

Interpres Intepretum: Joachim Camerarius' Commentary on *Iliad* 1

A Digital MA Project by Corrado M. Russo

General Introduction

German humanist Joachim Camerarius' 16th century commentary on book one of Homer's *Iliad* was one of the first modern commentaries on the epic poem. It has never been published in a contemporary edition with an introduction and a translation from Latin into English; it has likewise also never been digitized. My MA project, a digital edition of a printed version of the text from 1584, is an attempt to make the commentary available and accessible to a wider audience. It features an English translation from the original Latin, an introduction to author and text, and a digital version of the original Latin printed book. This digital edition of the text takes the form of an XML document that has been marked up using the TEI guidelines for text encoding.

Transcription/Normalization

The current digital version of the text is based on a version printed in 1584 which has been photographed and made available to the public through the Bavarian State Library. The copy can be viewed [here](#).

The text has been transcribed and normalized 'semi-diplomatically', similar to the method of the Women Writers Project (a clear and informative explanation is available [here](#)). Every attempt has been made to preserve original readings as they appear on the page. Capitalization, punctuation, the use of italics, and the general formatting of paragraphs and pages have been reproduced as faithfully as

possible in the XML markup and in the current display. The characters i, j, u, and v have been normalized to reflect the representation used in contemporary elementary Latin dictionaries (such as *Cassell's*), and the descending or long s was transcribed as the modern short s. Abbreviations have been resolved and ligatures have been transcribed as separate letter forms.

This method of transcription and normalization is admittedly not ideal for the representation of true typographic detail, as the digital document does not constitute a perfectly faithful diplomatic edition of the original text. The goal of the transcription, however, was not so much to record exact typographical detail as to 1) make the text machine-readable in the timeframe available for the completion of the project, and 2) at the same time render the content of the text more accessible to a modern reader while still retaining the most notable textual features of the original. Furthermore, the availability of the original page images through the BSB allows the interested reader to easily compare the transcribed and normalized version with the original.

Markup

The text has been marked up according to the TEI guidelines for text encoding. At present structural tagging is complete; more extensive semantic markup has not been completed. A data dictionary explaining how encoding standards were implemented for this project is available [here](#).

Introduction/Translation

The introductory essay and translation of the text into English are currently available in .pdf format. Camerarius' academic Latin has been translated into

idiomatic English prose; quotes from other authors (mostly in Latin and Ancient Greek verse) have not been translated. The nature of the commentary, in which Latin (an inflected language dissimilar to English) is often used as a point of comparison for Ancient Greek, has occasionally made it impossible to render portions of the Latin text into comprehensible English; in these cases the relevant Latin words have been retained. The translation is at present formatted roughly similar to the original Latin text but with minimal italicization (even in cases where modern style guidelines would otherwise require it).

Acknowledgements

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Toolbox

["An Analytic Bibliography of Online Neo-Latin Texts."](#)

Dana F. Sutton's database of early modern Latin texts which are available online. This is a great place to browse such texts.

["Iter: Gateway to the Middle Ages and Renaissance."](#)

A useful, standard resource for medieval and early modern scholarship.

["Bibliographical Aid to the Study of Renaissance Latin Texts."](#)

This website has links to a wealth of information.

[Text Encoding Initiative](#)

The TEI homepage.

["An Index of Greek Ligatures and Contractions."](#)

This article by William Wallace (published in *The Journal of Hellenic Studies*) is extremely helpful in deciphering early modern printed Greek.

[Bibliography](#)

A list of the works I consulted in researching this project (many of which were useful but not directly cited in the introduction).