

Step-by-step instructions on how to encode [syriaca.org/manuscript/83](http://syriaca.org/manuscript/83) (AKA Wright IV, AKA BL Add 14,427) in accordance with the manual and “Blank template file for single msPart entries.xml” as of 6/19/2014.

The blank template file can be downloaded here:

<https://github.com/srophe/manuscripts/blob/master/Blank%20template%20file%20for%20single%20msPart%20entries.xml>

The TEI XML file for Manuscript 83 (i.e. the correct result of this walkthrough to check your work against) can be found here: <https://github.com/srophe/manuscripts/blob/master/83.xml>

In these instructions, the use of the word *document* will reference the .xml file being used to encode the Wright entry.

The line numbers I reference will reflect the unaltered line numbers found in “Blank template file for single msPart entries.xml”. Note that as the prescribed edits are made and lines are added and deleted, the line numbers of the document will obviously change from those in the template. Nevertheless, the lines I reference will reflect the line numbers of the unaltered template. Therefore I recommend, in order to make this guide more useful, that the template be opened twice, one as a reference version to correspond to these instructions, and one in which to do one’s work.

I begin each document by filling out the <titleStm> (lines 6-47). The template carries most of the instructions here and points to what I need to fill in and where. The first step is the <title> on line 7. I replace the <!--Comment--> with the title, formatted as the comment describes:

```
<title xml:lang="en">BL Add MS 14427</title>
```

I delete the <!--Comment--> on line 8. As a general rule, although deleting comments is not necessary since the computer doesn’t read those anyway, nevertheless once I feel the comment has been addressed, I like to remove them to make the document cleaner. Not everyone has this practice, and that does not alter the ability of the computer to make sense of the final product so it’s fine to keep them in as a guide if you like.

Lines 9-15 probably never need to be changed. Neither does line 18. Lines 16-17, though, are where you first give yourself credit. Remove whoever appears there (in this case, Daniel and me) unless they have worked on a previous version of that document and enter your own name in both the @ref and in the human-readable text:

```
<editor role="creator" ref="http://syriaca.org/editors.xml#thannah>Tucker D. Hannah</editor>
```

This identifies you as an editor in the creation of this document. The convention for identifying editors in the @ref is to use one’s first initial and last name (e.g., wwright, dmichelson, dgreeson, thannah, etc.).

The next place to give yourself credit is in the <respStmt>s of lines 19-46. There are several of these in a row to designate the contributions at different stages of this catalog. If you are creating the .xml document, then you should enter your name in the @ref and human-readable sections of line 21. If you are editing a document previously created by someone who already appears in the creator responsibility, then do the same but on line 29, in the editor responsibility. If the particular Wright entry you are working on contains Syriac text, then leave lines 31-34 alone – otherwise delete them. The same case for lines 35-38 if the case does or does not contain Greek and/or Coptic text. In the case of this entry, there is Syriac and there is neither Greek nor Coptic, and so I would delete the <respStmt> identifying Ryan Stitt.

This concludes the <titleStmt>. All done with the first part! Next is the <editionStmt> but this requires no editing, so we'll skip it. Another part done!

Next is the <publicationStmt>, lines 51-62. Only one place to edit here, and that is in the place of the <!--Comment--> on line 54. Because our internal URI for this document will be '83', line 54 should now look as follows:

```
<idno type="URI">http://syriaca.org/manuscript/83/source</idno>
```

On line 61 there is another <!--Comment-->, but because we are making a draft and are not publication-ready yet, we will not enter a publication date. It's not being published just yet, so we'll leave that <!--Comment--> in as something to address in the future. So now the <publicationStmt> is done.

Next is the big one – the <sourceDesc>. This is where the meat of our project is done. Specifically, our work is done in the <msDesc>, which is the only direct descendant of the <sourceDesc>. The only thing to do on the <msDesc> is to give the document an @xml:id on line 64. The comment describes our formatting for this, which is “manuscript-“ appended with the URI:

```
<msDesc xml:id="manuscript-83" xml:lang="en">
```

The <msDesc> contains five sections that split up the contents of Wright's entry: <msIdentifier>, <msContents>, <physDesc>, <history>, and <additional>.

