

The *Laws of Ine*: Report of a Digital Edition of a Renaissance Manuscript

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Abstract

This report describes the implementation of a digital edition of the *Laws of Ine* as part of my MA final review [26]. The text is handed down in London, British Library, Additional 43703, that was transcribed in 1562 by the English antiquarian Laurence Nowell. The *Laws of Ine* are an important juridical text for the Anglo-Saxon period and in the context of Tudor England for the creation of British identity. The objective is to demonstrate the usefulness of the digital medium for the enhancement of the historical dimension of the manuscript and the text. The edition has been implemented by using the visualization software Edition Visualization Technology (EVT) 1.3, whose advantages and disadvantages will be taken into consideration. Even if EVT 1.3 is outdated compared to its latest version (EVT 2), EVT 1.3 is versatile enough for the creation of digital editions with a low degree of complexity.

Keywords: EVT, Digital Edition, Anglo-Saxon Laws, Laurence Nowell, MS Additional 43703

Questo report descrive l'implementazione di un'edizione digitale delle Leggi di Ine per la mia tesi magistrale [26], contenute nel manoscritto Londra, British Library, Additional 43703, trascritto nel 1562 dall'antiquario inglese Laurence Nowell. Le Leggi di Ine sono un testo giuridico importante per il periodo anglosassone e nel contesto dell'Inghilterra dei Tudor come mezzo per la creazione dell'identità britannica. L'obiettivo è quello di dimostrare l'utilità del mezzo digitale per la valorizzazione della dimensione storica del manoscritto e del testo. L'edizione è stata implementata utilizzando il software di visualizzazione Edition Visualization Technology (EVT) 1.3, di cui verranno presi in considerazione vantaggi e svantaggi nel contesto della realizzazione di un'edizione basata su questo manoscritto. Seppur datato rispetto alla versione più recente (EVT 2), EVT 1.3 si dimostra sufficientemente versatile per la realizzazione di edizioni digitali con un basso grado di complessità.

Parole chiave: EVT, Edizione Digitale, Leggi anglosassoni, Laurence Nowell, MS Additional 43703

1. The Manuscript and the Anglo-Saxon Laws

The text I have based my edition on is found in London, British Library, Additional 43703,¹ preserved at the British Library of London. The *Laws of Ine* have been transmitted as an appendix of Alfred the Great's *dōmbōc* – “book of judgments”, a 9th-century juridical text containing Alfred's laws along with those issued by king Ine of Wessex in the late 7th century – and are the first written laws to appear in the Anglo-Saxon kingdom of Wessex.

MS Additional 43703 was transcribed from London, British Library, Cotton Otho B. xi² in 1562 by Laurence Nowell. The manuscript was re-discovered by Robin Flowers in 1934 when Thomas Evelyn Scott-Ellis donated it to the British Museum of London.³ The transcription occupies 277 paper leaves, and each single folio contains between 25 and 30 lines written in Nowell's imitative Anglo-Saxon script.⁴ The content of MS Additional 43703 is almost completely faithful to that of MS Cotton Otho B. xi.⁵ Alfred's *dōmbōc* occupies 37 folios, from f. 236v to 255r, and the *Laws of Ine* occupy ff. 249r-255r.

The laws were promulgated under the reign of king Ine of Wessex between 688 and 693.⁶ Before Ine, only three other Anglo-Saxon law-texts had been put into written form, namely Æþelberht's (597-616), Hlophære and Eadric's (679-686), and Wihtred's (695).⁷ The *Laws of Ine* are the first legislative text to appear into written form outside the kingdom of Kent, and they are the only laws to appear as an appendix to Alfred's *dōmbōc*.

There is a total of 10 editions of Alfred's *dōmbōc* written between 1568 and the present day,⁸ and the *Laws of Ine* are included in all of them. However, only one of the Lachmannian editions include MS Additional 43703.⁹ The reasons concerning the omission of this witness are of different nature. First of all, no-one ever saw Nowell's transcription after Lambarde used it for *Archæionomia* in 1568,¹⁰ thus no edition published before 1934 could possibly include it. Even

¹ Digital facsimile available at <https://earlyenglishlaws.ac.uk/facsimile/nw> ([18]).

² Probably dated to the first half of the 11th century ([16]:XXXVI; [10]:41), this witness was severely damaged in the Ashburnham House fire of 1731 ([10]:37). A digital facsimile is available at <https://codecs.vanhamel.nl/London, British Library, MS Cotton Otho B xi> ([19]).

³ [12]; [10]:95.

⁴ [10]:84-87.

⁵ The only difference is that Nowell failed to transcribe the preliminary matter to Bede's Old English *Historia* ([10]: 84).

⁶ The timespan is derived from an analysis of the prologue of the laws. According to Bede's *Historia*, Ine ascended to the throne in 688 ([9]:473). Moreover, Eorcenwald, nominated in the prologue, was bishop of London until his death in 693-4 ([13]:43).

⁷ For an analysis of the Kentish laws see [21].

⁸ For a complete list of such editions see [13]:438-442. I have included three additional editions in my counting, namely [1], [10], and [13].

⁹ The only edition whose critical apparatus contains readings from Nowell's transcription is Dammery, *Law-Code of King Alfred the Great* (1991) ([10]), an un-published Ph.D. thesis.

¹⁰ In fact, the readings that occur in Lambarde's *Archæionomia* ([15]) are not found in any other edition. This led Liebermann [16] to think that Lambarde had access to a manuscript an unknown manuscript ([13]:122).

after its re-discovery, scholars have been reticent in including and using this witness in their editions. In fact, it has been observed that Nowell probably corrected the transcription of MS Cotton Otho B. xi against other witnesses and included some translations from a Latin version of the *dōmbōc*.¹¹ Thus, Nowell's transcription cannot be trusted as a faithful copy of MS Cotton Otho B. xi, and its omission from the most recent critical editions is justified. However, an edition of this manuscript is useful for at least two reasons: first, MS Additional 43703 is the only witness that can shed some light on the characteristics of its model, and should therefore be paid close attention to in order to indirectly study MS Cotton Otho B. xi; second, this manuscript is a unique historical witness of the dawn of Anglo-Saxon studies and a contributor in the building of English identity in Tudor England.¹²

The importance of these laws lies in the fact that they account for the process through which regal power is established through law. While the first Kentish laws only aimed at extending the customary, orally transmitted law,¹³ Alfred used the written medium as the ultimate vehicle of royal authority.¹⁴

2. Why An Edition of MS Additional 43703?

The *Laws of Ine* have been transmitted in several manuscripts belonging to different historical periods. Three witnesses were written down in the Anglo-Saxon period: MS 173,¹⁵ the aforementioned MS Cotton Otho B. xi, and London, British Library, Cotton Nero A I;¹⁶ three witnesses belong to the Anglo-Norman period: London, British Library, Burney 277,¹⁷ Strood, Medway Archive and Local Studies Centre, DRc/R1 (*Textus Roffensis*),¹⁸ and Cambridge, Corpus Christi College, 383.¹⁹ Thus, there is a total of six manuscripts that were written down in the Middle Ages. There are then two more manuscripts which were created in Tudor times by

¹¹ For an overview on the matter see [13]:122-131.

¹² See [14]:239-246 for an overview on the role played by Elizabethan antiquaries in the creation of the cult of Alfred the Great, and Brackmann's work on Nowell and Lambarde's cultural milieu and production [3].

