

# Using the P5 Chapter on Manuscript Description for Detailed Physical Description: A Potential Approach



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## The Plan

Use `<msDescription>` to build a complete model of a single manuscript.

## The Problem

- Both Claudius B iv and Venetus A contain several different types of discrete elements (text and illustration) which are distributed through folios and gatherings.
- These elements are logically connected to one another (for example, a figure illustrates a line of *Genesis*; a marginal scholion comments on a line of the *Iliad*)
- These elements influence the layout of individual folios and, by extension, the collation of the entire manuscript.

## The Approach

- *Quantitative* rather than *Narrative* approach
  - Describe the individual elements (*see left and right*)
  - Link them together (*see below*)
- Build a **virtual model** to answer the following questions
  - How do the contents of the manuscript relate to one another?
  - How do the pieces interact with one another within the folio boundaries?
  - How do the folios fit together to form the entire manuscript?

## Building the Layout and Collation

### Layout, narrative description

```
<layoutDesc>
<layout xml:id="fol69v" writtenLines="12" ruledLines="12">
<p>
<locus>69v</locus>
<ref target="#illus1_69v">Illustration 1</ref> at top of page. <ref target="#initial1_69v">Initial 1</ref> introduces eight full lines of text which finishes with two words and punctuation on the ninth line. <ref target="#illus2_69v">Illustration 2</ref>, with <ref target="#illus_add_69v">Additions</ref>, followed by <ref target="#initial2_69v">Initial 2</ref> followed by three lines of text. <ref target="#annot1_69v #annot2_69v">Twelfth century annotations</ref> added to top and bottom margins. Crossed-shaped signe de renvoi and word "hwaer" added in bottom left margin.
</p></layout></layoutDesc>
```

### Layout, organized as a list

```
<layoutDesc>
<layout xml:id="fol.111v">
<p>
<locus>111v</locus>
<list>
<item corresp="#A.8.A.9">main text</item>
<item corresp="#A.m.8.536 #A.m.8.537 #A.m.8.538 #A.m.8.539 #A.m.9.1 #A.m.9.2">marginal scholia</item>
<item corresp="#A.im.8.108 #A.im.8.109 #A.im.9.1 #A.im.9.2">intermarginal scholia</item>
<item corresp="#A.int.8.243 #A.int.8.244 #A.int.9.1">interior marginal scholia</item>
<item corresp="#A.sub.8">subscription</item>
<item corresp="#A.met.9">metrical summary</item>
</list></p></layout></layoutDesc>
```

### Collation, organized as a list, one folio per list item

```
<collation>
<p>
<list>
<item n="gathering"><name>Gathering 10</name>:
<locus from="f. 69" to="f. 76">f. 69-f. 76</locus>. [description of gathering]
<list>
<item n="folio" xml:id="G10-1" next="G10-2" prev="G9-5" corresp="#fol69r #fol69v"> [description of folio 69] </item>
<item n="folio" xml:id="G10-2" next="G10-3" prev="G10-1" corresp="#fol70r #fol70v"> [description of folio 70] </item>
...</list></item></list></p></collation>
```

```
<collation>
<p>
<list>
<item n="quire"><name>Quire 13</name>:
<locus from="f. 108" to="f. 115">f. 108-f. 115</locus>. [description of quire]
<list>
<item n="folio" xml:id="Q13-4" next="Q13-5" prev="Q13-3" corresp="#fol.111r #fol.111v"> [description of folio 111] </item>
<item n="folio" xml:id="Q13-5" next="Q13-6" prev="Q13-4" corresp="#fol.112r #fol.112v"> [description of folio 112] </item>
...</list></item></list></p></collation>
```

## Conclusions

- Both intellectually and technically intensive – identify and describe all elements, catalog images and coordinates
- Useful? That depends on the manuscript, and the needs of the editors
  - CBiv – physical organization is central to the editor's thesis – potentially a useful approach
  - Venetus – focus on textual, not physical connections between elements – not necessarily the best approach
- For manuscripts such as Venetus, it would be more useful to build a system of *textual* links to show which *scholia* comment on which poetic lines, for example using `<linkGrp>` within the TEI `<body>`
- Need for *Visualization* – tools for the deployment of the model, calling on the image files and their coordinates
- Future questions: How can this model take advantage of other metadata (e.g. TEI text encoding, METS) to avoid redundancy?

# British Library Cotton Claudius B iv: The Old English Hexateuch



BL Claudius B iv, fol. 69v  
Book of Genesis

- Eleventh-century Anglo-Saxon manuscript
- Extensively illustrated, including over 400 color illuminations in various states of completeness
- Artist or artists played a pivotal role in the creation of the codex

Elements found in B include (but are not limited to):

- Main **textual sections** (Genesis-Joshua, in Old English)
- 12th century **textual annotations**
- Rubricated **initials**
- Black ink initials
- Lettres d'attente
- Illustrations in various **states of completeness**
- 12th century annotations to illustrations
- Various **other additions**

• *Textual and illustrative pieces; most reside on one folio only.*

• *Each piece has a unique **xml:id**, and the **targets** attribute of <locus> points to the coordinates of the piece(s) on the image*

