Slide 1

Transcribing and Editing
The Mary Hamilton Papers (c. 1750 - c. 1820)

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MANCHESTER 1824
The University of Manchester

Universida de Vigo

UNIVERSITY of York

UKRI Arts and Humanities Research Council

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Slide 2

Outline

- 'Unlocking the Mary Hamilton Papers' project
- Edition
- Editing practices
- Research Strands

Image to Text (2011-2019) ⇨ *Unlocking the Mary Hamilton Papers* (2019-2022)
'a window onto eighteenth-century life, literature and language'

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Unlocking the Mary Hamilton Papers

Project & Edition

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Slide 4

Mary Hamilton Papers (c. 1750 - c. 1820)

- Mary Hamilton (1756-1816): courtier and diarist, nexus of several interlocking royal, aristocratic, literary and artistic circles in late 18C London

The Archive
- Letters (c. 180 hands), diaries, commonplace books, etc.
- John Rylands Research Institute and Library, Manchester (c. 2,500 items, fully catalogued)
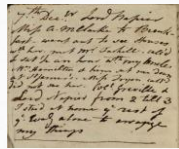- other 11 libraries/archives in the UK and US; private collections

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Mary Hamilton Papers (c. 1750 - c. 1820)

Correspondence
- c. 1,450 items, c. 60 hands
- diversity of social networks
- digitised and transcribed

Diaries
- selection of Mary's and her husband's
- inc. draft letters, journal letters
- digitised; transliteration in progress

c. 800,000 words

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Mary Hamilton Papers (c. 1750 - c. 1820)

Annotated edition via MDC
- digital images side-by-side with transcriptions
- diplomatic and normalised transcr.

Linguistic corpus via CQPweb
- part-of-speech & semantic tagging
- search in normalised text
- output in diplomatic text

Manchester Digital Collections

Welcome to CQPweb at Lancaster
CORPUS QUERY PROCESSOR
This server is maintained by Andrew Hardie

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beta version of corpus in Feb 2022 ⇨ revised version in early 2023

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Editing practices

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Process

PHOTOGRAPHY **TRANSCRIPTION** **DISPLAY**

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Editing practices

- Header with metadata
- Structure of the text
- Visual information
- People, handshift; Places
- Foreign phrases, direct speech
- Self-corrections
- Additions, censored passages
- unclear/illegible elements, gaps
- sic/orig spelling normalisation
- Abbreviations
- etc.

Q.H. 23^d of June 1780.

My dear Miβ Hamilton. When a Child is naughty, a good parent corrects it in order to make it the better behaved, Pray, can You tell me! what punishment is to be made use of, when the Physician recommends bathing in the Sea and it is not complied with? I am very impatient to have that point determined, as I intend practising it upon a certain Miβ. M. H. who promised D^r. Turton$^{[1]}$ to wash herself quite clean, and who since her arrival at Eastbourne pretends to be a little fearfull, for I dare not make use of the Word$^{[2]}$ which begins with a C. for fear of Shocking Your delicacy, that I am the more – anxious to avoid as at best my correspondence can be but little entertaining, when I know that You have so many Friends which are such good scribes and can make their letters so much more interesting.

Our head quarters are still in town, and not

very likely that the King will leave it soon, it is certainly not so agreable as the Country, yet to a well thinking mind it is always pleasing to fulfil its Duty, and

(HAM/1/1/2/2, Queen Charlotte to Mary Hamilton)

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Editing practices: current project website

<< previous letter   next letter >>

HAM/1/1/2/2
Letter from Queen Charlotte to Mary Hamilton

normalised | metadata | image (pdf)

Diplomatic Text

Q.H. 23^d of June 1780.

My dear Miβ Hamilton. When a Child is naughty, a good parent corrects it in order to make it the better behaved, Pray, can You tell me! what punishment is to be made use of, when the Physician recommends bathing in the Sea and it is not complied with? I am very impatient to have that point determined, as I intend practising it upon a certain Miβ. M. H. who promised D^r. Turton$^{[1]}$ to wash herself quite clean, and who since her arrival at Eastbourne pretends to be a little fearfull, for I dare not make use of the Word$^{[2]}$ which begins with a C. for fear of Shocking Your delicacy, that I am the more – anxious to avoid as at best my correspondence can be but little entertaining, when I know that You have so many Friends which are such good scribes and can make their letters so much more interesting.

