

Cervantes and the Golden Age Theatre: First Attempts Towards a Digital Scholarly Editorial Model

La entretenida by Miguel de Cervantes: A Digital, Annotated Edition and an English Translation (*The Diversion*). <http://entretenida.outofthewings.org/index.html> (Last Accessed: 2016-05-11). Reviewed by  Susanna Allés Torrent (University of Miami), susanna_alles@miami.edu.

DOI: 10.18716/ride.a.4.1

Abstract

For the first time, *La Entretenida* offers a digital scholarly edition of a theatrical text written by Miguel de Cervantes. From a scholarly perspective, the edition has a considerable value offering a brief contextualization of the play, a clear set of editorial criteria, and an edited text that provides different views, including an English translation. From the digital perspective, it represents a solid model that could be exportable to other similar works; nonetheless, some improvements could be performed, such as making the underlying encoded textual data available and adding technical documentation.

Introduction: the Revival of the Spanish Golden Age

Miguel de Cervantes is well-known as a novelist, but he also clearly had a vocation as a dramatist. In 1615, just one year before his death, he published a group of plays under the title *Ocho comedias y ocho entremeses nuevos, nunca representados* (*Eight New Plays and Eight Interludes, Never Performed*), by the press of the Viuda de Antonio Martín in Madrid.

As the same Cervantes explains in his 'Prologue to the Reader', he had written the plays years before, but he did not find a publisher willing to buy them. The times were changing, and Lope de Vega was reshaping the principles of drama composition. Cervantes acknowledges his reputation as a good writer of prose, as opposed to his verse: 'At the time a bookseller informed me that he would have bought them, had a actor-manager of some note not told him that much could be expected of my prose, but of my verse nothing.' Nonetheless, Cervantes, reading once again his plays, decided to deliver them to a bookseller in order to finally publish them. This is the reason behind the second part of the title, 'Never Performed'.

La Entretenida is one of the eight plays of the publication, and it narrates several parallel love stories among servants and nobility, in which none end in marriage. The new digital edition was launched in 2013, and its main achievement is that it is the first one in the field of Spanish Golden Age theatre (late XVI to XVII centuries). It offers different editorial versions of the Spanish text as well as an English translation, all accompanied by critical notes, a rich section of indices, and a Google map tracing the places mentioned in the play.

The digital edition is the result of a doctoral dissertation entitled *Cervantes's La Entretenida: Translation, Performance and a Digital Edition*, carried out by John O'Neill.^{*} As stated in the section 'About the Project', the work had two different outcomes: the website and the written dissertation. The latter was divided into four main parts: a study highlighting the new approach to Cervantes's theatrical production and his 'fascination with the relationship between life and literature', materialized in the effects of reality through the characterization of the servants and the nobility; a bibliographic investigation about the materiality and textual tradition of the *Ocho Comedias*; a rationale on the making of the digital edition; and a final study on the process of translation and performing of the play, which had an actual staged reading sponsored by the Cultural Office of the Spanish Embassy, taking place at King's College London (KCL).

John O'Neill is the principal researcher, working under the auspices of two professors from the Department of Spanish, Portuguese and Latin American Studies at KCL, Catherine Boyle, and Julian Weiss. Furthermore, the project had the collaboration of the Department of Digital Humanities, lead by Paul Spence, and with the participation of Elena Pierazzo, Paul Vetch, José Miguel Monteiro Vieira, Bea Caballero, Raffaele Vigilanti, and Charlotte Tupman. This initiative was supported by and registered with *Out of the wings*^{*}, a three-year project funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council, in collaboration with Queen's University (Belfast) and the University of Oxford, which consisted of a digital resource offering a wide range of theatrical texts from Spain and Spanish America for English-speaking researchers and theatre professionals. The website is hosted by the *Out of the Wings* project and is maintained by the KCL.



Home

***La entretenida* by Miguel de Cervantes: A Digital, Annotated Edition and an English Translation (*The Diversion*)**

This edition presents a new perspective on Cervantes as a dramatist, and incorporates features that will be of interest to academics, theatre practitioners and translators alike. It is the result of AHRC-funded collaborative research carried out at King's College London, within the *Out of the Wings* project, by John O'Neill of the Department of Spanish, Portuguese and Latin American Studies and a team from the Department of Digital Humanities led by Paul Spence.

The edition presents four versions of the Spanish text that allow different views of the punctuation and spelling ([facsimile](#), [modern spelling transcription](#), ed. O'Neill and [unpunctuated](#)), together with an [English translation](#), by John O'Neill.

With performance in mind, the verse is presented in a way that clearly displays the poetic form, while the [Performance Information](#) and [Track Character](#) menus provide useful information about what is happening on stage.

Various indices ([names](#), [places](#), [occupations](#), [specialist terminology](#), [sub-languages](#), [proverbs](#) and [performance](#)) and a [Google Map of places mentioned](#) help to contextualize the play.

Arts & Humanities Research Council KING'S College LONDON Digital Humanities OUT OF THE WINGS

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Homepage.

