# Editor's Style-sheet
*for the*
# Dartmouth Dante Project

## Introduction

This document describes the editing conventions used in the text source files of the Dartmouth Dante Project (DDP). These conventions deal primarily with how to represent special characters and how to format the text. Editors who are entering or modifying the text files should follow these conventions to ensure that the project's software will correctly parse the files and load the correct data into the database.

## Text Format

### General Format

The source text files of the Dartmouth Dante Project reside on a Unix server. The files are plain ASCII text files and follow the Unix convention of using a "newline" line-break character to end each line of text.

The files can be edited with any convenient text editor on the server, or they can be copied to a personal computer, edited there, and copied back to the server. A line in the source files can be any convenient length.

The text in a source file consists of one or more text sections. Each section consists of one or more paragraphs. Each section or paragraph should be separated from the preceding section or paragraph by a blank line. Except as indicated below, the first line of a paragraph should **not** be indented with blanks or tabs.

There are two types of text sections: line number sections and *nota* sections.

### Line Number Sections

The most common type is the line number section. This section contains text that refers to a specific line or range of lines from the poem.[1] The first line of the first (or only) paragraph of a line number section includes the line number or range of lines. The line number or range is in bold font. The format of this first line is:

- A tab character,
- A vertical bar (|) to indicate bold font,
- The first or only line number,
- Optionally, a hyphen (-) followed by the second line number of a range,

---

[1] Specification of which commentary, cantica, and canto the text refers to is determined by the file's position in the hierarchy of files and by its filename.

- An optional period,
- An optional tilde to indicate a return to normal font,[2]
- Optional white space (blank),
- The beginning of the commentary text.

An example of the first line of a section referring to a single line would be:

```
|32.~  Farinata degli Uberti was the most valiant and
```

An example of the first line of a section referring to a range of lines would be:

```
|58-60.~  Et continuo petit causam tantae extenuationis
```

## *Nota* Sections

*Nota* sections do not refer to specific line number of the poem. Rather their subject is the entire canto or cantica. The first line of the first (or only) paragraph of a *nota* section begins with a keyword in bold font. The format of this first line is:

- A tab character,
- A vertical bar (|) to indicate bold font,
- One of the following keywords: Proemio, Proemium, Rubrica, Nota, Conclusione, Summarium, Table, or Deductio.
- An optional period,
- An optional tilde to indicate a return to normal font,
- Optional white space (blank),
- The beginning of the commentary text.

An example of the first line of a *nota* section would be:

```
|Proemio.~  CUM poeta bonus et peritus sit ille qui
```

## Indented Text

Normally the ends of lines in the source files are not preserved when text is displayed to a user. The user's web browser will fill paragraphs of text to fill the browser window. However, either line number or *nota* sections may include paragraphs of indented text. Indented text is indented a few spaces (determined by the browser), and line breaks are preserved. This format is appropriate for extended quotations. The format of each line of indented text is:

- One or more spaces (*not* tab characters),
- Any text.

---

[2] If the beginning text of the commentary is also in bold, the tilde may appear later in the text.

# Special Characters

DDP source files use the 7-bit ASCII character set found on all current computing systems. Since this character set does not provide for font changes or diacritics, in 1983 the project designed its own markup language to represent these special characters. The markup language uses ASCII characters that would not normally appear in text to indicate font changes and special characters. Just before text is loaded into the DDP database, software converts the DDP markup language into whatever character set and markup language is appropriate to ensure proper indexing and display of the text. The original DDP markup characters themselves do not appear in the final displayed text.

## Font Changes

In addition to the normal font, the DDP supports bold, italics, and superscripting. In each case a markup character indicates the beginning of a special font and a tilde (~) indicates a return to normal font. Special fonts can continue across line and paragraph boundaries. Special fonts may not be combined.

Bold: To begin bold font, insert a vertical bar characters (|); to return to normal font, insert a tilde (~). For example, enter "`in alto |lor disio~`" in order to have the final text display "in alto **lor disio**."

Italics: To begin italics, insert a caret (^); to return to normal font, insert a tilde (~). For example, enter "`Il Buti spiega, ^vuoti di conoscimento~`" in order to have the final text display "Il Buti spiega, *vuoti di conoscimento*".

Superscript: To begin superscripting, such as to indicate ordinals, insert a plus sign (+); to return to normal font, insert a tilde (~). For example, enter "`1+st~`" in order to have the final text display "1st."