¹³ This is particularly evident in the laws of Hlophære and Eadric (see [21]:134-5 for an analysis of the specific vocabulary used in the prologue).

¹⁴ [13]:60.

¹⁵ Preserved in Cambridge, Corpus Christi College, Parker Library. The digital facsimile is available at <https://parker.stanford.edu/parker/catalog/wp146tq7625> ([6]).

¹⁶ At the time of the writing, the British Library's site is unavailable, so I cannot provide an updated link to the digital facsimile of this manuscript.

¹⁷ London, British Library. Digital facsimile available at <https://earlyenglishlaws.ac.uk/facsimile/bu> ([17]).

¹⁸ MS DRc/R1, Strood (UK), Medway Archive and Local Studies Centre. Digital facsimile available at <https://luna.manchester.ac.uk/luna/servlet/detail/Man4MedievalVC~4~4~990378~142729> ([25]).

¹⁹ Cambridge, Corpus Christi College, Parker Library. Digital facsimile available at <https://parker.stanford.edu/parker/catalog/mv340ty8592> ([7]).

Laurence Nowell: MS Additional 43703, and Canterbury, Cathedral Library, Literary B.2.²⁰ Although different attempts have been made in order to arrange a *stemma codicum* of Alfred's *dōmbōc*,²¹ it is impossible to establish with absolute certainty the exact number of branches in its textual tradition.²² The importance of Nowell's transcription concerns the relationship with its model and its role in the transmission of the *dōmbōc*. In fact, it has been supposed that MS Cotton Otho B. xi was copied from MS 173, the oldest manuscript of the tradition,²³ meaning that Nowell's model is one of the most important witnesses of the tradition. It is also for this reason that an edition of MS Additional 43703 is necessary. Although many questions concerning the accuracy of Nowell's transcription may be raised, MS Additional 43703 constitutes the only tool for the study of MS Cotton Otho B. xi.

An edition of MS Additional 43703 is also relevant in order to highlight the historical dimension of this manuscript. The genealogical method is built upon the 19th-century concept of "purity", dismissing innovations as errors.²⁴ From this perspective, the Italian philological school highlights the importance of the historical dimension of the manuscript: according to Pasquali,²⁵ authorial variances play a crucial role in the manuscript tradition,²⁶ defending the role played by *recentiores*. In particular, it is in Segre's definition of "historicity" that the value of scribal innovations is renewed: they represent the persistence of the text through history.²⁷ Although MS Additional 43703 may present some challenges concerning its role in a critical edition, this manuscript should be paid close attention to since its peculiarities constitute the meeting point between an Anglo-Saxon text (represented by MS Cotton Otho B. xi) and a scholarly activity carried out in Tudor Times.²⁸

2.1. The Peculiarities of MS Additional 43703: Text Strata, Glosses, Rubrics, Abbreviations, Correction

MS Additional 43703 displays a series of peculiarities which highlight both the process of transcription of the manuscript and its later use by Lambarde.

2.1.1. Text Strata

For instance, it is possible to recognize two strata of text both written in dark brown ink, identified as Nw1, namely the main text, and Nw2, namely the additional marginal annotations.²⁹ In Figure 1 it is possible to see the two different strata; it is important to note that the margin of

²⁰ Related to MS Additional 43703, it is preserved in Canterbury at the Church Cathedral Library.

²¹ [16]⁴:32, [10].

²² [28]:266.

²³ [13]:120.

²⁴ [8]:83.

²⁵ [22].

²⁶ It was especially Barbi ("La nuova filologia e l'edizioni dei nostri scrittori da Dante a Manzoni" 1938) who gave rise to editions that followed Pasquali's paradigm ([4]:44).

²⁷ Segre 1978, *La critica testuale*, in [4]:54.

²⁸ Segre's definition of "diasystem" [4]:54.

²⁹ This categorisation was first established by Torkar in *Eine altenglische Übersetzung von Alcuins "De virtutibus et vitis"*, Kap. 20 (1975) [10]:84.

the text also contains the rubrics, which are written in light brown ink. The rubrics will be described later in this section.

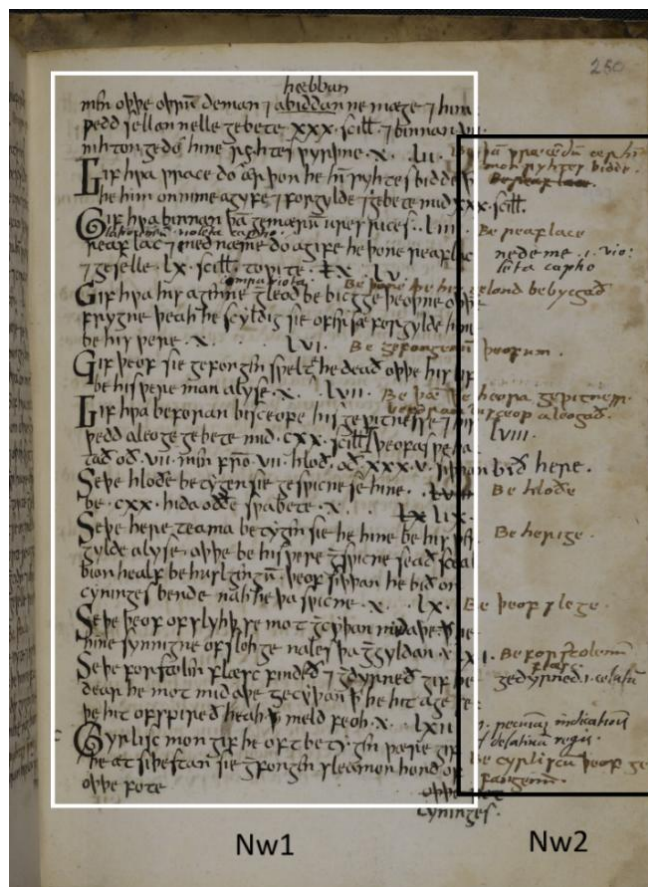


Figure 1 – From the British Library Collection: Additional 43703, f.250r.
 In the white box Nw1, in the black one Nw2
 Image retrieved from [11] and customized by me.

Concerning Ine’s appendix, these annotations (see also below 3.3.7) are present at f. 250r, 250v, 251v, 252r, 252v, 253r, 254r, and 254v: they are written with two different scripts: the first one is likely to belong to Nowell, since the annotations are written in Anglo-Saxon and the script is consistent with the imitative Anglo-Saxon handwriting used in the main body of the text (Figure 2); the second script is a cursive hand and it is likely to belong to Lambarde’s hand, since the annotations are written in Latin and he is the only known person to have used Nowell’s transcription (Figure 3).

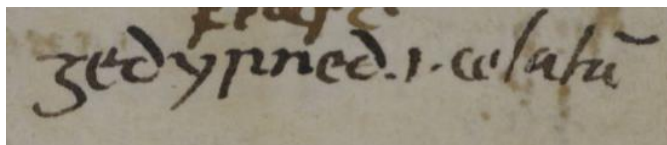


Figure 2 - From the British Library Collection: Additional 43703, f.250r.
Nowell's annotation in his Anglo-Saxon imitative script
Particular of f. 250r from [11].

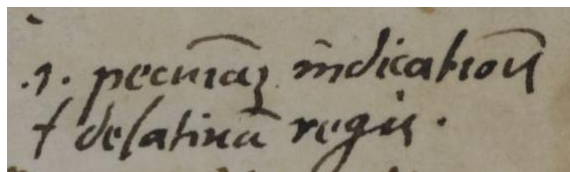


Figure 3 - From the British Library Collection: Additional 43703, f.250r.
Lambarde's Latin annotation in italics
Particular of f. 250r from [11].