The two main goals of this edition are: on one hand, to offer a new perspective on Cervantes as a playwright of comedies, as well as a new and updated version of the play to be better understood nowadays and performed; on the other hand, to present a multidimensional approach to the text while proposing different editorial versions and an English translation. Moreover, the edition's targeted audience is wide ranging, including academics, theatre practitioners, and translators.

In recent years, Golden Age texts have seen a great revival, with Cervantes obviously one of the most studied authors. Two examples of his work that have received a lot of attention include a compilation of all documentary and facsimile editions of the Quixote – the *Electronic Variorum Edition of the Quixote* (EVE-DQ) – and an interactive digital edition of the classic, the *Quijote Interactivo* (2010-2015). Many other interesting projects dealing especially with the theatrical performance of texts have seen the light, in which Lope de Vega is the most studied and published playwright. A few examples include *Mujeres y criados. Edición en línea* (2014) and *La Dama Boba* edition (2015). It goes without saying that scholars also have access to a great amount of material in digital libraries such as the *Manos teatrales* ^{*} or the *Biblioteca Digital Artelope*.^{*}

Previous Attempts and General Overview

La Entretenida is a single play published conjointly in 1615 with seven other plays and eight interludes, in which each play constitutes an independent work. The publication of the sixteen plays would certainly have been too much for the scope of a PhD thesis. In any case, it is worth noticing, as highlighted by the editor, that the proposed model could be applicable to the rest of the works of the *Ocho comedias*, and – I would say – to other theatrical works from the same period.

As far as the textual tradition is concerned, original manuscripts were not preserved, unlike in the case of other plays such as *El trato de Argel*, or *Numancia* (Caravaggio 2010). We only have the first printed edition, on which Cervantes himself was involved. Since its first publication in 1615, *Ocho comedias* was neither reprinted until 1918, nor performed. This lack of attention from both theatre production companies and publishers underscores the novelty and the dissonance of Cervantes's plays vis-à-vis the canon of drama.

Previous to this digital edition, the *Ocho comedias*, and in particular *La Entretenida*, were published in digital format several times. On the one hand, the Biblioteca Virtual Miguel de Cervantes offered three different versions:

- A digital facsimile of the 1615 edition with images in black and white.^{*}
- An HTML version prepared by Florencio Sevilla Arroyo (Alicante: Biblioteca Virtual Miguel de Cervantes, 2001)^{*}, with links to the facsimile image of the original edition and a concordance.
- Another HTML version based on the edition prepared by Rodolfo Schevill y Adolfo Bonilla in *Obras completas de Miguel de Cervantes Saavedra. Comedias y entremeses: tomo III*, Madrid, [s.n], 1918 (Imprenta de Bernardo Rodríguez), pp. 5-116.^{*}

On the other hand, the *Proyecto Cervantes* (Texas A&M University – Universidad de Castilla-La Mancha) also offers a version prepared in 1997 by J. T. Abraham and Vern G. Williamsen based on the same first edition of 1615.^{*}

None of these cases can be considered a digital scholarly edition; thus, if compared with the previous works, O'Neill and the rest of the team clearly fill this gap by adding digital and scholarly value to the text. One of the main benefits is that it offers a rich contextualized paratextual material that helps a broad range of readers (or users) to understand both the text and the performance of the play.



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About the Project

***La entretenida* by Miguel de Cervantes: A Digital, Annotated Edition and an English Translation (*The Diversion*)**

This website forms one part of research entitled 'Cervantes's *La entretenida*: Translation, Performance and a Digital Edition', carried out by John O'Neill (King's College London) within *Out of the Wings*, a project on Spanish and Spanish-American theatre in translation, funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council. The website includes a fully annotated edition of the play, together with the first known translation into English, *The Diversion*, by John O'Neill. This translation formed the basis of a staged reading, sponsored by the Cultural Office of the Spanish Embassy, in the Old Anatomy Museum at King's College London in May 2007.

The other part of the research is a written thesis of nearly 80,000 words, in four sections. The first of these proposes a new interpretation of the play, which highlights Cervantes's fascination with the relationship between life and literature. The second part presents the results of an investigation into the printing of *Ocho comedias y ocho entremeses nuevos, nunca representados* (*Eight New Plays and Interludes, Never Performed*), the volume of plays within which which *La entretenida* is contained. The third section of the written submission presents the rationale for this digital edition, while the final part discusses the process of translating and performing the play.

The research has involved translation, theatre practice, and scholarship within the fields of textual criticism, bibliography and digital humanities. Reflecting this experience, this edition is aimed at academics, theatre practitioners and translators alike, and seeks to contribute to dismantling the unhelpful boundaries that have sometimes existed between these different groups.

This edition offers a new perspective on Cervantes as a playwright by providing four views of the Spanish text, together with an English translation (see Key Features: **Different Views of the Text**), and by presenting the text in a way that privileges the verse, thus acknowledging the importance of poetic form in Spanish Golden Age drama. The edition also incorporates various indices (see [About the Indices](#)) that help to contextualise the play, as well as features designed to aid theatre practitioners, such as menus that enable one to quickly access costume, props and stage furniture requirements for each scene, and to track the speeches and movements of individual characters (see Key Features: **Special Menus**).

