CHALLENGES IN TEXTUAL CRITICISM AND EDITORIAL TRANSPARENCY

HENRY PARLANDS SKRIFTER

HENRY PARLANDS SKRIFTER is a digital critical edition of the works and correspondence of the modernist author Henry Parland (1908–1930). The first part of the edition will be published in the autumn of 2018. This poster presents chosen strategies for communicating the results of the process of textual criticism in a digital environment. How can we make the foundations for editorial decisions transparent and easily accessible to a reader?

THE MAIN STRUCTURE of the Parland digital edition consists of two fields for text: a centrally positioned field for the reading text, and a smaller, optional, field containing, in different tabs, editorial commentary, facsimiles and transcriptions of manuscripts and original prints.

THE TEXTS OF THE EDITION ARE TRANSCRIBED IN XML and encoded following TEI (Text Encoding Initiative) Guidelines P5. Manuscripts, or original prints, and edited reading texts are rendered in different files. All manuscripts and original prints used in the edition are presented as high-resolution facsimiles. The reader thus has access to the different versions of the text in full, as a complement to the editorial commentary.


THE POSTHUMOUS CHANGES are included in the transcriptions of the manuscripts and encoded using the same TEI elements as the author's changes with an addition of attributes indicating the other hand and pen (@hand and @medium). In the digital edition these changes, as well as other posthumous markings and notes, are displayed in a separate colour. A tooltip displays the identity of the other hand.

PARLAND'S MANUSCRIPTS contain several layers of changes (additions, deletions, substitutions): those made by the author himself during the initial process of writing or during a later revision, and those made by posthumous editors selecting and preparing manuscripts for publication. The editor is thus required to analyse the manuscripts in order to include only changes made by the author in the text of the edition.
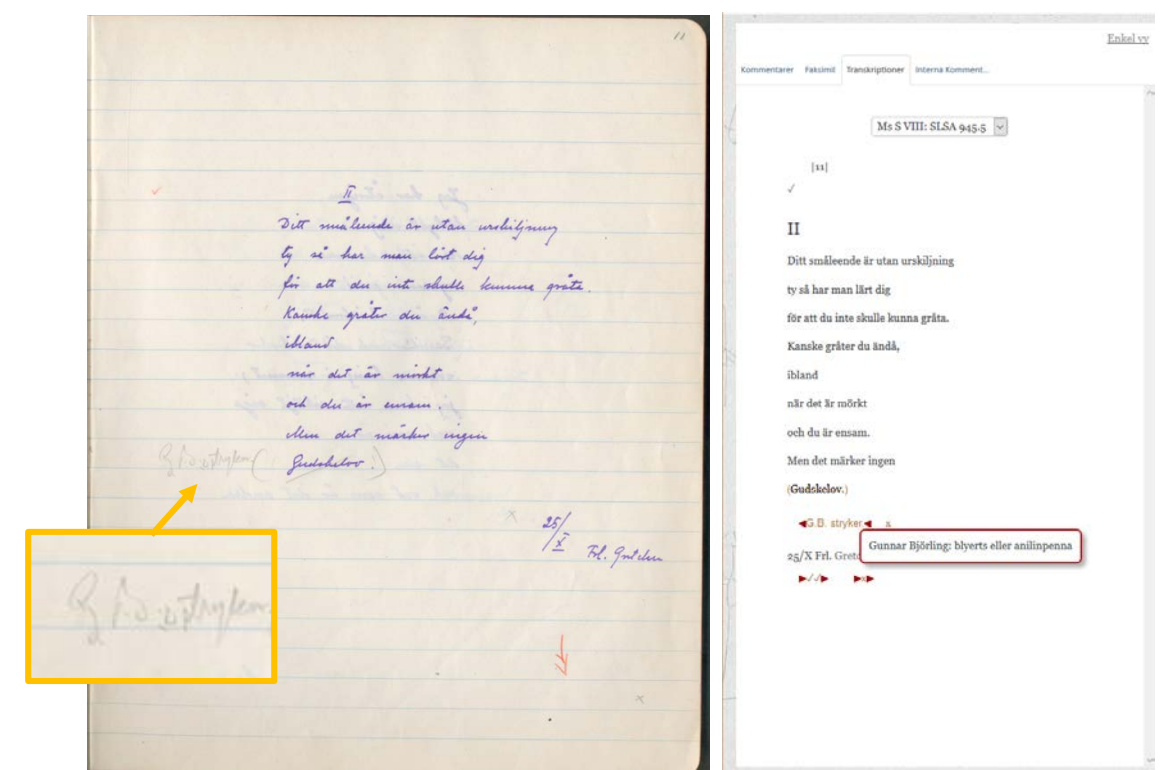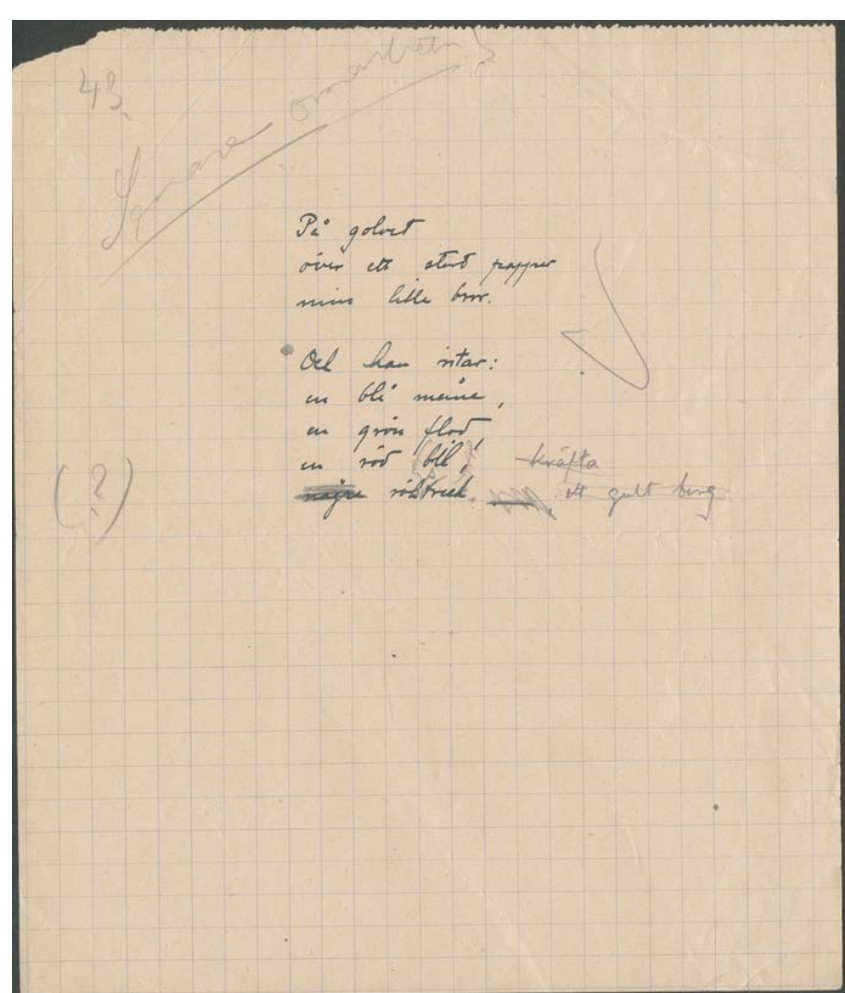

