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## The transcription and description of primary sources using TEI conformant XML

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## The Text Encoding Initiative




The TEI is an international and interdisciplinary standards project established in 1987 to develop, maintain and promulgate hardware- and software-independent methods for encoding humanities data in electronic form.

The current version of the TEI Guidelines, TEI P5, released in November 2007 (and regularly updated), contains much of potential interest to people working with primary sources such as manuscripts.

It provides mechanisms for encoding in XML:

- A multi-layered transcription of the text
- Information about, and links to, digital facsimiles of the text
- A detailed description of the text-bearing object
- Information about real-world entities associated with the manuscript, i.e. the people, places and organisations named in the text or involved in its production, dissemination and reception

and linking all these together seamlessly.




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## 1. The transcription of primary sources

The **TEI transcription module** provides mechanisms for encoding not only 'the words on the page', but also such features as:

- Page layout and text structure
- Orthography, capitalisation, word division and punctuation, original as well as normalised
- Abbreviations and their expansions
- Additions and deletions
- Scribal errors and editorial emendations
- Metrical features
- Variant letter forms




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## Structure and layout

By **structure** is meant the division of the work into its constituent parts, by **layout** the arrangement of the text on the page.

For the former the <div> element can be used for the largest structural divisions in prose texts, with a @type attribute to specify the nature of the division, 'chapter', 'section' etc. Paragraphs within these divisions can be tagged using <p>. Verse texts can be marked up using the tags <l> (for 'line') and <lg> (for 'line-group'), again with a @type attribute to identify the type of unit, e.g. 'stanza', 'couplet'.

For the structure of the physical document, empty 'milestone' elements can be used, <gb/>, <pb/>, <cb/> and <lb/>, for gathering-, page-, column- and line-boundaries respectively.



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## Abbreviations and their expansion

An abbreviation may be transcribed in two ways:


One may choose to give the unexpanded abbreviation, transcribing it simply as a particular sequence of letters or marks on the page: thus, a 'p' with a bar through the descender' or an 'a' with a macron'.

One may also interpret or 'expand' the abbreviation, supplying the letter or letters it is seen as standing for.

The TEI proposes two levels of encoding:

- the whole of an abbreviated word and the whole of its expansion can be encoded using <abbr> and <expan>.
- the mark or sign used to indicate the suppression of one or more letters, and the letters supplied in the process of expansion can be encoded using <am> and <ex>.

Both levels may be used simultaneously.



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## A simple example


The Icelandic word 'hann' is frequently written in medieval manuscripts as the letter h with a horizontal stroke or bar (Unicode character 0305).

Depending on editorial policy, this might be represented in any one of the following ways:

```
<abbr>h&#x305;</abbr>
or
<expan>hann</expan>

h<am>&#x305;</am>
or
h<ex>ann</ex>

<abbr>h<am>&#x305;</am></abbr>
or
<expan>h<ex>ann</ex></expan>
```



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Using <choice>

One may provide both the abbreviated and expanded forms, grouped within a <choice> element:

```
h<choice><am>&#x305;</am><ex>ann</ex></choice>
```

or:

```
<choice>
  <abbr>h<am>&#x305;</am></abbr>
  <expan>h<ex>ann</ex></expan>
</choice>
```



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Other uses of <choice>

The <choice> element can also be used to group other alternative editorial encodings

- Errors:
  - <sic> (apparent error)
  - <corr> (corrected error)

```
<choice>
  <sic>giorit</sic>
  <corr>giorir</corr>
</choice>
```
- Regularisation/normalisation:
  - <orig> (original form)
  - <reg> (regularised form)

```
<choice>
  <reg>sínu</reg>
  <orig>sijnú</orig>
</choice>
```




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Supplied text

Where a word has been supplied by the editor, the <supplied> element can be used. The distinction between text now illegible or lost through damage but assumed originally to have been in the manuscript and text assumed to have been inadvertently omitted by the scribe is indicated through the use of the @reason attribute. Where the reading of another witness supports the reconstruction the @source attribute may be used to identify the other witness.

