN 321n225

**There is no notation for multiple notes!** Use multiple references to each note instead (HN 321nn225, 226 is invalid. Use HN321n225, HN321n226 instead)

Multiple references to the same commentary source text can be made using commas to separate them. There must be no space before the comma, and one space after the comma. There may be as many as five commas (six references) to one CRL. Examples:

HN 395, 409n117, 410n117

HPC 88n17, 88n22

CRLs for *Homer the Classic* are a special case, not documented here.