

Boethius Assignment

Background

Boethius's *De consolatione Philosophiae* (*Consolation of Philosophy*) is a Latin prosimetrical text (prose interspersed with verse, with each sequence numbered as a "prose" or a "metre" within each of the five containing books) composed c. 524.

Main Assignment

Create a critical edition of a prose of your choice from Boethius's *De consolatione Philosophiae* using a base manuscript of your choosing, with a critical apparatus for two variants that are sufficiently different from the base text and ideally from each other to warrant their separate inclusion in the apparatus. You will not have to register minor orthographical variation; instead focus on differences in diction as well as grammatical inflection. Take notes on any difficulties you encounter.

Getting Started

Use an [online edition](#) of the Latin text to identify a prose of appropriate length (two brief paragraphs or one longer one; in book I this would be any prose other than 2 or 4), then locate the same passage in three manuscripts. Please note that the manuscripts do not number their verse and prose passages, and they do not always print a line of verse per manuscript line for the metres; you will have to count and read rubrics (i.e. titles) to identify your passage.

Online Facsimiles

The below list is a selective list of witnesses. Pick any one for your base text, then identify two variants for your apparatus. Please note that they vary considerably among themselves in terms of legibility, use of abbreviations, and mise-en-page (notably whether verse lines are written each to its own manuscript line).

Table 1: Selective witnesses to *De consolazione Philosophiae*

| Manuscript | Starts at |
|--|-----------|
| Einsiedeln, Stiftsbibliothek Codex 322(888) | p. 2 |
| St Gall, Stiftsbibliothek Cod. Sang. 825 | p. 6 |
| St Gall, Stiftsbibliothek Cod. Sang. 844 | p. 14 |
| Cologne, Fondation Martin Bodmer, Cod. Bodmer 41 | fol. 1r |
| London, British Library MS Additional 15601 | fol. 17r |
| London, British Library MS Harley 2685 | fol. 2v |
| Munich, Bayerische Staatsbibliothek MS Clm 15825 | fol. 2v |

XML Standard

Your edition should be in TEI-compliant XML based on our template for critical editions, with a critical apparatus environment using parallel segmentation wherever variation occurs. Enclose the transcription in one or more numbered <p> environments. Give the full manuscript call numbers and the folio ranges of the passage of your choosing for all witnesses in the TEI header, and identify the chosen excerpt in the document title (e.g. “De consolazione Philosophiae book IV prose 5”). Upload the XML source to Stud.IP’s homework folder, along with a PDF compiled using the transformation tool at <https://langeslag.uni-goettingen.de/editing>. (Use `boethius_yourfirstname.xml` and `.pdf` as the filenames.) If transformation fails upload the XML only, but include a comment element containing your analysis of the problem.

Additional Task

Script Identification

In the [TEI Guidelines](#), find the instructions for identifying and describing scribal hands in the TEI header. Then create entries for the Latin and Old English hands of your base manuscript, describing and dating the hands to the best of your ability with the help of the [Vatican Library website on palaeography](#) and the [instructional video](#) on the same topic.