Medieval Nordic Text Archive
www.menota.org ▪ ▪ ▪ ▪

Background

Menota is a network of leading Nordic archives, libraries and research departments working with medieval texts and manuscript facsimiles. The aim of Menota is to preserve and publish medieval texts in digital form and to adapt and develop encoding standards necessary for this work. The archive contain texts in the Nordic languages as well as in Latin. There are now 18 members of Menota and new members are welcome to join the network.

Text archive

Menota can now offer 17 Medieval Nordic texts (approx. 923,000 words), several of which are fully lemmatised. A catalogue with full search facilities was opened on 29 June 2007:

Medieval Nordic Text Archive
www.menota.org ▪ ▪ ▪ ▪

This catalogue lists all publicly available Menota texts. Texts are displayed on one or more levels: facsimile (very close transcription), diplomatic (less close and with some interpretation), normalised (regularised orthography). They can be read sequentially, i.e. page by page, or in a concordance listing each word alphabetically in context. Some texts are lemmatised and thus allow for more detailed linguistic searches. A search can be performed on a single text or on any combination of texts.
The Menota texts are readable in all recent browsers, but require specific fonts, especially for the display of text on the facsimile level. See our advice on ▸ fonts and ▸ browsers.
The design of the catalogue is explained in ▸ fields & symbols.

Signature	MS or work title	Version	Language	Words	Read	Search	Analysis	Status	Main editor(s)	Header	Contents
AM 35 fol	Heimskringla 1	1.0	oic	68573	▢▢▢	S		▬▬	Heimskringlaprosjektet ved Universitetet i Oslo	H	C
AM 36 fol	Heimskringla 2	0.9.5 (∗)	oic	105532	▢▢▢	S		▬▬	Heimskringlaprosjektet ved Universitetet i Oslo	H	C
AM 37 fol	Jófraskinna: Haralds saga Hárfagra	0.9.4	oic	10597	F▢▢	S		▭	Rune Kyrkjebø	H	C
AM 63 fol	Heimskringla 3	1.0	oic	89772	F▢▢	S		▬▬	Heimskringlaprosjektet ved Universitetet i Oslo	H	C
AM 242 fol	Codex Wormianus	0.9.2	oic	62586	F▢▢	S		▬▬	Karl G. Johansson	H	C
AM 519 a 4to	Alexanders saga	1.0	oic	46732	F▢N	S	L R	▬▬	Andrea de Leeuw van Weenen	H	C
AM 544 4to	Hauksbók: Völuspá	0.9.3	oic	1262	F▢N	S		▬▬	Karl G. Johansson	H	C
AM 655 XXX 4to	Úr læknisbók	1.0	oic	1340	F▢N	S		▬▬	Fabian Schwabe	H	C
DG 4–7	Strengleikar	0.9.7	onw	39835	▢▢▢	S	L R	▬▬	Gammelnorsk Ordboksverk / Enhet for digital dokumentasjon	H	C
DG 8 II	Óláfs saga ins helga (legendary version)	1.0	onw	40934	▢▢▢	S		▬▬	Gammelnorsk Ordboksverk / Enhet for digital dokumentasjon	H	C
GKS 2365 4to	Codex Regius of Eddic poems: Völuspá	0.9.2	oic	1486	F▢N	S	L R	▬▬	The Codex Regius project	H	C
Holm A 10	Religiösa texter	0.9.4	osw	57294	F▢▢	S		▭	Maria Arvidsson	H	C
Holm A 49	Legenden om Barlaam och Josaphat	0.9.4	osw	33478	F▢▢	S	L	▬▬	Maria Arvidsson	H	C
Holm A 80	Birgitta Andersdotters bönbok	0.9	oic	29844	F▢▢	S		▬▬	Ingela Hedström	H	C
Holm D 4	Samlingshandskrift med bl.a. Eufemiavisorna	0.9.4	osw	198383	F▢▢	S		▭	Maria Arvidsson	H	C
Holm perg 6 fol	Barlaams ok Josaphats saga	0.9.5	onw	76411	F▢▢	S	L R	▬▬	Magnus Rindal	H	C
Holm perg 17 4to	Thómass saga erkibiskups	0.9.5	onw	59884	F▢▢	S	L R	▬▬	Gammelnorsk Ordboksverk / Enhet for digital dokumentasjon	H	C

The texts are encoded on one or more levels. The most widely used level will be the diplomatic level (as seen in many Arnamagnæan editions), while some texts will also be encoded on a facsimile level (i.e. in a very close transcription) and some on a normalised level (as in the Íslenzk fornrit series).

Encoding guidelines

An editorial board appointed by the Menota council is continuously working on the handbook for the encoding of texts in the archive. The Menota handbook was published on 20 May 2003 in version 1.0 and on 5 May 2004 in version 1.1. These versions are compatible with TEI P4.

Version 2.0 of the handbook was published on 16 May 2008 and is compatible with TEI P5. This is a major revision and we recommend that users migrate to this version. However, all versions will be kept accessible on our site.

