TEI for Correspondence

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This lecture

- How and why we edit letters
- Basic structure of encoded letters
- A <correspDesc> primer
- Some problems with encoding letters [i.e. How to solve them with customisation]

How and why we edit letters

Diplomatic/documentary:

A corrected or polished letter would be misleading to a historian, since the value of letters as evidence arises from their having been created, sent, and received at a particular time and in a particular condition.
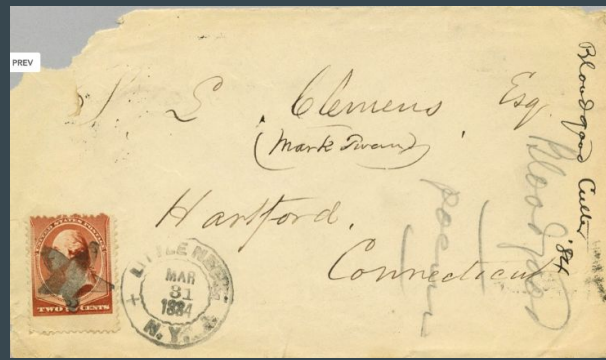
The letter is a snapshot in time, and the wisest editorial course is to resist the temptation to "clean it up."

The goal is to maximize the kinds and amount of manuscript detail that can be legibly and intelligibly included in typographical transcriptions.

But: thinking computationally, what is a letter? It is not just paper; it is not just the letter text; it is an object and an event.
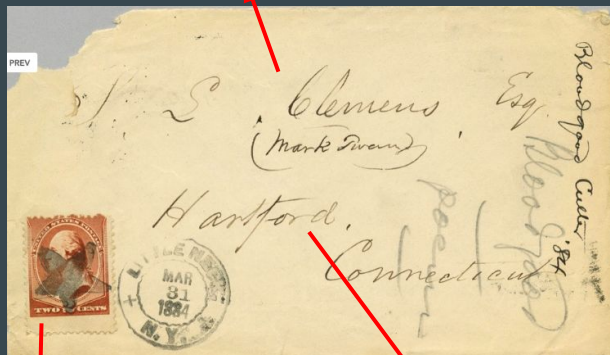
Basic parts of letters

- Put simply, letters are just text structures with additional features unique to letters.
- So that means you have the whole array of elements from the TEI prose module. In this case, you also have poetry elements.
- The key to figuring out the structure involves an inspection of the document.

Modelling Parts of letters

Opening: address and salutation (salute)

Addressee

Docket

Text (poem)

Address

Stamp

Postmark

Closing and valediction (salute), signature (signed)

Translate the letter bits to TEI

ATTN: Professor Butt

St Fuchs College

28th February 1903

My dear Butt

I write with urgent business. I am in need of a whiskey, as I believe Shakespeare was a Roman Catholic. Please advise.

With best wishes, Stephen Hero

Tower House, Dublin

```xml
<text>
    <body>
        <div type="letter">

            <opener>
                <address>
                    <addrLine>ATTN: Professor Butt</addrLine>
                    <addrLine><name>St Fuchs College</name></addrLine>
                </address>
                <dateline><date when="1903-02-28">28th February 1903</date>
                </dateline>

                <salute>My dear Butt</salute>
            </opener>

            <p>I write with urgent business. I am in need of a whiskey,
                as I believe Shakespeare was
                a Roman Catholic. Please advise.</p>

            <closer>
                <salute>With best wishes,</salute>
                <signed>Stephen Hero</signed>
                <dateline>Tower House, Dublin, Thursday</dateline>
            </closer>

        </div>
    </body>
</text>
```

Translate the letter bits to TEI

- **<u>dateline</u>** contains a brief description of the place, date, time, etc. of production of a letter, newspaper story, or other work, prefixed or suffixed to it as a kind of heading or trailer.
- **<u>salute</u> (**salutation) contains a salutation or greeting prefixed to a foreword, dedicatory epistle, or other division of a text, or the salutation in the closing of a letter, preface, etc.
- **<u>signed</u>** (signature) contains the closing salutation, etc., appended to a foreword, dedicatory epistle, or other division of a text.

