

AAC: Austrian Academy Corpus

“Fluid Text”

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Texts & Files: Using Corpora and Digital
Archives / Editions

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SS 2009

John Bryant / The Fluid Text

- John Bryant, *The Fluid Text: A Theory of Revision and Editing for Book and Screen* (University of Michigan, 2002)

What is “fluid text”?

- A “fluid text” refers to any literary work that exists in multiple versions, for example author’s drafts, publishers’ proofs, revised editions of books, adaptations for film, and expurgations for children.

From fixed object to “work-in-progress”

- Importance of looking at these variations in their cultural contexts because of the valuable record they provide of the interactions between the artist and society.
- Although literary works are often considered to be fixed objects, in fact they are fluid works-in-progress that shift and change according to their cultural situation.

The Fluid Text as “Revision”

- The Fluid Text examines authorial, editorial, and cultural (i.e., adaptations, bowdlerisations, etc.) changes to texts.
- Essentially, the notion of the fluid text deals with the study of *revision* (“revision sites”).
- Creation of a “revision narrative”

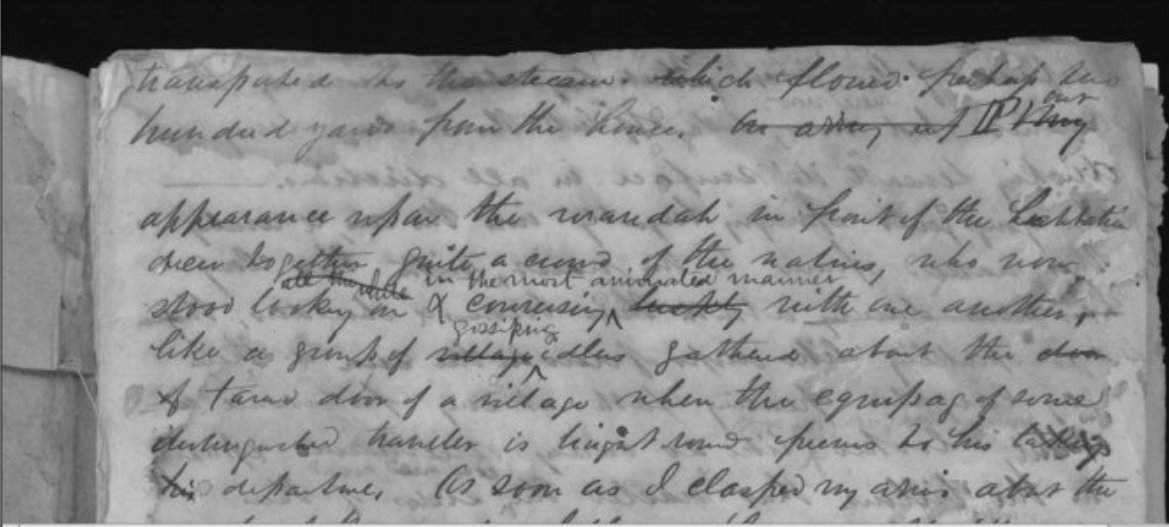
“Herman Melville’s *Typee*”

- “Payware” WWW site
- <http://rotunda.upress.virginia.edu:8080/melville/>
- John Bryant: “Introduction”
- <http://rotunda.upress.virginia.edu:8080/melville/intro.html>

Herman Melville's *Typee*
A Fluid-Text Edition

Upper Frame: Manuscript F 01 r Open
Lower Frame: Transcription P 01 Open

Coordination ROTUNDA



transported to the stream which flowed perhaps two
hundred yards from the house. On arriving up^{our} My
appearance upon the verandah in front of the habitation
drew together quite a crowd of the natives, who now
stood looking on & conversing ^{all the while} ^{in the most animated manner} ~~tustity~~ with one another,
like a group of ^{gossiping} village idlers gathered about the door
of tavern door of a village when the equipage of some
distinguished traveler is brought round previous to his taking
his departure. As soon as I clasped my arms about the
neck of the devoted fellow, & he jogged off with me,
the crowd composed chiefly of young girls & striking boys
followed after, shouting & capering in infinite glee &
accompanied us to the banks of the stream. ¶ On
gaining it, Kori Kori waded +ing up to the +his hips in the
water, carried me half across & deposited me on
a smooth black rock which was ^{rose} elevated a few

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2 hundred yards from the house. On arriving up{on} ¶ My
3 appearance upon the verandah in front of the habitation
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Leaf 1 (recto)
Page 1
line 89.12 to 90.04

1 Underlined in pencil.

2 Pencil dots appear on both sides of this line; also in pencil are the number "1" over "door," "2" over "village," and "3" over "tavern" to indicate final revised order.

Done