

## An Electronic Edition of the *Devonshire MS*

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## Project Details

- An edition, part of a larger project exploring the dynamics of the group that produced the *Devonshire MS* (BL Add Ms 17492) -- a group operating in and around English Queen Anne Boleyn's court in the early- and mid-1530s.
- Team Members:
  - Ray Siemens, English; Director
  - Barbara Bond (1999-; English, now at UVic)
  - Karin Armstrong (2000-; History and English)
  - Terra Dickson (2000-2; now at UBC)
  - Ingrid Weber (2000-2; now at UVic)
  - Jonathan Podracky (1999-2001)
- This work is carried out with the generous support of:
  - The Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC)
  - The Canadian Foundation for Innovation (CFI)
  - The Malaspina U-C Research Fund

## Manuscript Details

Description: A poetic miscellany, courtly anthology, or informal volume of the mid-1530s, originating in and around Queen Anne Boleyn's court

Contents: 4500 lines of poetry, on 114 leaves, housing some 185 'items' of verse, including complete poems, fragments, extracts, annotative rebuttals, &c.

Authors: Wyatt and Surrey, Chaucer, Hoccleve, Roos, and others

Authors/Scribes: Mary Shelton, Margaret Douglas, Mary Howard, Thomas Howard, perhaps Anne Boleyn, and up to 14 others



## A Sample Poem: 'my hart is set' (58<sup>v</sup>-59<sup>r</sup>)



### My hart is set not to remove

Margaret Douglas

my hart ys set not to remove  
ffor wher as I love ffathfully  
I know he wyll not slak hys love  
nor never chaung hes ffantasy

I have delyt hym ffior to plesse  
yn all that togeth onesty  
ffou ffelyth greff so yt hym esse  
plesyeth doth well my ffantasy

and tho that I bebanest hym fro  
hes spech hes syght and company  
yt wyll I yn spyt of hes fflo  
hym love and kap my ffantasy

do what they wyll and do ther warst  
ffor all they do ys waney  
ffor a sunder my hart shall borst  
so wores then change my ffantasy



## The *Devonshire MS*: Critical Situation

- Historically privileged, from the 19<sup>th</sup> century onward, as a main source of Thomas Wyatt's poetry
  - Early critics situated Wyatt's poetry in his life
  - Example: "They flee from me" and "My lute awake" as glosses of his love relationship with Anne Boleyn
- The mid-20<sup>th</sup> century saw its import as a document that is the product of multiple authors, representing their private and public concerns in ways allowed them by the social context that Henry VIII's later court provided
- More recently, seen via the renewal of interest in [1] the social context of literature and a concomitant concern with the conditions of literary and textual production, and [2] concerns associated with gender and literary production
- **This manuscript represents the first complete documented instance, in English, of men and women writing together in a community**

## The Work: Establishing and Creating the Components of an Electronic Scholarly Edition

- Creating the basis of a reading text, in encoded format
  - This is the text -- when the encoding is interpreted by the computer -- that people will spend most of their time with when they use our resource; it consists of poems, corrections to those poems by those who authored the manuscript, and notes in the manuscript about those poems by members of the same group.
- Establishing and creating 'extra-textual' materials
  - These are all those resources that are included with the text to assist readers in interpreting the text.
  - They include:
    - textual and critical apparatus (documenting different versions of the same poems, explaining -- in brief -- pertinent sources, facts, and concepts)
    - external textual and graphical resources, critical materials, &c., in electronic form (the above, but in full form, for those who wish an additional level of detail; advanced students and professionals often use these resource)
    - hypertext, and text analysis processes (in the electronic edition, to facilitate navigation of these materials)

## Central Challenge: Textual Encoding

- At the same time as we establish an accurate reading text by transcribing the original document, we are encoding that transcription for electronic display.
- Encoding Imperatives:
  - Writing valid XML
    - Using XML = Extensible Markup Language
    - Following a valid encoding grammar, the DTD = Document Type Definition
  - Following accepted standards
    - TEI (Text Encoding Initiative) provides a manual of encoding which tries to anticipate encoding situations and contingencies
    - RET (Renaissance Electronic Texts) Encoding Guidelines provides for encoding situations one encounters in Renaissance texts
  - Following a responsible encoding process
    - Constructing a DTD (Document Type Definition), which accounts for all encoded components of the manuscript and the manuscript's electronic structure
    - Applying that DTD, consistently, to the manuscript's transcription, and documenting that application – in three stages, [1] basic encoding, [2] enhanced, [3] final

## Central Challenge: Textual Encoding, 2

Encoding: Wyatt's "I find no peace" (82<sup>nd</sup>: Image)



In short, we take this . . .  
(which we also scan at high resolution, for our readers)

