TRACKING THE CLASSICS:
GRAMMARIANS, RHETORICIANS AND SOPHISTS AS SOURCES OF GRÆCO-ROMAN LITERATURE.

International Workshop on Computer Aided Processing of Intertextuality in Ancient Languages, Lyon, 2nd-4th June 2014.
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Main aims

- Examine the Græco-Roman literary tradition in the 3rd and 4th centuries AD, by means of the compiling, analyzing and commenting on the quotations in the Grammarians, Rhetoricians and “Sophists”.

- Find, analyze and comment on the quotes.

- Trace their parallels in both previous and later writers.
1. Aelianus sophista (s. III d.C.)
2. Apsines rhetor (s. III d.C)
3. Autochthon grammaticus (s. III d.C.)
4. Callistratus sophista (s. IV d.C.)
5. Eudaemon grammaticus (RE n. 8) (IV d.C.)
6. Genethlius grammaticus (RE n. 2) (s. III d.C.)
7. Heladius grammaticus (IV d.C)
8. Himerius sophista (s. IV d.C.)
9. Libanius sophista (s. IV d.C.)
10. Longinus, Cassius, rhetor et philosophus (s. III d.C.)
11. [Longinus] de Sublimitate
12. Lupercus grammaticus (RE n. 5) (s. III d.C.)
13. Menander rhetor (s. III d.C.)
14. Metrophanes grammaticus (RE n. 4) (ss. III-IV d.C);
15. Nicocles grammaticus (RE nrs. 9, 10) (s.IV d.C)
16. Philemon grammaticus (RE n. 14) (ss.II-III d.C.)
17. Philostratus sophista (ss. II/III d.C.)
18. Philostratus Iunior sophista (s. III d.C.)
19. Philostratus Maior sophista (s. III d.C.)
20. Pius grammaticus (II/III d.C.)
21. Polemon grammaticus (RE n. 12) (s. IV d.C.)
22. Porphyrius Tyrius (s. III d.C.), Quaestiones homericae
23. Themistius sophista (s. IV d.C.)
24. Theodosius Alexandrinus grammaticus (s. IV d.C.)
25. Timaeus grammaticus (s. IV d.C.)
26. Troilus grammaticus (s. IV d.C.)
27. Ulpianus grammaticus (s. IV d.C.)
The Quoting authors (II)

1) Aelius Donatus
2) Cledonius
3) Consentius
4) Diomedes grammaticus
5) Dositheus grammaticus
6) Pompeius grammaticus
7) Ps.-Probus
8) M. P. Sacerdos
9) Servius grammaticus
Some reasons to study the indirect tradition

- Only a small part of the Græco-Roman literary production has come down to us by direct manuscript transmission.

- Indirect sources may help to improve texts known by direct transmission.

- The study reveals both the continuity and the evolution of Græco-Latin Literature, Grammar, Rhetoric and Culture in a period when the weight of tradition strongly conditioned the works of subsequent authors.
Our analysis can

- Help to determine which authors were still read in the 3rd and 4th centuries AD, and which works were still quoted, but no longer read, and also to find out networks of relations among writers.

- Be a way to discover new testimonies and fragments which may have passed unnoticed.

- Contribute a different viewpoint to the study of fragmentary texts.

- Help to a better appraisal of the textual variants in fragmentary texts transmitted by several sources.

- Help to improve the text of the quoting authors.
Thinking ahead. The “ideal solution”

- A dynamic website, with areas in the public domain and sections with restricted access.

- Data entered dynamically (catalogues of quoted and quoting authors, lists of quotes and associated records) would be stored in a database.

- We are now studying the best way to store this data, in order to be able to handle the uncertainty of information, facilitating data searches and the generation of richer statistics.
DEALING WITH ALL KINDS OF QUOTATIONS (AND THEIR PARALLELS) IN A CLOSED CORPUS

THE METHODOLOGY OF THE PROJECT.
Objectives covered by our “provisional” solution.

Provide project members with an application that will guide them and facilitate the analysis process and the management of data (create, open, save, edit and export).

Store information in a way that makes its management easier.

Give all users access, via the website, to the lists of quotations (according to both the quoting and quoted authors) and to the respective cards (in PDF format).
The textual analysis.

When literal quotations can be compared with other sources, the possible divergences may be due to:

A scribal error arisen in the course of the manuscript transmission of the text.

The author’s being quoting from memory.

A deliberate change made by the quoting author for whatever purpose.

The existence of an ancient variant reading in the text consulted by the quoting author.
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Many Thanks!