Palaeography

Digital Humanities for medieval philosophical sources

9. Collation from multiple manuscript copies

conf. dr. Mihai Maga

Babeş–Bolyai University, Cluj–Napoca
Master in Ancient and Medieval Philosophy

2nd semester, 2020–2021
HME2415/09

https://www.mihaimaga.ro/dh/

1 The reading

2 Differences between manuscripts
- Different orthographies
- Additions and omissions
- Copyist mistakes
- Editorial variants

3 Collation procedures

4 Example

✎ Homework

Reading = particular variant of a text attested by one ore more witnesses

- Depending on the type of approach of the critical edition, it may be considered a reading:
  - any textual difference opposed to the base text
  - all textual variations of the witnesses

Collation = the recording of all the significant textual differences from more manuscripts which contain the same text

Each manuscript represents a distinct instance of the text.

- Between manuscripts, accidental or intended differences occur:
  - accidental differences
    - different ortographies and abbreviations
    - copying mistakes
  - intended differences
    - substantial additions or omissions
    - different editorial variants
- Not all the differences are considered significant:
  - insignificant differences
    - the writing style, page dimensions and layout
    - minor differences between written words (e.g. different abbreviations)
  - significant differences
    - the different, added or omitted words
    - major structural differences

- Because Medieval Latin is not a standardized language and it suffers influences both from Classical Latin and from the vernacular languages, the orthography may vary from one text to another, or even inside the same text.
- Usually, the orthographic differences are considered insignificant.
- Strategies of treating the orthographic differences in the critical edition:
  - keeping the original orthography
    - advantages: arbitrary editorial decisions are avoided
    - disadvantages: the text is difficult to read
  - classicization (correction after the Classical Latin orthography)
    - advantages: the classical rules are stable and comprehensive
    - disadvantages: the text is anachronically altered
  - applying the rules of Medieval Latin
    - advantages: the text is uniformized close to the original form
    - disadvantages: Medieval Latin is not well standardized

The additions and omissions can have different lengths, from a single word to big parts of the text (paragraphs, pages, chapters, books)

- **Additions**
  - words or text fragments added subsequently after the text was composed (abbreviation in critical app.: ***add.***)
    - substantial   complementation of the text by another person or even by the author (special case: marginal glosses)
    - accidental   addition by mistake of some words or fragments

- **Omissions**
  - words or text fragments removed subsequently after the text was composed (abbreviation in critical app.: ***om.***)
    - substantial   removal of text parts by another person or even by the author
    - accidental   omission by mistake of some words or fragments (special case: *homoeoteleuton*)

- While they copy, the copyists make mistakes.
- The mistakes accumulate serially, when a manuscript with mistakes is used as model for a new copy.
- Sometimes the copyists or the readers notice the mistakes and try to correct them.
- The mistakes are very important for the critical edition, because their presence in more manuscripts proves that they had a common model.
  - it is important that all common mistakes are recorded in the critical apparatus, because they expose the tradition and argue for the *stemma codicum*
- Tipically, when they don't understand a word, the copyists tend to replace it with a more common one.
- Sometimes, when a word is mistaken or has no sense in the text, the copyists or the readers try to restore the coherence of the text.
  - some corrections are arbitrary and different from the original text
  - some corrections are based on an alternative source (contamination)

- Some texts survive in more than one variant of composition.
  - The author can subsequently bring minor changes or can even rewrite parts of the text.
  - Sometimes the text is not written directly by the author, but by another person.
    - *reportatio* the text of a discourse is recorded by another person (e.g. a university course transcribed by a student)
    - *abbreviatio* a text is shortened, abbreviated by another person, retaining only the elements considered significant.
- Strategies for the critical edition:
  - when the identical parts are much larger those where the text differs: a single text is edited and the differences are rendered in the critical apparatus
  - when the differences are manifold, but the text structure and length remain approximately the same: the two versions can be rendered in parallel (e.g. on 2 synchronized columns)
  - when the differences are very big and the versions cannot be synchronized: the two variants are separately edited, as two different texts, eventually connected through references
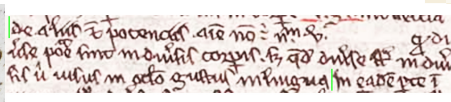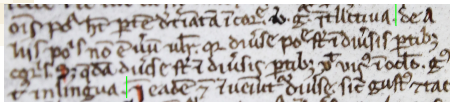
- Serial
  - the manuscripts are transcribed one after another; after the accomplishment of the complete transcriptions, these are analyzed and unified in the critical edition
- Parallel
  - the text is progressively collated from all the manuscripts; the manuscripts are simultaneously compared, accomplishing a preliminary edition
- Mixed
  - an alternation between the serial and parallel procedure
    - with a main manuscript: a reference manuscript is chosen, it is serially transcribed, then the others are collated in parallel based on the transcription
    - with sample: a relevant text part is transcribed serially from all the manuscripts, it is analyzed, a decision on the best manuscript is made, then that manuscript is integrally transcribed, and the others are collated in parallel

A = Alba Iulia, Biblioteca Batthyaneum, Ms. I.143, f. 30rb	P = Praha, Národní knihovna České republiky, IV.D.13, f. 23rb
de aliis · potentiis · non est verum universaliter, quia diverse potentie sunt in diversis partibus corporis. Sed quedam diverse sunt in diversis partibus, ut visus in oculo, gustus in lingua;	de aliis etiam potenciis anime non est nullum v. [lac.], quod diverse potentie sunt in diversis · corporis. Sed quedam diverse sunt in diversis · , ubi visus in oculo, gustus in lingua;

1   de aliis etiam potentiis animae
non est verum universaliter, quia
diversae potentiae sunt in diversis
partibus corporis. Sed quaedam
5   diversae sunt in diversis partibus,
ut visus in oculo, gustus in lingua;

---

1 etiam] *om. A* ‖ animae] *om. A* ‖ **2** verum universaliter] nullum v. *P*; *lac. add. P* ‖ quia] quod *P* ‖ **4** partibus] *om. P* ‖ **5** partibus] *om. P* ‖ **6** ut] ubi *P*

Collate the text from the following manuscripts:

ARISTOTELES, *Metaphysica*, II, 1 (993a30–b3)

De veritate theoria sic quidem difficilis est, sic vero facilis. Signum autem est neque digne nullum adipisci ipsam posse nec omnes exsortes esse, sed unumquemque aliquid de natura dicere, et secundum unum quidem nichil aut parum ei immittere, ex omnibus autem coarticulatis fieri magnitudinem aliquam.

Vatican, Bibliotheca Apostolica Vaticana, Borgh. 8, f. 9rb (14th c.)
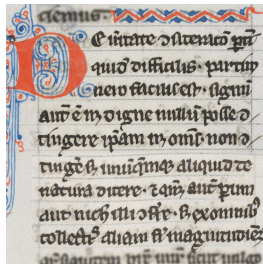
Genève, Bibliothèque de Genève, Ms. lat. 76, f. 78ra–b (end of 13th c.)
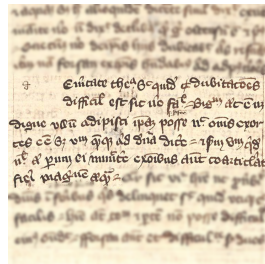
Praha, Národní knihovna České republiky, V.A.20, f. 104v (1380-1445)