The model for text encoding and representation provided by this digital edition is both expandable and exportable. It could, for example, be applied to the whole of *Ocho comedias*, to other Early Modern plays or even to the complete works of Cervantes.

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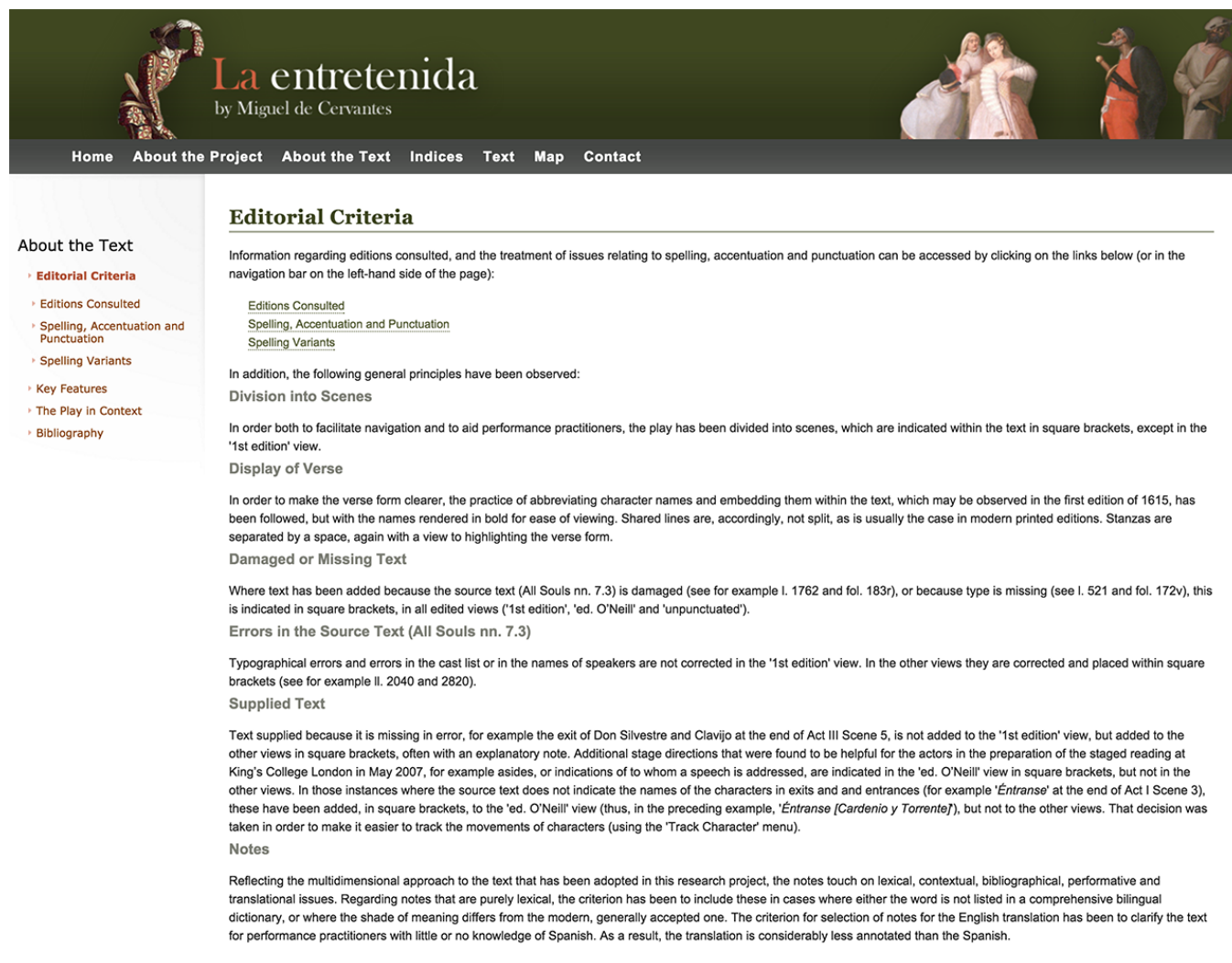
About the Project.

Taking a closer look at the website, the 'About the Project' section offers detailed information about the implementation of the project and the team involved. It also offers a very useful series of links about different topics pertaining to Cervantes, Early Modern Spanish and English Theatre projects, as well as Digital Humanities and text encoding. This section increases its value with its insight into pedagogical approaches to text and to the period. It could benefit even more, however, if it contained more information about the context of the plays and their meaning in the milieu of Cervantes's world. The integration of the dissertation into the website would have increased the effectiveness as a scholarly resource and helped shed light on some scholarly questions, such as why the number 'eight' in the compilation, if there is a driving topic or a literary coherence within the plays and the interludes, and whether or not Cervantes was aware that he went against the flow with his drama.

The 'About the text' section lists the editorial criteria, the key features of the edition, a brief contextualization of the play, and an organized bibliography. A clear access to the edition is found under the 'Text' tab, as well as three other sections devoted to the 'Indices', a 'Map', and 'Contact' information. Let's now concentrate on the edition, and later on on the additional features.

