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2022

Database of Marginal Notation in the PSU 1490 Codex: Objectives, Organization, and Continuation

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Database of Marginal Notation in the PSU 1490 Codex:

Objectives, Organization, and Continuation

Our combined editions of the *Fasciculus temporum* (FT) and *Malleus maleficarum* (MM) contain over 150 individual marginal markings and notations. These marks have been made by numerous readers throughout the monograph's five-century lifespan. At the beginning of our 10-week academic term, I became interested in understanding these readers and their motivations for intervening within our texts. I wanted to learn more about these people and why they chose to make the marks that they did. I quickly realized, however, that this investigation would have to wait; more information was needed about the marks themselves before a picture of the people that made them could be drawn. A tool that would allow future students and scholars to visually compare and organize marks was needed before any in-depth analysis of readership could be made.

This report accounts for the efforts that have been made to construct such a tool, describing the objectives, processes and applications that have defined its development. The tool that was needed was a visual database that enables the visual comparison of markings within the two texts. After reading this report the conditions of construction and the methods that went into it should be clear and understood. This document should act as a project summary and step-by-step guide for use and continued construction.

In addition to this report, a second exists concerning the codex database, written by Samuel Barnack. His report exists as a necessary companion to this one, demonstrating the

analytical capacity that our visual database has. Barnack goes into detail examining the marks that are present in both texts, detailing some of the early conclusions that he has been able to make by comparing marks and notations visually. Please look to his report to see the practical potential of our database, and follow his example by putting the tedious work that has gone into creating this tool to good use.

This report will be divided into three primary sections. The first will describe the motivations and priorities that went into the creation of our database. The second will explain the rationale for its form and will provide a detailed list of instructions for anyone that wishes to use the database. Finally, the third section will describe and outline ways that this tool can be honed in the future, hopefully spurring additional efforts to see this project to completion. Please also look to the appendix for a step-by-step breakdown of how to build additional entries within this database.

Objectives:

The objective of this project was to build a comprehensive database of all visual markings and reader notes present within the FT.¹ The visual component is critical because a comparison of notes side-by-side is the best way to be able to make meaningful conclusions about who penned the notes and why they might have been made them. Additionally, a fluid arrangement of notes visually has been prioritized. This allows for variable contexts, facilitating a comparison of notes that are otherwise disconnected. For example, a note that is located near the end of the text can be compared against a mark that exists in the front to check for

¹The *Malleus* was initially excluded from the scope of this project because it is not paginated and because 10 weeks is hardly enough time to tackle one text. However, we adjusted course and have included space for *Malleus* images to be included in the future. Samuel Barnack required these slots for his work, and kindly created them to the benefit of us both.

similarities and differences helping users discern relationships between otherwise disparate markings.

Context is an important aspect of the database's visual arrangement and was the second objective that was identified at the onset of this initiative. It was the goal from the start to be able to both preserve and adjust context to be able to holistically compare markings against each other while also checking the markings against their physical placement within the text. A user of this database needs to be able to both see the mark on the page, understand where the mark falls within the texts sequentially, and arrange the markings as they please. A deeper explanation and example of how context has been preserved while also being made fluid will be provided later.

The third objective that helped to inform the construction of this database was the knowledge that this tool will be both contributed to and used by future students and scholars. This tool needed to be easy to understand, access, adjust and continue. For this reason, GoogleSuite, and the tools provided within it, namely GoogleSheets, were used for this project. Students in the future will be able to access this database as long as they have access to a Google account and PDXScholar. Additionally, Google's cloud-based tools allowed for easy collaboration between multiple users at the same time, something that would not have been possible through other platforms.

The fourth and final, key objective that was identified at the beginning of this project was the need for a consistent and clear organization at each step of the process. Several tools were used in the construction of this work including, Photoshop, Finder, and, as mentioned above, the GoogleSuite; working between these tools required a consistent and measured workflow that will be explained in-depth in the appendix, but from the beginning, time was spent working out the best way to organize this complex effort.

