



The Edition as Hypertext

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Percy Bysshe Shelley

“The Devil’s Walk”

Donald H. Reiman

Neil Fraistat

Created 1997



“The Devil’s Walk”

- “The Devil’s Walk”

- <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>