

The Beckett Digital Manuscript Project and Beckett's Personal Library

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The Beckett Digital Manuscript Project (www.beckettarchive.org) is a collaboration between the Centre for Manuscript Genetics (University of Antwerp), the Beckett International Foundation (University of Reading) and the Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center (University of Texas at Austin), with the kind permission of the Estate of Samuel Beckett.

The Beckett Digital Manuscript Project consists of two parts:

- (a) a digital archive of Samuel Beckett's manuscripts, organized in 26 research modules. Each of these modules comprises digital facsimiles and transcriptions of all the extant manuscripts pertaining to an individual text, or in the case of shorter texts, a group of texts.
- (b) a series of 26 volumes, analyzing the genesis of the texts contained in the corresponding modules.

The Beckett Digital Manuscript Project aims to contribute to the study of Beckett's works in various ways: by enabling readers to discover new documents and see how the dispersed manuscripts of different holding libraries interrelate within the context of a work's genesis in its entirety; by increasing the accessibility of the manuscripts with searchable transcriptions in an updatable digital archive; by highlighting the interpretive relevance of intertextual references that can be found in the manuscripts. The Project may also enhance the preservation of the physical documents as users will be able to work with digital facsimiles.

The purpose of the Beckett Digital Manuscript Project is to reunite the manuscripts of Samuel Beckett's works in a digital way, and to facilitate genetic research: the project brings together digital facsimiles of documents that are now preserved in different holding libraries, and adds transcriptions of Beckett's manuscripts, tools for bilingual and genetic version comparison, a search engine, and an analysis of the textual genesis of his works. The work on this project proceeds in a modular way. Once the electronic genetic edition of a work is completed, the accompanying analysis of the work's genesis is published in print with a selection of facsimile images.

This demo presentation offers an interactive demonstration of the Beckett Digital Manuscript Project, focusing on its latest module: *Samuel Beckett's Personal Library*, which traces the writing process of Beckett's works back to the source texts in his (extant and personal) library.

References

Beckett, Samuel. (2011) *Stirrings Still / Soubresauts and Comment Dire / what is the word: An Electronic Genetic Edition (Series 'The Beckett Digital Manuscript Project' module 1)*, edited by Dirk Van Hulle and Vincent Neyt. Brussels, University Press Antwerp (ASP/UPA). <http://www.beckettarchive.org> (accessed on 3 April 2015).

Beckett, Samuel. (2013) *L'Innommable / The Unnamable: An Electronic Genetic Edition (Series 'The Beckett Digital Manuscript Project', module 2)*, edited by Dirk Van Hulle, Shane Weller and Vincent Neyt. Brussels, University Press Antwerp (ASP/UPA). <http://www.beckettarchive.org> (accessed on 3 April 2015).