

SunoikisisDC Spring 2025

EpiDoc:

Digital editions of inscriptions and papyri

Gabriel Bodard (University of London)

Marta Fogagnolo (University of Bologna)

Katharine Shields (King's College London)



Overview

- What is epigraphy?
- What is EpiDoc?
- Leiden to TEI
- EpiDoc encoding
- EpiDoc case studies
- Exercise

What is epigraphy?

ΖΗΝΩΝΟΣ
ΚΟΝΙΑΚΟΥ ΜΑΝΑΣΚΟΥ
ΕΥΔΑΣΕΥΣΕΒΙΟΥ
ΕΦΤΑΣΙΟΥ ΚΑΛΙΚΑΡΤΙΟΥ
ΒΙΩΤΙΚΟΥ· ΙΟΥΔΑΣΑΝΙΦΑΝΟΥ
ΕΠΙΓΕΝΙΟΥ ΧΡΥΣΟΧΟΥ
ΓΕΡΑΘΙΟΥ· ΙΟΥΔΑΣΠΡΑΘΙΝΟΥ
ΡΟΥΦΟΥ· ΟΥΣΥΧΟΛΙΟΥ ΓΕΡΩΝΙ
ΔΑΜΑΝΤΙΟΥ ΧΑΡΙΝΟΥ· ΕΥΡΥΤΙΛΟΥ
ΙΑΚΩΤΤΡΟΒΑΤΟΥ· ΣΕΒΗΡΟΥ
ΕΥΧΟΛΟΥ· ΙΑΚΩΒΟΥ ΝΕΥΟΔΟΥ
ΕΥΚΑΡΒΑΘΙΟΥ· ΑΝΥΣΤΟΥ
ΕΥΚΑΡΒΑΘΙΟΥ· ΣΕΝΟΥ· ΜΙΛΩΝ
ΟΥ· ΚΟΛΩΝΟΥ ΝΕΩΤΕΡΟΥ