## <msContents>

```
<msItem><note>Main Text Sections</note>
<msItem xml:id="text2">
  <locus from="1v:32" to="72v:30" targets="images/BLCBiv_1v.jpg
images/BLCBiv_2r.jpg ... images/BLCBiv_72v.jpg">1v:32-72v:30
</locus>
...
</msItem>...</msItem>
```

```
<msItem xmlid= "#illus"> <note>Illustrations</note>
<msItem xml:id="illus1_69v">
  <locus targets="images/BLCBiv_69v.jpg::coords=114,88,978,570"
>69v</locus>
  <decoNote type="illustration"> [detailed description of the
illustration] </decoNote>
</msItem>
...
</msItem>
```

```
<msItem><note>Twelfth-century annotations</note>
<msItem xml:id="annot1_69v">
  <locus targets="images/BLCBiv_69v.jpg::coords=42,6,968,128">69v, top
margin</locus>
</msItem>...</msItem>
```

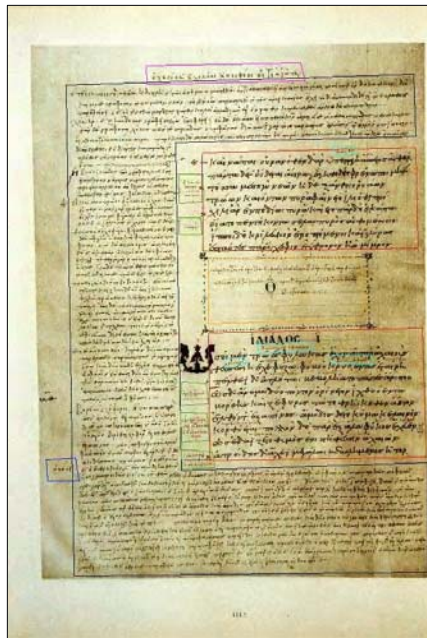
## <physDesc>

```
<decoDesc>
  <decoNote xml:id="deco1" corresp="#illus">
  <p>[general description of manuscript illustrations]</p>
  <p>For a complete list of illustrations, see #illus</p>
</decoNote>
  <decoNote xml:id="initials">
  <p>[general description of manuscript initials]
  <list>
    <item xml:id="initial1_69v">
      <locus targets="images/BLCBiv_69v.jpg::coords=88,526,166,662"
>69v</locus>Wynn</item>
    ...</list></p></decoNote>...</decoDesc>
```

```
<additions>
<p>Additions to Illustrations: <list>
<item xml:id="illus_add_69v">
  <locus targets="images/BLCBiv_69v.jpg::coords=460,880,858,1242"
>69v</locus>: original scraped, new figures added in ink and paint</item>
```

# Biblioteca Nazionale Marciana, Venice, Venetus A: *The Iliad*

- Tenth-century Byzantine manuscript
- Oldest extant copy of the *Iliad*
- In addition to the text of the poem, contains 7,214 marginal and interlinear comments (*scholia*), many of which attest alternate words, verses, or passages known to Alexandrian scholars



Biblioteca Nazionale Marciana, Venice, Venetus A, fol. 111v  
End of Book 8, beginning of Book 9

## Elements found in Venetus A include:

- Text of the poem
- Marginal Scholia
- Interior Marginal Scholia
- Interlinear Scholia
- Intermarginal Scholia
- Subscription
- Metrical Summary

- Textual pieces only; interrelated; most reside on one folio only.
- Each piece has a unique `xml:id`, and the `targets` attribute of `<locus>` points to the coordinates of the piece on the image

## <msContents>

```
<msItem><note>Main text sections</note>
<msItem xml:id="A.8">
  <locus from="100v3" to="111v8">100v3-111v8</locus>
</msItem>
<msItem xml:id="A.9">
  <locus from="111v9" to="125v25">111v9-125v25</locus>
</msItem>
</msItem>
```

```
<msItem><note>Marginal (main) scholia</note>
<msItem xml:id="A.m.8">
  <msItem xml:id="A.m.8.539">
    <locus
      targets="2001.01.0213.TIF::coords=429,910,1107,1052">111v</locus>
  </msItem>
</msItem>
<msItem xml:id="A.m.9">
  <msItem xml:id="A.m.9.1">
    <locus
      targets="2001.01.0213.TIF::coords=398,1060,1108,1266">111v</locus>
  </msItem>
</msItem>
</msItem>
```

```
<msItem><note>Intermarginal scholia</note>
<msItem xml:id="A.im.8">
<msItem xml:id="A.im.8.109">
  <locus
    targets="2001.01.0213.TIF::coords=1130,1414,1272,1472">111v</locus>
  </msItem>
</msItem>
<msItem xml:id="A.im.9">
  <msItem xml:id="A.im.9.1">
    <locus
      targets="2001.01.0213.TIF::coords=1122,2508,1316,2602">111v</locus>
  </msItem>
</msItem>
</msItem>
```

```
<msItem xml:id="A.int"><note>Interior Marginal Scholia</note>
<msItem xml:id="A.int.8">
  <msItem xml:id="A.int.8.244">
    <locus
      targets="2001.01.0212.TIF::coords=2541,2640,2656,2766">111r</locus>
  </msItem>
</msItem>
<msItem xml:id="A.int.9">
  <msItem xml:id="A.int.9.1">
    <locus
      targets="2001.01.0213.TIF::coords=272,2992,436,3072">111v</locus>
  </msItem>
</msItem>
</msItem>
```

Also described as manuscript items: Subscription and Metrical Summary