In the <msIdentifier> section we have a few more rounds of identifying precisely which entry we're working on before beginning to work on it. At this stage of the Syriaca.org Manuscripts project, all of our entries are from Wright's catalogue, and all of those come from the Oriental Manuscripts collection of the British Library, so lines 66-69 can be left alone. Our first edit is in line 70. Similar to in the <publicationStmt>, replace the <!--Comment--> with the URI as so:

```
<idno type="URI">http://syriaca.org/manuscript/83</idno>
```

Note that this is not *quite* the same as in the <publicationStmt>, so don't just copy and paste blindly, but it is the same method. We have just applied our primary identification of this manuscript – it is Syriaca.org

manuscript number 83. However, there are alternative identifiers of this manuscript, and we need to acknowledge those too, and so we have a series of <altIdentifier>s to enter.

The first <altIdentifier>, lines 71-73, captures the British Library shelfmark, as evidenced in the @type on line 72. In place of the <!--Comment--> on line 72, put the number at the end of the Wright entry found in [brackets]. Our formatting conventions are to ignore any commas, periods, etc., and so line 72 should look like this:

```
<idno type="BL-Shelfmark">Add MS 14427</idno>
```

The next two <altIdentifier>s address the Wright entry number, the first in Arabic numerals and the second in Roman numerals. For this entry, lines 76 and 80 should look like the following, respectively:

```
<idno type="Wright-BL-Arabic">4</idno>
```

```
<idno type="Wright-BL-Roman">IV</idno>
```

This concludes the <msIdentifier> section and now we are ready to begin drawing material from Wright's entry to encode.

The <msContents> captures the intellectual contents of the manuscript. Lines 84-85 provide additional information but require no editing, so we are interested in the <msItem> structure. The contents are divided into individual <msItem>s to distinguish each work and the subordinate elements (titles, page numbers, etc.) that correspond to each specific item. Wright begins his description of these contents for this manuscript at the top of page 6 after "This volume contains –". This manuscript apparently contains "Part of the Pentateuch, according to the Peshitta version", and the parts of the Pentateuch that it contains are Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy.

These items need to be organized in a particular structure, because in one sense it is sufficient to say that this manuscript contains simply "Part of the Pentateuch." That is a statement that accurately conveys the contents in a way that could be understood by a third party. And yet we have more specific information that does not negate the original claim but clarifies it, that the manuscript contains three specific books. Ideally we want to capture both of these levels of the manuscript contents, and in a way that acknowledges that anything that is true of the more specific levels is also true of the more general level of which they are parts. What we want to structure, then, is this structure:

- Part of the Pentateuch
  - Leviticus
  - Numbers
  - Deuteronomy

In order to capture that the manuscript contains one item, which itself consists of three more specific items, the <msItem> tags should be applied like so:

```
<msItem>  
  Part of the Pentateuch  
  <msItem>Leviticus</msItem>  
  <msItem>Numbers</msItem>
```

```
<msItem>Deuteronomy</msItem>
</msItem>
```

Here the structure acknowledges that the Pentateuch <msItem> contains the Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy <msItem>s. However, the <msItem> element cannot directly contain raw text, nor are these names simply text – they are titles. Therefore they should be identified as such:

```
<msItem>
  <title>Part of the Pentateuch</title>
  <msItem><title>Leviticus</title></msItem>
  <msItem><title>Numbers</title></msItem>
  <msItem><title>Deuteronomy</title></msItem>
</msItem>
```