2.1.2. Glosses

Lambarde also added some Latin glosses in the main body of the text positioned close to the words they translate. They have been included in the diplomatic-interpretative edition in order to show how Nowell's transcription kept being used for the study of the Anglo-Saxon language and juridical tradition. These glosses have been added between the numerated lines, allowing the user to immediately recognize the different nature of these later additions (see below 0). In fact, their relevance concerns Segre's diasystem,³⁰ namely the dialogue between the text and different historical periods in which the *Laws of Ine* are used with the specific purpose of scholarly study. In the case of

Figure 4, the Latin term *factionem* glosses the Anglo-Saxon term *unfehða*, while *iurament* glosses the term *swerian*.

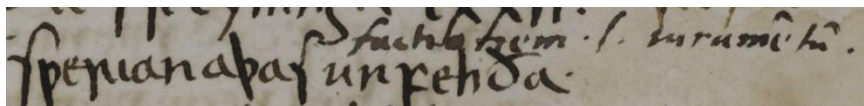


Figure 4 - From the British Library Collection: Additional 43703, f.251r, l. 12
The Anglo-Saxon text reports “swerian aþas unfehða”, while the Latin gloss placed above reads *factionem*
·/· *iurament*
Particular of f. 251r from [11].

³⁰ [4]:54.

2.1.3. Rubrics

As aforementioned, the text is enriched with a series of rubrics written in light-brown ink. Such rubrics seem to have been added to the text at a later stage of production, as their placement in the page is not always consistent. In fact, they are either placed on top of the article they introduce (Figure 5), on the margin of the text (Figure 6), or inline (Figure 7). As it will be discussed later, this peculiarity represented a challenge for the encoding of the edition (see below 3.3.4).

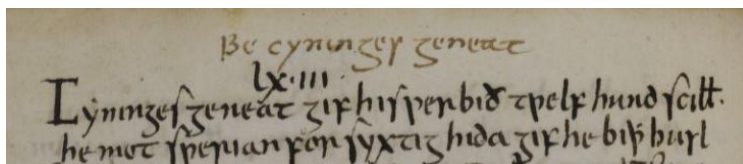


Figure 5 - From the British Library Collection: Additional 43703, f.250v
Particular of f. 250v from [11].

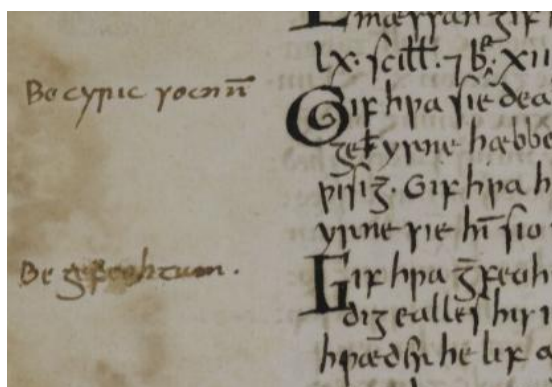


Figure 6 - From the British Library Collection: Additional 43703, f.249v
Particular of f. 249v from [11].

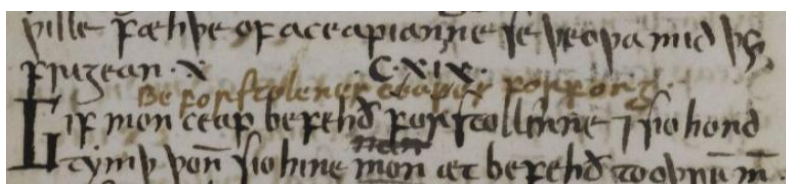


Figure 7 - From the British Library Collection: Additional 43703, f.254v
Particular of f. 254v from [11].

2.1.4. Abbreviations

Another aspect which has been taken into consideration for the implementation of the edition is represented by the abbreviations (see below 3.3.2), which are omnipresent in the text. In Figure 8 it is possible to see an example of such abbreviation, where *monnu* abbreviates *monnum*.³¹

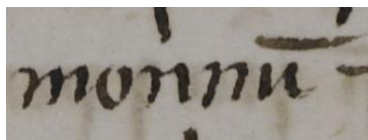


Figure 8 – From the British Library Collection: Additional 43703, f.249r
Particular of f. 249r from [11].

2.1.5. Corrections

Lastly, another interesting aspect concerning Nowell's transcription process are all those corrections he made while transcribing the text (see below 3.3.3): they consist in a series of deletions and additions which result from eye-skip or misreading. Such corrections are important because they display a common feature of manuscript production, that is to say errors made during the copy process of texts from an older source, which the copyist had little familiarity with. They also highlight the little familiarity that Nowell had with the Anglo-Saxon script. For example, Figure 9 shows how Nowell deleted the Anglo-Saxon letter "r" and added an "n" above it, as it is possible that Nowell sometimes had difficulties in distinguishing "n" and the Anglo-Saxon "r" (𐛚).³²

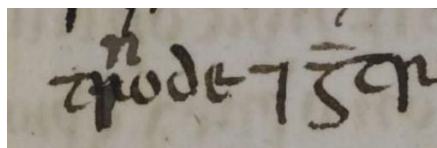


Figure 9 – From the British Library Collection: Additional 43703, f.249r
Particular of f. 249r from [11].

All these aspects and some others that will be discussed later (see below 3.3) have been taken into consideration in the implementation of this edition. All the features henceforth described highlight the importance of this manuscript on two different levels: first, every innovation does not decrease the value of this manuscript, but it rather testifies the fragility of the copying process manuscripts had to undergo. This way, the manuscript becomes an example of manuscript practice, whose value does not differ from that of any other manuscript of more ancient origin. Second, the annotations represent Segre's diasystem. The symbolic juridical value given to the

³¹ Nowell used abbreviations in the fashion of other Anglo-Saxon manuscripts, and they do not constitute a unique characteristic of this transcription. I have decided to mention them since – as it will be discussed later – they have been properly encoded while developing the edition.

³² It should be noted that, besides the fact that the study of the Anglo-Saxon language was at its beginning, before transcribing the text Nowell had been studying the language for no more than a year ([13]:123).

text during the Anglo-Saxon period is transformed into scholarly interest during the Elizabethan period, and the text becomes a tool for the investigation of the past.

3. The Digital Edition

3.1. *Why a digital edition of MS Additional 43703?*

All the editions containing the *Laws of Ine* share the characteristic of being traditional printed editions. Due to their format, however, these editions display some limitations, such as: the impossibility to confront the edition with images of the manuscript(s); and the static nature of printed-editions, which obliges the edited text within the constraints of the printed book and requires the edition to be re-printed in order to be updated. In order to overcome such limits, it has been decided to develop a digital edition that, according to Sahle [24], allows to overcome the constraints of traditional printed editions. According to Sahle, there are four main characteristics from which digital editions take benefit, and that represent limitations for paper editions. First, digital editions can include the images of the manuscript the edition is based on. Second, the encoded text allows the user to visualise different aspect of the same text simultaneously, therefore creating a versatile and complete edition by integrating a large amount of information which would be otherwise lost in a printed edition. Third, the text contains all the results of the editorial practice in one single place, allowing the editor(s) to easily correct and update it at any moment. Fourth, editions who take advantage of the digital medium benefit of tools and functionalities that could never be integrated in paper editions, such as a search engine, a list of named entities with links to the occurrences' position in the text, a double-view mode for the visualization of the diplomatic and the interpretative editions, stand-off notes, and a list of all the glosses contained in the text. In fact, digital editions are interactive and contain tools that facilitate the interaction between the editorial product and the user, creating a dialogue between the reader and the edition.

