Note on the Transcription

The papers transcribed in this compilation are all government printed drafts relating to the Quebec Resolutions featuring contemporaneous handwritten amendments. These papers all follow for the most part the same format, font-type, and come from the same source. Those transcribed in Part I feature George Brown's long hand amendments and were found in the George Brown Fonds. Those transcribed in Part II feature John A. Macdonald's and were found in the John A. Macdonald Fonds. The 'Macdonald papers' are unique in that they are all (with perhaps exceptions to the different copies of version 3) drafts of the *Report of the Quebec Resolutions 1864* and compiled mid-way through the Quebec Conference in October 1864. The 'Brown papers' are unique in that they are all drafts resolutions debated in conference. Given these papers share much, a uniform transcription system is very much possible. And this is exactly what I have opted to develop and apply in this compilation. The following is a description of the essential features of that transcription system.

The manuscript papers have two obvious features: (i.) they are printed text, and (ii.) feature longhand amendments and other marginalia. My transcription here reproduces the printed text exactly as it appears on the manuscript papers, and the longhand amendments and other textual intrusions are reported where they occur inside brackets. This is the basic structure of the transcription deployed in this compilation. The transcription faithfully reproduces the initial text as it appears on the page. And longhand amendments and other textual intrusions are briefly reported in brackets. Take for example resolution "22. The [*following three words strikethrough*] taking of the Census". The text is transcribed as it appears on the manuscript, and an editorial comment inserted in brackets report the strikethrough of "taking of the".

Guiding these transcriptions and reporting are two principles. These are largely based on Vander Meulen & Tanselle "A System of Manuscript Transcription" (1999). I pilfered and borrowed much from their system. First, and like theirs, my system uses words as opposed to symbols in reporting textual alterations or intrusions. Most of the amendments made in the manuscript papers in this compilation are all textual. But more importantly the actual use of strikethroughs and blotting for example can't always be clearly symbolically reproduced in a transcription. My belief is that textual editorial reporting ends up being more accurate than symbolic reproductions. The first principle is that of faithful textual reproduction. The second, and also like their system, all amendments or intrusions, such as interlineations, insertions, and other marginalia, are all reported in the transcription accompanied with a description of the alterations enclosed in brackets. It is, in other words, an "inclusive textual" system – one that includes the report of the intrusions in the transcription rather than a "clear text" system – one that keeps the transcription clear of any intrusions (clear text system usually append a sheet or separate list that report alterations to the text).

Where I differ from Vander Meulen & Tanselle is where I only include in the brackets amendments to the initial text. Unlike theirs, the aim of the collection is to provide the reader with both "forward-chronological" record of alteration as well as a "backward-chronological" record of alterations. First, the transcriptions can be read to capture the initial text apart from the alterations made to it. One may read the transcriptions to get at the words that were being amended or struck-out. One can see the initial text without amendments by simply reading the text by skipping the editorial reporting in brackets. One thus gets a "backward-chronological" record. But the transcriptions can also be read to capture the final

intended text. One can see the final intended version by consulting the text along with the editorial reports in brackets. This provides the reader also with a "forward-chronological" record.

Each chapter is preceded with an introductory note that reports documentary features helpful in giving a diplomatics analysis of the initial manuscript (elements that can be used to identifying the author and date of the manuscript and the authenticity of its alterations). This information is rather technical, but (i.) it examines and outline what may validate the dating and the authenticity of the documentary record, and (ii.) it gives the reader everything they need to know about the original manuscript pages. The accuracy in both these diplomatics descriptions and transcriptions effectively means that one does not need to see in person the actual manuscripts – everything one would need is provided.

The following is a brief glossary of key terms or descriptors used for editorial reporting, and a summary list of the most fundamental rules of my system.