The Digital Edition

The starting point of this edition is the *editio princeps* of Cervantes's work published in 1615, and the different set of editorial interventions applied to the text leads to multiple views. Thus, the website offers five different approaches to the text: four versions of the Spanish text with different paleographical and editorial visualizations consisting of a facsimile edition, a modernized spelling transcription, an authorial edition done by O'Neill, and an unpunctuated version. Moreover, there is an English translation also done by the editor.



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About the Text

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Editorial Criteria

Information regarding editions consulted, and the treatment of issues relating to spelling, accentuation and punctuation can be accessed by clicking on the links below (or in the navigation bar on the left-hand side of the page):

[Editions Consulted](#)
[Spelling, Accentuation and Punctuation](#)
[Spelling Variants](#)

In addition, the following general principles have been observed:

Division into Scenes

In order both to facilitate navigation and to aid performance practitioners, the play has been divided into scenes, which are indicated within the text in square brackets, except in the '1st edition' view.

Display of Verse

In order to make the verse form clearer, the practice of abbreviating character names and embedding them within the text, which may be observed in the first edition of 1615, has been followed, but with the names rendered in bold for ease of viewing. Shared lines are, accordingly, not split, as is usually the case in modern printed editions. Stanzas are separated by a space, again with a view to highlighting the verse form.

Damaged or Missing Text

Where text has been added because the source text (All Souls nn. 7.3) is damaged (see for example l. 1762 and fol. 183r), or because type is missing (see l. 521 and fol. 172v), this is indicated in square brackets, in all edited views ('1st edition', 'ed. O'Neill' and 'unpunctuated').

Errors in the Source Text (All Souls nn. 7.3)

Typographical errors and errors in the cast list or in the names of speakers are not corrected in the '1st edition' view. In the other views they are corrected and placed within square brackets (see for example ll. 2040 and 2820).

Supplied Text

Text supplied because it is missing in error, for example the exit of Don Silvestre and Clavijo at the end of Act III Scene 5, is not added to the '1st edition' view, but added to the other views in square brackets, often with an explanatory note. Additional stage directions that were found to be helpful for the actors in the preparation of the staged reading at King's College London in May 2007, for example asides, or indications of to whom a speech is addressed, are indicated in the 'ed. O'Neill' view in square brackets, but not in the other views. In those instances where the source text does not indicate the names of the characters in exits and entrances (for example '*Entranse*' at the end of Act I Scene 3), these have been added, in square brackets, to the 'ed. O'Neill' view (thus, in the preceding example, '*Entranse [Cardenio y Torrente]*'), but not to the other views. That decision was taken in order to make it easier to track the movements of characters (using the 'Track Character' menu).

Notes

Reflecting the multidimensional approach to the text that has been adopted in this research project, the notes touch on lexical, contextual, bibliographical, performative and translational issues. Regarding notes that are purely lexical, the criterion has been to include these in cases where either the word is not listed in a comprehensive bilingual dictionary, or where the shade of meaning differs from the modern, generally accepted one. The criterion for selection of notes for the English translation has been to clarify the text for performance practitioners with little or no knowledge of Spanish. As a result, the translation is considerably less annotated than the Spanish.

Editorial Criteria.

The materialistic understanding of the text and the relevance of the primary source guide the structure of this digital scholarly edition. A list of consulted editions, both of the first edition and the modern ones clarifies the bibliographic scope and value of the ecdotal labor. The copy base text is explicitly indicated, being the one held by the Codrington Library (Oxford, UK) (nn. 7.3) because of its optimal material condition. In this section, a more detailed description of the primary source would have been welcomed and useful for the textual scholar.

Further editorial criteria concerning text structure and disposition, missing or supplied text, errors, spelling, accentuation, and punctuation are clearly provided.

The best work done with this edition is the new division of the text, reconstructing the scenes, the display of verses, and the rendition of the characters' names in order to facilitate navigation. This has been conceived as an aid to potential performance practitioners.

There is, however, a point that, from an ecdotical point of view, could be put under revision: the use of square brackets for a set of heterogeneous phenomenology. This solution is indeed used to indicate the source errors regarding typographical misspellings or errors in the cast list, as well as to point out damage or missing texts. In addition, the brackets are also used to mark the text supplied by the editor^{*}, and to add additional stage directions considered useful for the performance (asides) and track the movements of the characters, such as entrances and exits. In general, these kinds of interventions are accompanied by a note, but at first glance the typographical solution can indeed lead to confusing interpretations of the text, and it could be replaced by other more convincing digital solutions.

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La entretenida

Select View: **1st edition** ed. O'Neill unpunctuated English Translation

Performance Information: None Track Character: None Go to: Volume Title | Next >

*Ocho comedias, y ocho entremeses nuevos,
nunca representados.*¹

Compuestas por Miguel de Cervantes Saavedra.