The digital medium represents the best solution for the implementation of a diplomatic-interpretative edition of the *Laws of Ine* preserved in MS Additional 43703. By doing so, all the peculiarities of the manuscript can be highlighted, allowing the user to verify the accuracy of the edition by checking the source on the facsimile image included in the edition and displayed by the interface. Moreover, the digital implementation of an edition of this kind allows the editor to create editions meant for both paper and digital supports. In fact, it is possible to convert an XML-encoded file into PDF, creating a digitized edition closer to classical paper editions – thus creating a printable edition. It is then possible to create editions that can be displayed through a specific visualisation software, as in the case of this project, or editions that are web-based. Although the final products can have different visualisations and formats – products which are always shaped by the editor's decisions – the main source is the encoded file from which it is possible to extract different kind of editions. This is an important advantage for the editorial activity, as it is possible to use a single source for the creation of editions that can significantly differ from one-another. This aspect allows the editor to design editions that highlight different aspects according to different editorial needs.

3.2. *Tools*

The choice of the most suitable visualization tool is fundamental in order to choose the best encoding solutions of the text. EVT version 1.3 is the tool that has been selected for the

implementation of my edition.³³ Although more recent versions are currently available, EVT 1.3 is a suitable tool for the implementation of diplomatic-interpretative editions. Generally speaking, EVT is a flexible tool for the implementation of digital editions. This software lets the user visualise a text both on diplomatic and interpretative level. Moreover, it includes a text-image synchronization tool which allows the user to visualise and highlight any selected portion of text directly on the facsimile image. EVT also integrates a search engine and lists of named entities, enabling the user to easily look for specific terms that may occur in the text and also have a quick access to the main terms present in the lists. All these features are common in all EVT versions, at least from v. 1.3 onward. Later versions have been implemented in order to be more suitable for critical editions.³⁴ For example, EVT 2 supports the creations of critical apparatuses, allowing the editor to create comprehensive editions that take into account both the characteristics of single manuscripts and the different readings found in them. Unlike the latest versions, EVT 1.3 does not support the IIIF protocol, which allows scholars to easily include the images of the manuscript in the edition, thus lightening the process of acquisition of high-resolution images.³⁵

The text has been transcribed from the digital images provided on Early English Laws [11], from where the same images used for the implementation have been taken.³⁶

For the implementation of the facsimile images in the edition, it has been necessary to retrieve the images of the manuscript. Since the download of the high-resolution images from Early English Laws was not possible and images are an essential part of digital scholarly editions, I decided to take a screenshot of the folios from the web viewer, renouncing to use high-resolution pictures. For the purpose of the thesis, I have not used high-resolution pictures of the MS Additional 43703.³⁷ Even so, I could implement the image-text synchronisation tool offered by EVT and create a more comprehensive edition. For the encoding of the facsimile pictures in the edition I used the TEI Zoner³⁸, a free online tool which is entirely browser-based.

Once the text had been transcribed, the encoding process began. In order to be run on EVT, the text must be encoded according to the TEI XML guidelines³⁹, which offer a flexible standard for the encoding of texts. However, EVT does not support all the tags contained in the guidelines, therefore it has been necessary to adapt the tags supported by the visualisation tool for the encoding of the text.

³³ <http://evt.labcd.unipi.it/>. See also [23].

³⁴ A new version of EVT (EVT 3) is currently under development. It offers many new features (eg. Multiple manuscript descriptions, user annotations, integrated editions etc.). See [5] for an overview on this new version. An alpha version has been released in 2022 and it is available at <https://iris.unito.it/handle/2318/1896873>.

³⁵ [20]:151-153. The latest versions also integrate Linked Open Data (LOD), allowing editors to implement ontologies for the semantics of technical and juridical terms ([20]:150).

³⁶ Unfortunately the site does not allow to download the images of any manuscript.

³⁷ Unfortunately, at the time being the site from which the images have been retrieved is no longer working as the images are not displayed, so it is not currently possible to see the facsimile images of the manuscript or even access to the copy-right details.

³⁸ <http://teicat.huma-num.fr/zoner.php>

³⁹ <https://tei-c.org/guidelines/p5/>

3.3. Editorial Choices

After briefly describing the tools I used for the development of the edition, I will now look more in detail into the editorial choices opted for the present edition.

3.3.1. Levels of Textual Representation

3.3.1.1. From the Manuscript to the Software: Palaeographical Aspects and Transcription Choices

When transcribing the text, I decided not to include some letters typical of the insular script, such as «ſ, ȝ, ƿ», and «ƿ». Since these letters do not have a meaningful impact on the content and meaning of the text, and the edition does not have palaeographical purposes, they have been respectively replaced by «r, g, w», and «s». I have however kept the letters «ƿ» and «ð». Some problems arose with the interpretation of the Tironian note «7», whose meaning can vary from “and” to “or” ([13]:177). The aim of the edition did not point to solve the ambiguity of this symbol, moreover these two terms play an important role in the legal context of the text, so I preferred not to transliterate it. While transcribing, I also operated some corrections to the text, e.g. by dividing those words who appeared merged in the manuscript, or by merging those words who appeared separated. For example, in Figure 10 the words “Circ sceatas” are merged in all other witnesses and an additional “t” is present. Since no scribal intervention highlights the copyist’s awareness of the incorrect transcription, I supposed that this mistake must have been the result of eye-skip or misreading. That’s why, when transcribing the text, I decided to merge the two words and add a “t”.

```
<choice>
  <sic><hi
ref="#csquared"></g></hi>iric
  <corr><hi
ref="#csquared"></g></hi>iricsceattas</corr>
  </choice>
```

This is the only instance in which I decided to correct the text. Concerning the merging of the words, I have decided to separate them while transcribing in order to lighten the encoding and provide a “corrected” text at the diplomatic level.⁴⁰

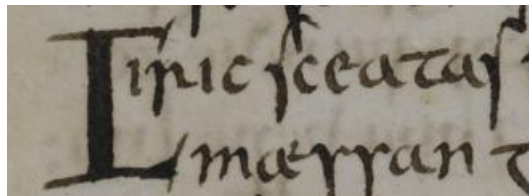


Figure 10 – From the British Library Collection: Additional 43703, f.249v
In the transcription the mistake is corrected and the word “Circisceattas” is proposed
Particular of f. 249v from [11].

⁴⁰ In fact, the <orig> and <reg> elements which should be used to encode this aspect would also encode respectively the diplomatic and interpretative level, and the user would see the corrected text only at the interpretative level, where all the abbreviations are expanded. Instead, I wanted to offer a more readable diplomatic edition.

3.3.1.2. Initials

Enlarged initials mark the beginning of every article. The role they play in the manuscript is to help the reader to navigate the text more easily (Figure 11).

