

Voynich page's transcription data is a single line showing the number of cards taken to transcribe that page, and four blank lines, giving a generous white gap between successive pages. At the very end is a line with the number "738," which is puzzling, since 638 cards are listed in the printout.

A few of the sheets are lightly corrected by hand.

This is almost certainly a draft of part of item 1609. Oddly, it has a transcription of page 106 (f.54v), which is lacking from item 1609.

### **Comparison with Currier's Transcription**

Some time in the 1970s Prescott Currier prepared a machine transcription of a large part of the VMS (pages 1 through 111 and 147 through 166, which is f.1r through f.57r and f.75r through f.84v), using a transcription system which recorded line ends. (This transcription is available by "ftp" computer network connections as file /pub/voynich/voynich.orig on the rand.org computer in Santa Monica, California.) Using this transcription, Currier made two very interesting discoveries, reported in [D2]. (1) The VMS language statistics depend on position in line: certain characters show a preference for the beginnings of lines, etc, and (2) there are two somewhat differing handwriting styles present in the book, with corresponding slight differences in letter and digraph frequency counts, as if the book were the product of two scribes with different handwritings and language usage statistics.

It would be desirable to make a close comparison of 1609 and Currier's transcription. A brief look at the differences yields the following: Currier's transcription, when recast into 1609 terms, is 85,124 characters long; the corresponding portion of 1609 is 85,357 characters long. They agree in 78,739 characters in homologous passages, they differ in 5,861 places in the text, where the Currier version has 6,385 characters and the item 1609 version has 6,618. Thus, the overall discrepancy rate is about 8%. Of the 5,861 places where the two transcriptions differ, about 2,940 only involve "punctuation" marks: word spaces, line and paragraph ends. In an attempt to find out which was the more accurate transcription, I randomly selected 120 of the 5,861 discrepancies, automatically skipping those solely concerned with line ends. Then I tried to