The objectives that were developed at the start of this project were vital guides throughout this process and understanding them is an important part of understanding the tool that has been created.

Organization:

Within the database, the marks are arranged sequentially by page, starting with the title page and descending through the FT first and the MM second. Each mark contains fields that extend horizontally for information, such as images, descriptions, transcriptions of the texts that they reference, and space to translate those transcriptions.² Titles exist for all marks that are present in the codex and descending from those titles are fields for tags that can be used to navigate the various contexts that each mark is visible within.

[illegible]

Naming conventions are a very important component of this database and consist of a description of the folium that each mark is present on, i.e. fol. 16r, and the order in which the mark appears on that folium. The first mark on a given folium is labeled with an A, for example, fol. 16r A, and each subsequent mark is then labeled with B, C, D, etc. If there is only one mark on a page it is still labeled as A. Identifying which mark should be A and which B can be difficult at times, but the attempt was to follow, left to right, top to bottom, reading conventions.

To help alleviate the difficulties of discerning the appropriate order for each mark on a folium, each full folium has been labeled and linked to the title of each mark. Where a title is lettered in blue and underlined, it means that it has been hyperlinked to a sheet containing the whole folium with each mark labeled. By clicking on the blue text the user will be taken to the full folium, seeing the mark in context. This linking structure is the core of how this database allowed this tool to meet our set of initial objectives.

203				
204	fol. 16r C			
205	pilcrow			
206	nota bene			
207	nota			
208	writing			
209				
210				
211				
212				
213				
214				
215				

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
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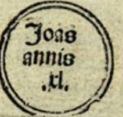
fol. 16r A