## Central Challenge: Textual Encoding, 3

Wyatt's "I find no peace" (82<sup>nd</sup>: Encoded, TEI-XML)

```
<div1 rhyme="14-abbbaabccdeee10" type="sonnet" id="LDev170-TM640-TP740">
  <head><title>I finde no peace and all my warre is donne</title>, attributed to
  <name type="personal" reg="Thomas Wyatt, Sir, 1520?-1542">Thomas Wyatt</name>
  in <title>Complete Poems</title>, on page <num>80</num>. It appeared in
  <title>Tottel's Miscellany</title>, as <num>80</num></title>Description of the
  <name type="personal" reg="Thomas Wyatt, Sir, 1520?-1542">Thomas Wyatt</name>
  <num>80</num> in a <title>Tottel's Miscellany</title>. It is a translation of <title>Rime
  <num>134</num></title> by <name type="personal" reg="Petrarch, 1304-
  1374">Petrarch</name></div>
  <crossref type="edition" reg="Barbara Bond, per Helen Baron">This is Hand
  B, ch.105</crossref>
  <img alt="I find no peace and all my warre is donne" data-bbox="248 439 447 579"/>
  <div data-bbox="125 505 235 535" data-label="Text">


. . . and make this,  
which is interpreted by  
the computer . . .


```

## Central Challenge: Textual Encoding, 4

Wyatt's "I find no peace" (82<sup>nd</sup>: readable transcription)

I finde no peace and all my warre is donne  
I fere and hope / I bourne and freis lyke yse /  
I flye aboute the heven yet cann I not aryse /  
and nought I have and all the worlde I lesone  
That loosithe nor lockithe holdithe me in prison  
and holdithe me not / yet can I scape no wise  
nor lettithe my lyve nor Die at my Devisse  
and yet of dethe it gyvethe me occasion  
Without eyes I see / and without tong I playne  
I Desire to perishe / and yet I aske helthe  
I love another and thus I hate my self  
I fede me in sorrowe and lawghe in all my  
paine  
lyke wyse Displeishe me bothe Dethe and lyf  
and my Delight is causer of this strif /

. . . so that it can be  
read as this.

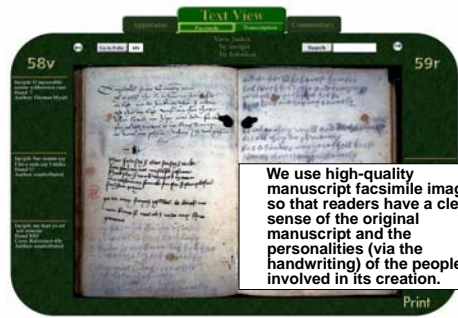
## The Importance of Doing this Right . . .

- It is important to do this with the amount of care and attention that we do, so that we meet
  - Disciplinary Standards
    - accordance with accepted editorial traditions in our own discipline; this ensures acceptance by the academic community and proper recognition of our work
  - Archival Standards
    - accordance with developing electronic archiving standards; this ensures the portability and, ultimately, the long-term availability and utility of our work

## Display Prototype of the Edition

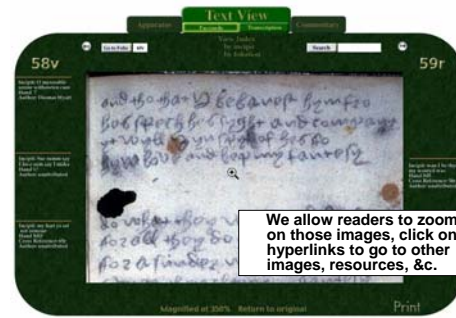
- The final display of the electronic edition is as important as representing the text properly via its encoding
- We're currently exploring how we might make our electronic text most useful to our readers via its display
- The chief challenge is associated with rendering our material, via the Internet, in a way that
  - makes for good use by our readers, and
  - ensures it is not immediately in need of technological updating

## Prototype: Facsimile View



We use high-quality manuscript facsimile images, so that readers have a clear sense of the original manuscript and the personalities (via the handwriting) of the people involved in its creation.

## Prototype: Image Enlargement, Results



We allow readers to zoom in on those images, click on hyperlinks to go to other images, resources, &c.

## Prototype: Transcription View



And, of course, we present the readers with a completely readable text, by current standards.

## Progress

- At the moment, we're 3 years into our estimated 6 year project
- We have
  - carried out two independent transcriptions of the entire manuscript, which were collated and are now in the process of being verified
  - encoded, at first pass, the entire manuscript
  - imaged (scanned) the entire manuscript from microfilm
- In the next year, we will
  - finish this work, and begin the process of doing the same for versions of these poems that appear elsewhere
  - begin to prepare our contextual study and introductory material
  - work toward a fully-functional prototype for our publisher –Medieval and Renaissance Texts and Studies – to implement on their Internet server
  - plan how we can also deliver our work in book format, for the same academic publisher