

The Edition as Hypertext

Stephen Miller
AAC / ÖAW
Texts & Files WS 2005–06
Universität Wien

Percy Bysshe Shelley “The Devil’s Walk”

Donald H. Reiman
Neil Fraistat
Created 1997

“The Devil’s Walk”

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

3

Texts & Files WS 2005–06 / The Edition as Hypertext

© AAC / ÖAW 2005

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>

4

Texts & Files WS 2005–06 / The Edition as Hypertext

© AAC / ÖAW 2005

Value of Hypertext Editions

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

5

Texts & Files WS 2005–06 / The Edition as Hypertext

© AAC / ÖAW 2005

Letterpress / Online Edition

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

6

Texts & Files WS 2005–06 / The Edition as Hypertext

© AAC / ÖAW 2005

Temporality of Editions

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

7

Texts & Files WS 2005-06 / The Edition as Hypertext

© AAC / ÖAW 2005

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

8

Texts & Files WS 2005-06 / The Edition as Hypertext

© AAC / ÖAW 2005

Fast Time

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

9

Texts & Files WS 2005-06 / The Edition as Hypertext

© AAC / ÖAW 2005

“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

10

Texts & Files WS 2005-06 / The Edition as Hypertext

© AAC / ÖAW 2005

Spatiality of Editions

- Fixed
- Macrospatial
- Hyperspatial
- Microspatial

11

Texts & Files WS 2005-06 / The Edition as Hypertext

© AAC / ÖAW 2005

Letterpress Editions

- Fixed
 - Physical Object
 - Bounded
 - Contents Static

12

Texts & Files WS 2005-06 / The Edition as Hypertext

© AAC / ÖAW 2005

● ● ● | 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

13 Texts & Files WS 2005-06 / The Edition as Hypertext © AAC / ÖAW 2005

● ● ● | 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

14 Texts & Files WS 2005-06 / The Edition as Hypertext © AAC / ÖAW 2005

● ● ● | 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

15 Texts & Files WS 2005-06 / The Edition as Hypertext © AAC / ÖAW 2005

● ● ● | 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.”

16 Texts & Files WS 2005-06 / The Edition as Hypertext © AAC / ÖAW 2005

● ● ● | Linking

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

17 Texts & Files WS 2005-06 / The Edition as Hypertext © AAC / ÖAW 2005

● ● ● | 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>

18 Texts & Files WS 2005-06 / The Edition as Hypertext © AAC / ÖAW 2005