

Literary drafts, genetic criticism and computational technology. The Beckett Digital Manuscript Project

Beckett, Samuel. *Stirrings Still / Soubresauts and Comment dire / what is the word: a digital genetic edition* (2011), | *L'Innommable / The Unnamable: a digital genetic edition* (2013) | *Krapp's Last Tape / La Dernière Bande: a digital genetic edition* (2015) | Series 'The Beckett Digital Manuscript Project'. <http://www.beckettarchive.org> (Last Accessed: 2016-10-10). Reviewed by  Anna-Maria Sichani (Huygens ING), anna-maria [dot] sichani [at] huygens [dot] know [dot] nl.

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Abstract

This article addresses the Beckett Digital Manuscript Project, an evolving project, currently comprising a series of digital genetic editions of Samuel Beckett's bilingual literary drafts and a digital library. Following the genetic school of editing, the project's goal is to explore and represent as fully as possible the evolutionary dynamics of Beckett's composition process. The robust editorial framework alongside the sophisticated technical development and design of the project succeed to manage a vast amount of complex primary material and to offer an insight into Beckett's writing, by enabling multiple processing of facsimiles, transcriptions and comparisons of variants in a user-friendly way. The 'Beckett Digital Library' further enables a comprehensive approach to the concept of textual genesis and to Beckett's intellectual influences. Moreover, the project contains exemplary documentation as well as a number of spin-off outputs. However, key improvements could still be made mainly to its publication and business strategies, currently a subscription model, in order to increase the access to the project and its further contribution to the scholarly community.

Manuscripts have something to tell us; it is high time we learned to make them speak

Hay 1996, 207

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