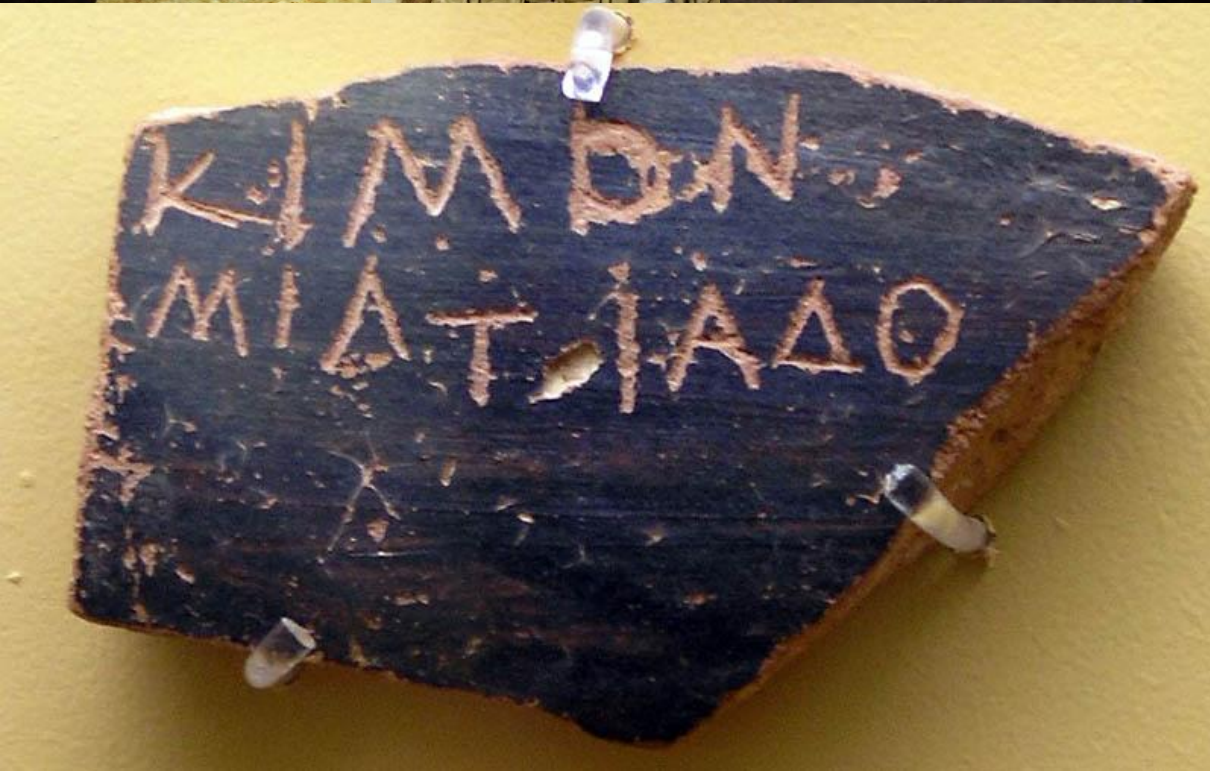




THIS STONE WAS LAID BY
HIS MAJESTY KING GEORGE V
ON THE TWENTY-SIXTH DAY OF JUNE 1933
IN THE TWENTY-FOURTH YEAR OF HIS REIGN
HER MAJESTY QUEEN MARY
BEING PRESENT ON THE OCCASION







...	Illegible letters, not restored by editor.
ab	Letters ambiguous without their context.
[...]	Letters missing, not restored by editor.
[abc]	Letters missing, restored by editor.
<...>	Letters erroneously omitted, not restored.
< abc >	Letters erroneously omitted, restored by editor.
a(bc)	Abbreviation expanded by editor.
{ abc }	Letters considered superfluous by editor.
[[abc]]	Deletion which can be restored.

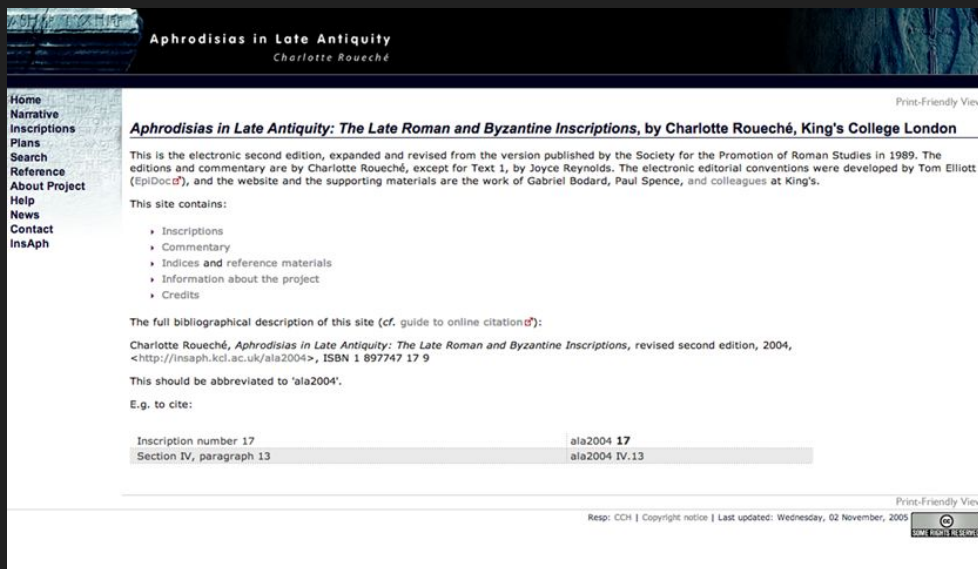
What is EpiDoc?

EpiDoc

- Leading standard for encoding inscriptions, papyri and other primary and documentary texts
- Based on XML (eXtensible Markup Language)
- [TEI](#) sub-standard for epigraphy, papyrology, ancient documents in a broad sense (one of the most structured TEI sub-standards)
- Developed according to the recommendation of the EAGLE Commission for Epigraphy and Information technology (Panciera 1999) by Tom Elliott, Hugh Cayless, and Amy Hawkins (Ancient World Mapping Center), who published in 2000 the EpiDoc Guidelines Version 1

EpiDoc History

- First projects: [Aphrodisias in Late Antiquity](#), [US Epigraphy Project](#), [Vindolanda Tablets](#)
- Beyond epigraphy: [Papyri.info](#) and the conversion tools
- [EAGLE Europeana](#) network