We also know the locations of these works. Leviticus begins on folio 1a (Wright uses “a” for recto and “b” for verso) and the next work begins on folio 28b, so we can assume that Leviticus runs from 1a-28 (we’ll use the generic 28 because we don’t know without seeing the actual manuscript if it ends on 28a or 28b). Likewise Numbers begins on 28b and runs until Deuteronomy begins on 67b, so we can assume 28b-67. Deuteronomy runs from 67b until, presumably, the end of the manuscript which “[consists] of 95 leaves” (see Wright’s first paragraph on page 5), and so from 67b-95. The Pentateuch contains all of these and so runs from 1a-95. All of this can be added to our structure with the <locus> element, as both human-readable text and in attributes that allow the computer to understand it:

```
<msItem>
  <locus from="1a" to="95">Foll. 1a-95</locus>
  <title>Part of the Pentateuch</title>
  <msItem>
    <locus from="1a" to="28">Foll. 1a-28</locus>
    <title>Leviticus</title>
  </msItem>
  <msItem>
    <locus from="28b" to="67">Foll. 28b-67</locus>
    <title>Numbers</title>
  </msItem>
  <msItem>
    <locus from="67b" to="95">Foll. 67b-95</locus>
    <title>Deuteronomy</title>
  </msItem>
</msItem>
```

Now that the loci are computer-readable, we should do the same for the titles. Fortunately we have a Syriaca.org document where we are recording all of our work URIs. This table shows that Leviticus according to the Peshitta version is work 3, Numbers according to the Peshitta version is work 4, and Deuteronomy according to the Peshitta version is work 5. There is even a URI for the Pentateuch according to the Peshitta version (ignore that this manuscript only has part of the Pentateuch), which is work 68. We can add these in with @ref attributes. Additionally we will add a @type attribute that identifies these titles as “supplied” (i.e., supplied by Wright):

```
<msItem>
```

```

<locus from="1a" to="95">Foll. 1a-95</locus>
<title ref="http://syriaca.org/work/68" type="supplied">Part of the Pentateuch</title>
<msItem>
  <locus from="1a" to="28">Foll. 1a-28</locus>
  <title ref="http://syriaca.org/work/3" type="supplied">Leviticus</title>
</msItem>
<msItem>
  <locus from="28b" to="67">Foll. 28b-67</locus>
  <title ref="http://syriaca.org/work/4" type="supplied">Numbers</title>
</msItem>
<msItem>
  <locus from="67b" to="95">Foll. 67b-95</locus>
  <title ref="http://syriaca.org/work/5" type="supplied">Deuteronomy</title>
</msItem>
</msItem>

```

The next thing to add is the quotes that Wright supplies from the works. TEI has several different elements for these cases depending on the type of quote. For a full list, see the manual or find them on the TEI site. In this case, it is useful to remember simply that what Wright calls a “subscription” TEI calls a `<finalRubric>` and what Wright calls a “title” TEI calls a `<rubric>`. We also want to capture, via the `@xml:lang` attribute, that these quotes are in Syriac, and we want to include as well, as a subordinate element, the locus of these quotes. Fortunately we already have the loci of the works, and we can assume that titles are at the beginning and subscriptions are at the end:

```

<msItem>
  <locus from="1a" to="95">Foll. 1a-95</locus>
  <title ref="http://syriaca.org/work/68" type="supplied">Part of the Pentateuch</title>
  <msItem>
    <locus from="1a" to="28">Foll. 1a-28</locus>
    <title ref="http://syriaca.org/work/3" type="supplied">Leviticus</title>
    <finalRubric xml:lang="syr">. ܐܘܩܘܣܬܐ ܕܠܘܥܝܘܬܐ ܕܠܘܥܝܘܬܐ <locus from="28"
to="28"/></finalRubric>
  </msItem>
  <msItem>
    <locus from="28b" to="67">Foll. 28b-67</locus>
    <title ref="http://syriaca.org/work/4" type="supplied">Numbers</title>
    <rubric xml:lang="syr"><locus from="28b" to="28b"/>ܘܠܘܥܝܘܬܐ ܕܠܘܥܝܘܬܐ ܕܠܘܥܝܘܬܐ .
ܠܘܥܝܘܬܐ</rubric>
    <finalRubric xml:lang="syr">ܘܠܘܥܝܘܬܐ ܕܠܘܥܝܘܬܐ ܕܠܘܥܝܘܬܐ ܕܠܘܥܝܘܬܐ <locus from="67"
to="67"/></finalRubric>
  </msItem>
  <msItem>
    <locus from="67b" to="95">Foll. 67b-95</locus>
    <title ref="http://syriaca.org/work/5" type="supplied">Deuteronomy</title>
    <rubric xml:lang="syr"><locus from="67b" to="67b"/>ܘܠܘܥܝܘܬܐ ܕܠܘܥܝܘܬܐ ܕܠܘܥܝܘܬܐ .
ܠܘܥܝܘܬܐ</rubric>
  </msItem>

```



with the value “perg” to indicate that this manuscript is made of vellum. In line 177 replace the <!--Comment--> with “Vellum” as human-readable text.

