**Notes on Initial Transcription of *Missionary Travels* for XML Template**

**Justin Livingstone 10th Dec 2013**

Transcribed Sections

Sect 01, pp.0004-0008

Sect 05, pp.0092-0093

**Major Features**

* At the top of the document, there is probably no need for the information in the sections “recipient” and “where” I’ve fixed this.
* The book is divided into sections of varying lengths, often between 20-30 folios. How will we encode such manuscript section breaks? At the moment Kate has just transcribed the Roman numeral, but presumably we’ll do this in another way. Go with what the ms. actually contains. If Livingstone is dividing sections by Roman numerals, then let’s go with Roman numerals. Does this answer you question? Divisions will also be signalled, for now anyway, with the different sect files.
* The manuscript page numbers in the top right hand corner do not correspond to the file numbers which we’ve decided to encode as the document’s page number (ie0004). Do these numbers in the top right hand corner need to be encoded in a particular way? There are sometimes two such numbers, in different hands (see p.0009). We need James to advise on this, as we’ll want to retain all three sets of numbers: file name, original numbers, additional numbers.
* There are multiple hands used in the text. At the moment, Kate has marked up unknown hands in this way: <add place="inline" hand="U">. There are at least two of these in the manuscript; one that marks in red (Murray’s copyeditor, I think – see 0093) and another that marks in pencil (possibly a later curator or archivist – see 0092). Kate suggests using a mark up tag such as element <edit> attribute <pencil>. What do you think? How shall we differentiate between these hands, particularly if the individuals remain unknown? Is there perhaps a way of numbering them as unknown hand 1 and 2 for instance. Agreed that this needs to be addressed. See my comments in the sect01 document. James can advise further.
* Much of the material added by Livingstone to the body of the text is in the margins. However, he often draws a line from the margin to the place in the text that the material should be inserted. Shall we encode such lines and arrows? Another example of a mark we might want to encode is the double line Livingstone draws above the first paragraph on 0092. James can advise on this.

**Other Issues**

* How shall we mark up other nationalities? “Tribe” doesn’t seem appropriate for this. James.
* Shall we include corrections of Livingstone’s spelling (for example the mistake he makes using words with ‘ei’, for example ‘recieve’)? At the moment, we’ve corrected it somewhat inconsistently. Correct consistently. That’s what we’ve done in the past. Using the <choice><sic><corr> tags.
* Shall we encode indented paragraphs? Would encoding them as 5 or 6 spaces work? See my notes on this in sect01.
* Kate wonders if we should retain the American style of date to ensure consistency with Livingstone Online. I think we should. I’ve addressed that in the relevant place in sect01.
* How shall we mark up geographical areas in Scotland? Should Ulva for instance be tagged as an “island”? See sect01 for my notes.
* Is the Cape still being marked up as a “region”? See sect01 for my notes.
* In cases of overwriting, when the word below is illegible, will we still encode the evidence of the word below? Yes, see the cheat sheet and use the <gap/> element for the deleted, illegible element.