Solum XVI

fol. 16r B

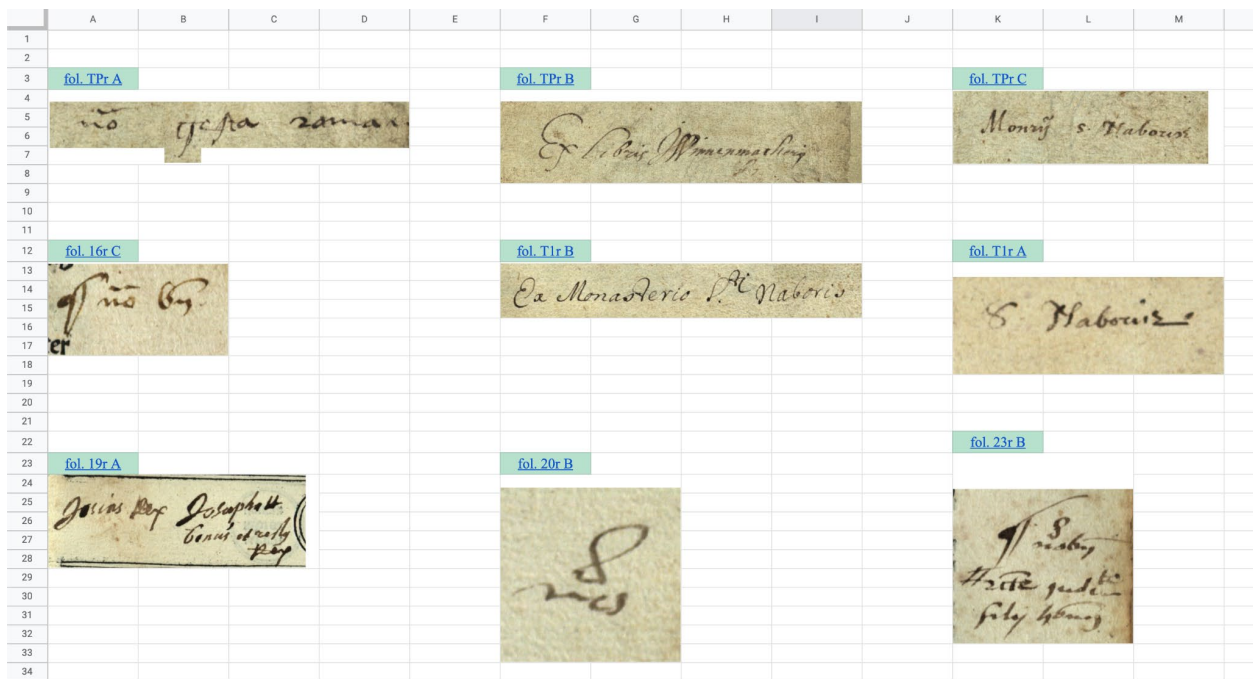
fol. 16r C

Liguris his tibus floruit. quia licet gentilis fuerit: tamen leges iustissimas naturali iuri et diuino rationis lacedemonis dedit. nec quicquam censuit cuius non ipse exemplum prius daret. Auri argentique usum. et omnem scelestam materiam non sustulit. Fundos omnem equaliter inter omnes diuisit. ut eque patrimonium neminem potentiorum altero redderet. Conuiuari omnes publice iussit. ne cuius diuitie in occulto essent. Iuuenibus non amplius quam una veste uti toto anno permisit. nec aliquem cultius quam alius progredi voluit. nec opulentius epulari. Etenim singula non pecunia. sed comparatione mercium iussit. Pueros puberes non in forum. sed in agrum deduci iussit. ut primos annos non in luxuria. sed in omni ope ac labore agerent. nihil eos somnii causa sustinere. et uita sine pulmento de gere. nec prius in urbem redire quam uiri facti essent. Constituit uirgines sine dote nubere. ut uxores non pecunie causa eligerent. seueriusque matrimonia sua coaceret cum nullis dotalis frenis tenerent. Quod autem honoris diuinitus et potentis sensum esse constituit. Et quod beleges dure videbant iureiurando eos astrinxit. ne quid de tam diuinis legibus mutaret. donec rediret. et sic extra patriam profectus uoluntariu perpetuo duxit exilium. ut suis legibus eternitatem daret. Doriens etiam precepit ossa sua in mare proijci: ne si ad patriam deferri contingeret. lacedaemones se a iuramento solutos esse putarent. Quod hominem gentilem quod pene solus apud omnes christiani esse scias eorum superbiendi materiam non gloriis nostris quasi aliquid magni pro uita eterna fecerint. quam talia uidemus paganos fecisse. vide augustinum. ii. iij. et v. de ciuitate dei.



