

DIGITAL TRANSCRIPTION OF THE SARUM ANTIPHONER TO NEUMES DATA

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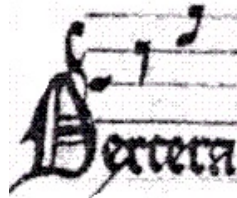
International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, May 2007

The purpose of the NEUMES Project is to design and build a software infrastructure for digital transcription and description of medieval chant manuscripts. The goal is a uniform means by which the content of manuscripts can be viewed, searched, and analyzed by computer.

Website = <http://purl.oclc.org/SCRIBE/NEUMES/>

"Digital transcription" of a chant manuscript involves representing the manuscript's symbols as data that can be processed by computers. *NEUMES* is a data representation developed by the NEUMES Project for digital transcription of medieval chant manuscripts to a lossless data format. Descriptive details about the manuscript sources and their contents are encoded along with the neumatic symbols and text in an XML "wrapper."

The fundamental constituents of *NEUMES* data are: (a) the Latin chant text; and (b) melodic motion of the chant. For example, the text and notation for the beginning of this Gradual verse, "Dextera domini," are encoded as follows:



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<neumed_syllable><syllable>Dex</syllable><neume>&STA;&tractulus;&ton_a;&no_preced;&END;</neume></neumed_syllable>
<neumed_syllable><syllable>te</syllable><neume>&STA;&virga;&ton_c;&up_m3;&END;</neume></neumed_syllable>
<neumed_syllable><syllable>ra</syllable><neume>&STA;&pes;&ton_d;&up_M2;&LIG;&ton_e;&up_M2;&END;</neume></neumed_syllable>
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The ampersand ("&") and semicolon (";") in these codes are for "escape" and "end-escape," respectively. Their purpose is to differentiate the mnemonic codes from a literal reading. For example, "&punctum;" means the punctum symbol, but "punctum" just means the *word* "punctum."

The "NEUMES Transcription Primer," a guide to the transcription of chants, is available at: http://purl.oclc.org/SCRIBE/NEUMES/help/Transcription_Primer_Western.htm

The NEUMES Project is headquartered at the University of Oxford and is comprised of an international group of chant scholars and computer scientists.

