

Oxford University Computing Services

Xmetal Exercises

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Author: Lou Burnard

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Lou Burnard

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The example files used in these exercises are all available on the web at <http://www.tei-c.org.uk/Talks/OUCS/2003-02/examples.zip>. Before starting work, you should download this file to your local disk and unpack it. Work on the H: drive on your PC.

1 Xmetal: exercise 1

Open the file `verse.xml` by right-clicking on it with the mouse and choosing "Edit with XMetal" from the submenu. Alternatively, click on the XMetal icon, select "Open" from the File menu and find your way to the same file.

Xmetal will ask you how to locate the DTD file which this document needs. You need to tell it where to find the file `verse-div.dtd` which should also be in your samples folder.

1.1 Plain View: what you see and what you get

XMetal shows you files in one of four *views*. By default files open in `Normal View`, which just shows you the text with no tags. To change view, you can select **View** from the menu, or select one of the buttons at bottom left.

Choose `Plain Text View` (the first button). Make a trivial change (e.g. introduce a couple of newlines inside the `<head>` element) and switch back to plain view: it has no effect. Now make a serious change (e.g. change one of the tagnames "head" to "read"). You will no longer be able to switch to plain view. Choose `Undo` from `Edit` menu (or type `ctrl-z`)

1.2 Tags View: Working with the structure

In `Tags View`, we also see the tags but they are protected. This means we can operate on whole elements.

- Click on an `<lg>` (line group) tag. It closes up. Similarly, `<head>`, or `<div>`.
- Select one of the `<lg>` elements by moving the cursor to its left (mouse pointer should be an arrow), then clicking. It is highlighted. You can now cut it (`CTRL-C` or `Edit .. Cut`)
- Move cursor down to the next `<lg>` element and paste the `<lg>` you just cut into new position (`CTRL-V`, or `Edit...Paste`)
- Check by looking in `Plain View`.

As you can see, we haven't finished tagging all the verse lines: the last line actually contains several lines and stanzas run together. Xmetal has a handy short cut which allows you to *split* the current element.

- Put the cursor after "upper lid;". Press `RETURN`. Observe what happens. (If you got the cursor in the wrong place, press `BACKSPACE` to re-join the elements which were split)
- Move the cursor to the end of the next line (after "I did,") and repeat. Do it again (after "my eye.").
- Now put the cursor after the `</l>` at the end of this line, and before the `<l>` which starts the next one. Press `return`. Can you explain what happens?
- You should be able to finish tagging the lines and stanzas anyway.

Now we will tag the words which are emphasized in the text, using the `<emph>` element:

- To tag a stretch of text, select it with the mouse.

- On the right you see the tags available. If you don't see `emph` there, maybe you have the cursor in the wrong place.
- Double click to select it: the tags are automatically inserted around the stretch you selected
- You can also insert a new element by choosing it from the same menu. Move the cursor inside a `<1>` and select Insert element. A list of elements which you can insert at this point appears.
- Move the cursor between two `<1>` elements and repeat. Can you explain the difference between the two lists?
- Insert `<milestone>` elements to show where the column breaks occur in the original. You will need to activate the *Attribute Inspector* to supply values for the `unit` and `n` attributes, which should be set to "column" and the appropriate column number respectively.

1.3 Page Preview: formatting the text

XMetal can also display text using Internet Explorer. This is selected in `Page Preview`, the last of the four buttons at bottom left. Initially it looks like the Tags view: you can see the tags but not edit them. You can also see the structure: if you click on a `-`, the element closes; if you click on a `+`, it opens. This is because there's no stylesheet link in the file. Let's add one.

Go back to the Tags view. Choose `Add stylesheet link` on Tools menu. The link says that formatting is specified by a file called `punch1.css`: you will see that this has been added to the file if you check it again in `Plain` view.

Select `Browser Preview` again. Let us see the effect of having a style sheet...

- Go back to the Tags view. (You cannot edit a file while it is being previewed)
- Choose `Quick Styles` from the Tools menu. You can set various display properties for each element.
- Make the head centre bold italic xlarge
- Specify extra white space before each stanza.
- Render the `<emph>` elements in bold italic
- Check the effect of your changes in preview mode.

You can set lots of other properties. Put yourself on an element and choose `Editor Display styles` from Tool menu. Why not make the heading or the emphasized words a different colour? Advanced students might like to do something with the milestone elements you added.

2 Exercise 2

In your sample folder, you will find versions of the other parts of the Punch page called `cartoon.xml`, `play.xml` and `paras.xml`. Each has been given just enough tagging to be well formed XML, but no more.

Open each in turn and bring its tagging up to spec. This time use the TEI Lite dtd, which is in the same folder, in the file `teixlite.dtd`.

Advanced students should create a TEI Header for the whole page, and assemble it into a single TEI document: we have started this job for you in the file `complete.xml`.