EpiDoc Tools

- Guidelines: <https://epidoc.stoa.org/gl/latest/>
- Homepage: <http://epidoc.sf.net/>
- Schema: <http://www.stoa.org/epidoc/schema/latest/tei-epidoc.rng>
- Stylesheets: <https://github.com/EpiDoc/Stylesheets>
- Template: <https://epidoc.stoa.org/gl/latest/ex-epidoctemplate.xml?format=raw>
- Visualization/publication platform (EFES): <https://github.com/EpiDoc/EFES>
- Converters: [I.Sicily EpiDoc Viewer](#), [EpiDoc Converter](#) of the Patrimonium Project



EpiDoc Guidelines: Ancient documents in TEI XML

EpiDoc is an international, collaborative effort that provides guidelines and tools for [encoding](#) scholarly and educational editions of ancient documents. These are the *Guidelines* produced by the collaborative. In addition, the [EpiDoc Website](#) provides access to all the tools and collaboration environments supported by the collaborative.

EpiDoc uses a subset of the [Text Encoding Initiative's](#) standard for the representation of texts in digital form using the [Extensible Markup Language \(XML\)](#), a technical standard promulgated by the [World-Wide Web Consortium](#). It addresses not only the transcription and editorial preparation of the texts themselves, but also the history and materiality of the objects on which the texts appear.

These *Guidelines* contain descriptions of the textual, descriptive, and other features that are often expressed with EpiDoc, as well as the [TEI](#) elements and attributes that are used to encode them. The links below provide a number of entry points into the full document and should be thought of more as a series of thematic indexes into the content of the *Guidelines*, rather than a single "table of contents" that reflects an ordered, hierarchical document structure.

Browse Guidelines

- [Introduction to the Guidelines](#)
- [Overview of EpiDoc structure](#)

Full listing of guidelines pages:

- [Descriptive and historical data](#)
- [Text transcription](#)
- [Vocabularies and indexing terms](#)

EpiDoc Tools

- Guidelines: <https://epidoc.stoa.org/gl/latest/>
- Homepage: <http://epidoc.sf.net/>
- Schema: <http://www.stoa.org/epidoc/schema/latest/tei-epidoc.rng>
- Stylesheets: <https://github.com/EpiDoc/Stylesheets>
- Template: <https://epidoc.stoa.org/gl/latest/ex-epidoctemplate.xml?format=raw>
- Visualization/publication platform (EFES): <https://github.com/EpiDoc/EFES>
- Converters: [I.Sicily EpiDoc Viewer](#), [EpiDoc Converter](#) of the Patrimonium Project

Welcome to EFES!

Now that you have EFES up and running, it's time to start building your project. Start with one of the options listed below and go from there.

Add your TEI

Put your files in
webapps/ROOT/content/xml/tei
(TEI) or
webapps/ROOT/content/xml/epidoc
(EpiDoc) and go to the [admin](#) and
index them for searching. Then see
how they are displayed ([TEI](#) and
[EpiDoc](#)).

Customise the templates

Change the look of this site by
modifying the templates in
webapps/ROOT/assets/templates.
The template for this page is
home.xml, and it builds on the base
template base.xml.