Our head quarters are still in town, and not

very likely that the King will leave it soon, it is certainly not so agreable as the Country, yet to a well thinking mind it is always pleasing to fulfil its Duty, and though I have frequently found that the fulfilling that duty is very often connected with difficulty, it is neverthe[less] attended with a secret inward satisfaction, whi[ch] none but those that act right can enjoy, and which no

Normalised Text

Queen's House 23^d of June 1780.

My dear Miss Hamilton. When a Child is naughty, a good parent corrects it in order to make it the better behaved, Pray, can You tell me! what punishment is to be made use of, when the Physician recommends bathing in the Sea and it is not complied with? I am very impatient to have that point determined, as I intend practising it upon a certain Miss. M. H. who promised Dr. Turton to wash herself quite clean, and who since her arrival at Eastbourne pretends to be a little fearful, for I dare not make use of the Word which begins with a C. for fear of Shocking Your delicacy, that I am the more – anxious to avoid as at best my correspondence can be but little entertaining, when I know that You have so many Friends which are such good scribes and can make their letters so much more interesting.

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very likely that the King will leave it soon, it is certainly not so agreable as the Country, yet to a well thinking mind it is always pleasing to fulfil its Duty, and though I have frequently found that the fulfilling that duty is very often connected with difficulty, it is nevertheless attended with a secret inward satisfaction, which none but those that act right can enjoy, and which no

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Editing practices: Oxygen XML editor

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Research Strands

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Research Questions/Strands

I. **Social Networks**: What commonalities and differences can be found in the operation and the relevance to reading, letter-writing and everyday language of the social networks around Mary Hamilton?

II. **Reading Practices**: How can textual traces of reader circulation, reception and response contained in the Hamilton Papers help us to think differently about eighteenth-century Romantic literature?

III. **Norms and Usage**: What evidence can the Hamilton Papers provide of the influence of language standardisation forces on letter-writing practices during the late Georgian period?

IV. **Language Structure**: How do the social networks around Hamilton reflect the progress of the wholesale realignment of the English auxiliary verb system in the late Georgian period?

Slide 14
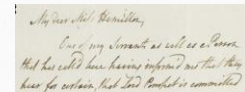
Strand I: Social networks

- Personography data: biographical, relational (consanguineal, marital, professional, social).
- TEI format allows for multiple fields, integration with MDC and more widely, conversion to other output formats (e.g. Excel).
- Application:
  - **At present**: basic biographical data for individuals as tooltip (c. 1,360 individual xml:ids)
  - **In future**: online personography (electronic person index), mapping of relationships, linking to authority files, linking to documents

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Strand III: Standardisation and 'the art of letter writing'

Usage (c. 1750 - c. 1820)
- c. 1,450 letters, over ½ million words
- opening ('address formulae') and closing ('subscription formulae')
- other references to the addressee and signatures

Norms (1650-1800)
- LW manuals (45)
- Grammar books with LW advice (10)
- printed in UK, copy in PDF

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Strand IV: Language structure

- Categorical and statistical changes in auxiliary system 1750-1820, centred on the syntax, semantics and morphology of *be* (and *be* in alternation with *have* and modals).
- Hamilton Papers a chronologically ideal data source for both 'apparent time' studies by comparison of different generations and longitudinal, 'real-time' studies of individuals: change during the lifetime.
- If sufficient data, will test for link between kinds of social network tie and linguistic stability or change.
- Other strands select most of their crucial data by TEI mark-up added during editing, but this strand requires tagging and parsing of whole edition.

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Unlocking the Mary Hamilton Papers

https://www.projects.alc.manchester.ac.uk/maryhamiltonpapers/

The Mary Hamilton Papers (c. 1750 - c. 1820). Compiled by David Denison, Nuria Yáñez-Bouza, Tino Oudesluijs, Cassandra Ulph, Christine Wallis, Hannah Barker and Sophie Coulombeau, University of Manchester. In progress, 2019-

https://www.digitalcollections.manchester.ac.uk/collections/maryhamilton

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