Crowdsourcing the Medieval Text: New Avenues for Examining Leaves and Fragments

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Job done!
The original Old Weather is complete. We're off to the Arctic!

Old Weather: Our Weather's Past

Papers of the War Department
1784-1860

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Attack of German Army in Finland WWI

official army photo, German-Finnish Sign "Hauptpunkt"?

Comments and faves

timonoko (85 months ago)
Upper sign says in Swedish "Ladugården", better known as "Lavottano" north-east from Helsinki. However I do not recognize the scene and the house being anywhere near Lavottano.

Past 68 (58 months ago)
Hi,
What a great picture.
I used Google Map to find this place.
Here is the map I used.
I cannot add much information but here are the railways, a map from 1913. Two lines heading out of Helsinki.

Stream video clip

Jens-Olaf pro (57 months ago)
I have a better map and you are exactly right. It seems that they have added a new curve to the railway. In the old map one can see a building close to the railway just like in the picture.

Jens-Olaf pro (57 months ago)
Incredible, thank you for posting it!

Timonoko (57 months ago)
Indeed, the wire above the track would indicate that this was a tram line because electric locomotives were first introduced in the 1960s. Tram number 4 would have crossed a scenery like this before Munkkiniemi was rebuilt in the area.

Jens-Olaf 51 months ago reply
Maybe you all have noticed the second person in the tram picture.

Pasi 68 46 months ago reply
Railway built in Latokartano area around 1930s. Now it's abandoned.
www.flickr.com/photos/pasi68/sets/72157608171/585643/

Jens-Olaf 46 months ago reply
Pasi 68, thanks for the info, I've googled now with
www.histdoc.net/picW1918a.jpg
"German machine gun unit fighting the Red Guard"

It's from the website Ersatzheere:
ersatzheere.com/interval/frei Korps.htm

It could be the Brandenstein unit:
\'Brandenstein Brigade\'

On April 7, 1918, the German Brandenstein Brigade, up of 3,000 German troops, under the command of Freiherr von Brandenstein, seized the town of Loviisa and then rapidly advanced towards Helsinki, which was

Maybe it is also important to look at the shadows, showing a certain direction depends on the day time.
The image has been archived, but without its associated comments.
How do we build upon the successes of digital repositories of medieval manuscripts?
The basic institutional model has been to make high quality scans, put them in a repository online, and hope that researchers take a look at them.
Images of the Ransom Center’s Fragments on Flickr accessed by Google.
Historically, medieval manuscript leaves, fragments, and binding waste have received considerably less attention than bound codices.
Sets of images of binding waste on the Ransom Center’s Flickr Page
BX 2349 I7516 1568 (rear flyleaf)

Creator: unidentified
Text: Martyrology—portion from life of St. Nazarius
Place: Italy
The Harry Ransom Center's ongoing project to survey manuscript waste in their book collections. It is managed by Micah Erwin, Project Archivist, and supervised by Joan Sibley, Senior Archivist in the Archives and Visual Materials Cataloging.
First week as progressed well. We’ve posted 34 images and had a total of 659 views and 4 potential identifications.

Harry Ransom Center Fragments

June 24

http://www.flickr.com/photos/ransom_center_fragments/

Ransom Center Fragments

The Harry Ransom Center is currently conducting a survey of medieval manuscript fragments and binder’s waste found in the Book Collection. We are

First announcement posted on Exlibris

Harry Ransom Center Fragments

June 19

The first images have been posted. Thanks to everyone for your contributions. 2-4 images will be posted per week. Metadata to follow.

Harry Ransom Center Fragments

June 7

Like · Comment · Share

Harry Ransom Center Fragments

June 5

Like · Comment · Share
Correction to the number of views below! Just got the official stats:

*****2,422 views!
Screenshot of account stats showing 14,015 total views as of 10/10/2012
There is a healthy interest in images of medieval manuscript fragments.

Overall ratio of contributions to views was quite low.

But

More contributions in the coming years likely.
Crowdsourcing programmer and creator of FromthePage deems the Ransom Fragments Project a success.

Whether the project is a success in terms of scholarship remains to be seen.
Survey details:

- Includes 78 individual volumes
- Circa 79 fragments
- Spans 8 centuries
- Circa 8 geographic regions
- Diverse representation of scripts, texts, and binding styles
- Parchment bindings are the most frequent
- 7 of 79 fragments too heavily abraded to be identified
All images have been viewed at least once.