Read the documentation

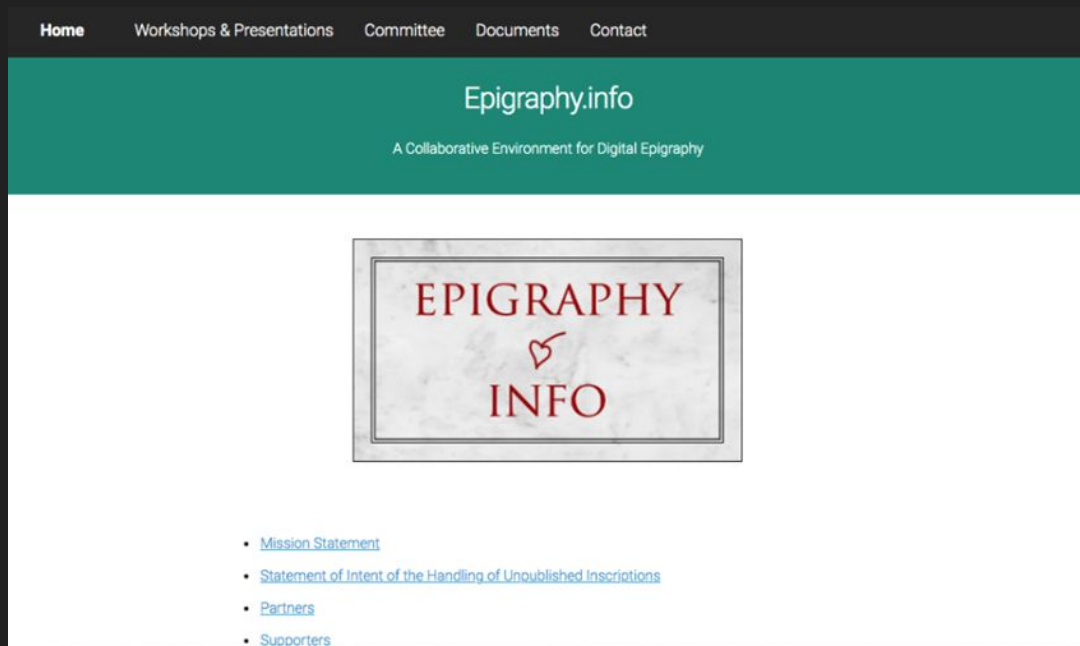
The system comes with
documentation both [online](#) and, in
source form, in the docs directory of
your installation. It explains how you
can modify everything about your
project.

EpiDoc Tools

- Guidelines: <https://epidoc.stoa.org/gl/latest/>
- Homepage: <http://epidoc.sf.net/>
- Schema: <http://www.stoa.org/epidoc/schema/latest/tei-epidoc.rng>
- Stylesheets: <https://github.com/EpiDoc/Stylesheets>
- Template: <https://epidoc.stoa.org/gl/latest/ex-epidoctemplate.xml?format=raw>
- Visualization/publication platform (EFES): <https://github.com/EpiDoc/EFES>
- Converters: [I.Sicily EpiDoc Viewer](#), [EpiDoc Converter](#) of the Patrimonium Project

Keeping in touch with the EpiDoc community

- [Markup List](#)
- [Epigraphy.info](#) (controlled vocabularies, ontologies...)



Structure of an EpiDoc Edition

<https://epidoc.stoa.org/gl/latest/supp-structure.html>

<TEI>

→ root element

<teiHeader>...</teiHeader>

→ descriptive & historical data

<facsimile>...</facsimile>

→ images

<text>...</text>

→ text, apparatus, translations,
commentary, bibliography

</TEI>

<text>: div[@type]

- **edition**
 - **textpart**
- **apparatus**
- **translation**
- **commentary**
- **bibliography**

<text>

<body>

<div type="edition">

<div type="textpart">...</div>

</div>

<div type="apparatus">...</div>

<div type="translation">...</div>

<div type="commentary">...</div>

<div type="bibliography">...</div>

</body>

</text>

div[@type='edition']

```
<div type="edition" xml:lang="grc">
```

```
  <ab>
```

```
    <lb n="1"/>...
```

```
    <lb n="2"/>...
```

```
    <lb n="3"/>...
```

```
  </ab>
```

```
</div>
```

- @xml:lang is required (unless textparts have individual languages)
 - (see <http://iana.org/assignments/language-subtag-registry/>)
- all epigraphic/papyrological/etc. Text
 - contained in <ab>, <lg>/<l>, <p>, etc.
 - all Leiden sigla must be represented in EpiDoc

div[@type='apparatus']

```
<div type="apparatus">  
  <listApp>  
    <app loc="1">...</app>  
    <app loc="2">...</app>  
  </listApp>  
</div>
```

- TEI app module designed for Lachmannian *apparatus criticus*
 - multiple witnesses
- epigraphic *apparatus criticus*
 - comment on letterforms
 - supplements, interpretations
 - previous editors

div[@type='translation']

```
<div type="translation" xml:lang="en">  
  <p>...</p>  
  <p>...</p>  
</div>
```

- essentially the same rules as for edition
 - EpiDoc sigla, etc., but probably much less markup
 - simpler structure, silent expansion
- @xml:lang='en' | 'de' | 'fr' | 'it' | *etc.*
- @resp/@source
- @subtype='literal' | 'literary' | 'pedagogical' | *vel sim.*

div[@type='commentary']

```
<div type="commentary">  
  <p>...</p>  
  <p>...</p>  
</div>
```

- mostly prose, discussion, commentary
- dating
- quoted text
- external references
- line-by-line comments

div[@type='bibliography']

```
<div type="bibliography">  
  <listBibl>  
    <bibl>...</bibl>  
    <bibl>...</bibl>  
  </listBibl>  
</div>
```

- <listBibl>/<bibl>
 - links to master bibliography
 - free-standing content
- @subtype='principal' | 'derived' | 'discussion' | *etc.*

<teiHeader>

<fileDesc>

<sourceDesc>...

