Finding Colophons in Syriaca.org: Exploring the Text Encoding Initiative (TEI) Model

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      <p>کلستحلاً نیب حفظ هلالی که یوا نیا ... من حفاظت مشرف نیا حفاظت نیا ... مسلمان نیا ... لوحفاء نیا نیا لحیانه نیا نیا</p>
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David A. Michelson, Anthony D. Davis, Justin A. Arnwine
Info@syriaca.org

May 16, 2014
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Ownership Inscription: A type of addition. An indication of the original or later ownership of the manuscript. TEI does not provide a native “tag” for ownership inscriptions. Syriaca.org has added an attribute to mark this.

Colophon Incertus: A type of addition. Uncertain cases, marked for future clarification by consulting the manuscript. TEI does not provide a native “tag” for uncertain, Syriaca.org has added an attribute to mark this.

Final Rubric: Not considered an addition. “A string of words that denotes the end of a text division, often with an assertion to its author or title.” Encoded in TEI using <finalRubric> and NOT considered as part of <additions>. *N.B.* Some scholarly usage may prefer to describe this as an “explicit”. When a final rubric occurs at the end of the manuscript, Wright refers to it as a “colophon”.

Explicit: Not considered an addition. “The closing [e.g. last] words of the text proper, exclusive of any rubric or colophon which might follow it.” Encoded in TEI using <explicit> and NOT considered as part of <additions>.

(This list was drafted for use with Wright’s *Catalogue of Syriac Manuscripts in the British Museum* (1870). We invite suggestions as to how to expand this model to fit features of manuscripts in other collections).

Bibliography


Example 1 (Final Rubric):
<msContents>
<textLang mainLang="syr">Syriac</textLang>
<msItem n="1" xml:id="a1" defective="true">
<locus from="1" to="91">Foll. 1-91</locus>
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Example 2 (Addition: Colophon):
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<p>After the <ref target="#addition6">doxology</ref>, there stands a note, portions of which have been designedly erased, stating that this manuscript was written at the expense of a person from the village of <placeName ref="unknown">Bê-'Aital</placeName>, in <placeName ref="http://syriaca.org/place/215.html">the district of Hims or Emesa</placeName>, for the library of a certain convent, at <placeName ref="http://syriaca.org/place/78.html">Edessa</placeName>, in the year <origDate when="0845" datingMethod="Seleucid">845</origDate>, <origDate when="0534" calendar="Gregorian">A.D. 534</origDate>: </p>
<p><quote xml:lang="syr">حَدَّثَنَا إِبْنُ سَيْدَابِي إِبْنُ مَسْرَحِي، أَنَّهُ سَلَامَةَ، بَشَرَاءَ، سَلَامَةَ، لَا حَمْدُ إِلَّا مُحْسِنَةَ، لَا حَمْدُ إِلَّا مُحْسِنَةَ،</quote></p>
</li>
</additions>
</msContents>
Finding Colophons in Syriaca.org: Exploring the Text Encoding Initiative (TEI) Model

What is TEI?
The guidelines of the Text Encoding Initiative are a set of digital standards (in XML, eXtensible Markup Language) created by an international community of scholars for use in electronically reproducing or describing texts of interest to humanists.

Draft Taxonomy of Paratextual Elements
Addition: “Contains letters, words, or phrases inserted in [or around] the source text by an author, scribe, or a [subsequent] annotator or corrector.” Encoded in TEI using <additions> and numbered <item>.

Colophon: A type of addition. “The original statement providing information regarding the date, place, agency, or reason for production of the manuscript.” Encoded in TEI using <addition> linked with <colophon>. N.B. Wright’s British Library Catalogue does not use the term “colophon” in this sense. He may describe this as a “note”.

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Example 2 (Addition: Colophon):
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  <textLang mainLang="syr">Syriac</textLang>
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      The Epistles of S. Paul, according to the Peshitta version
    </title>
    <colophon>
      <ref target="#addition7">See additions.</ref>
    </colophon>
  </msItem>
</msContents>

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      <p>ܣܢܣܣܠܢܐ ܒܡܚܒܕ ܚܠܐܢܐ ܕܢܐ ܚܠܐ ܢܡܠܐ ܡܢܐ ܒܚܠܐ ܐܡܢܐ ܓܒܛܝܡܐ ܐܒܗܐ ܕܚܠܐ</p>
      <p>ܐܟܪܡܐ ܬܒܬܒܬܒ ܠܠܚܠܚܐ ܘܠܒܘܠܐ ܘܠܒܘܠܐ ܠܠܚܠܚܐ ܬܒܒܬܒ ܬܒܫܡ</p>
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