Textual Editing in the Digital Age

Exercise 9: Critical Apparatus Markup

Aims of Exercise

- Get practice with using <app>, <rdg>, and <lem>
- Use @wit to point to a witness list
- Manually collate a short poem (and recognise why we try to build tools to do this semi-automatically)

Getting Started

For this exercise you will be encoding a short 4 line poem "Faith is a fine invention" by Emily Dickinson. The poem basically reads (in one version):

> "Faith" is a fine invention
> For Gentlemen who see!
> But Microscopes are prudent
> In an Emergency!

1. The TEI file we'll be starting with is available here.
2. Save it and load it into Oxygen XML Editor, or copy and paste it into a new XML file.
3. Read through the file and notice the markup which is there especially the <listWit> element and its *@xml:id* attributes

The Witness List

A 4 line poem should not pose too much of a difficulty, however, there are 7 main witnesses for this poem which have very minor differences between them.
These are:

- **Witness a660:** A 660, verse embedded in letter to Samuel Bowles.
- **Witness h201:** H 201, fascicle version of poem.
- **Witness h72:** H 72, fascicle version of poem.
- **Witness p1891:** Published as poem XXX in the second volume of Todd and Higginson's Poems of Emily Dickinson.
- **Witness l1894:** Letter to Samuel Bowles published in Todd's edition of Dickinson's letters.
- **Witness cp32:** Published as poem LVI in Martha Dickinson Bianchi's Complete Poems of Emily Dickinson.
- **Witness ll227:** Letter to Samuel Bowles published in Bianchi's The Life and Letters of Emily Dickinson.

Collating Your Edition

Manual collating sucks! It is monotonous and as such some people build tools which in certain circumstances can semi-automatically collate texts. (However, you may not agree with their collation principles!)

1. In this case we will manually collate the poem and encode the sites of variance with an <app> element and the differing witnesses with a <rdg> element
2. Look below on the next page for at all of the versions of the poem that we are collating, notice that some of them have differences in capitalisation, punctuation, and some even underline some words
3. Work through and encode each line in TEI critical apparatus markup. For example the first line might be encoded something like:

```
<l n="1">
 <app>
    <rdg wit="#a660 #h72">"Faith"</rdg>
    <rdg wit="#h201 #l1894 #ll227">Faith</rdg>
    <rdg wit="#p1891 #cp32">FAITH</rdg>
 </app> is a fine invention
</l>
```

4. The space-separated values in the @*wit* attribute point to the @xml:id's of the <witness> elements, just like other pointing you have seen in the TEI.
5. Encode all the differences in spelling, punctuation, capitalisation, and rendering between the 7 witnesses.
6. For underline use <hi rend="underline">see</hi>

Witness a660:
1 "Faith" is a fine invention
2 When Gentlemen can <u>see</u> -
3 But <u>Microscopes</u> are prudent
4 In an Emergency.

Witness h201:
1 Faith is a fine invention
2 For Gentlemen who <u>see</u> -
3 But <u>Microscopes</u> are prudent
4 In an Emergency!

Witness h72:
1 "Faith" is a fine invention
2 For Gentlemen who <u>see</u>!
3 But Microscopes are prudent
4 In an Emergency!

Witness p1891:
1 FAITH is a fine invention
2 For gentlemen who see;
3 But microscopes are prudent
4 In an emergency!

Witness l1894:
1 Faith is a fine invention
2 For gentlemen who see,
3 But microscopes are prudent
4 In an emergency.

Witness cp32:
1 FAITH is a fine invention
2 For gentlemen who see;
3 But microscopes are prudent
4 In an emergency!

Witness ll227:
1 Faith is a fine invention
2 When gentlemen can see!
3 But microscopes are prudent
4 In an emergency!

Adding a Lemma and Comparing Markup

1. Go through each reading and add a <lem> element to each apparatus entry with your preferred reading of the text.
2. When you have finished and think you've found all the differences between the texts, and chosen a lemma for each site of variance, then compare your markup with the person nearest to you.
3. We have also provided a spoiler for this exercise based on the original encoding by the Versioning Machine Project.
4. Go look at the Versioning Machine rendering of this XML at:
   http://v-machine.org/samples/faith.xml
   and experiment with some of the features they build on top of this encoding.

What Next or Further Reading

Creating digital critical editions can be a laborious activity, there are a variety of tools that might help in this area:

- Juxta Commons http://juxtacommons.org/ can provide semi-automatic collation of certain forms of variant witnesses
- The versioning machine: http://v-machine.org/ displays TEI texts encoded in parallel segmentation
- The Critical Apparatus Toolbox http://teicat.huma-num.fr provides tools for analysing and working with critical apparatus markup
- And of course you can read more about using TEI for critical editions in Chapter 12 of the TEI Guidelines 'Critical Apparatus':
  https://www.tei-c.org/release/doc/tei-p5-doc/en/html/TC.html