<msDesc>...

<msIdentifier>Information about the repository in which the object is stored</msIdentifier>

<physDesc>Physical description of the object</physDesc>

<history>Ancient and modern history of the object</history>

</msDesc>

</source Desc>

</fileDesc>

Leiden to TEI

...	Illegible letters, not restored by editor.
ab	Letters ambiguous without their context.
[...]	Letters missing, not restored by editor.
[abc]	Letters missing, restored by editor.
<...>	Letters erroneously omitted, not restored.
< abc >	Letters erroneously omitted, restored by editor.
a(bc)	Abbreviation expanded by editor.
{ abc }	Letters considered superfluous by editor.
[[abc]]	Deletion which can be restored.

...	<gap reason="illegible" extent="unknown"/>
ab	<unclear>ab</unclear>
[...]	<gap reason="lost" extent="unknown"/>
[abc]	<supplied reason="lost">abc</supplied>
<...>	<gap reason="omitted" extent="unknown"/>
<abc>	<supplied reason="omitted">abc</supplied>
a(bc)	<expan><abbr>a</abbr><ex>be</ex></expan>
{abc}	<surplus>abc</surplus>
[[abc]]	abc

EpiDoc encoding

SIMPLE ABBREVIATION

AVG = Augustus

aug part of the **abbr**eviation that is on the stone: **<abbr>**

ustus part you need to **ex**pend to resolve word: **<ex>**

Augustus whole **ex**anded word: **<expan>**

SIMPLE ABBREVIATION

AVG = Augustus

aug	<abbr>	⇒	<expand>
ustus	<ex>		<abbr>Aug</abbr>
Augustus	<expand>		<ex>ustus</ex>
			</expand>

Critical edition: Aug(ustus)

Diplomatic edition: AVG

UNEXPANDED ABBREVIATION

XOP = ?

χ op <abbr>  <abbr> χ op</abbr>

Critical edition: χ op(- - -)

Diplomatic edition: XOP

ONE MORE COMPLEX ABBREVIATION

augg	<abbr>		<expan>
g	<am>	⇒	<abbr>
usti duo	<ex>		Aug
augusti duo	<expan>		<am>g</am>
			</abbr>
			<ex>usti duo</ex>
			</expan>

Critical edition: Aug(usti duo)

Diplomatic edition: AVGG

Partially restored lacuna



Κατεσκευ[άσθη]
ἐπὶ τῶν εὐσ[εβεστάτων]

Partially restored lacuna



Κατεσκευ<supplied reason="lost">άσθη</supplied>
ἐπὶ τῶν εὐσ[εβεστάτων]

Partially restored lacuna



Κατεσκευ<supplied reason="lost">άσθη</supplied>
ἐπὶ τῶν εὐσ<supplied reason="lost">εβεστάτων
</supplied>

Partially restored lacuna



Κατεσκευ<supplied reason="lost">άσθη</supplied>
ἐπὶ τῶν εὐ<unclear>σ</unclear><supplied
reason="lost">εβεστάτων</supplied>

Partially restored lacuna



Κατεσκευ[άσθη ...]
ἐπὶ τῶν εὐσ[εβεστάτων ...]

