**Investigating the Spanish to English Metamorphosis of *Amadis de Gaula* with TEI**

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Our project deploys TEI alignment markup to document, quantify, and analyze methods taken to compress the length of a medieval Spanish text in a nineteenth-century English translation. We are designing markup methods for interdisciplinary research on cross-cultural translations spanning gaps of centuries and genres in order to reveal the extent to which translation processes introduce formal innovations on earlier texts.

Our long-range project is to document changes in structure and content from Garci Rodríguez de Montalvo's 1508 *Amadís de Gaula* to the 1547 Sevilla printing of Montalvo's *Amadís* to the 1803 English translation by Robert Southey. We chart multiple shifts in form and content of the romance through the efforts of the two textual scholars positioned centuries apart. We begin with a smaller project to discuss at the TEI 2015 conference. We align Southey’s text with Montalvo’s and study through TEI alignment markup the omissions, reductions, and semantic shifts applied in Southey’s translation process. Southey’s translation abridges the early modern Spanish prose romance by half in an effort to restore a theoretical “medieval” or “primitive” state. That is, Southey decided to remove elements from his source text that he conjectured were superadded by Montalvo to produce in English a simpler, imagined Ur-text. In his introduction to the translation, Southey alleges that he has condensed the romance through linguistic compression, without introducing a “modern style” or eliminating episodes.

We will discuss our markup and data extraction methods and share visualizations to help compare the divergent shapes of the two texts, not only in a parallel text edition but also through graphs and charts. We expect to reveal how the *Amadis* text transformed in ways that are more than aesthetic (despite Southey’s claims), and to show the shifting social, political, and moral dimensions that make Southey’s *Amadís* a hybrid of a medieval and modern text.