

The Edition as Hypertext

Stephen Miller
AAC / ÖAW
Texts & Files WS 2007/08
Institut für Germanistik, Universität Wien

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

- Four Key Points
 1. Accessibility
 2. Searchability
 3. Extensibility
 4. 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? Where does it begin?
- 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."

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>