## Diacritics

The DDP markup language uses two-character sequences to indicate letters with diacritics. The first character of the sequence is a special character indicating which type of diacritic mark is desired; the second character is the letter to which the diacritic is applied.

Acute accent: Use a dollar sign ($) followed by any vowel – upper- or lower-case – to indicate an acute accent on the vowel. For example, enter "`ch$e`" in order to have the final text display "ché".

Grave accent: Use an at sign (@) followed by any vowel– upper- or lower-case – to indicate a grave accent on the vowel. For example, enter "`pi@u`" in order to have the final text display "più".

Circumflex: Use an octothorpe (#), also called a pound sign, followed by any vowel–upper- or lower-case – to indicate a circumflex on the vowel. For example, enter "`ab#ime`" in order to have the final text display "abîme".

Umlaut: Use a comma (,) followed by any vowel– upper- or lower-case – to indicate an umlaut on the vowel. For example, enter "`L,auterungsberg`" in order to have the final text display "Läuterungsberg". Do not place a blank between the comma and the following letter.

Cedilla: Use a dollar sign ($) followed by the letter "c" or "C" to indicate an cedilla on the letter. For example, enter "`Proven$cal`" in order to have the final text display "Provençal".

## Double Angle Quotes

Use a less-than sign (<) and greater-than sign (>) to indicate a left or right double angle quote, also called a guillemet, respectively. For example, enter "`<Vita Nuova>`" in order to have the final text display "«Vita Nuova»".

## Editorial Modifications

Use square brackets ([ and ]) to indicate editorial modifications such as adding characters or words that are missing in the original text. For example, "feto[re]" to add the missing letters "re".

## Greek Letters

To represent Greek letters the DDP markup language uses a percent sign (%) followed by the name of the letter, spelled out in English. To represent a capital Greek letter, capitalize the spelled-out name of the letter. Greek words are composed of a series of Greek letters with no intervening blanks. For example, enter "`%Gamma%alpha%lambda%alpha`" in order to have the final text display "Γαλα".

## Escaping Markup Characters

In the event that you need to have one of the DDP markup characters appear as itself in the final text, use a backslash (\) immediately before the markup character. This cancels the markup character's special meaning. For example, enter "`\$`" in order to have the final text display "$".

## Combining Font Changes and Special Characters

Special characters may appear within sections of bold or italicized text. Indicate the font change and then enter the special character sequence. For example, enter "`|pi@u~`" in order to have the final text display "**più**".

# Commentary Description Files

In addition to the files containing commentary text, each commentary has a description file named desc.e and located in the top-level directory of the commentary. These files contain information about the commentary itself, such as its formal name, publication date, editor, etc. Each section of the description file is introduced by a tag line. The format of a tag line is:

- Two periods,
- One of the following four-letter upper-case tags described below,
- A colon

The tag line should not contain any other text. The text of the section begins on the line following the tag line. Any of the font change or special character markup described above can be used in the text. Sections of the description file can appear in any order.

The recognized tags and their meanings are as follows:

- AUTH: The formal name of the commentary, typically the author's name.
- PUBD: The year in which the commentary was published. This may be a single year such as "1846" or it may contain a range of years or some other notation about the publication year such as "1872-82[2nd ed 1900]". The AUTH and PUBD text constitute the title of the commentary as listed on the website.
- PUBL: Bibliographic information about the commentary. It typically lists the author, publication date and location, editors, etc.
- DENT: The data entry method used for the commentary. This may be "typed," "scanned," "KDEM" for the Kurtzweil scanner used early in the project, or any other text.
- EDTR: The name of the DDP editor or editors of the commentary.
- ATTR: This optional section contains keywords indicating special attributes of the commentary. Currently the only keyword used is "copyright" for copyrighted commentaries.

For historical reasons, most commentary description files contain some additional tags. These are ignored by the software.

An example of a desc.e file would be:

```
..AUTH:
Benvenuto da Imola
..PUBD:
1375-80
..PUBL:
Benevenuti de Rambaldis de Imola Comentum super Dantis
Aldigherij Comoediam, nunc primum integre in lucem editum sumptibus
Guilielmi Warren Vernon, curante Jacobo Philippo Lacaita.
Florentiae, G. Barb@era, 1887.
..DENT:
KDEM
..EDTR:
^Inferno~: Kevin Brownlee; ^Purgatorio~ and ^Paradiso~:
Kevin Brownlee and Robert Hollander.
```