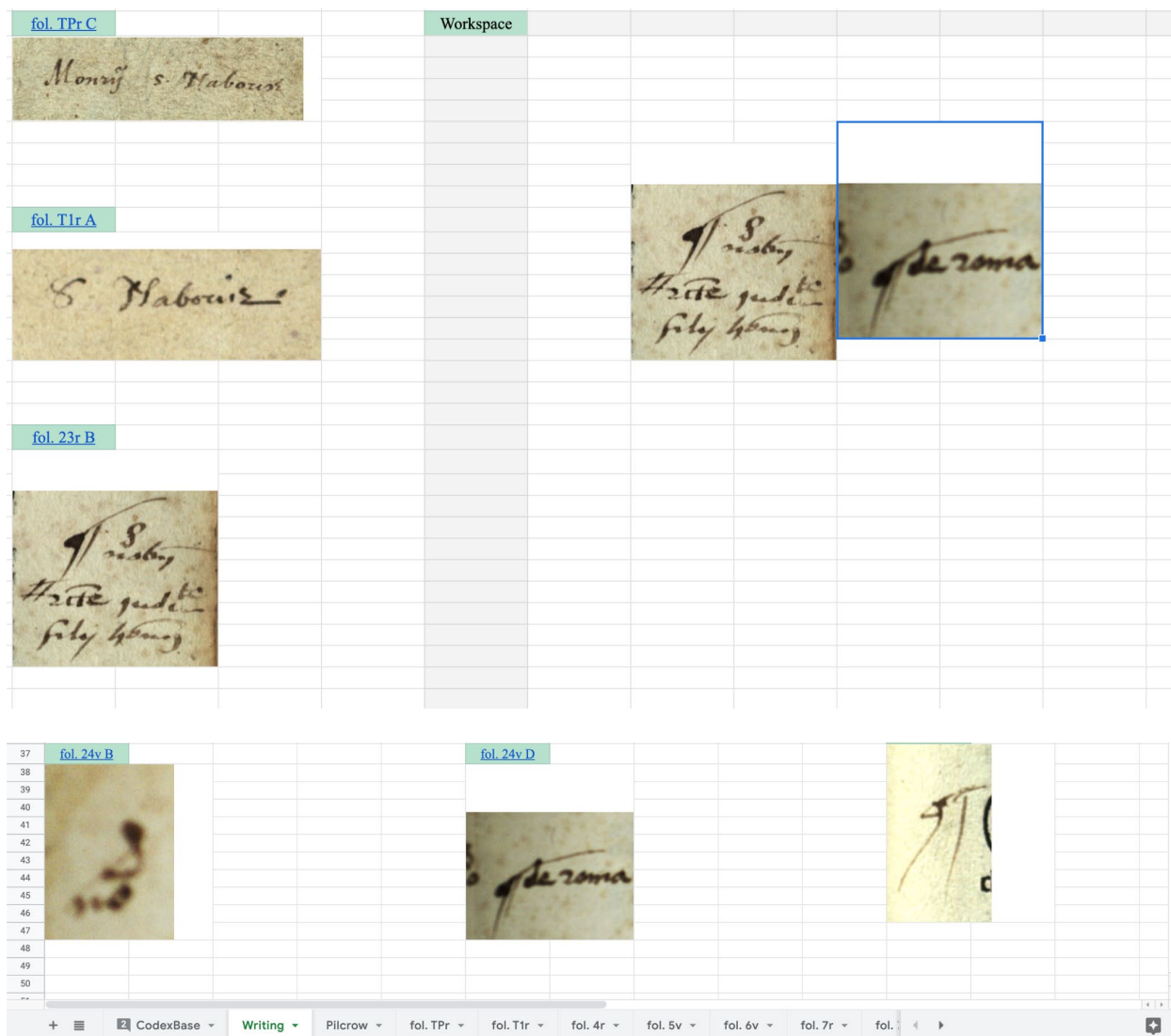
Ista per tyrannidem inuasit regnum. et occisa est
 ab athalia. cum esset annorum. vij. constituit eum ioiada regem. et optime se habuit cunctis diebus quibus regit
 cum idem uenerandus sacerdos domini. sed post mortem eius delinquitur bladicis magnarum. quod odio habebat sacras
 ceremonias humilis obediens moysi lege depuatus est cor regis in iterum suum et illorum cunctis
 retro nationibus horredum relinquitur exemplum quod graue sit piaculum humilibus nolle perficere. ii. pa. cxiij. et cxiij
 Jonadab filius recab clarus habet. De his stirps valde religiosa descendit. quod iamque pegrini
 pueri sunt sine agris. et. Et descenderunt de ietro sacerdote cognato moysi.
 Heliseus propheta surrexit loco
 belve duplici spiritu uirtute testam
 menti. timor. i. et amoris perditus
 quod iam reprobis electis per omnia gra
 tus extitit. clarus uirtutibus. et miraculis gloriosus. iij. regum. ij. et. x.
 Dicitur etiam. Dicitur. post natiuitatem abrahe
 Iste azabel exigebat demeritis suis occisa dei iusticia per
 motus fuit in regem iherusalem. ut affligeret filios israel. et sua prole
 garet iniquitatem. Affligit autem israel ultra modum. ut in. iij. regum. x.
 Iste ioas dum adhuc infans
 esset subtractus fuit ab interfectione quam exercebatur
 mo achab. et etiam ochozias
 regem iuda. et destruxit domum
 baal et prophetas eius occidit. unde
 meruit posteris sui regni se/
 dem usque ad quartam genera/
 tionem. iij. regum. ix. et. x.
 L 2