Group these using:

- **<u>opener</u>** groups together dateline, byline, salutation, and similar phrases appearing as a preliminary group at the start of a division, especially of a letter.
- **<u>closer</u>** groups together salutations, datelines, and similar phrases appearing as a final group at the end of a division, especially of a letter.

```
<text>
  <body>
    <div type="letter">

      <opener>
        <address>
          <addrLine>ATTN: Professor Butt</addrLine>
          <addrLine><name>St Fuchs College</name></addrLine>
        </address>
        <dateline><date when="1903-02-28">28th February 1903</date>
        </dateline>

        <salute>My dear Butt</salute>
      </opener>

      <p>I write with urgent business. I am in need of a whiskey,
        as I believe Shakespeare was
        a Roman Catholic. Please advise.</p>

      <closer>
        <salute>With best wishes,</salute>
        <signed>Stephen Hero</signed>
        <dateline>Tower House, Dublin, Thursday</dateline>
      </closer>

    </div>
  </body>
</text>
```

A primer on <correspDesc>

- **<correspDesc>** (correspondence description) contains a description of the actions related to one act of correspondence.
- It is embedded in the <profileDesc> element of the <teiHeader>. Concerns the "non-bibliographic aspects of a text, … the situation in which it was produced, the participants and their setting" (TEI Consortium 2015, "<profileDesc>").
- <correspDesc> concerns the metadata of letter-writing: who sent the letter, who received it, whether it was forwarded, whether there was a follow-up letter (response), how letter writers are connected in a network).

```
<profileDesc>
    <correspDesc>
        <correspAction></correspAction>
        <correspContext></correspContext>
        <note></note>
    </correspDesc>
</profileDesc>
</teiHeader>
```

A primer on <correspDesc>

- <correspDesc> can contain two specific elements on correspondence action (it can also contain generic elements like <ab> and <note>):
    - <correspAction> (correspondence action): structured description of the place, the name of a person/organization and the date related to the sending/receiving of a message or any other action related to the correspondence.
        - Include a @type attribute to describe the nature of the action: 1] sent; 2] received; 3] transmitted; 4] redirected; 5] forwarded
    - <correspAction> (correspondence context) provides references to preceding or following correspondence related to this piece of correspondence.

The reasoning behind this is that correspondence often exists in a continuum of communication, as well as in a network.

Of course it is smart to have standard metadata that shows who sent what and when, and if the letter was part of a conversation.

A primer on <correspDesc>

This includes both <correspAction> and <correspContext>

A primer on <correspDesc>

What if we learn that Stephen Hero sent a carbon copy to Leopold Bloom (but which is not explicitly reflected in the letter artefact)?

```xml
<profileDesc>
    <correspDesc>
        <correspAction type="sent">
            <persName>Stephen Hero</persName>
            <placeName>Dublin</placeName>
            <date when="1803-02-28"/>
        </correspAction>
        <correspAction type="received">
            <persName><roleName>Professor</roleName>
                <surname>Butt</surname></persName>
            <placeName>Maynooth</placeName>
            <date when="1803-03-01"/>
        </correspAction>
        <correspAction type="received" subtype="cc">
            <persName>Leopold Bloom</persName>
        </correspAction>
```

A primer on <correspDesc>

What if we learn that Stephen Hero sent a carbon copy to Leopold Bloom (but which is not explicitly reflected in the letter artefact)?

```xml
<profileDesc>
    <correspDesc>
        <correspAction type="sent">
            <persName>Stephen Hero</persName>
            <placeName>Dublin</placeName>
            <date when="1803-02-28"/>
        </correspAction>
        <correspAction type="received">
            <persName><roleName>Professor</roleName>
                <surname>Butt</surname></persName>
            <placeName>Maynooth</placeName>
            <date when="1803-03-01"/>
        </correspAction>
        <correspAction type="received" subtype="cc">
            <persName>Leopold Bloom</persName>
        </correspAction>
```

But what about those envelopes and letterheads?