Unrestored lacuna



Κατεσκευ<supplied reason="lost">άσθη</supplied><gap/>
ἐπὶ τῶν εὐ<unclear>σ</unclear><supplied
reason="lost">εβεστάτων</supplied>

Unrestored lacuna



Κατεσκευ<supplied reason="lost">άσθη</supplied> <gap/>
ἐπὶ τῶν εὐ<unclear>σ</unclear><supplied
reason="lost">εβεστάτων</supplied>

Unrestored lacuna



Κατεσκευ<supplied reason="lost">άσθη</supplied> <gap
reason="lost" extent="unknown" unit="character"/>
ἐπὶ τῶν εὐ<unclear>σ</unclear><supplied
reason="lost">εβεστάτων</supplied>

Unrestored lacuna



Κατεσκευ<supplied reason="lost">άσθη</supplied> <gap
reason="lost" extent="unknown" unit="character"/>
ἐπὶ τῶν εὐ<unclear>σ</unclear><supplied
reason="lost">εβεστάτων</supplied> <gap reason="lost"
extent="unknown" unit="character"/>

“But...”

<supplied reason="lost">άσθη</supplied>

⇒ [άσθη]

“But...”

<supplied reason="lost">άσθη</supplied>

⇒ [άσθη]

<gap reason="lost" extent="unknown" unit="character"/>

⇒ [...]

Unrestored lacuna—display



Κατεσκευ[άσθη] [...]
ἐπὶ τῶν εὐσ[εβεστάτων] [...]

Unrestored lacuna—corrected



Κατεσκευ[άσθη] [...]
ἐπὶ τῶν εὐσ[εβεστάτων] [...]

Unrestored lacuna—corrected



Κατεσκευ[άσθη ...]
ἐπὶ τῶν εὐσ[εβεστάτων ...]

Symbols and marks

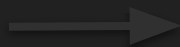
- Non meaning-bearing symbols:
 - leaf, scroll, crux, point, dolphin, star, wreath
- Meaning-bearing symbols or shorthand marks:
 - denarius, etos, half, artabe, centurion
- Marks with expansion or regularization to text values:
 - Chi-rho, monogram, ligatures, complex abbreviations

Non meaning-bearing symbols

- `<g ref="#leaf"/>`
- `<g ref="#scroll"/>`
- `<g ref="#crux"/>`
- `<g ref="#dipunct"/>`

To include the Unicode:

- `<g ref="#leaf">𐌿</g>`
- `<g ref="#leaf">❧</g>`



Critical edition: ((leaf))

Diplomatic edition: 𐌿

Meaning-bearing marks

- `<g ref="#denarius"/>`
- `<expan>`
 - `<abbr>`
 - `<am><g ref="#denarius"/></am>`
 - `</abbr>`
 - `<ex>δηνάρια</ex>`
- `</expan>`

Critical edition: ((δηνάρια))

Diplomatic edition: *

Chi-rho

- Expand to name (Ɱ):

```
<expan>  
  <abbr><am><g ref="#chi-rho"/></am></abbr>  
  <ex>Χριστός</ex>  
</expan>
```

- Expand to string (Ɱ OPHER):

```
<expan>  
  <abbr><am><g ref="#chi-rho"/></am></abbr>  
  <ex>Christ</ex>  
  <abbr>opher</abbr>  
</expan>
```

Chi-rho

- Ligature (Ϡ ΥΣΟΦΟΡΟΣ):
`<hi rend="ligature">Xρ</hi>υσοφόρος`
- Just a symbol (Ϡ):
`<g ref="#chi-rho"/>`

To include the Unicode:

- `<g ref="#chi-rho"> Ϡ </g>`
- `<g ref="#chi-rho">☧</g>`

EpiDoc case studies



Catherine Dobias-Lalou

Inscriptions of Greek Cyrenaica

in collaboration with Alice Bencivenni and Hugues Berthelot
with help from Simona Antolini, Silvia Maria Marengo and Emilio Rosamilia

Catherine Dobias-Lalou

Greek Verse Inscriptions of Cyrenaica

in collaboration with Alice Bencivenni
with help from Joyce M. Reynolds and Charlotte Roueché

Cyrene, agora. Photo by courtesy of J.-P. Perrin, enhanced by A. Bencivenni

<https://igcyr.unibo.it/>

Catherine Dobias-Lalou

Inscriptions of Greek Cyrenaica. Second edition

in collaboration with Alice Bencivenni and Hugues Berthelot
with help from Simona Antolini, Silvia Maria Marengo and Emilio Rosamilia

Catherine Dobias-Lalou

Greek Verse Inscriptions of Cyrenaica. Second edition

in collaboration with Alice Bencivenni
with help from Joyce M. Reynolds and Charlotte Roueché

