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Many witnesses, many layers: the digital scholarly edition of the *Iudicium coci et pistoris iudice Vulcano* by Vespa (*Anth. Lat.* 199 Riese)

Original title: Più testimoni, più livelli: l'edizione critica digitale del *Iudicium coci et pistoris iudice Vulcano* di Vespa (*Anth. Lat.* 199 Riese)

During my post-doc scholarship at the Centro Linceo Interdisciplinare "B. Segre" of the Accademia dei Lincei, I have been working to a digital scholarly edition of the *Iudicium coci et pistoris iudice Vulcano* by Vespa (*Anth. Lat.* 199 Riese), a Latin text in verse from Late Antiquity with a multi-testimonial textual tradition.

This edition aims to apply concepts of Semiotics, Linguistics and Graphology, especially derived from the theoretical and methodological work of Tito Orlandi (see *Informatica testuale*, Laterza: Roma 2010). It also aims to use XML/TEI markup, while customising it.

In my edition, each primary source (medieval Latin manuscripts) will be encoded at three layers:

- the graphical layer, whose minimal units are the graphemes of a specific witness' graphical system, its paragraphematic signs (like punctuation, word breaks, line breaks etc.) and its systematic abbreviations;
- the alphabetic layer, whose minimal units are the "alphabemes" (by which word Raul Mordenti means alphabetical letters; alphabemes are different from graphemes, in that the latter *represent* the former);
- the 'linguistic' layer, whose minimal units are inflected words, regardless of the graphical system and even of the alphabet used in specific witnesses.

The digital edition will include a module for automatic collation of witnesses at different layers. For textual criticism, collation will happen at the 'linguistic' layer, but more complex collation systems can by devised to compare the graphical and alphabetical layers of different manuscripts.

This edition aims to be a proof-of-concept to test whether a more sophisticated model of encoding of primary textual sources and of digital scholarly edition can be implemented with a 'sustainable' workflow. Its main innovations are:

- the distinction of different textual layers within each witness;
- the declaration of a 'table of signs' for the graphical and the alphabetical layers of each witness;
- a collation process carried out ad different layers.

A major challenge will be to adapt XML/TEI to fit the purposes of this model of edition. Related issues include the encoding:

- of primary sources generally;
- of so-called 'characters' (including paragraphematic signs);
- of systematic abbreviations.