The TEI still lacks some elements that might be useful for correspondence editing. E.g., envelope material, pre-printed letterhead, stamps and postmarks.

What to do? You can customise (more on this tomorrow) but adding a new element in a separate schema file.

```xml
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<?oxygen RNGSchema="schema/mtp4.rng" type="xml"?><TEI xmlns="http://www.tei-c.org/ns/1.0"
    xmlns:xs="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema"
    xmlns:math="http://www.w3.org/1998/Math/MathML"
    xmlns:svg="http://www.w3.org/2000/svg"
    xmlns:xi="http://www.w3.org/2001/XInclude"
    xml:id="UCLC">
  <teiHeader type="CDL-TEI:MTP">
    <fileDesc>
      <titleStmt>
        <title>Letter from J. Hyatt Smith to Samuel L. Clemens : an electronic text</title>
```

MTP letter encoding schema, "mtp4.rng" (written in relaxng)

```xml
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="utf-8"?>
<grammar xmlns="http://relaxng.org/ns/structure/1.0" xmlns:xlink="http://www.w3.org/1999/xlink"
    datatypeLibrary="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema-datatypes" ns="http://www.tei-c.org/ns/1.0">
    <!--
Schema generated from ODD source 2015-08-14T10:23:04Z. .
TEI Edition: Version 2.8.0. Last updated on
    6th April 2015, revision 13197
TEI Edition Location: http://www.tei-c.org/Vault/P5/Version 2.8.0/

-->
```

```xml
<define name="letterhead">
    <element name="letterhead" ns="http://www.tei-c.org/ns/1.0">
        <a:documentation xmlns:a="http://relaxng.org/ns/compatibility/annotations/1.0">preprinted
            letterhead in head, opener, closer: can contain dateline, monogram,
            seal</a:documentation>
        <ref name="macro.specialPara"/>
        <ref name="att.global.attributes"/>
        <empty/>
    </element>
</define>
<define name="sourceline">
    <element name="sourceline" ns="http://www.tei-c.org/ns/1.0">
        <a:documentation xmlns:a="http://relaxng.org/ns/compatibility/annotations/1.0">indicates
            the source of an edited letter--repository, newspaper issue, etc.</a:documentation>
        <ref name="macro.specialPara"/>
        <ref name="att.global.attributes"/>
        <empty/>
    </element>
</define>
```

MTP letter encoding schema generated from ODD file

```xml
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<TEI xmlns="http://www.tei-c.org/ns/1.0" xmlns:rng="http://relaxng.org/ns/structure/1.0"
     xml:lang="en">
     <teiHeader>
```

```
read and use, and makes a schema that is far more lax th
<schemaSpec ident="mtp4" start="TEI teiCorpus" prefix="">
```

```xml
<elementSpec ident="letterhead" ns="" mode="add">
        <desc>preprinted letterhead in head, opener, closer: can contain
              dateline, monogram, seal</desc>
        <classes>
                <memberOf key="model.divLike"/>
                <memberOf key="model.gLike"/>
                <memberOf key="model.global"/>
                <memberOf key="model.inter"/>
                <memberOf key="model.phrase"/>
                <memberOf key="att.global"/>
        </classes>
        <content>
                <rng:ref name="macro.specialPara"/>
        </content>
</elementSpec>
```