Next is the <extent> block of elements to capture measurements. <measure> on line 180 is capturing the number of folia, so enter “95” as the value of @quantity on line 180, and replace the <!--Comment--> with “95 ff.” as human-readable text. Lines 181-190 capture the folio dimensions, which Wright gives at the beginning. The first edit is in line 181 to identify that these dimensions are leaf dimensions, and so the value of @type should be “leaf”. Next, enter the height and width in lines 185 and 188, respectively. The @quantity needs to be converted from Wright’s fractions into decimals, so should have the value “13.875” in line 185 and “10.25” in line 188. Next replace the <!--Comment--> on each line with the human-readable text, preserving Wright’s fractions. It is not necessary to type any unit of measure in the human-readable section:

```
<extent>
  <measure type="composition" unit="leaf" quantity="95">95 ff.</measure>
  <dimensions type="leaf" unit="in">
    <height>
      <measure type="height" quantity="13.875" unit="in">13 7/8</measure>
    </height>
    <width>
      <measure type="width" quantity="10.25" unit="in">10 1/4</measure>
    </width>
  </dimensions>
</extent>
```

The next element is <foliation>. It is unlikely that Wright will make any mention of ancient or modern pagination (note that this does NOT include numbering of quires, which would go somewhere else). Because there is no mentioned foliation of this manuscript, the <!--Comment--> and @type attribute should be cleared out and the element should be emptied:

Before: <foliation type="ancient"><!--Probably not used, unless... .. --></foliation>

After: <foliation/>

<collation> is the proper location for quire numbering. Wright mentions that “The quires are signed with the Syriac arithmetical figures (see foll. 10, 20, etc.)” This sentence should be copied directly, placed in a <p> tag subordinate to the <collation>, and the loci should be tagged:

```
<collation>
  <p>The quires are signed with the Syriac arithmetical figures (see <locus from="10"
to="10">foll. 10</locus>, <locus from="20" to="20">20</locus>, etc.).</p>
</collation>
```

Next is <condition>. This is the element block where the mentions of manuscript condition will be reproduced and/or linked. To set this element up for the necessary entries we will make to it, we will add some additional subordinate structure: <list><item><p>. It is within these <p>s that we will enter each item Wright mentions that describes the condition, tagging loci and works as we go:

```
<condition>
```

```

<list>
  <item>
    <p>Several leaves are much stained and torn, especially foll. <locus
from="69" to="69">69</locus> and <locus from="86" to="90">86—
90</locus>.</p>
  </item>
  <item>
    <p>No less than nine quires and a leaf are missing at the beginning of
the volume; and the last two quires are imperfect, leaves being wanting after
foll. <locus from="88" to="89">88, 89</locus>, and <locus from="95"
to="95">95</locus>. </p>
  </item>
  <item>
    <p>The following portions of the text are wanting. At the beginning,
besides the books of Genesis and Exodus, <ref target="#b1">Levit.</ref> i.1—
iii.6; after <locus from="88" to="88">fol. 88</locus>, <ref
target="#b3">Deut.</ref> xxii.19—xxvii.19; after <locus from="89"
to="89">fol. 89</locus>, <ref target="#b3">Deut.</ref> xxviii.26—xxix.13; and
after <locus from="95" to="95">fol. 95</locus>, <ref target="#b3">Deut.</ref>
xxxiv.9 to the end. </p>
  </item>
</list>
</condition>

```

Note the use of the <ref> element with a @target attribute to link to the <msItem>s using those @xml:ids from earlier. Also note that each new item describing the condition is a unique <item>.