Dirigidas a Don Pedro Fernández de Castro, Conde de Lemos,
de Andrade, y de Vilalba, Marqués de Sarria, Gentilhombre de la
Cámara de Su Majestad, Comendador de la Encomienda de
Peñafiel, y La Zarza, de la Orden de Alcántara, Virrey,
Gobernador, y Capitán General del Reino de Nápoles, y
Presidente del Supremo Consejo de Italia.²

Los titulos destas *Ocho comedias y sus entremeses* van en la
quarta hoja.³

Año 1615.

Con privilegio.

En Madrid, por la viuda de Alonso Martín.⁴ a costa de Juan de
Villaroel,⁵ mercader de libros, Véndense en su casa a la
Plazuela del Ángel.⁶

Performance Information: None Track Character: None Go to: Volume Title | Next >

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The Edition.

The core of this DSE is constituted by multiple versions of the text based on the treatment of the spelling, which is always modernized under the same criteria, and on the different punctuation of the text vis-à-vis the original one. Thus, we find five different presentations of the text:

- '1st edition (modern spelling)': This version preserves the punctuation, the use of capital letters, and the major errors of the 1615 edition, modernizing the orthography.

- '1st edition (facsimile)': The first edition is also offered under the form of facsimile images from the copy preserved in the Codrington Library at All Souls College (Oxford) (nn. 7.3). By clicking the image, it is possible to zoom in one level, and they are linked to other versions through the folio numbers.
- 'ed. O'Neill': The most valuable view is the O'Neill edition, which is the one with more interventions in view of the performance of the text. I am not sure, however, about the criterion used 'to punctuate the text rhetorically rather than grammatically', since both perspectives usually should happen to meet.
- 'Unpunctuated': In the unpunctuated view, capitalization is only used for proper names, while all other punctuation is deleted. The justification is as follows: 'This version responds to the need expressed by some theatre practitioners [...] for an unpunctuated text, which allows them to discover the meaning of the text for themselves, without editorial intervention [...]. It may also be welcome to scholars who wish to produce their own edition. This version corresponds more closely than the other edited views to the manuscript that would have been produced by Cervantes, which in all likelihood would have carried very little punctuation'. This quite original proposal could be accompanied, especially from the perspective of prospective editors, by the text in an exportable format, such as plain text, in order to be easily recoverable and manipulated.
- 'English translation': John O'Neill prepared the English version of the text, translated as *The Diversion*; this is one of the major outcomes for the English-speaking world, which actually resulted in a staged reading at King's College London in May 2007.

All views are complemented by key features that offer the possibility to track the performance information and the characters in the play. These two features are available through dropdown menus at the top of the text. The performance information menu provides details on the characters on stage, the costumes used by them, the props mentioned, and the décor used for that scene, and the option 'Track Characters' highlights the names of the characters in the current scene. Finally, we have a third menu called 'Go to' that allows the browsing of the acts and scenes and an easy navigation through the text.

Decidedly, a key advantage of the edition is the great amount of notes and bibliographical information. The text is extensively and wisely annotated; by hovering the pointer over the note number, a tooltip appears with the corresponding note text, and a new tab opens with all the notes when clicked on. The notes cover contextual, bibliographical, performative, and translational issues. Certain lexical issues, which may result in unusual words for the modern reader or actor, have the distinction of being defined by Sebastián de Covarrubias's dictionary (1611). Furthermore, the page containing all footnotes presents clickable bibliographic items, leading to a complete reference on the 'Bibliography' page.

Additional Features: Indices and Map

The edition offers a rich variety of indices regarding the names of the characters, places, occupations, sub-languages, proverbs, special terminology, and performance. They reflect the editor's intentions of providing a guided depiction of the author, a better contextualized overview of his intellectual and literary world, and especially his language, full of a rich variety of registers, proverbs, and slang terms. The aim is to surpass the still very useful concordances in full text offered by the Biblioteca Miguel de Cervantes.* In addition, the indices reflect the value and the work done in the text encoding labor, an accurate conceptual model that makes the most of the wealth of Cervantes's language. As indicated by the editor, the model could certainly be applied to the other plays and works of the author of *Don Quixote*, providing scholars with an extraordinary source for critical material.*

Indices

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- » [Performance](#)

