EEBO-TCP Old Words for Your New Tools

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EEBO-TCP: Old Words for your New Tools

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Machines can’t read this text

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TCP: Creating Searchable Text

TO THE RIGHT HONORABLE MY SINCERELY GOOD LORD, THE LORD CHARLES HOWARD, Earl of Nottingham, Baron of Effingham, Knight of the noble Order of the Garter, Lord high Admiral of England, Ireland, and Wales, &c. one of her Maiesties most honourable privy Counsell.

Right Honourable and my very good Lord, after I had long space published in print many Narrations and Discoveries of Stranglers in divers languages, as well in London, as in the cities of Paris, during my five years absence in France, with the worthy Knight Sir Edward Stafford your brother in law, my Maiesties most prudent and careful Ambassador for the French King, and had resided in that country and in the sweet study of the history of Cartography, I began at length to consider, that with delight decoration, some things might be gathered which might commend our nation for their high courage and singular abilities in the Search and Discovery of the most unknown quarters of the world. Having no man to set forth the making of so many memorable actions, but every man in our country to consider our difficulties, and as it were with a sharpe good proverbe I trust them toward this most troublesome and pleasant action. And after great charges and infinite care, since many months past, and more and more by the use of my (already) learned three Volumes of the English Narrations, Travellers, and Discoveries, to serve, reason, and shall be useful conveys. Which work of mine I have not included within the compass of this my former work, being something more than of the worth of those which have been with me in the service of my worst times, have been brought in so many very various and very many discoveries, which have been less generally diffus'd or our selves, and were very like for the greatest part to have been buried in perpetual oblivion. The first Volume of the hundredth book, the present brought to light, resuming the other two until the next Spring, when by Gods grace they shall come to the light. In the mean season beholding my state of some munificent and bound full patience, I called to mind your honourable Lordship, who is in regard of my particular diligence, and also in respect of my present want of leisure, and the heretofore so much hastly challenge the Patronage therefor. For first I remember you that I am the friend of your Maiesties and how closely related to my very kind brother Edmund Hakluyt, to whom I have the space of time which you are your Lordship committed the preparation and instruction of that honourable young noble man, your name & sense appear, the last William.

Non illius imperii pelagi sequi(fac(eae) tridentem, sed illi sorte datum.

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Why? Three major Functions

- **Search**: depends on accuracy at the character, word and phrase level
- **“Distant reading”**: depends on some measure of accuracy, but mostly a huge sample size generated from a known corpus
- **Electronic text edition**, legible in absence of page images: depends on accuracy, completeness, and sensible structure
What can one do with it?
Create a digital edition

Holinshed's Chronicles of England, Scotland, and Ireland was at once the crowning achievement of Tudor historiography and the most important single source for contemporary playwrights and poets, above all Shakespeare, Spenser, Daniel, and Drayton. Popularly known as Holinshed's Chronicles, the work was first printed in 1577. The second, revised and expanded, edition followed in 1587. In both its incarnations, the Chronicles was a collaborative venture. Among the authors and revisers were moderate Protestants (Raphael Holinshed, John Hooker), militant Protestants (William Harrison, Abraham Fleming), crypto-Catholics (John Stow), and Catholics (Richard Stanihurst, Edmund Campion). The upshot was a remarkably multi-vocal view of British history not only because of the contrasting choices of style and source material but also because the contributors responded very differently to the politics and religion of their own age.

The importance of Holinshed's Chronicles for the understanding of Elizabethan literature, history, and politics cannot be over-estimated. Yet despite the recent growth of interest in the chronicle tradition, the politics of historiography, and the use of the past by imaginative writers which has led, for instance, to a proliferation of studies of Foxe's Book of Martyrs and an impressive online edition, Holinshed's Chronicles has not properly benefited from this scholarly re-awakening. The vast scope of the book, and the lack of a complete scholarly edition, has meant that it has eluded systematic analysis. With one or two exceptions such work on Holinshed as we've got centres on the sections dramatized by Shakespeare.

Our aim is to stimulate a comprehensive reappraisal of the Chronicles as a whole of historic, literary, and cultural value for its many readers.
What can one do with it?

Build a digital hub/collection around a certain theme
What can one do with it?

Digital humanities/text analysis projects

Launch of the Zeugmatic

My project for Summer 2013 is to design a text-analysis algorithm capable of recognizing Shakespeare’s rhetorical figures. For instance, this repetition of ‘farewell’ in Othello is called an anaphora:

That’s a pretty straightforward anaphora, and is just the kind of linguistic feature that a pattern-recognizing algorithm could detect. I could show you more complicated examples, but first let’s imagine the higher-order interpretations that this algorithm would enable.

Start with the idea of recognition. The average schoolboy in Renaissance England was rigorously trained to recognize rhetorical figures, in order to imitate them in his own writing. This was formalized analysis according to classical precepts, adapted for the English language. John Milton’s copy of Harington’s translation of Aristotle’s Orlando Furioso is thick with marginal annotations on its rhetoric — recognizing not only its argumentative stages but also the fineness of speech in the Rhetorical ornaments, as
What else can you do with it?

- Have students produce editions or do other assignments
- Request texts to be keyed
- Request raw files for one or many texts