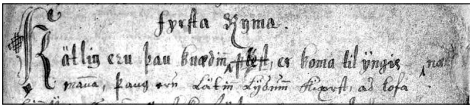
```
lid<supplied reason="illegible">z</supplied>
gieck sijdan <supplied reason="omitted">j burt</supplied>
ath þeir <supplied reason="omitted"
source="#AM02-152">mundu</supplied> sundr ganga
```




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Additions, deletions and substitutions

Alterations made to the text, whether by the scribe or in some later hand, can be encoded using <add> ('addition') and <del> ('deletion'); when the two constitute a substitution they can be placed within the <subst> element.




```
Kätlig eru þau kuædin<ex>n</ex> <subst><del
rend="overstrike">flett</del><add place="margin"
hand="#JonPor001">nærft</add></subst> er koma til
jngis
```




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Basic structural mark-up




```
<text>
  <body>
    <div>
      <lg>
        <head>The Old Woman.</head>
        <l>There was an Old Woman,</l>
        <l>Liv'd under a Hill,</l>
        <l>And if she 'int gone,</l>
        <l>She lives there still.</l>
      </lg>
    </div>
  </body>
</text>
```




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Marking up the layout

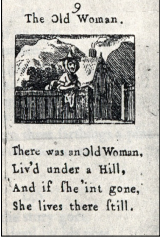


```
<pb/>
<fw type="pageNum">9</fw>
<lg>
  <head>The Old Woman.</head>
  <figure>
    <figDesc>Copperplate engraving depicting
    an old woman standing in front of a house, a large
    hill in the background.</figDesc>
    <graphic url="http://www.example.org/
    fig9.png"/>
  </figure>
  <l>There was an Old Woman,</l>
  <l>Liv'd under a Hill,</l>
  <l>And if she 'int gone,</l>
  <l>She lives there still.</l>
</lg>
```



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### Metrical mark-up



```

<div n="9">
  <lg type="poem" subtype="quatrain"
  rhyme="abcb">
    <head type="title">The Old Woman.</head>
    <l n="1">There was an Old Woman.</l>
    <l n="2">Liv'd under a Hill</rhyme>,</l>
    label="b">Hill</rhyme>,</l>
    <l n="3">And if she 'int gone,</l>
    <l n="4">She lives there <rhyme
    label="b">still</rhyme>.</l>
  </lg>
</div>


```

There was an Old Woman,  
Liv'd under a Hill,  
And if she 'int gone,  
she lives there still.

000011

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### Supplying variant readings



```

<div>
  <lg>
    <head>The Old Woman.</head>
    <l>There was an Old Woman,</l>
    <l>Liv'd under a Hill,</l>
    <l>And if
    <app>
      <lem wit="#TPSB1744">she 'int</lem>
      <rdg wit="#AC1714">she ben't</rdg>
      <rdg wit="#MGM1765">she's not</rdg>
    </app>
    gone,</l>
    <l>She lives there still.</l>
  </lg>
</div>


```

There was an Old Woman,  
Liv'd under a Hill,  
And if she 'int gone,  
she lives there still.

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### Normalisation, using certainty



```

<lg>
  <l>There was an <hi rend="cap">old woman</hi>,</l>
  <l>
    <choice>
      <orig>Liv'd</orig>
      <reg>Lived</reg>
    </choice> under a <hi rend="cap">hill</hi>,</l>
  <l>
    <choice>
      <orig>fhe</orig>
      <reg>she</reg>
    </choice>
    <choice>
      <orig>'int</orig>
      <reg cert="high">isn't</reg>
      <reg cert="low">ain't</reg>
    </choice> gone,</l>
    <l>She lives there <choice>
      <orig>ftill</orig>
      <reg>still</reg>
    </choice>.</l>
  </lg>

```

There was an Old Woman,  
Liv'd under a Hill,  
And if she 'int gone,  
she lives there still.

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### Non-standard characters

In most cases, Unicode already covers most of the characters most scholars need. There are, however, many characters and uncommon glyphs which have yet to make it into Unicode. Moreover, one may wish to record palaeographic variants of a single character in order to facilitate scribal identification or for statistical purposes.

Using the **'Gaiji'** module one can encode characters or glyphs which do not appear in Unicode by defining them in a series of `<charDesc>` elements in the TEI header and then referring to them using the `<g>` element in the body of the text.

Within `<charDesc>` one then uses either the `<char>` element to define a character which is not available in Unicode, or `<glyph>` to annotate an existing character.