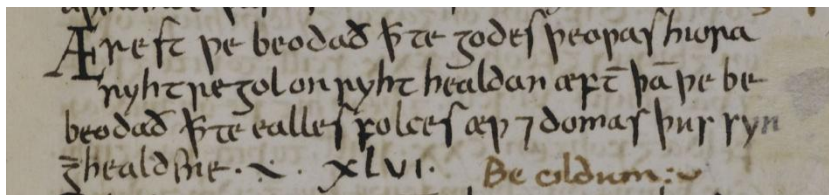


Figure 11 – From the British Library Collection: Additional 43703, f.249r
Particular of f. 249r from [11].

For the same reason I have decided to maintain such feature in my edition at the diplomatic level by using `<hi>` element implemented with a `@rend` attribute with a value `"init3.1"`.

```
<hi rend="init3.1">Æ</hi>rest
```

Such element is computed by EVT at the diplomatic level only and it displayed as Figure 12 shows.

18 **Æ**rest we beodað þ̄te godes þeowas hiora
19 ryhtregol on ryht healdan æft þā we be
20 beodað þ̄te ealles folces æw ȝ domas þus syn
21 ghealdene·

Figure 12 - f.249r
Diplomatic level of art. 1, ll.18-21

Either Nowell or the scribe of MS Cotton Otho B xi was not consistent in placing the enlarged initial at the beginning of every article, so I have decided to add some encoding at the interpretative level in order to display the article number (Figure 13).

18 [Art. 1]Ærest we beodað þ̄ætte Godes þeowas hiora
19 ryhtregol on ryht healdan. æfter þam we bebeodað
20 þ̄ætte ealles folces æw ȝ domas þus syn
21 ghealdene.

Figure 13 – f.249r
Interpretative level of art. 1, ll. 18-21

3.3.2. Abbreviations

As mentioned above, the text presents many abbreviations which in this edition are expanded at the interpretative level. For instance, such abbreviations have been transcribed by using the letter followed by the Unicode of the macron sign (`̄`). This way, the letter can be properly

computed and displayed. The Unicode Consortium provides a standard for character encoding.⁴¹ For the purposes of this edition, special characters that may not be computed correctly by every browser have been encoded using the HTML code corresponding to that character, so that it can be correctly computed by every web engine. In order to show the expanded abbreviation at the interpretative level, it is necessary to use a `<choice>` element. This tag encodes any editorial decision taken by the editor while editing the text and scribal interventions such as deletions and additions. The `<choice>` element contains three different tags: `<abbr>` encodes the abbreviated character, while `<expan>` and `<ex>` contain one another; the former encodes the expansion of the abbreviation character, the latter contains the letters that the editor adds to expand the abbreviation. The tag `<ex>` is implemented with a `@rend` attribute whose value is “*italic*” to graphically signal the expansion I operated.

```
<choice>
<abbr><am>g&#772;</am></abbr><expan>g<ex
rend="italic">e</ex></expan>
</choice>
```

This set of tags has extensively been used in the encoding, with 300 occurrences of each tag in the text.⁴² As aforementioned, it should be noted that the system of abbreviation used in the manuscript is consistent with the fashion of other Anglo-Saxon manuscript and are not a peculiarity of this witness.

The text so encoded is properly visualized on EVT. When the diplomatic edition is selected, the interface shows the abbreviated character and the expansion is displayed by moving the cursor on the abbreviation, which is rendered by EVT in brown (Figure 14).

: micelre ḡsomnunḡ go:
de be þær **ḡ**e lo urra saw:

Figure 14 – f.249r
Diplomatic level, Prologue, l. 11

On the interpretative level, EVT displays the expanded character, showing its original abbreviated form when moving the cursor on the expansion (Figure 15).

micelre gesomnunge godes
þære hæ **ḡ**rra sawla

Figure 15 – f.249r
Interpretative level, Prologue, l. 11

⁴¹ <https://home.unicode.org/>

⁴² A single occurrence takes into consideration both the opening and the closing tag.

3.3.3. Errors and Editorial Corrections

As previously mentioned, the text is filled with a series of corrections operated by Nowell in the attempt to correct the mistakes he made while transcribing. Although these kinds of corrections may be usually overlooked in other editions, I opted for their implementation in order to highlight every editorial aspect of the manuscript. I have decided to include these corrections in the encoding in order to highlight Nowell’s editorial work. In fact, these corrections show that this transcription was meant as a draft that served as working-copy for the study of the Anglo-Saxon language and juridical tradition. These corrections consist in operations that can be subdivided into two distinct operations: first he would delete the mistake by overstriking it, then he would add the correction above the deletion.

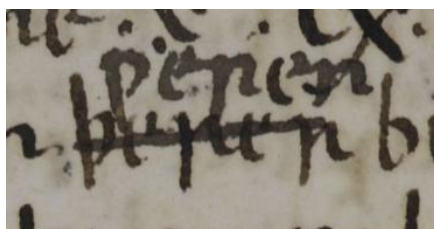


Figure 16 – From the British Library Collection: Additional 43703, f.250v l.7
Nowell deleted the reading “þe re r” and added the corrected form “weren” above it
Particular of f. 250v from [11].

These operations have been properly encoded by using the deletion tag `` and the addition tag `<add>`. The deleted word is tagged with the `` element and it is enriched by a `@rend` attribute with an “overstrike” value, which is computed by EVT by highlighting the deleted word in red and with an overstrike on it. The added word is instead encoded with the `<add>` tag enriched with a `@place` attribute, whose value represents the position in which Nowell added the corrected word (in most cases Nowell added the correction above the deleted word, so the value of the `@place` attribute is usually “above”). The addition so encoded is highlighted in green by EVT.

However, these tags are not computed for a specific editorial level by EVT 1.3. This means that both the deletion and the addition so encoded would be displayed at both the diplomatic and the interpretative level. Since these corrections testify Nowell’s attempt to correct an accidental mistake, I preferred not to include the deleted text in the interpretative edition, so I had to enrich the encoding with two additional tags. The first is the `<choice>` element, and the second is `<orig>`, which encodes an original reading at the diplomatic level. The deleted word encoded with the `` tag is placed between the two `<orig>` elements.

In most instances I decided to add notes to help the reader to get more information about the reasons of the correction. The notes are encoded with a `<note>` tag enriched with a `@type` attribute whose value is “comment” and an `@n` value whose value is the number of the note. Notes about deletions are encoded inside the `<orig>` element, meaning that it will be displayed together with the deletion at the diplomatic level only. Since EVT works primarily on the XML file, it is possible to obtain this kind of result by simply encoding the text in a way to obtain a specific result such as notes that are displayed on one editorial level only. Such a feature would be difficult to render with other visualisation tools.

```

<choice>
  <orig>
    <del rend="overstrike">þe re r</del>
    <note type="comment" n="9">This deletion is clearly the
    result of misreading. Nowell must have had difficulties in
    distinguishing the Anglo-Saxon letters <hi
    rend="italic">wynn</hi> (&#447;) and <hi
    rend="italic">thorn</hi> (þ)</note>
  </orig>
</choice>
<add place="above">weren</add>

```

The note is computed by EVT by showing a numbered note close to its position in the text. Its content is displayed by clicking on it (Figure 17).

