The Theory and Practice of Scholarly Editing

This fall 2001 Semester-Length Seminar was directed by the late W. Speed Hill, formerly Professor of English at Lehman College, CUNY. He edited two volumes of the *Papers of the Renaissance English Text Society, New Ways of Looking at Old Texts I and II* (1993, 1998). He was the General Editor of the Folger Library edition of the *Works of Richard Hooker* and coeditor of *TEXT: An Interdisciplinary Annual of Textual Studies*. Professor Hill passed away on 8 May 2007.

*from the Folger Institute brochure:* “This seminar will examine the theory and the practice of editing early modern manuscript and printed materials, drawing on the Library’s wealth of documentary resources. Since how one edits a text is a proxy for how one reads a text, the textual topics covered will be related, as appropriate, to issues of literary interpretation as posed by contemporary reading practices. The seminar will also attend to a practical expertise peculiar to the craft, charting a course between the Scylla of Theory (textual criticism) and the Charybdis of Practice (scholarly editing). The seminar will read and discuss a set of foundational texts that set out the history and rationale for a variety of currently available editorial models (such as documentary editions; Lachmannian stemmatic editions; Greg-Bowers copy-text/eclectic/critical editions; versioning/"unediting"; and socially-based editing). It will examine the new skills and policies demanded by computer-based editions; it will study feminist editorial practice; and, finally, it will take up the questions of securing grant support. While all who have an interest in textual matters are welcome, those with current or potential editing projects are especially encouraged to apply.”

**Sept. 20: Introduction: An Overview of the Options**


D. C. Greetham, “Textual Scholarship,” *ibid.*, 2nd ed. (MLA), 103-137.


*See also:*


Greetham, *Textual Scholarship: An Introduction*, chaps. 8 and 9, and Appendix II.
Thorpe, *Principles of Textual Criticism*.
Gaskell, *A New Introduction to Bibliography*, “Textual Bibliography” [the term is Greg’s], 336-60.


**Sept. 27:** (Yom Kippur; no class).

**Oct. 4: Documentary Editions: Literary / Historical**


*See also:*

**Oct. 11: Lachmannian Stemmatic Editions / Best Text Editions**

Paul Maas, *Textual Criticism*.


McKerrow, *Prologomena to the Oxford Shakespeare*.


*Folger Library Edition of Richard Hooker.*
An edition that combines stemmatic analysis and best-text reproduction is the *Donne Variorum*,
(Gary Stringer, General Editor).

**Oct. 18: Copy-Text Eclectic / Critical Editions**


*See also:*


**Oct. 25: Versioning/Unediting**

Donald R. Reiman, “‘Versioning’: The Presentation of Multiple Texts,” in *Romantic Texts and Contexts*, 167-80.


*The Division of the Kingdom*, ed. Taylor and Warren.

Randall McLeod, “UN Editing Shak-speare.”


*See also:*


Exemplary editions include

The Cornell *Wordsworth*.


**Nov. 1: (French) Genetic Editions / (German) Historical-Critical Editions**


*See also:*


J. C. C. Mays’s edition of Coleridge’s poetry (forthcoming, Princeton University Press/Bollingen) will be the first major edition of an English poet constructed *à la critique génétique.*

**Nov. 8: Socially-based Editions**


*See also:*


For the moment, the only exemplary “socially-based edition” of material from the Early Modern period is Michael Rudick’s *The Poems of Sir Walter Ralegh: A Historical Edition* (Tempe, AZ: MRTS for RETS, 1999).

**Nov. 15: Computer-based Editions / Electronic Archives**


Peter Robinson, “Ma(r)king the Electronic Text: how, why, and for whom?,” *Ma(r)king the Text*, ed. Bray, 309-328.


*See also:*


Susan Hockey, *Electronic Texts in the Humanities: Principles and Practice*.


**Nov. 22: Thanksgiving**

**Nov. 29: Feminist Editorial Practice / Securing Grant Support**


See also:

Securing Grant Support
NEH, Division of Research Programs, Texts: Editions (hand-out).

Dec. 6 Editing Shakespeare: The Paradigm of Paradigms (Barbara Mowat, guest lecturer).


*See also:*
Laurie E. Maguire, “The Rise of the New Bibliography,” chap. 2 in *Shakespearean Suspect Texts*.

F. P. Wilson, *Shakespeare and the New Bibliography*.