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### Example: Defining a new glyph

A new glyph variant can be defined and assigned to a position in the Unicode Private Use Area (PUA), with a standardised form provided as a fallback:

```

<charDecl>
  <glyph xml:id="z103">
    <glyphName>LATIN LETTER Z WITH TWO STROKES</glyphName>
    <mapping type="standard">z</mapping>
    <mapping type="PUA">U+E304</mapping>
  </glyph>
</charDecl>

```

This can now be referenced in the text using the `<g>` element:

```

<g ref="#z103"/>

```

It is also possible to provide a default value like this:

```

<g ref="#z103">z</g>

```

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### 2. Linking texts and images

The `<facsimile>` element contains a representation of the written source in the form of a set of images rather than, or in addition to, a transcribed or encoded text.

A legal TEI document may thus comprise any of the following:

- a TEI Header and a `<text>` element
- a TEI Header and a `<facsimile>` element
- a TEI Header, a `<facsimile>` and a `<text>` element

Mechanisms are available for linking image, text and metadata to produce a coherent whole.

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The facsimile module

The **<facsimile>** element contains one or more **<surface>** elements.


The **<surface>** element defines in terms of a rectangular space any written surface.

The **<zone>** element defines a rectangular area within a **<surface>**.

The **@fac** attribute, available globally, points directly from any element in the text or header to the **<surface>** or **<zone>** to which it corresponds.

The **@start** attribute, available on **<surface>** and **<zone>**, points to the element containing the transcribed text found within the **<surface>** or **<zone>** concerned.

In this way one can point from anywhere in a manuscript description or text to the corresponding place on the manuscript page (and vice versa).



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Aligning text and image

The **@fac** attributes within the text point to the corresponding **<surface>** elements, while the **@start** attributes on **<surface>** point to the corresponding elements within the text.

```

<facsimile>
<surface xml:id="image_p1" start="#text_p1">
  <graphic url="MS101_1r.jpg"/>
</surface>
<surface xml:id="image_p2" start="#text_p2">
  <graphic url="MS101_1v.jpg"/>
</surface>
</facsimile>
<text>
<body>
<div>
  <pb n="1" xml:id="text_p1" facs="#image_p1"/>
  <!-- text of page 1 -->
  <pb n="2" xml:id="text_p2" facs="#image_p2"/>
  <!-- text of page 2 -->
</div>
</body>
</text>

```



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Providing coordinates


Coordinates may be provided to locate the surface and any zones defined within it within an abstract space defined by the following attributes:

**@ulx** gives the x coordinate value for the upper left corner of a rectangular space

**@uly** gives the y coordinate value for the upper left corner of a rectangular space.

**@lrx** gives the x coordinate value for the lower right corner of a rectangular space.

**@lry** gives the y coordinate value for the lower right corner of a rectangular space.




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An example of <facsimile>

```

<facsimile xml:base="http://www.example.org/MSS/">
<surface xml:id="image_p1" start="#text_p1" ulx="0"
  uly="0" lrx="200" lry="300">
  <desc>MS 101, f. 1r</desc>
  <graphic mimeType="jpeg" url="MS101-1r.jpg"/>
  <zone xml:id="image_p1_det" ulx="20" uly="20" lrx="70"
    lry="70">
    <desc>Illuminated initial (detail)</desc>
    <graphic mimeType="jpeg" url="MS101-1r-det.jpg"/>
  </zone>
</surface>
<!-- -->
</facsimile>

```



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3. Information on the text-bearing object

The **TEI manuscript description module** provides extensive facilities for the description of manuscripts, including:

- The current holding institution
- The intellectual content
- Codicological and palaeographical features
- Text layout and illumination/decoration
- Origin and provenance
- Primary and secondary bibliographical references

The TEI **<msDesc>** element is intended for several different kinds of applications:

- Electronic catalogue record or finding aid
- Metadata component within a digital edition
- Tool for quantitative codicology



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Elements within <msDesc>

**<msIdentifier>**: groups information uniquely identifying the manuscript, such as holding institution and shelfmark.


**<msContents>**: provides an itemised list of the intellectual content of the manuscript, with transcriptions of rubrics, incipits, explicits etc., as well as primary bibliographic references.