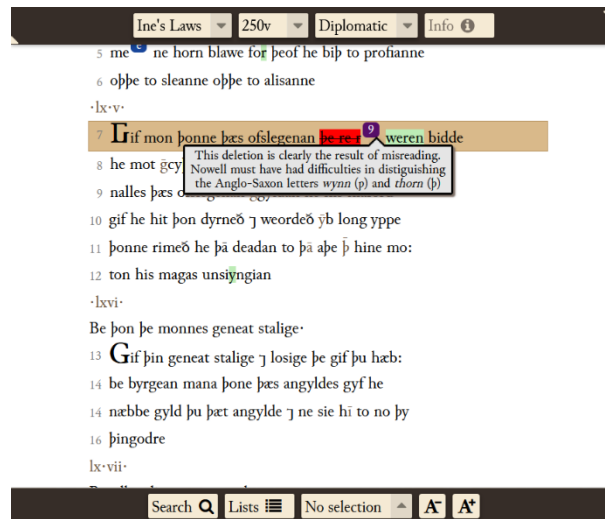


Figure 17 – From the British Library Collection: Additional 43703, f.250v
Diplomatic level, note 9 at l. 7

3.3.4. Rubrics

Rubrics represented one of the most problematic aspects of this edition. First, EVT 1.3 does not support colour features for the text, and in the manuscript the rubrics are written in light-brown ink. Nevertheless, I decided to provide at least the encoding of the colour features in the XML file. In order to do so, I added a `<styleDefDecl>` tag in the `<encodingDesc>` contained in the `<TEIHeader>`. I used a `<tagsDecl>` element in which I used a `<rendition>` tag with an `@xml:id` attribute whose value has been set to “light-brown”. In turn, every rubric in the text is encoded with a `<hi>` tag enriched with a `@rendition` to which a

“#light-brown” value is assigned. The value of @rendition encoded in the main body of the XML file uses the hashtag (#) to allow the correspondence with the @xml:id value encoded in the TEI Header. Another feature that has been encoded in the TEI XML file but is not computed by EVT is the list of rubrics. This list has been encoded in the TEIHeader in the <msItem> section with a <rubric> element. This element had been implemented with an @xml:id attribute with a unique identifier for every rubric. Such value corresponds to that of the @corresp attribute in the <hi> tag that encodes the rubric in the body of the XML file. In addition to this, the <rubric> element in the TEIHeader also contains a <locus> element that states the folio in which that rubric is located, followed by the textual content of the rubric itself. The last and most important aspect to take into account is the position of the rubrics compared to the main body of the text. As aforementioned, rubrics are placed at the beginning of the article they introduce, on the margin, or inline. However, EVT 1.3 does not allow the editor to encode the rubrics in any position in the text. One possible solution could be to divide the edited text in two columns by using a <table> or a <cb/> element, which are supported by EVT 1.3. In this perspective, the main body of the text could be placed on the left column (in case of a *recto* folio) or on the right one (in case of a *verso*), and the rubrics and all the marginalia could be added on the other column, mimicking the layout of the original document. However, such solution would not take into account those rubrics which are placed in-between the spaces limited by the two columns. For this reason, I preferred not to use a column division and opted for a different solution which takes advantage of the text-image synchronisation tool. When a rubric is not placed at the beginning of the article they introduce, it is moved to that position (together with the article number). Even if their position does not match that in the witness, the image-text synchronisation tool allows the user to highlight the position of the rubric in the digital facsimile image. This feature increases the elasticity of the software, as it compensates for the impossibility to faithfully represent the layout of the manuscript page on the digital support by creating a visual link between the text and facsimile image.

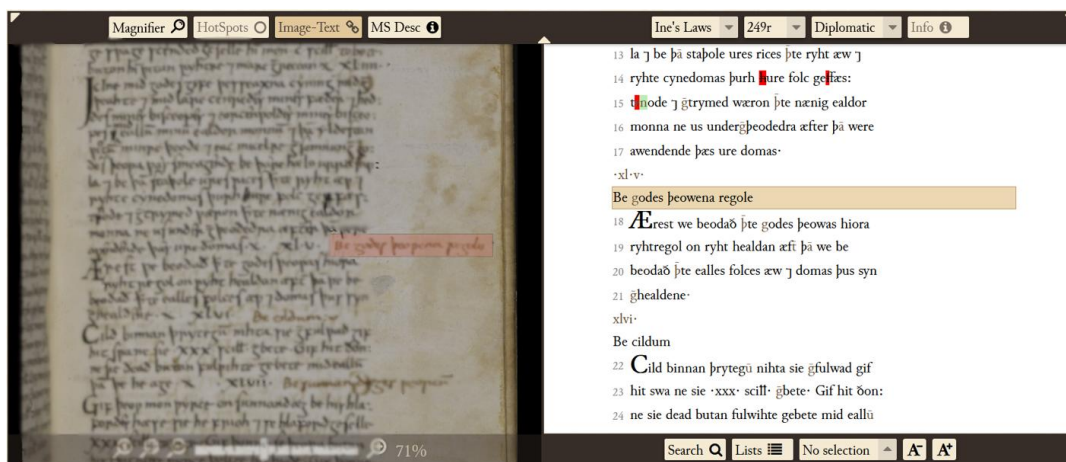


Figure 18 – f.249r
Diplomatic level, rubric between ll. 17 and 18

3.3.5. Glosses

As aforementioned, Lambarde glossed Nowell's transcription prior to the publication of *Archaeionomia* in 1568. The glosses are written in Latin with a modern italic script and are positioned above the term they translate. Since they are located between two lines, the only way to display their position in the text was by adding an unnumbered <lb/> above the line in which the glossed text is located. The tags that have been used for the encoding of the glosses are <term> and <gloss>. The former encodes the Anglo-Saxon terms translated by the glosses and is implemented with an @xml:id attribute with a unique identifier in order to create a correspondence with the <gloss> element; the latter encodes the Latin glosses and bears a @target attribute whose value is the same of the @xml:id value of the corresponding gloss preceded by a "#". In addition to this, an @xml:lang attribute with value "Latin" is added in order to encode the language of the gloss. In order to highlight the different handwriting used for the glosses, they have been encoded with a <hi> element implemented with a @rend attribute with the value "italic". Moreover, a @resp attribute has been added with the value "#Lambarde". In fact, this value corresponds to that of the @xml:id attribute in the <persName> element added in the responsibility statement in the TEIHeader. The encoding with the <gloss> and <term> tags provides useful metadata, but is not computed by EVT 1.3, therefore critical notes – which unlike commentary notes are numbered using alphabetical values. Just as for commentary notes, critical notes are shown when clicking on them. The encoding for is then rendered as in the following encoding and it is computed by EVT as shown in Figure 19:

```
<lb n="11" [...] />[...]
<lb [...] />
    <gloss target="#unfehda" xml:lang="Latin">
        <hi                                rend="italic"
resp="#Lambarde">factionem</hi></gloss>
<note type="critical" n="f">Gloss added by Lambarde
referring to the term <hi rend="italic"
resp="#Lambarde">unfehða</hi>, "feud".</note> ·/·
    <gloss target="#swerian" xml:lang="Latin">
        <hi rend="italic">iurament</hi></gloss>
<note type="critical" n="g">Gloss added by Lambarde
referring to the term <hi rend="italic">swerian</hi>, "to
swear".</note>
<lb n="12" facs="#line_251r_12" xml:id="lb_251r_12" />[...]
    <term xml:id="swerian">swerian</term> apas <term
xml:id="unfehda">unfehða</term> ·
```

11 [Art. 28] Se þeof gefehð ah ·x· scift· ȝ se cyning
*f*actionem ·/· iurament *g*
 12 þone } Gloss added by Lambarde referring to the term
 } *unfehða*, "feud".
 13 Gif he þonne oðyrne ȝ orige weorþe· þonne bið he wites

Figure 19 f.251r
 Interpretative level, glosses with stand off notes between ll. 11 and 12

In some instances, glosses are positioned between two lines where an interrupted word is located, meaning that a word is interrupted at the end of a line and its ending is placed at the beginning of the following one. In these cases, it was not possible to include an additional <lb/> to place the glosses because the interrupted words have been encoded with a <w> element in order to display the merged word in the interpretative edition. In order to overcome this, I have decided to encode the glosses in critical notes placed at the end of the word they translate. This way the information is kept in the edition and the user can easily retrieve useful information about the readings that are not explicitly included in the body of the text of the edition.

