



# The Edition as Hypertext

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*Texts & Files* WS 2005–06

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# Percy Bysshe Shelley

## “The Devil’s Walk”

Donald H. Reiman

Neil Fraistat

Created 1997



# “The Devil’s Walk”

- Two sites:

- <http://www.otol.umd.edu/~msites/devil/1dwcover.html>
- <http://www.rc.umd.edu/editions/shelley/devil/>



# *The “Devil” to Edit*

- *The “Devil” to Edit: Time, Space and Hypertextuality*
  - Neil Fraistat
  - MOO Conference / 18 October 1997
  - <http://otal.umd.edu/~msites/dwtalk.html>



# Value of Hypertext Editions

- 4 Key Points
  - Accessibility
  - Searchability
  - Extensibility
  - Interactivity



# Letterpress / Online Edition

- Different properties between the pair:
  1. Temporal
  2. Spatial



# Temporality of Editions

- Letterpress edition exhibits:
  - Slow Time
  - Monumental Time
- Online edition exhibits:
  - Fast Time
  - Fluid Time



# Slow / Monumental Time

## ○ Slow

- Essential feature of the production of the letterpress edition
  - Printed once and distributed
  - Rarely, if ever, updated/corrected

## ○ Monumental

- More ambitious
  - Designed to last a generation of readers



# Fast Time

- Fast time
  - Literally change overnight
  - Corrected continuously
  - Expanded
  - Split



# “Fluid” Time

- Fluid time
  - Editions as “ephemera”
    - Can be temporary, maybe simply experimental
- Editions are always “work-in-progress”
  - No formal closure
  - Static is not finality



# Spatiality of Editions

- Fixed
- Macrospatial
- Hyperspatial
- Microspatial



# Letterpress Editions

## ○ Fixed

- Physical Object
- Bounded
- Contents Static



# Online Editions

- Macrospatial
  - Can include contextual material
  - Furthermore, material in a variety of carriers
    - Sound
    - Images
    - Video
- Hyperspatial
  - Link to remote resources through the Internet



# Online Editions

## ○ Microspatial

- Quantitative threshold removed
- Smaller micro editions now possible
- Access to “blocked” material
- Focus can be narrowed and the boundaries of material to be edited can be expanded



# Issues / Questions

- Online editions dissolve the material boundaries of the letterpress edition
- Where then does an electronic text end?
- An electronic text can be seen to have no boundaries, capable of infinite addition



# Who is the Editor? What is Editorship?

- What is the nature and role of “The Editor” in such a hyperspatial environment?
  - “[...] a term whose unitary and proprietary force is opened up to the multiple and collaborative forms of knowledge production of the Web.”



# Linking

- Links in the www are two-way
  - Possible for others to link *to* your site.



# Romantic Circles

- Romantic Circles Electronic Editions
  - <http://www.rc.umd.edu/editions/>
- Romantic Circles Praxis Series (RCPS)
  - <http://www.rc.umd.edu/praxis/>
- Romantic Circles Pedagogies
  - <http://www.rc.umd.edu/pedagogies/>
- Online Teaching Texts
  - Prospectus of Teaching Editions
  - <http://www.rc.umd.edu/pedagogies/teachingtexts/index.html>