**<physDesc>**: groups information concerning all physical aspects of the manuscript, its material, size, format, script, decoration, binding, marginalia etc.

**<history>**: provides information on the history of the manuscript, its origin, provenance and acquisition by its current holding institution

**<additional>**: groups other information about the manuscript, in particular administrative information relating to its availability, custodial history, surrogates etc.

**<msPart>**: for composite manuscripts, essentially nested **msDescs**.



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msIdentifier

Traditional three-part specification:

- place (<country>, <region>, <settlement>)
- repository (<institution>, <repository>)
- identifier (<collection>, <idno>, <altIdentifier>, <msName>)

```

<msIdentifier>
  <country ref="#DK"/>
  <settlement>København</settlement>
  <repository>Den Arnamagnæanske Samling</repository>
  <idno>AM 285 4to</idno>
  <altIdentifier type="internal" subtype="KKKat"/>
  <idno>1018</idno>
</msIdentifier>

```

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msContents

```

<msContents>
  <msItem class="fas">
    <locus from="1v:1" to="35r:13">1v-35r</locus>
    <title type="uniform" xml:lang="is">Hrólfs saga kraka</title>
    <textLang mainLang="is">
      <rubric>Hér byrjar söguna af Hrólfí kóngi kraka, og skrifast hér fyrst þáttur
fróða kónigs</rubric>
      <incipit>Maður er nefndur Hálfðan en annar Fróði, bræður tveir og
konungasýner</incipit>
      <finalRubric>og endar hér sögu Hrólfis kónigs kraka og kappu hans. </
finalRubric>
      <colophon>Anno 1654. Þann 31. Januárii.</colophon>
    <listBibl>
      <bibl>Rafn, <ref type="primary-3" target="#FASNRafn">Formaldar sögur
Norðríanda</ref><biblScope type="volume">I</biblScope><biblScope
type="pages">1-109</biblScope><note>Ed. I</note>
      </bibl>
    </listBibl>
  </msItem>
</msContents>

```

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Physical description

The <physDesc> element groups information concerning all physical aspects of the manuscript, its material, size, format, layout, script, decoration, binding, marginalia etc.

- Nature of the support
- Dimensions of binding, leaves and written area
- Foliation, pagination, columnation
- Collation (quire structure)
- Number of columns, ruled lines, written lines
- Presence or absence of catchwords, quire signatures etc.
- Text density: lines per page, words/characters per line
- Script(s) used; identification of hands
- Illumination, decoration, paratextual features
- Marginalia

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Describing the support

```

<support material="chart">
  <p>Paper, thin and now rather brittle, with a greyish-yellow hue; a
<watermark>deer</watermark> watermark is visible on <locus
from="2r" to="14v">the first and second quires</locus>. The first and
final leaves are younger, having been added by <name
type="person" ref="#ArnMag001">Árni Magnússon</name> when he
dismembered the larger codex of which it was originally a part,
presumably in <date when="1702">1702</date>.</p>
</support>
<extent>i+35, <dimensions unit="mm" type="leaf" scope="all">
  <height>205</height><width>165</width></dimensions>
</extent>
<foliation>
  <p>Foliated in red ink by <name type="person"
ref="#KriKat001">Kálund</name> in the upper right hand corners of
the rectos.</p>
</foliation>

```

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Another, more data-intensive, example

```

<supportDesc material="chart">
  <support>
    <num type="front-flyleaf" value="3"/>
    <num type="book-block" value="201"/>
    <num type="back-flyleaf" value="3"/>
    <dimensions type="leaf">
      <height max="205" min="195" unit="mm"/>
      <width quantity="150" unit="mm"/>
    </dimensions>
  </support>
  <foliation ana="#FOL_contemporary"/>
  <condition ana="#CON_average"/>
</supportDesc>

```

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Describing the layout

```

<layout columns="1" writtenLines="26 31">
  <p>Written in one column with 26 to 31 lines per page and <term
key="wpl"><num min="9" max="15">9 to 15</num> words per
line</term>. The margins are:
  <dim type="margin" subtype="inner" unit="mm" quantity="15"/>
  <dim type="margin" subtype="upper" unit="mm" quantity="20"/>
  <dim type="margin" subtype="outer" unit="mm" quantity="40"/>
  <dim type="margin" subtype="bottom" unit="mm" quantity="40"/></
p>
</layout>