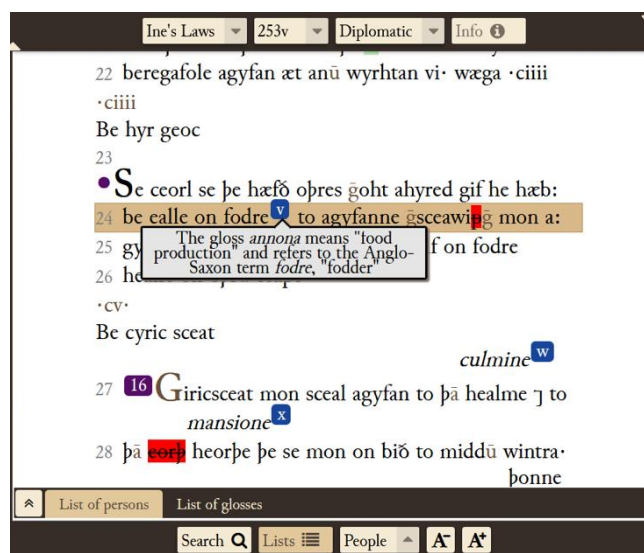


Figure 20 – f.253v l.24
 Diplomatic level, critical note at l. 24 highlights the position of a gloss which could not be represented in the digital text

One last feature concerning glosses has been implemented in order to increase the usability of the edition and the searchability of specific parts of the text. In the lower bar of the edition, it is possible to select the list of glosses, where all the glosses that have been properly encoded using the <gloss> element are shown in alphabetical order. When clicking on one of the results, EVT displays a button with the location of the gloss in the edition, that opens the corresponding folio of the edition when clicking on it. This functionality also facilitates the hermeneutic activity,

as it allows the user to easily find Lambarde’s glosses and thus investigate the complexity and stratification of the text.

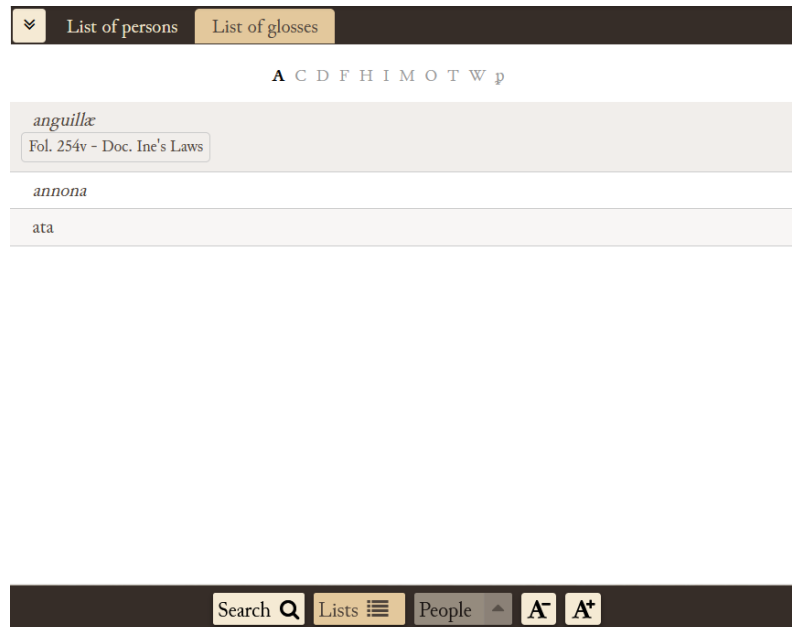


Figure 21 – List of glosses

3.3.6. Named Entities

Texts may often include names of people and places of which readers may need to retrieve information about. Given its juridical nature, the *Laws of Ine* does not contain many references to people and places. However, its prologue contains a reference to characters whose identity is useful to understand the historical context and the possible date of promulgation of the laws, and for this reason I have decided to provide a proper encoding in order to display their position in the text. In fact, along with king Ine, the text mentions Cenred, Hædde and Eorcenwald, respectively Ine’s father, the bishop of Wessex, and the bishop of London. The reference to these historical figures is useful to date the law-code and to shed light on the circumstances of the laws. EVT 1.3 allows the encoding and display of named entities, which let the editor highlight their position in the text and allowing the user to easily retrieve useful information. First, it was necessary to prepare the list in the TEIHeader using the `<listPerson>` element. A `<person>` element was included for every person named in the text and an `@xml:id` attribute with a unique identifier was added. Then, it was then necessary to include all the needed information in this unit by using a `<persName>` element for the person’s name, `<sex>`, and `<occupation>`.

```
<listPerson>
  <person xml:id="ine">
    <persName><forename>Ine</forename></persName>
    <sex>M</sex>
    <occupation>King</occupation>
```

```
<note>Ine, King of Wessex (688-726), is one of the
most important characters of Anglo-Saxon England,
first of the West-Saxon Kings to promulgate a law-
code. His laws have reached our modern era thanks
to Alfred, King of Wessex, who attached Ine's code to his own.
</note>
```

```
</listPerson>
```

In order to allow the software to link the information contained in the TEIHeader to the occurrence of the named entity in the body of the text, additional encoding must be applied in the body of the text. The name must be encoded using a <persName> element implemented with a @ref attribute whose value must match that of the @xml:id of the corresponding <person> tag used in the <listPerson> section in the TEIHeader.⁴³

```
<persName ref="#ine" type="appellation">Ine</persName>
```

This encoding is computed by EVT, which displays a dialogue window when the person's name is clicked on (Figure 22).

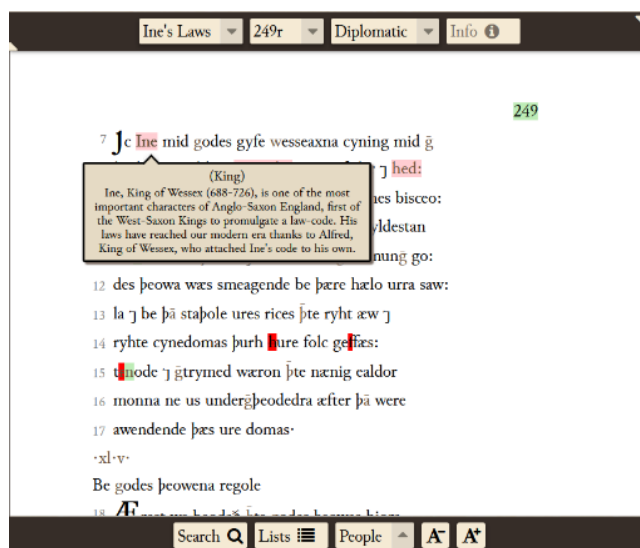


Figure 22 – f.249r
Diplomatic level, dialogue window corresponding to king Ine

⁴³ Once again, such value must be preceded by a hashtag in order to match correctly the two tags

Moreover, if the user clicks on the selector positioned in the lower bar all the names that have been encoded will be highlighted, allowing the user to easily spot the occurrences in the text (Figure 23).