73 out of 225 images have comments.

21 fragments out of those 72 have been positively identified or attributed to print editions available online.

13 fragments now include rough transcriptions or other relevant information.

Within 4 months, contributors provided relevant information for 51% of all identifiable fragments.
Power-Law Distribution: 10% of contributors provide 90% of contributions on Wikipedia
- Q. PA 3965 D4 A5 1531 (rear transverse spine lining strips)

Comments and faves

farley_katz: 8 weeks ago / reply / delete
The left fragment is from Guillaume Durand, Rationale Divinorum Officiorum, De Regularibus Lunarisibis, Lib. VIII, De Embolismo (discussing the "embolismic" or "intercalary" month which is a 13th month added to lunar calendars of 12 months every second or third year).

See books.google.com/books?id=ZUYRn1M0tC&pg=INTSEC#front. (Leaf 480 verso)
The text reads (starting with the second line):

[contin]git lunatio embolismalis. Item q
[uota et ] prima littera secundae syllabae in alphabe
[et tota di] e mensis incipit lunatio embolis
[matis: verbi gratia:] Mobilis est prima dicio, et servit p
[rimae lunationi]"

The middle fragment mentions durandus, so perhaps this is a commentary discussing him.

Ransom Center Fragments pro: 5 weeks ago
Thanks Farley, I can't really tell what portions of the text are actually there and what portions are physically excised. I'll have to look at the image under better magnification.

Ransom Center Fragments pro: 5 weeks ago
I believe this is the portion you are referring to:

mefe illius anni, cui referit, illa dicio, contingit lunatio embolismalis. Item, quota erit prima lettera seconda syllaba in alphabete,
tota die mefis incipit lunatio embolismalis: verbi gratia: Mobilis est prima dicio, & referit prima lunationi, cui contingit in
So... what’s next? A few possibilities:

1. Utilize Flickr as the primary way to provide the public with digital access to these objects.

2. Create or use a different content management and software platform that participating institutions can use to upload images with an interface customized for fragments and binding waste and a more tightly controlled collaborative environment.

3. Maintain the more traditional standard of uploading images to Digital Scriptorium or individual institutional repositories.
Digital Papyrology and their platform Papyrological Navigator at Papyri.info provide the closest approximation to what serious manuscript scholars might want.
Problems with Integrating Digital Papyrology as model:

- No large databases of already digitized binding waste and fragments
- Manuscript binding waste -- a complex 3-D structure
- Binding structures are of equal importance to the text/s they contain
- Designed by academics, for academics
Despite its advantages, there are drawbacks to using Flickr

(Screenshot of Yale Law Library’s binding fragments page on Flickr)
“The papyrus folks have broad support both from institutions with major holdings and from senior scholars. There is also a strong ethos of quality control which manifests itself in rigorous vetting of comments and the ability not to post things that are not well substantiated. So there is expertise plus process plus the commitment of a core group of people who are known to be seasoned papyrologists.”
Crowdsourcing and collaboration re a late medieval English binding fragment—errors are inevitable.
“You have not done well to publish your books of oral doctrine; for what is there now that we excel others in, if those things which we have been particularly instructed in be laid open to all?”
Author: Lucian, of Samosata.

Uniform title: Dialogues of the dead. Latin & Greek

Title: Dialogues des morts de Lucien; : accompagnés de notes élémentaires et grammaticales, des variantes de trois manuscrits de Lucien, et d'une versione Latine. / Par J.-B. Gail ...

Edition: Nouvelle édition divisée en deux parties.

Publication: A Paris, : Chez Ch.-Fr. Gail neveu ..., 1806.

Location: Harry Ransom Center
Book Collection

Call No.: PA 4230 D6 1806
Current Status: LIB USE ONLY

Description: [2], xiv, 174, 52 p.; 17 cm. (12mo)


Special collection: Aylwin Library, former owner.

Genre: Manuscript waste

Added author: Gail, J.-B. (Jean-Baptiste), 1755-1829.

OCLC number: 10065470

http://www.flickr.com/photos/ransom_center_fragments/sets/

http://www.facebook.com/HarryRansomCenterFragments

Or just “google” ransom center fragments

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