```

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## History

The <history> element has three sub-elements: <origin>, <provenance> and <acquisition>.

```
<origin>
<p>The codex was written by <name type="person"
ref="#BryJon001">Brynjólfur Jónsson</name>, who was the scribe of <name
type="person" ref="#ThoSku001">Þorlákur Skúlason</name>, bishop of
<name type="place" ref="#HöfJfj01">Hólar</name>. The text of <title
type="uniform">Hrólfs saga kraka</title> was finished on <origDate
when="1654-01-31">31 January 1654</origDate> in <origPlace>Iceland</
origPlace>. It was once part of a larger codex which was divided up by
<name type="person" ref="#ArnMag001">Árni Magnússon</name>. The first
part of the codex is now preserved in <ref target="#AM04-0342-en">AM 342
4to</ref>, followed by <ref target="#AM04-0285-en">AM 285 4to</ref> and
<ref target="#AM04-0587-c-en">AM 587c 4to</ref>. </p>
</origin>
```




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## 4. Prosopographical and biographical data

TEI P5 provides extensive facilities for the encoding of data pertaining to persons, whether actors in history or those living today.

Such data include:

- physical characteristics such as sex and eye colour
- cultural characteristics such as socio-economic status and religion
- information on occupation and education, and the events in people's lives such as birth, marriage or appointment to office
- the various names by which a person may be known, either in different languages or as they change over time




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## The <person> element

There is a specially defined <person> element, within which a large number of sub-elements is available, including:

- <persName>
- <birth> and <death>
- <residence>
- <socecStatus>
- <occupation> and <education>
- <bibl>
- and the generic elements <trait>, <state> and <event>




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## Multiple name forms

The <persName> element is repeatable and can, like all TEI elements, take the attribute @xml:lang to indicate the language of the content of the element, thus making it possible to supply name forms in different languages:

```
<persName xml:lang="is">
<forename sort="1">Árni</forename>
<surname type="patronymic" sort="2">Magnússon</surname>
</persName>
<persName xml:lang="la">
<forename sort="2">Arnas</forename>
<surname sort="1">Magnæus</surname>
</persName>
<persName xml:lang="da">
<forename sort="2">Arne</forename>
<surname sort="1">Magnussen</surname>
</persName>
```



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## Occupation, education etc.

Information can also be given on occupation, education and socio-economic status. By pre-defining possible values in taxonomies, these can, but need not, appear as empty elements.

```
<occupation ref="#schol"/>
<education ref="#edu4"/>
<socecStatus scheme="#socecStatus" code="#socec6"/>
```

The values are defined in the header, e.g.:

```
<category xml:id="schol">
<desc xml:lang="en">Scholar</desc>
<desc xml:lang="is">Fræðimaður</desc>
<desc xml:lang="da">Lærde</desc>
</category>
```




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## A complete <person> element

The <person> element for the scribe Brynjólfur Jónsson á Efstalandi í Öxnadal:

```
<person sex="1" role="scribe" xml:id="BryJon001">
<persName xml:lang="is">
<forename sort="1">Brynjólfur</forename>
<surname type="patronymic" sort="2">Jónsson</surname>
</persName>
<birth notBefore="1600" notAfter="1624">First quarter of the 17th
century</birth>
<death notBefore="1671">After 1671</death>
<residence>
<placeName>
<settlement type="farm" ref="#EfsOxn01">Efstaland</
settlement>
</placeName>
</residence>
<occupation ref="#scribe7">
<socecStatus code="#socec4"/>
<education ref="#edu1">Probably learnt to write from his father, the
priest <name type="person" ref="#JonOla003">Jón Ólafsson</
name>. </education>
</person>
```



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Defining relationships

The <relation> element can be used to describe any kind of relationship between a specified group of people.

```
<relation name="parent" active="#MagJon001 #GuðKet001"
passive="#ArmMag001 #JonMag002"/>
<relation name="spouse" mutual="#ArmMag001 #MetMag001"
from="1709-05-16"/>
<relation name="employer" active="#ThoSku001"
passive="#BryJon001"/>
```