The edition is designed by Irene Vagionakis to draw on and enhance IGCyr | GVCyr: <https://igcyr.unibo.it/>



Appendix: Aligning EpiDoc With Mycenaean Usage (Wingspread Conventions)



Description	Wingspread	DAMOS	EpiDoc encoding	DAMOS example	EpiDoc Guidelines
Characters and glyphs					
syllabogram (in a syllabic word)	pa- or -ro2	pa- or -ro2	pa- -ro2	4327 (PY An(6) 35); 4471; 4626	Clear text
syllabic word	da-mo-de	da-mo-de	<code><w xml:id="">da-mo-de</w></code>	4579	Words and lemmata
logogram	OLE	OLE	<code><w type="logogram" xml:id="">OLE</w></code>	4560	Not yet covered.
syllabogram used as logogram (i.e. adjectival logogram)	PA	PA	<code><w type="syllabogram-as-logogram" xml:id="">PA</w></code>	4960	Not yet covered.
Monogram (i.e. ligatured syllabograms used as logogram)	MERI	ME±RI	<code><w type="monogram" xml:id="">ME±RI</w></code>	2	Not covered.
Ligatured logograms	TELA+PO	TELA+PO	<code><w type="ligature" xml:id="">TELA+PO</w></code>	681	cf. Ligatured Letters
Metrogram	S	S	<code><w type="metrogram" xml:id="">S</w></code>	4214	Not yet covered.
Arithmogram	1	1	<code><num xml:id="">1</num></code>	4170	Numbers/Numerals Of Known Value
Syllabogram as abbreviation	o	o	<code><w xml:id=""><abbr>O</abbr></w></code>	380	Abbreviation not Expanded at All
Word divider	,	,	<code><pc xml:id=""><g ref="#word-divider"/></pc></code>	4421	cf. Symbol: interpuncts
Dividing line	:	:	<code><pc xml:id=""><g ref="#dividing-line"/></pc></code>	5096	cf. Symbol: interpuncts
Uninterpreted glyph (syllabogram)	*47	*47	<code><w><g ref="#s47"/></w></code>	5034	Cf. Symbol (non meaning-bearing)
Uninterpreted glyph (logogram)	*123	*123	<code><g ref="#l123"/></code>	4364	Cf. Symbol (non meaning-bearing)
Uninterpreted glyph (vase logogram)	*155 ^{VAS}	*155VAS	<code><g ref="#l155vas"/></w></code>	4976	Cf. Symbol (non meaning-bearing)

<https://epidoc.stoa.org/gl/latest/app-epi-mycenaean.html>

Appendix: Aligning EpiDoc With ORACC

 search

Description	Conventional display	ATF	EpiDoc page(s)
Correction of sign	AB [!]	AB!	Correction (without specification)
Correction of sign (original shown)	AB [!] (BA)	AB!(BA)	Erroneous substitution
Damage to sign	bi- ^r it-su ¹	bi-it#-su#	Ambiguous characters (Leiden underdot)
Unknown number of characters lost [...]		[...]	Lost characters, quantity unknown
One character lost	[x]	[x]	Lost characters, quantity known
Six characters lost	[x x x x x x]	[x x x x x x]	Lost characters, quantity known
Three to six characters lost	[x x x (x x x)]	[x x x (x x x)] (tba)	
Restored lost characters	[AB]	[AB]	Editorial restoration
Uncertainly restored lost characters	[AB [?]]	[AB?]	Editorial restoration, uncertain
Restoration of accidental omission	<ab>	<ab>	Supplement of omitted characters
Restoration of intentional omission	bi-it-<(su)>	bi-it-<(su)>	Abbreviation fully expanded
Characters rejected by editor	<<ab>>	<<ab>>	Superfluous characters
Unclear sign	x	x	Illegible characters, quantity known
Clear but uninterpreted sign	AB	\$AB	Uninterpreted characters (Leiden uppercase)
Ligature or compound grapheme	a+na	a+na	Ligatures

Cf. also Steve Tinney and Eleanor Robson, [ATF Quick Reference](#), *Oracc: The Open Richly Annotated Cuneiform Corpus*, Oracc, 2014.

<https://epidoc.stoa.org/gl/latest/app-epi-oracc.html>

Exercise