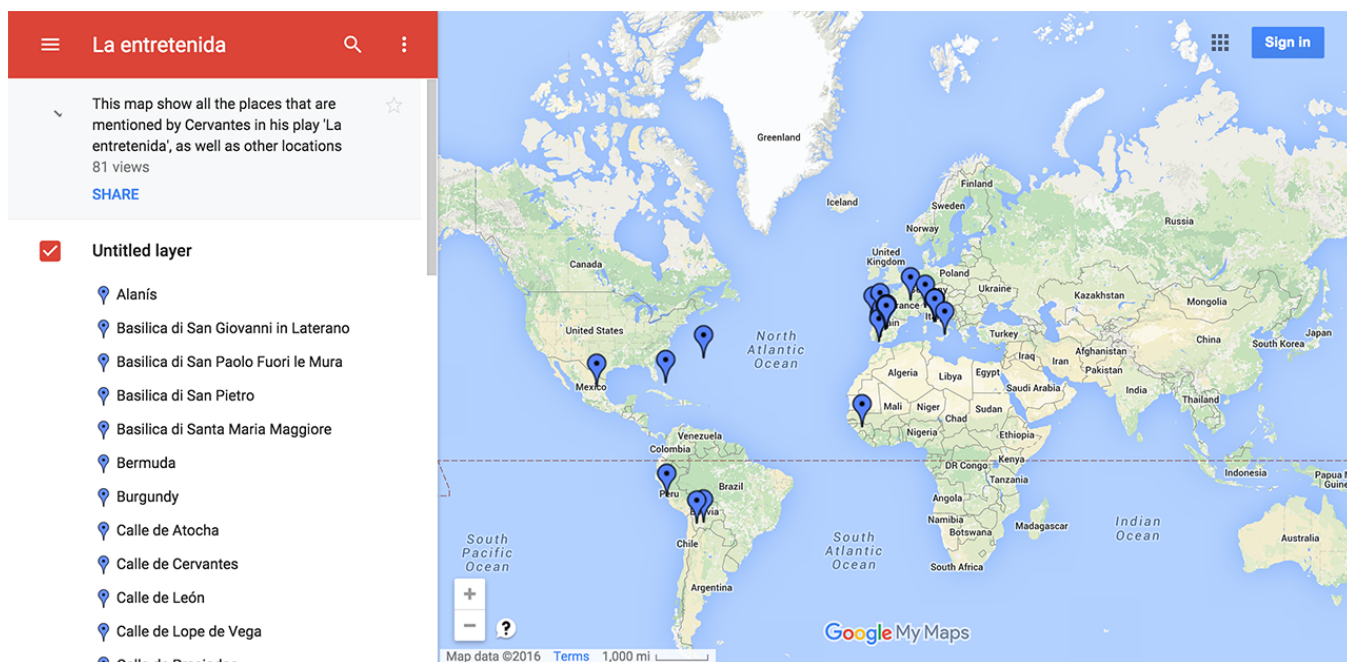
Index of Specialist Terminology

Choreographic Culinary Equestrian Medical Military Monetary Musical Nautical Scientific

coces: [III. 4](#)
 floeos: [III. 4](#)
 puntapiés: [III. 4](#)
 vueltas: [III. 4](#)

Index of Specialist Terminology.

The indices contain different lists of items, for instance, the Names index offers a list of names present in the play that contain contextual, historical, literary, mythological, political, or religious terms. There is also a Places index structured by 'Bloc' (New World or Europe), 'Country' (Bolivia, Italy, Peru and Spain), 'Settlement' (Madrid or Rome) or 'Building'. In addition, we can find a list of occupations, always linked to the text through a reference. Yet, definitely, the most interesting indices are 'Language' and 'Performance', which include an invaluable amount of terms regarding sociological topics like culinary, medical, or nautical terminology, and also provides the user with concrete elements on the performance, such as the costumes or the furniture cogitated by Cervantes himself. In this sense, some of these terms could have deserved a picture or a brief definition, since not always the term is transparent to the modern reader. However, the modern scholar can guess as to how powerful it would be to have all of Cervantes's works arranged in this way.



Google Map.

Besides the Index of Places, the digital edition offers a link to a Google map built according to the places mentioned in the play and complemented by notes. The play takes place mostly in the household of the Almendárez family in Madrid, but Cervantes also mentions a good number of places from the New World, such as Bermuda, Lima, or a mountain in Bolivia, as well as places in Rome and Andalucía that he personally got to know during his multiple travels, as noted by the editor: 'for example places in Rome with which he became familiar when chamberlain to Cardinal Acquaviva in 1570, and areas of Andalucía (most of them noted for the excellence of their wines) that he knew well from the time he spent there as an itinerant tax collector in the 1580s and 1590s'.

Publication and Presentation

As far as the technical infrastructure is concerned, the team used xMod, a desktop application customized by King College London that converts the XML files into a finished website. The Department of Digital Humanities at KCL has used this framework multiple times, and the results are outstanding.*

The interface is clearly organized, and the content is easily available from any spot in the edition. The arrangement of the site is standard, with a header image and an always-present navigation bar at the top of the page that offers seven different sections (Home, About the Project, About the Text, Indices, Text, Map, Contact). Once the user clicks a list item at the top menu, the sub-menu options appear on the left section of the screen, while the main content shows up in the center of the interface. The current location of the user or reader is always visible, as it is marked by a little triangle if in the main menu and with bold typography if in the left sub-menu. All parts are well connected: the general one is linked to the subsections, and the subsections are linked among each other.

In general, browsing is always easy, the only trifle being the fact that the top menu does not have a dropdown menu. Thus, the user does not have the option to quickly picture the sub-menu options and is forced to click and visualize the sub-sections in the left section only. In the edition, corresponding to the 'Text' option, the user can change easily between the different views described above, as well as complement the reading with the drop down menus.

Unfortunately, the site does not have a search option. This implies that in order to reach a certain part of the text, we have to go through the indices (for example, looking for a character), or through the indication of scenes and verses. The integration of a search engine would definitely improve the website, but the index system and the drop down menus of the edition compensate to a large extent for the lack of a search option.



