

# TEI BY EXAMPLE



## MODULE 7: CRITICAL EDITING

Ron Van den Branden

Edward Vanhoutte

Melissa Terras

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Centre for Scholarly Editing and Document Studies (CTB) , Royal  
Academy of Dutch Language and Literature, Belgium, Gent, 9 July 2010

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Below is a brief critical edition of “Nocturne,” a short poem by Thomas McGreevy. In a parallel-segmented apparatus, the edition encodes the variants of 4 versions:

**a1**

Nocturne, Saint Eloi, 1918 (TCD 7878/1/2)

**a2**

Nocturne of St. Eloi, 1918 (TCD MS 7989/1/3)

**a3**

Nocturne, Saint Eloi (TCD MS 79891/1)

**pub**

This poem was published in *Poems* as “Nocturn”

Let’s assume this has been encoded as follows:

```
<body xmlns="http://www.tei-c.org/ns/1.0">
  <div>
    <head>
      <title>
        <app>
          <rdg wit="#a1">Nocturne, St. Eloi, 1918.</rdg>
          <rdg wit="#a2">NOCTURNE OF ST. ELOI, 1918 <del>Weeds of
            virtue</del> <del>The</del> Widowed Virtue</rdg>
          <rdg wit="#a3">NOCTURNE, SAINT ELOI</rdg>
          <rdg wit="#pub">NOCTURNE</rdg>
        </app>
      </title>
    </head>
    <app>
      <rdg wit="#a3">
        <div type="dedication">
          <p>
```

```

        <hi rend="underline">To the memory of <del>[?]</del> Geoffrey<lb/> England
        Taylor, 2nd Lieutenant, R.F.A.,<lb/> died of wounds received in action,
        in<lb/> France, September, 26, 1918.</hi>
    </p>
</div>
</rdg>
<rdg wit="#pub">
    <div type="dedication">
        <p><hi rend="italic">To Geoffrey England Taylor, 2nd Lieutenant, R.F.A.,<lb/>
        "Died of wounds"</hi>. </p>
    </div>
</rdg>
</app>
<div>
    <lg>
        <l n="1">
            <app>
                <rdg wit="#a1 a2 a3 pub">I labour in a barren place,</rdg>
            </app>
        </l>
        <l n="2">
            <app>
                <rdg wit="#a1">Afraid, aware, <del>little</del> <add>blundering</add>, lonely
                thing;</rdg>
                <rdg wit="#a2 a3 pub">Alone, self-conscious, frightened, blundering;</rdg>
            </app>
        </l>
        <l n="3">
            <app>
                <rdg wit="#a1">Far away, stars wheeling on through space.</rdg>
                <rdg wit="#a2"><del>Above me</del>, <add>Far away</add> stars wheeling in
                space,</rdg>
                <rdg wit="#a3">Far above, stars wheeling in space,</rdg>
                <rdg wit="#pub">Far away, stars wheeling in space,</rdg>
            </app>
        </l>
        <l n="4">
            <app>

```

```
<rdg wit="#a1 pub">About my feet, earth voices whispering.</rdg>
<rdg wit="#a2 a3">About my feet, earth voices whispering. . . .</rdg>
</app>
</l>
</lg>
</div>
</div>
</body>
```

**Example 1.** This encoded fragment was based on a TEI P4 XML encoded critical edition of “Nocturne” (McGreevy), made available for the Versioning Machine. Please note, that for the purpose of this example, the encoding has been simplified and some errors have been deliberately inserted.

1. Spot the obvious mistake, and correct it.
2. Although this encoding is perfectly valid, it takes the entire verse line as the unit of variation. In terms of variant representation, this could be made more informative, by encoding the variants under the line level. Try this.
3. This variant encoding at word level allows you to group readings and qualify them (punctuation, spelling, substantial variation, ...). Enrich your variant encoding with such categories.
4. Complete this critical edition by documenting the list of witnesses the @wit attributes then can properly refer to.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

McGreevy, Thomas. *Nocturne*. Encoded and made available by the University of Maryland University Libraries, as sample for the [Versioning Machine](http://v-machine.org/samples/nocturne.xml). Available online at <http://v-machine.org/samples/nocturne.xml>.