The Achilleid is an unfinished epic poem written in Latin, in which the poet Statius (later 1st 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 (IXth-XVIIth c.), 78 libraries, 67 cities

Current online visualization
- line querying
- Latin text
- translation
- manuscript full page and zooming

http://achilleid.unige.ch

Traditional critical edition


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)

Data preparation: Step 1. Layout analysis

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

Step 2. Towards an exact transcription
- Current methodology
  - variant reading annotation
  - text reconstruction from modelized apparatus
- Next stage
  - supervised crowdsourcing
  - semi-automatic HTR (Handwritten Text Recognition)

PROJECT’S GOALS

Digital Statius: the Achilleid
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