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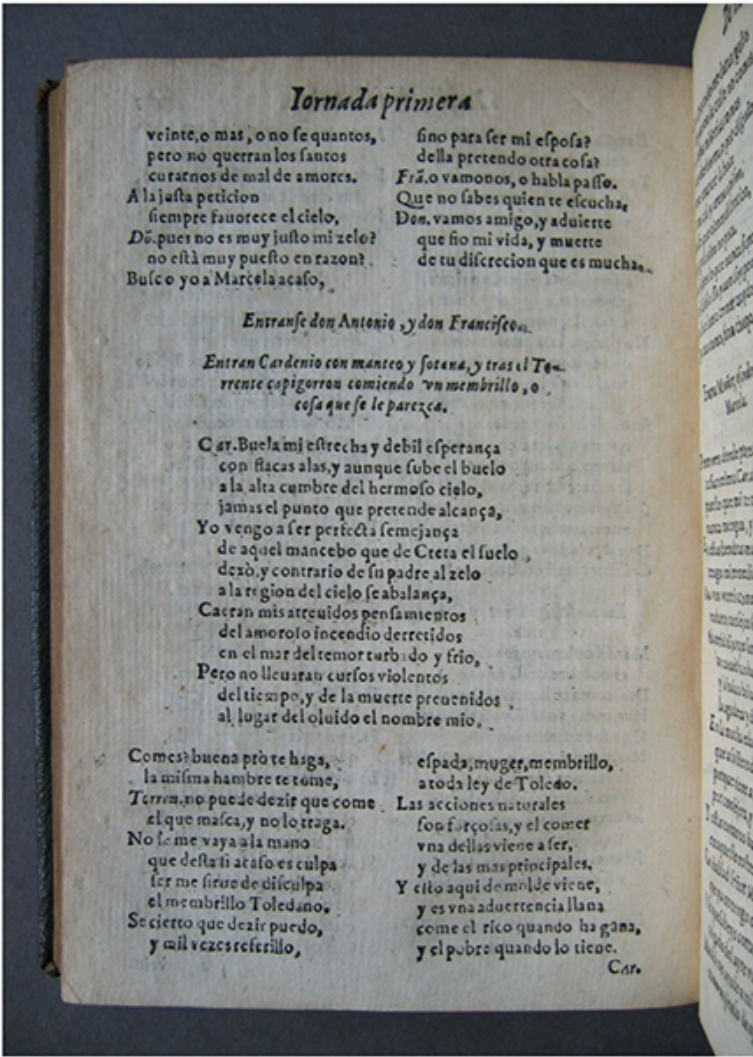
Text

- Spanish
- 1st edition (facsimile)
- 1st edition (modern spelling)
- ed. O'Neill
- unpunctuated
- English Translation

La entretenida

Select View: [Thumbnails](#) [Folio numbers](#)

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Iornada primera

veinte, o mas, o no se quantos, fino para ser mi esposa?
pero no querran los santos della pretendo otra cosa?
curarnos de mal de amores. Frã, o vamonos, o habla passio.
A la justa peticion Que no sabes quien te escucha,
siempre fauorece el cielo, Don, vamos amigo, y aduerite
Dõ, pues no es muy justo mi zelo? que fio mi vida, y muerto
no està muy puesto en razon? de tu discrecion que es mucha.
Busco yo a Marcêla acafo,

Entranse don Antonio, y don Francisco.

Entran Cardenio con manto y sotana, y tras el Teniente espigorron comiendo vn membrillo, o cosa que se le parezca.

Car. Buela mi estrecha y debil esperança
con flacas alas, y aunque sube el buelo
a la alta cumbre del hermoso cielo,
jamás el punto que pretende alcança,
Yo vengo a ser perfecta semejança
de aquel mancebo que de Creta el suelo
dexò, y contrario de su padre al zelo
a la region del cielo se ablança,
Caeran mis atreuidos pensamientos
del amoroso incendio derretidos
en el mar del temor turbado y frio,
Pero no lleuara cursos violentos
del tiempo, y de la muerte preuenidos
al lugar del oluido el nombre mio.

Comes: buena prò te haga,
la misma hambre te tome,
Terren, no puede dezir que come
el que malca, y no lo traga.
No le me vaya a la mano
que desta si acafo es culpa
ser me sirua de disculpa
el membrillo Toledano.
Se cierto que dezir puedo,
y mil vezes referirillo,

espada, muger, membrillo,
a toda ley de Toledo.
Las acciones naturales
son forçosas, y el comer
vna dellas viene a ser,
y de las mas principales,
Y esto aqui de molde viene,
y es vna aduertencia llana
come el rico quando ha gana,
y el pobre quando lo tiene.

Car.

From *Ocho comedias y entremeses nuevos, nunca representados* (Madrid: La viuda de Alonso Martin, 1615)
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Facsimile view.