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<?oxygen RNGSchema="schema/mtp4.rng" type="xml"?><TEI xmlns="http://www.tei-c.org/ns/1.0"
  xmlns:xs="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema"
  xmlns:math="http://www.w3.org/1998/Math/MathML"
  xmlns:svg="http://www.w3.org/2000/svg"
  xmlns:xi="http://www.w3.org/2001/XInclude"
  xml:id="UCLC">
  <teiHeader type="CDL-TEI:MTP">
    <fileDesc>
      <titleStmt>
        <title>Letter from J. Hyatt Smith to Samuel L. Clemens : an electronic text</title>
```

So how does it look?

George Washington Cable to Samuel L. Clemens
29 March 1884 • Chicago, Ill.
(MS: CU-MARK, UCLC 41836)

THE GRAND PACIFIC HOTEL.

JNO. B. DRAKE & CO. PROPRIETORS

CHICAGO, MCH 29, 1884.

Mr. Mark Twain:

I have been a devoted admirer of your works for the last sixty years. My life has been worth living ever since you began to write. Should you ever cease writing I should commit suicide on receiving the intelligence. Let me assure you, however, that I do not say these things to play upon your vanity. I do not believe you have any. No man who has the least spark of vanity could write your books

I implore you for your autograph. Do not, I beseech you, refuse my request. I have, already, 9,999. I want one more. Just one, dear, gentle, blessed St. Mark! This will reach you on the 1st of April. I shall expect an answer by the 3d. Yours passionately

G. W. Cable

N.B. Every fellow furnish his own stamps.

Mr. S. L. Clemens | Hartford | Connecticut [*return address:*] SENT FROM | THE GRAND PACIFIC HOTEL, | CHICAGO. [*postmarked:*] CHICA[GO] ... ILL MAR 29 645 [*docketed by SLC, in pencil:*] Cable | *mentionable*

THE GRAND PACIFIC HOTEL,

Jno. B. Drake & Co. Proprietors

Chicago, Mch 29, 1884

Mr. Mark Twain:

Sent from
The Grand Pacific Hotel,
Chicago

Mch 29/84

Cable Mentioned

Mr. S. L. Clemens
Hartford
Connecticut

CHIC...
ILL
MAR 29
6 45

Letterhead markup

```xml
<body>
    <head type="metadata"><name type="person" corresp="#GWC">George Washington Cable</name> to
            <addressee><name type="person" corresp="#SLC">Samuel L. Clemens</name></addressee>
        <date when="1884-03-29">29 March 1884</date> &#x2022; <name type="place">Chicago,
        Ill.</name>
        <sourceline>(MS: <ref type="citeref" corresp="#CU-MARK">CU-MARK</ref>, UCLC
        41836)</sourceline>
    </head>
    <div1 type="letter">
        <pb facs="cable01.jpg" xml:id="pb001" n="1"/>
        <opener>
            <letterhead>
                <l rend="center">the grand pacific hotel.</l>
                <l rend="center">jno. b. drake &amp; co. proprietors</l>
                <l rend="right">chicago, <add type="formfill">Mch 29,</add> 188<add
                    type="formfill">4.</add></l>
            </letterhead>
            <salute rend="noindent">Mr. Mark Twain:</salute>
        </opener>
```

Envelope markup

```xml
    <div1 type="post-transmission">
        <div2 type="envelope">
            <pb facs="cable-env.jpg" xml:id="pb002" n="2"/>
            <ab>Mr. S. L. Clemens | Hartford | Connecticut <note type="ed" place="inline"
                xml:id="ed001">return address:</note>
                <hi rend="xs-smallcaps">sent from | the grand pacific hotel, | chicago.</hi>
                <note type="ed" place="inline" xml:id="ed002">postmarked:</note>
                <hi rend="xs-smallcaps">chica<corr>go</corr> ... ill mar 29 645</hi>
                <note type="ed" place="inline" xml:id="ed003">docketed by SLC, in pencil:</note>
                Cable | <hi rend="italic">mentionable</hi></ab>
        </div2>
    </div1>
```

I want to know more!

- Chapter 4 of the *TEI Guidelines*, for a reminder on text structure:

  https://tei-c.org/release/doc/tei-p5-doc/en/html/DS.html#DSOC

- Chapter 2 of the *TEI guidelines*, for <correspDesc>:
  https://www.tei-c.org/release/doc/tei-p5-doc/en/html/HD.html#HD44CD

Let's practice!