The <relation> element can also be used to describe relationships between people and objects, such as manuscripts.

```
<relation name="scribe" active="#BryJon001" passive="#AM04-0285
#AM08-0109a-II #Papp04-017"/>
```

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The <place> element

Information about places can be encoded using the <place> element, which, like <person>, contains a number of sub-elements:

- one or more <placeName> elements
- one or more <location> elements, giving the physical location of the place, for example as a set of geographical co-ordinates
- one or more generic <trait> elements, or the specialised elements <population>, <climate> and <terrain>
- one or more generic <state> and <event> elements
- bibliographical references

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An example of the <place> element

The <place> element for the farm Efstaland í Öxnadal, residence of the scribe Brynjólfur Jónsson, looks like this:

```
<place xml:id="EfsÖxn01">
  <placeName xml:lang="is">
    <settlement type="farm">Efstaland</settlement>
    <region type="parish" ref="#Öxnada01"/>
  </placeName>
  <location>
    <geo>65.629041 -18.470377</geo>
  </location>
  <trait type="propSize" extent="28hh"/>
  <trait type="propType" ref="#FarmerP"/>
</place>
```

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AM 285 4to

*Hrólf saga kraka*; Iceland, 31 January 1645

The manuscript was originally part of a larger codex, consisting of AM 342 4to, AM 285 4to, AM 587c and maybe some parts now lost.

CONTENTS

(1v-35v) Hrólf saga kraka  
 Language of text: Icelandic  
 Rubric: "Hér byrjar söguna af Hrólf kóngi kraka, og skrifan hér fyrr þáttur síðra kóngs"  
 Incipit: "Maður er nefndur Hálfdan en annar Fróði, hefur tveit og konungsmætur"  
 Explicit: "og endur hét sögu Hrólf kóng kraka og kappu hans. Anno 1654. Þunn 31. Januarii."  
 Refs: [Formildar sögur Norðurlanda](#) , I, 1-109 (Ed. I) Finnur Jónsson, [Hrólf saga kraka og Rícheimur](#) (Ed. C) Sör, [Hrólf saga kraka](#)

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Support:  
 Paper with deer watermark in the first and second quire.

No. of leaves:  
 1-35, 205 x 165 mm.

Foliation:  
 Follated in red ink by **Kilnad** in the upper right hand corners.

Collation:  
 There are five quires:  
 • I: fols 1-6 (1,2,3,4,5,6)  
 • II: fols 7-14 (7-14, 8-13, 9-12, 10-11)  
 • III: fols 15-20 (15-20, 16-21, 17-20, 18-19)  
 • IV: fols 23-30 (23-30, 24-29, 25-28, 26-27)  
 • V: fols 31-35 (31, 32, 33, 34, 35)

Document



Contents

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Settlement	Copenhagen
Repository	Det Arnamagnæanske Selskab
Shelfmark	AM 285 4to
Alt. ID	1018
Type: internal	Subtype: KKKat
XML	
Source	AM04-0285-ss.xml

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BRYNJÓLFUR JÓNSSON

DETAILS

Name	Brynjólfur Jónsson
Birth	ca. 1625
Death	1664
Occupations	Farmer, Scribe
Residence	Efstaland (6m), Iceland 
Education	Level 1: No formal education, but literate
Socio-economic status	Class 4 

ASSOCIATED MANUSCRIPTS

Shelfmark	Title	Origin	Role
AM 285 4to	<i>Hrólf saga kraka</i>	Iceland, 31 January 1645	Scribe
AM 109 a 8vo II	<i>Legendary Saga, Tula of Icelanders</i>	Iceland, 1659-1660	Scribe
Papp. 4to nr 17	<i>Legendary Saga</i>	Iceland, XVII 2/2	Scribe

ASSOCIATED PERSONS

Name	Relationship
<a href="#">Guð Þorláksson</a>	Employed Brynjólfur Jónsson as a scribe.
<a href="#">Þorlákur Skúlason</a>	Employed Brynjólfur Jónsson as a scribe.


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EFTSTALAND

DETAILS

Name	Efstaland (6a)
Type	Farm
Parish	Öxarálsbætur
Country	Þingjafarneyla
Geographic	Norðurlandafjarðarsýslu
Country	Iceland

Map



 OPEN LARGE MAP VIEWER

