

Transcribing and Interpreting Digital Recipe Manuscripts

Dear Workshop Participants:

Hillary and I would like to welcome you to “Transcribing and Interpreting Digital Recipe Manuscripts,” and we are very pleased that the workshop is fully subscribed (and even has a waiting list). For this workshop, we will be working with Mary Baumfylde’s medicinal and culinary receipt book (1626, 1702-1758), which is housed at the Folger Shakespeare Library, V.a. 456, as our source text. You can view the entire digital text at https://luna.folger.edu/luna/servlet/view/search?search=SUBMIT&q=Baumfylde&dateRangeStart=&dateRangeEnd=&sort=call_number%2Cmsortorder1%2Ccd_title%2Cimprint

We welcome you to take a look at the manuscript to begin thinking about your project. Our overall plan for the workshop is that each participant will work on transcribing the Baumfylde text using the Folger’s digital platform, Dromio, and will present a research/pedagogical project concerned with this text. We would like to encourage you to be creative about what kind of project you might pursue. For example, we imagine that you could create a syllabus and course assignments/projects based on the manuscript; you could write a series of blog posts discussing various recipes or contexts discovered (we would be happy to publish these blogs on the Early Modern Recipes Online Collective (EMROC) website: <http://emroc.hypotheses.org>); you create an interactive online presentation exploring an aspect of the text; or you might want to make some recipes and film a video series. You could write a piece for a general audience, or use this workshop to craft a traditional article or book chapter. Please take these only as suggestions; we would be pleased if you decided to do some other kind of project—let the world be your oyster.

Very soon, we will be sending you a link to an online workspace hosted through the University of Akron. When you get the link, we would like for you to sign on and give a short (one paragraph) introduction, telling about yourself and your interest in the workshop. We will also be posting instructions on the site as to how to enter and use Dromio, so that you can begin transcribing. We will have online discussion areas as well, where you might ask questions about or discuss interesting finds in the Baumfylde receipt book.

Important dates:

November 7: Explore Dromio during EMROC's virtual Transcribathon, at which students and scholars from around the world will be transcribing 3 receipt books that are currently in the system. While not everyone may be able to join us, the Transcribathon will feature lots of opportunities for virtual conversation about Dromio, via Twitter and in our online seminar page. For more information about the Transcribathon, please see: <http://emroc.hypotheses.org>.

December 10: Upload a 300-word abstract of your pedagogical or research project. And we would like for you have transcribed 10 pages of the manuscript on Dromio.

January 31: Upload a maximum 8-page description/sample/reflection on your pedagogical/research project. Again, we are not asking that you write a research paper, per se,

but that you will provide a window into your research.

March 28-31: Meet in Los Angeles for the SAA meeting and have our workshop: date and time will be announced in the January SAA program. We also hope to meet for cocktails after our workshop.

Amy and I would like to remind you of our upcoming SAA Workshop deadline.

By December 10, we ask that you upload a 300-word abstract of your pedagogical or research project on the Baumfylde manuscript. And we would like for you have transcribed 10 pages of the manuscript on Dromio (it's a pleasure to see that so many of you have already done so!).

We would like to encourage you to be creative about what kind of project you might pursue. Earlier, we suggested that you could create a syllabus and course assignments/projects based on the manuscript; you could write a series of blog posts discussing various recipes or contexts discovered (we would be happy to publish these blogs on the Early Modern Recipes Online Collective (EMROC) website: <http://emroc.hypotheses.org>); you create an interactive online presentation exploring an aspect of the text; or you might want to make some recipes and film a video series. You could write a piece for a general audience, or use this workshop to craft a traditional article or book chapter.

Now that we've begun to see some of your ideas come out in discussion, we can also imagine projects that involve podcasts and games; experiments involving modern cookbooks, as well as popular sources about historical cookery, could also be intriguing. There are intriguing book history approaches too: thinking about ways to represent and examine modifications and additions to the collection could be fascinating. As before, we hope you'll take these only as suggestions; we would be pleased if you decided to do some other kind of project—let the world be your oyster.

Please post your abstract on the Workshop's Brightspace site, at <https://brightspace.uakron.edu>, in the Discussion Section labelled Abstracts. You can either attach a .doc or .pdf file, or, better yet, simply copy and paste your text into the posting window. If you are having difficulties accessing Brightspace, please let Hillary know.

If you would like to chat informally with us before writing an abstract, please don't hesitate to get in touch. We're so looking forward to what you'll come up with!

Thanks,
Hillary and Amy

February 6, 2018

Dear participants in the SAA **Transcribing and Interpreting Digital Recipe Manuscripts** Workshop:

We are very pleased with the kind of interesting projects you are doing in association with the Baumfylde manuscript and are looking forward to having a good conversation on Friday, March 30th. To prepare for the workshop, we would like to ask that you provide a short response (one sentence to a couple of paragraphs) to at least 3 other people in the workshop. We are not assigning particular people to respond to other particular people, but we are interested in parity, so please try to spread your love around. If someone has not yet had a response, please respond to her or him.

Because we want to make the workshop both interesting and useful to our collective work, we have decided that we would like to publish our work in *Early Modern Studies Journal*. <https://www.earlymodernstudiesjournal.org> (the url of this website will be changing soon, but I'll let you know when that happens), as a special issue. The idea involves two parts: 1) Workshop members would write collaboratively an introductory essay in which we talk about the challenges and opportunities of working with a recipe manuscript (using the Baumfylde MS as a case study), both in our teaching and in our research. We'd begin drafting this essay during our workshop time, by taking careful notes during our discussion. 2) After SAA, you would have an opportunity to submit your work, in whatever form it might take, to be peer reviewed by the journal to be included in the issue. The idea is that the journal's electronic form would allow us to include not just traditional essays, but more experimental formats and genres that might not otherwise be published.

We hope then that this publication would not interfere with other publishing plans you might have for your work concerning this manuscript, and we imagine that some of your contributions might be expansions or supplements to work that otherwise appears in print. Nevertheless, your pieces in this issue would still be peer reviewed so that it will “count” for your academic career. Not only are we wanting to publish our “findings” but we are also interested in creating a model of peer review for digital humanities work—and for what can be done in an SAA workshop – while also providing a resource for those looking to learn more about recipes and early modern manuscript.

With this in mind, we hope that everyone will take extensive notes during our discussions at the workshop, so that these notes, along with your responses to each other's work will form the backbone of the introductory essay. Therefore, we would like for you to have this eventual format in mind when you write your responses/questions to one another's work.

Please write your responses and post them by **March 15**. We will also be generating a single pdf of all the write-ups so that you can work from that document in the workshop.

If you are still having trouble getting onto the website, please let Hillary know and she can have Brightspace send you a link to get a new password. (I have had to do this several times to get onto the site). Apologies for the difficulties with this platform.

Best, Amy and Hillary

P.S. So excited to see you in LA and we also hope that you will join us for a drink after our workshop on Friday night.