Gunnar Björling edited Parland's poem »Ditt småleende är utan urskiljning ...» before its posthumous publication in *Återsken* (1932) by deleting the last verse. In the margin, Björling has noted: *G.B. stryker.* (»G.B. deletes.»)

ONE OF THE BENEFITS of this solution is transparency towards the reader through visualization of the editor's interpretation of all sections of the manuscript. The using of standard TEI elements and attributes facilitate possible use of the XML-documents for purposes outside of the edition. For the Parland project, there were also practical benefits concerning technical solutions and workflow in using mark-up that had already, though to a somewhat smaller extent, been used by the Zacharias Topelius edition.

THE DOWNSIDE to using the same elements for both authorial and posthumous changes is that the XML-file will not very easily lend itself to a visualization of the author's version. Although this surely would not be impossible with an appropriately designed stylesheet, we have deemed it more practical to keep manuscripts and edited reading texts in separate files. All posthumous intervention and associated mark-up are removed from the edited text, which has the added practical benefit of making the XML-document more easily readable to a human editor. However, the information value of the separate files is more limited than that of a single file would be.

The manuscript of a formerly unpublished poem: »På golvet / över ett stort papper / min lilla bror ...». Additions *kräfta, ett gult berg* in pencil by the author. Note on the top of the page in pencil by posthumous editor Gunnar Björling. Deletions in pencil by unidentified.

Edited reading text and XML of »Ett kåseri om motorcykeln» (1929) with a change by the editor.

CONCLUSION: The file with the edited text still contains the complete author's version, according to the critical analysis of the editor. Editorial changes to the author's text are grouped together with the original wording in the TEI-element choice and the changes are visualized in the digital edition. The changed section is highlighted and the original wording displayed in a tooltip. Thus, the combination of facsimile, transcription and edited text in the digital edition visualizes the editor's source(s), interpretation and changes to the text.

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