As mentioned, the edition offers high-resolution images of the first edition, far better than those of the Biblioteca Virtual Miguel de Cervantes.* It should be noticed that images are not scans but rather photographs taken directly from the copy of the Cordington Library. Furthermore, I will highlight the fact that the different editorial views, especially the first and the unpunctuated editions, which are inspired by a rather paleographical method, could have been presented side-by-side in a fixed 'page-by-page' view. Currently, it is not possible to visualize both text and facsimile image simultaneously, unless a new window is opened. The images, moreover, do not present the option to zoom, or manipulation, or to be downloaded in a standardized format.

The edition does not offer access to the underlying data of the edition or to downloadable raw data, such as the XML-TEI files, the customized schema, or the ODD file. The markup has been done in XML-TEI, but it does not have any documentation apart from the mention of the Text Encoding Initiative in the 'Links' page.

The lack of documentation on the technical labor and the single encoded file hinders the re-usability of the source for scholarly purposes. At the same time, it would also have been useful to provide the user with other printable or digital versions, such as an e-pub or even a plain text.

The website has a Facebook account, whose last activity dates back to October 2013.* Besides this example of social media, the edition does not enable a way to provide feedback or commentaries. In addition, the site is under copyright, but the goal is to integrate a Creative Commons license. It must be noticed, finally, that the website, released in 2013, has been updated as of 2016.

Conclusions

This project has to be contextualized within the framework of being PhD research, with the limitations of time that that involves. As a whole, it offers a scholarly approach covering relevant issues to the ecdotal, bibliographical, and textual traditions, as well as a paratext that improves the digital outcome.

The goals proposed by the editor are satisfactorily accomplished. I should say, however, that, on the one hand, the 'new perspective' on Cervantes that the editor set forth to offer could have deserved a larger space for study on the website. A longer section about the play and its meaning, and more room for the historical and literary contextualization of the play would have been useful. On the other hand, the intention to offer a new modernized edition of the text, clearly expressed in the editorial criteria, could improve some aspects, such as the use of square brackets. The originality of the study relies on the willingness to propose a text to be performed, and here O'Neill has recovered Cervantes's wish to see these plays represented.

The addition of documentation and description of the text encoding could contribute significantly to the improvement of the edition, as could a more detailed description of the infrastructure used to build the site (never mentioned on the website). Other improvements could include a new layout with a side-by-side text, which would enable a comparison of the facsimile images and the different versions of the text. Moreover, in approaching this from the perspective of the Spanish-speaking world, a Spanish translation of the notes and the general text, which is just offered in English, would contribute to the outreach of the edition. In such a case, the inclusion of a full-text search engine would be pertinent. Finally, I would add that the addition of an audio or video recording of the performance of the play, thereby bringing the comedy to life, could also be an attractive feature.

In conclusion, *La Entretenida* offers an outstanding contribution to the field of digital scholarly editions of the Spanish Golden Age, and it will be worth to have it under consideration for similar future works. As the result of PhD research, I would encourage this type of outcome by integrating scholarly research with genuine digital editing methodologies. The proposed model is simple yet solid enough to present texts digitally with an extensive array of auxiliary materials. The high quality and user-friendliness of the site should encourage the editor and other scholars in the field to keep working in the same direction and continue with the publication of the remaining seven plays and eight interludes.

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Figures

Homepage.

About the Project.

Editorial Criteria.

The Edition.

Index of Specialist Terminology.

Google Map.

Notes

The dissertation is available at https://kclpure.kcl.ac.uk/portal/files/13330293/Studentthesis-John_O'Neill_2012.pdf.

The *Out of the Wings* project (2008-2011) is directed by Catherine Boyle from the King's College London. <http://web.archive.org/web/20160314232405/http://www.outofthewings.org>.

The *Manos teatrales* project is directed by Greer, Margaret R, and Alejandro García-Reidy (IP). Available at: <http://web.archive.org/web/20160115054318/http://manosteatrales.org/>.

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<http://web.archive.org/web/20160607171634/http://www.cervantesvirtual.com/obra/la-entretendida--1/>.

<http://web.archive.org/web/20160304022708/http://cervantes.tamu.edu/V2/CPI/index.html>.

This observation has also been done by another reviewer; see: Maggi 2014: 249.

http://web.archive.org/web/20150707135229/http://www.cervantesvirtual.com/bib/bib_autor/Cervantes/concordancias.shtml.

These are the editor's words: 'The indices that have been generated are therefore proposed as part of a model for a much larger project, a hypothetical encoding of all of the plays in *Ocho comedias*, or even of the complete works, which invites us to view his writings holistically'.

Details about xMod can be found in: <http://web.archive.org/web/20150316070142/http://rae2007.cch.kcl.ac.uk/xmod/index.html>. Some examples are: Henry III Fine Rolls Project <http://web.archive.org/web/20160310172655/http://www.finerollshenry3.org.uk/home.html>, or the Online Chopin Variorum Edition (OCVE).

http://web.archive.org/web/20160607171753/http://www.cervantesvirtual.com/obra-visor-din/la-entretendida--2/html/ff3d3a3c-82b1-11df-acc7-002185ce6064_2.html.

<https://www.facebook.com/events/651803094850882/permalink/651876404843551/> (Accessed 07.06.2016).

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Published: 2016-06 · build cb141fb (2026-08-23T11:45:27+02:00)