Glossary:

Addition: An addition occurs only when text is added (an amendment is made) to the original manuscript. The most common type of "addition" is what I call an "insertion" – i.e., when new text is added <u>in the margins</u> of the existing text. An addition or insertion is one of two types of "alteration" to the original manuscript. When it is made in the margins, it is a type of "marginalia". Another addition is "interlining" – i.e., when new text is added <u>above</u> existing text in the manuscript.

Alteration: Refers to textual amendments or intrusions to the existing text. In reporting textual alterations, there are only "additions" and "cancellations".

Cancellation: Refers to the removal of the original text from the manuscript by blotting, lining, evidence of erasure and cutting. Along with an addition, cancellation is one of two types of "alteration". The most common type of cancellation is "strikethrough" – i.e., when an existing word is strike out.

Cancellation with an addition: the most common form of alteration will consist of both a "cancellation" and an "addition".

Marginalia: Refers to amendments or intrusions in the margins of the existing text. Marginalia is another form of alterations. Like alterations, there are generally two types of marginalia: (A) "additions", usually referring to alterations to the original manuscript; (B) "cancellations", usually having to do modifications with the original text of a manuscript. The following can also be used for description textual alterations.

    A. Types of Cancellations:
       <u>Blackout:</u> When the manuscript text is blacked out.

       <u>Erasure:</u> When the manuscript text is scraped or wiped out.

       <u>Strikethrough:</u> When the manuscript text is removed by drawing a line through it.

B. Types of Additions:

<u>Above:</u> When an alteration is written above the text – it's superscript.

<u>Below:</u> When an alteration is written below the text – it's subscript.

<u>Bottom:</u> When an alteration is written in the margin at the bottom of a page.

<u>Interlining / Interlineation:</u> When new text is added above original text in the manuscript.

<u>Overleaf:</u> When an alteration is written on the back of a page.

<u>Overwriting:</u> When a "superimposition" of inscriptions above one another.

Summary of Basic Transcription Rules:

<u>Rule 1:</u> All editorial reporting of textual intrusions (whether textual alterations or marginalia) are reported inside a bracket, and italicized. The word that is added is not italicized. This is the most fundamental rule of the system – e.g., [*following word inserted* the] means that the word "the" was inserted into the manuscript when the bracket appears.

For example, "… Ships, Railways, [*following word inserted* and] Canals…" means that the original passage read "Ships, Railways, Canals" and was amended to read "Ships, Railways, and Canals."

The purpose is to clearly distinguish editorial reporting of amendments or intrusions (which are italicized) from the text being amended. The initial text is found in the transcript. The textual intrusion is found in the bracket. The description or the editorial reporting is found italicized in the bracket. All elements are clearly delineated and identifiable.

<u>Rule 2:</u> Text can only be either cancelled or added, or both together – e.g., [*following two words strikethrough*] or [*following word inserted* and].

<u>Rule 3:</u> Alterations to the document in the form of dots, lines, unusual spacing, anomalous inking (including color) and missing portions need editorial reporting.

<u>Rule 4:</u> Editorial reporting usually does not explain textual intrusion but simply reports alterations. Brevity is a cardinal rule. The purpose of transcription is simply to allow the existing text of a manuscript to be read with ease separate or with textual intrusions, as the case may be.

<u>Rule 5:</u> When punctuation is cancelled or inserted, the use of its name is recommended – e.g., [*comma inserted*]. There are no symbols in this system.

<u>Rule 6:</u> Uncertain readings are indicated with a prefatory question mark – e.g., [?kind *canceled*].

<u>Rule 7:</u> Damages to the document need not enter the reporting or the transcription itself unless they affect the text.

Rule 8: One only needs to report interlineations or overwritings that are "below" the line of the existing text or in the margins; reporting of these kinds of alterations and or cancellations without description will be assumed to be "above" – e.g., [*inserted in left margin* the] or [*inserted* the].

References

Vander Meulen, D.L., and Tanselle, G.T., "A System of Manuscript Transcription" in *Studies in Bibliography*, Vol. 52 (1999), pp. 201-212.