The final section of the <objectDesc> is the <layoutDesc>, lines 209-214. Wright says that “Each page is divided into two columns, of from 29 to 33 lines,” which contains all the information this section needs. The special instructions for this section are that the formatting of values for @writtenLines is to include the upper and lower ranges Wright provides, separated by a space, and that the <locus> in line 211 should be deleted entirely except in the rare occasion that a single manuscript has multiple layouts:

```

<layoutDesc>
  <layout columns="2" writtenLines="29 33">
    <p>Each page is divided into two columns, of from 29 to 33 lines.</p>
  </layout>
</layoutDesc>

```

After the <objectDesc> comes the <handDesc>. This is the space for describing the identifiable hands that contributed to all of the writing on this manuscript. In this case there are two identifiable hands mentioned by Wright, first the “large and beautiful Estrangela of the vith cent.,” and second the hands by which “vowels have been added.” In the latter case, Wright does mention “hands” plural, but because we have no available information by which to distinguish these hands we must consider their contribution as a single hand. Should more information become available this could change, but for now we will only have two hands to code.



First, because there are two hands, the number 2 should be entered as the value of `@hands` in line 216. Next, we will need two `<handNote>`s within the `<handDesc>`. In the first, the `@xml:id` should be “handNote1”, and in the second it should be “handNote2”. The first hand will go in the first `<handNote>`, and because this is the main hand of composition its `@scope` value will be “major”. Consequently the `@scope` of the second `<handNote>` will be “minor”. The `@script` of the first, Wright tells us, is Estrangelo and so its value is “syr-Syre” (which designates Syriac language written in Estrangelo Syriac script). The `@script` of the second isn’t given outright, but because it is adding vowels we can assume it is Serto Syriac, and so the value of the second `<handNote>` is “syr-Syrj”. Finally, the `@medium` of both hands is unknown, so for the value just enter “unknown” for both (it’s rare that the medium will be known, in which case consult the manual).

So now the `<handNote>`s are set up and ready for the human-readable contents. The only element that we make a direct descendent of a `<handNote>` is the `<desc>` element, and it is within this that we will place the text of Wright’s description of the first hand. In doing so, also tag the date that Wright mentions. Because this is the hand of the original composition, we will tag it as an `<origDate>`, to be discussed further later (if there was a date on the added vowels, those would simply be a `<date>`; for details and more information, see the manual). The first `<handNote>` should look like this so far:

```
<handDesc hands="2">
  <handNote xml:id="handNote1" scope="major" script="syr-Syre" medium="unknown">
    <desc>The character is a large and beautiful Estrangela of the <origDate
notBefore="0500" notAfter="0600">vith cent.</origDate></desc>
  </handNote>
  <handNote xml:id="handNote2" scope="minor" script="syr-Syrj" medium="unknown">
  </handNote>
</handDesc>
```

For the second `<handNote>`, because it is an addition to the major hand, Wright’s prose description will be used later in the `<additions>`. To save ourselves unnecessary redundancy, the `<handNote>` will only link to the addition using the same `<ref>` and `@target` structure from in the `<condition>`, and so the second `<handNote>` will look like this:

```
<handNote xml:id="handNote2" scope="minor" script="syr-Syrj" medium="unknown">
  <desc><ref target="#addition1">See additions.</ref></desc>
</handNote>
```

At this point I’ve just made up the `@target` value because we haven’t written the `<additions>` yet. It doesn’t link to anything at this point, but it will momentarily. This concludes the `<handDesc>`.

The next element block is the `<decoDesc>`. In this entry there are no decorations or ornaments to describe, so close it out like the `<foliation>` from earlier.

Now we are at the `<additions>` (NOT to be confused with `<additional>`, which comes later!). `<additions>` get structured in the same `<list><item><p>` structure that was used in the `<condition>`. We attached attributes on the `<item>` to identify each addition. We use `@n` for a running count and `@xml:id` for identification and linking. In this entry we only have the one addition – the added vowels. So Wright’s prose about this addition goes within the `<p>` and there will only be one addition:

```
<additions>
```

```

<list>
  <item n="1" xml:id="addition1">
    <p>Vowels have been added in a few cases by later hands.</p>
  </item>
</list>
</additions>

```

Now the <handNote> we wrote earlier is resolved. The computer can understand that this addition is related to the second hand, but we have acknowledged that it is primarily an addition, from which we inferred a second hand.