Figure 23 - f.249r
Named entities highlighted in the text of the edition

All the named entities encoded in the `<listPerson>` section can be retrieved in the “lists” button placed in the lower bar of the interface, in the same location where the list of glosses is located. The user can visualize all the named entities in alphabetical order and know their location by clicking on the interested name. Although this functionality does not have a significant impact on this specific edition (only four proper names are mentioned in the entire text), this feature allows the user to highlight and locate all the occurrences of the same named entity within the text. Such a tool could be employed by scholars interested in the study of anthroponyms and toponyms.⁴⁴

⁴⁴ The same feature can be implemented for place names by using an encoding similar to that used for personal names.

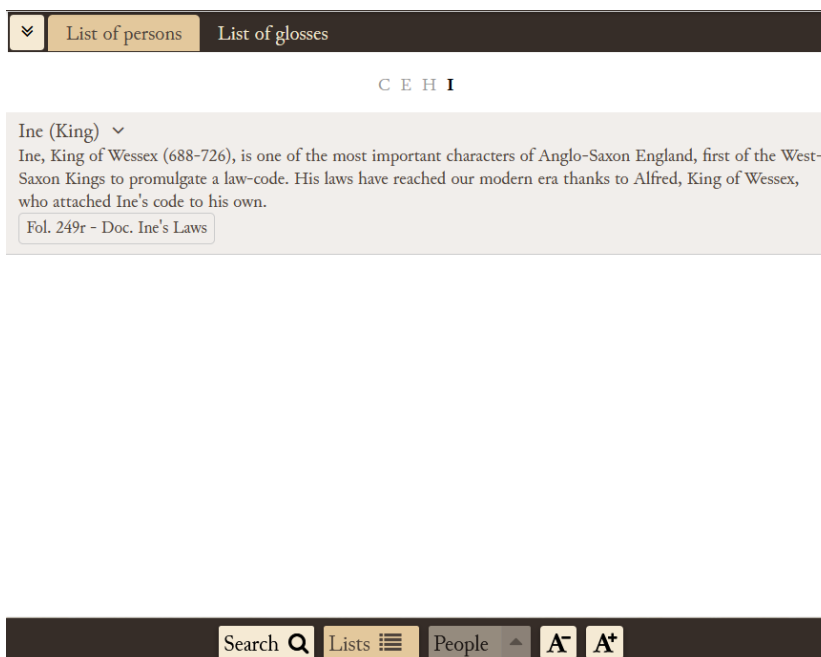


Figure 24 – List of persons

3.3.7. Marginalia

As previously observed, Nw2 is positioned on the margin of the leaf. These annotations have been included particularly for an interesting aspect concerning their nature. In fact, the source that Nowell used for the annotations contained up to f. 241r has been proved to be Cotton Nero A. i. However, it is impossible to identify the source the antiquary used for the annotations that follow that position, meaning that the source of the rubrics contained in the *Laws of Ine* is not known.⁴⁵ I have decided to include them in my edition to further research and study developments of these marginalia. It would be possible, for example, to confront them with the Latin version of the laws, which Nowell is known to have used for the study of the Anglo-Saxon language.⁴⁶ These annotations were a challenge for the encoding of the text. Since it was not possible to include them in the edition in a faithful way, I decided to encode them as critical notes. The notes are positioned on the margin of the text, at the end of the closest line to the marginalia.

```
<lb n="27" [...] />pe hit ofrpireð he ah
<choice><abbr>p&#772;</abbr><expan>p<ex
rend="italic">æt</ex></expan></choice> mealdfæoh
<note type="critical" n="d">On the margin of this line there
is an annotation probably written by Lambarde: <hi
```

⁴⁵ [10]:163.

⁴⁶ [13]:122.

```
rend="italic" resp="#Lambarde">.i·recuid indication&#772; 7  
delatina regis</hi></note>
```

The content of the marginalia is displayed when clicking on the note. The text of the marginalia is sometimes difficult to read, so the spelling might be erroneous. In future developments, the encoding should contain a `@cert` attribute (certainty) to warn the user about the possibility of an erroneous transcription.

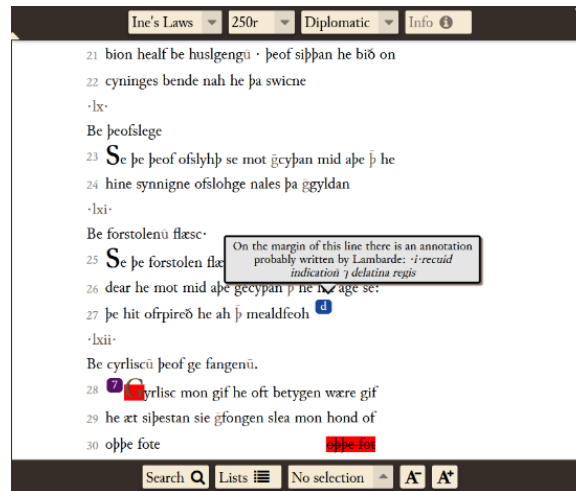


Figure 25 – f.250r
critical note “d”

Conclusions and future developments

MS Additional 43703 witnesses the different perception of a text through different historical periods. The juridical text, which in the Middle Ages hold institutional and symbolic meaning, was converted into object of scholarly study in Tudor England and its nature served as useful material for the establishment of the English identity in that period. This manuscript is also interesting from the point of view of textual tradition and raises questions concerning what shape modern editions should have. The digital medium is the best tool for the development of a comprehensive edition that takes into account the historical dimension of the witness and of the textual tradition.

The edition implemented for MA’s thesis could be further developed. For instance, it would be possible to add a translation of the text, feature supported both by EVT 1.3 and EVT 2. This would allow also non-specialized users to access an edition of a culturally relevant object. In addition, it would be useful to add notes for juridical terms explaining their meaning and so allowing the user to get a better understanding of the text. Moreover, in the future this edition could be implemented into a critical (or semi-critical) edition, in order to investigate the relationship between MS Additional 43703 and the other witnesses of the tradition.

The design and usability of an edition depend on the technology used for implementations: for instance, the editorial choices underlying the present edition demonstrate that the selected software forced the editor to make decisions according to the technical characteristics of the

software itself. The project highlights the modelling effect that the visualization software has on the final product. The limits of these editions are due to the chosen software and not by the potentialities of the encoding. The TEI guidelines provide the advantage of including a vast range of data for the digital representation of the manuscript even if the visualization software cannot compute them. Rubrics provide an example, as their list in the TEIHeader is not computed by EVT, together with their position and rendition in the manuscript (in the case of EVT 1.3). It should also be considered that although the limits of the visualization tool, a text encoded following the TEI guidelines offers the opportunity to include a great amount of data which can be used to produce editions for different types of supports. In fact, the TEI compliant XML file can be converted into a web edition as well as a printed one, allowing the editor to choose what kind of data to include and how to display and render it. Flexible visualization software allows the editor to create faithful diplomatic-interpretative editions without radically change the layout of the text. Despite the limits of EVT 1.3, the image-text synchronization tool permits the editor to compromise with encoding supported by the software. In fact, even if EVT 1.3 does not allow to faithfully reproduce the layout of the text in the witness, the image-text synchronization tool allow the user to verify the position of the original text compared to the layout of the edited text. This represents an excellent compromise between the technical limits of EVT 1.3 and software usability.

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