



# Digital Statius: the Achilleid

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## The poem

7226 words, 1127 lines

The *Achilleid* is an unfinished epic poem written in Latin, in which the poet Statius (later 1<sup>st</sup> c. AD) narrates the childhood of Achilles and the stay of the hero on the island of Scyros. His mother had hidden him there, dressed like a woman among the king's daughters, in order to avoid his departure for the Trojan War. The intervention of Ulysses will unmask the hero who will thus embark with the Greek leaders, leaving his wife Deidamia and his baby son. This text was part of the school curriculum in the Middle Ages, before losing its status as a classic. During the last twenty years, it has seen renewed interest from researchers.

## The collection

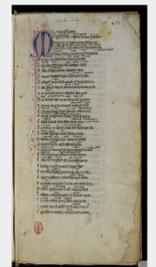
223 manuscripts (IX<sup>th</sup>-XVII<sup>th</sup> c.),  
78 libraries, 67 cities



Oxford, Corpus Christi College Libr., 219 s. XV ex. (a. 1475/6)



Bologna, Bibl. Universitaria, 2051 (1047) s. XV



Firenze, Bibl. Medicea-Laurenziana, Strozzii 131 s. XIV in. (a. 1308)



Leiden, Bibl. Rijksuniversiteit, Gronov. 14 s. XV

## PROJECT'S GOALS

### Digital critical edition

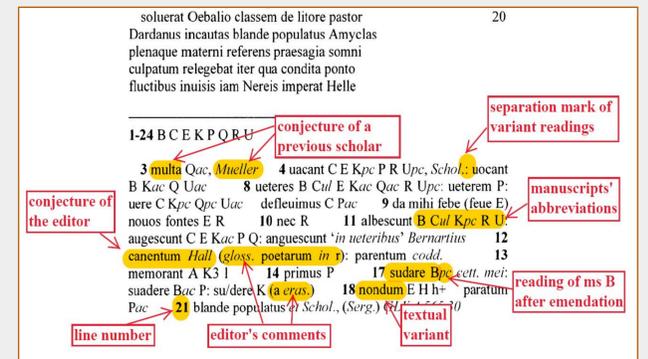
- access to scanned manuscripts
- comparative visualization of numerous readings
- interactive apparatus
- enriched edition (comments, translations, links to other tools and/or platforms)

### New methods for critical editions

- experimental tools
- collaborative online platform
- open source data (TEI)

## Traditional critical edition

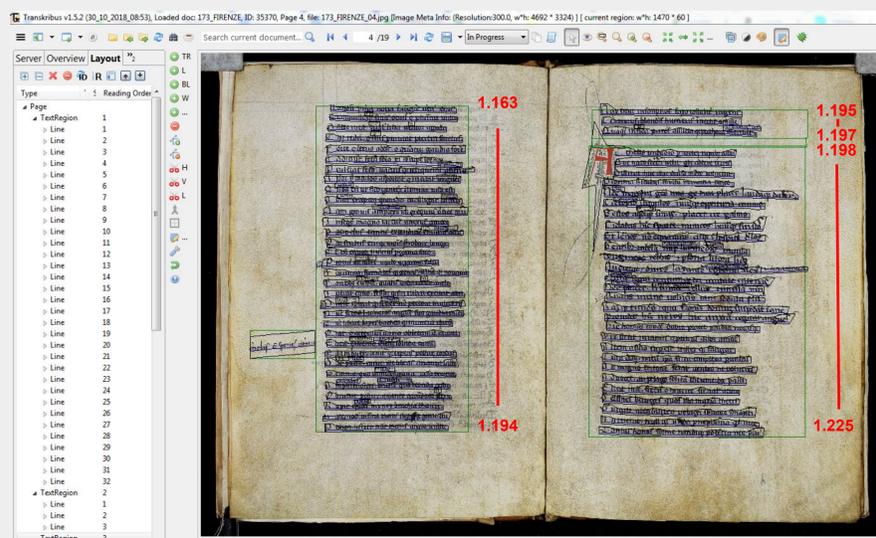
*P. Papinius Statius: Thebaid and Achilleid*, ed. and transl. by Hall J.B., Ritchie A.L., Edwards M.J., 3 vols (Newcastle 2007-2008)



## Data preparation: Step 1. Layout analysis

img	n°	TRA	li TRA	li ms	tot p	f,p	r/v	a/b	corr li	type para	li para	livre	vers d	vers f
16	1	24	24	24	24	5	v					1	164	187
17	1	10	10	10	10	6	r					1	188	197
17	2	0	3			6	r	+3	blanc	0				
17	3	11	11	24	24	6	r					1	198	208
18	1	24	24	24	24	6	v					1	209	232

page description for:  
image and line number, text, structure, codicological features (omissions, repetitions, marginalia,...)



- automatic layout analysis of each scan in Transkribus
- manual adjustment for
  - labelling text regions vs marginalia and interlinear elements
  - line spotting for identification towards poem

Transkribus

READ

Recognition and Enrichment of Archival Documents

## Step 2. Towards an exact transcription

- Current methodology
  - variant reading annotation
  - text reconstruction from modeled apparatus
- Next stage
  - supervised crowdsourcing
  - semi-automatic HTR (Handwritten Text Recognition)

livre	vers	mot Dilke	variantes	collation
1	195	7 ingens		ingens
1	196	1 Centaurus		Centaurus
1	196	2 blandisque	blandisque	blandisque
1	196	3 umeris		umeris
1	196	4 se		
1	196	5 innectit		innectit
1	196	6 Achilles		Achilles
1	197	1 quamquam		quamquam
1	197	2 ibi		ibi
1	197	3 fida		fida

manuscript collation referring to:  
*Statius, Achilleid*, edited by Dilke O.A.W. (Cambridge 1954)

## Current online visualization

- line querying
- Latin text
- translation
- manuscript full page and zooming

<http://achilleid.unige.ch>