Next are a few elements that rarely get used and go unused in this document: <bindingDesc>, <sealDesc>, <accMat>. Review these in the manual because they do come up every so often, but in this document we will close them out like <decoDesc> or <foliation>. This concludes the <physDesc>.

Almost done! Next is the <history>, which consists of three sections: <origin>, <provenance>, and <acquisition>, which describe in order the origin of the manuscript, its journey and ownership over time, and how it came to be held in its current institution. For this entry we know only something about the <origin>, so <provenance> and <acquisition> can be closed out.

The <origin> can contain information about the date and the place of origin. We only know something about the date, so <origPlace> can be deleted. The <origDate> is the same as in the first <handNote> from before. Because Wright gives a single century, the 6<sup>th</sup>, we use attributes to give a range from 500-600 (assume Gregorian calendar unless Wright says otherwise; see manual for more). The attributes @notBefore and @notAfter require four-digit years, so we will extend these to 0500 and 0600, yielding the same <origDate> structure that was used previously:

```

<origin>
  <origDate notBefore="0500" notAfter="0600">6th century</origDate>
</origin>

```

This concludes the <history>.

The final section of the <sourceDesc>, and therefore of the <msDesc>, is the <additional> (again, NOT to be confused with <additions>). Most of this section requires no or minimal editing. Hooray! The first task required is doing something about the <custodialHist> from lines 275-279. Because Wright makes no mention of attempts to preserve or repair this manuscript, we can close out this element. The only other required task for this entry are to replace the <!--Comments--> in lines 289 and 290. Within these <citedRange>s we will cite first the entry (line 289) and second the volume and page numbers (line 290). On line 289 simply replace the <!--Comment--> with “IV” since that is the Wright entry number. On line 290 replace the <!--Comment--> with I:5-6 for Volume I, pages 5-6. This concludes <additional>, <sourceDesc>, <msDesc>, and <fileDesc>.

Nearly done. <encodingDesc> can be skipped as it doesn't require any editing. Only a couple more places that we need to make edits, one place at the end of the <profileDesc>, and then in the <revisionDesc>.

In the <profileDesc> we need to classify the text, which is done in the <textClass> section from lines 382 to 389. The only edit is to give the @target on lines 385 the value "#bible-ot":

```
<textClass>
  <keywords scheme="#Wright-BL-Taxonomy">
    <list>
      <item>
        <ref target="#bible-ot"/>
      </item>
    </list>
  </keywords>
</textClass>
```

This identifies the text as Biblical Old Testament and resolves to the <classDecl> that we skipped over in the <encodingDesc>. <profileDesc> is done.

Last edits! The final step is to make note in the <revisionDesc> of what we've done. The template provides a full list of the controlled vocabulary we are using to classify different types of edits and changes. The <change>s with @type with value "planned" note changes that still need to be made, for example if Wright had provided examples of the vowels since we don't currently have a way to code those characters and would've needed to skip it for now. For this entry, we've encoded the entire thing, so delete all of the <change>s with @type equal to "planned", because there are no planned changes that need to be made. The only remaining <change> should be the one on line 392 in the unaltered template. Give the attribute @when a value equal to the date on which you are wrapping up this entry, in the form "YYYY-MM-DD". Keep in mind that you should use a 0 as a placeholder so that all digits have an entry. At the end of the value for @who there is a question mark following the #. Replace this question mark with your first initial and last name, the same way as in the <editor> and <respStmt> at the beginning of the document. The human-readable text of line 392 should already say "Created: file", which is our controlled vocabulary for the creation of the manuscript. Your <revisionDesc> should now look something like this (with your own name and the current date in the appropriate places):

```
<revisionDesc>
  <change when="2013-02-26" who="http://syriaca.org/editors.xml#thannah">Created:
  file</change>
</revisionDesc>
```

This concludes the <revisionDesc> and thus the <teiHeader>, which means it's done! The rest of the document leaves room for facsimiles and texts, which we do not have yet, so leave those there, be sure to

save it, and update the Wright Decoder file on Google Drive so that other team members know that this is ready for a peer edit.