Foundation
Menota was established on 10 September 2001 at a meeting in Oslo between major Nordic institutions.

Statutes
The Menota statutes were passed at the council meeting in Reykjavík on 6 September 2003.

Council
The council is an advisory body in which each participating institution is represented by one member. Different departments or sections at the same university are recognised as individual institutions. In addition to the permanent members, other representatives may join the meeting at the discretion of the board.

Board
The council appoints a board for a period of three years. The present board is:

Odd Einar Haugen (chair), Norway
Karl. G. Johansson (deputy chair), Sweden
Alex Speed Kjeldsen, Denmark
Guðvarður Már Gunnlaugsson, Iceland

Menotic encoding

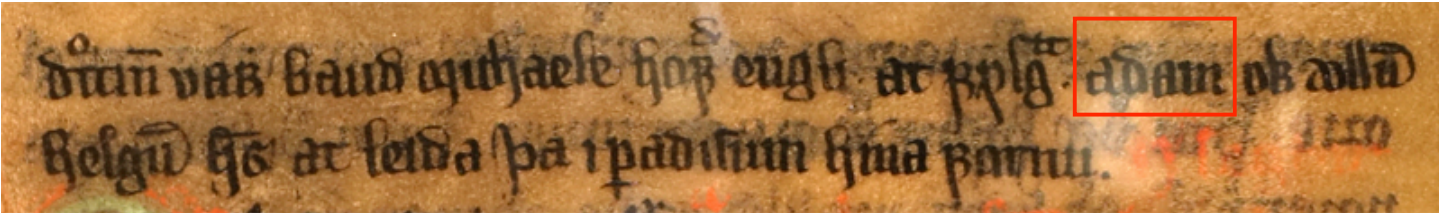### 3 levels of text representation

In Menota we have added three elements to represent different levels of text representation:

<me:facs> contains a reading on a facsimile level
<me:dipl> contains a reading on a diplomatic level
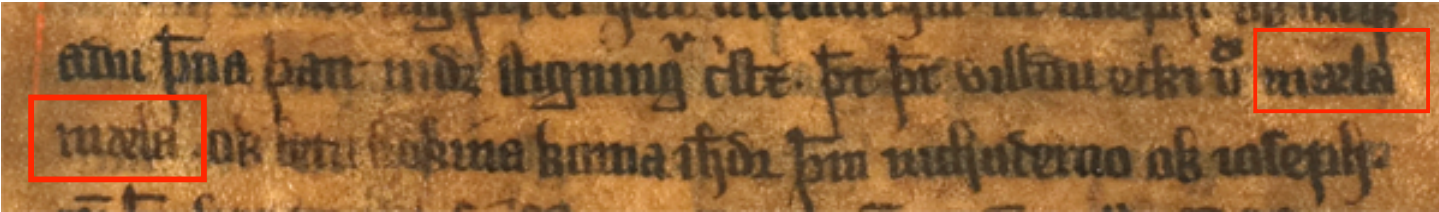<me:norm> contains a reading on a normalised level

These are defined as part of the Menota namespace.


```
<w><choice>
    <me:facs>a&drot;am</me:facs>
    <me:dipl>adam</me:dipl>
    <me:norm>Adam</me:norm>
</choice></w>
```

New element <me:expunged>

If a piece of text obviously should be deleted, e.g. duplicated text in a dittography, the transcriber or editor might want to make a deletion. This is the converse action of adding text, and should be distinguished from similar actions made by the scribe. While the elements <add> and <del> describe actions by the scribe himself or other scribes, the editorial additions and deletions should be singled out by separate elements. For additions, TEI recommends the element <supplied>, but there is no parallel to the <del> element. We suggest the element **<me:expunged>**, since the noun expunction and the verb expunge are commonly used for editorial deletion.


```
<w><choice>
        <me:facs>mæla</me:facs>
        <me:dipl>mæla</me:dipl>
</choice></w><lb n="40"/>
<w><choice>
    <me:facs>mæla</me:facs>
    <me:dipl>
            <me:expunged>mæla</me:expunged>
    </me:dipl>
</choice></w>
```

New element <me:textSpan/>

In chapter 11 "Representation of Primary Sources" in the TEI P5 Guidelines the elements <addSpan/>, <delSpan/> and <damageSpan/> are defined. These elements are counterparts to the elements <add>, <del> and <damage>, but are milestone elements, and should be used when the feature to be encoded crosses structural divisions. There are in fact many more elements which can cross structural divisions, e.g. <sic>, <corr>, <unclear> and <supplied>, but there are no corresponding <sicSpan>, <corrSpan>, <unclearSpan> and <suppliedSpan>.

Rather than adding these elements we recommend using one generic empty element to cover these cases. We have called this new element **<me:textSpan/>** and given it attribute classes "att.spanning", "att.transcriptional", "att.typed" and "att.global", and the attribute @me:category, which contains a reference to the element it is the counterpart to.

Tone Merete Bruvik, Special Consultant at Unifob AKSIS
Odd Einar Haugen, Professor of Old Norse Philology at the University of Bergen.

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