While it is still in early development, this linking strategy is also what allows users to compare marks visually against each other outside of their normal context. Visible in the example above is the word “writing” also colored and underlined in blue. This word is a filter that will allow users to compare all examples of “writing” that have been collected so far from the texts. By clicking on this word, users will be taken to a contact sheet where they can see all these notes together.



Within this sheet, users can scroll through, observing the similarities and differences between marks as they are arranged. Users can also arrange the marks to better fit their needs. To do this a user selects the desired mark and copies it (command/control + C). Then they simply find an open space to the right, in the “workspace,” to paste the mark into (command/control + V). This can be done for any number of marks, making close comparison easy.³

³ This method might seem a primitive, but it allows for each arrangement and comparison. The workspace can be thought of more as a table to arrange printed images rather than a permanent rigid part of that database.



Once a user finds themselves on one of these secondary sheets they simply need to navigate to the scroll bar at the bottom of the page and select “CodexBase” to return to the main page (see example above). One last user tool that is available in the database is a search function (control/command + f). This tool is valuable for quickly landing on the mark that a user is looking for.

Continuation:

This tool needs to be finished, and the more that is added to it, the better it will become. All working files that were used to construct this project will hopefully be accessible to future

contributors and with those files, a detailed guide for how to add entries will be included. In this section, I will explain the future work that those contributors might do and call on future students to pick up that work.

First and foremost, the database must be completed. Once a comprehensive database of all images is available there is no telling what we might glean about the two texts that are present within the PSU codex. The capacity to compare notes that are present in both the FT and the MM would be remarkable and could provide some amazing insight into what combined interest existed in the two texts as *Sammelband*.⁴

Additionally, by completing the database it will be possible to start fully identifying the various readers that used this text. If this can be done, then maybe we will be able to fill in more of the gaps that exist in the two texts' provenance. In other words, learning more about who the readers were can tell us more about where the book has been.

Another important avenue for further work would be further digitization and higher quality scanning by students or librarians. Some of the images of the marks present in this database are of very poor quality.⁵ By improving the quality of the images more information might become accessible to future users. Building off of this, it would be extremely constructive if future researchers could incorporate this database into a larger digitization effort that could see the full text and all of its physical attributes cataloged; connected digitization that combines marginal notes and watermarks, for example, could provide unknown opportunities for future study.

⁴ *Sammelband*: multiple texts bound together in a single codex.

⁵ The images that were provided were made by PSU's outstanding Millar Library Special Collections staff, and overall their early efforts in digitization were phenomenal. They were making scans during the COVID-19 shutdowns, and produced very high-quality work, especially given the circumstances.

These are just a few of the many ways that the work started here can be built upon in the future, and hopefully, some of these avenues will be explored.

Sources

Brick, Brady. “Woodcuts of Human Oddities in the *Faciculus Temporum*.” PDXScholar, June 2020.

Echard, Siân. “Terms for Manuscript Studies.” Department of English Language and Literatures, University of British Columbia, March 2, 2022. https://sianechard.ca/web-pages/terms-for-manuscript-studies/?fbclid=IwAR32HbIVofbDHo4O7gky_rA8KOMKLLdBQINxA4ybm308o2aly-G0eETExiM.

Maly, Jeremy Michael. “Marginalia and Nota Bene in the Marginalia and Nota Bene in the *Faciculus Temporum*: Frontispiece and Folios 4-23.” PDXScholar, June 2020.

Stecher, Christian. “The Marginalia of the *Malleus maleficarum*.” PDXScholar, June 2020.

Appendix (Please refer to the digital copy for the appendix)

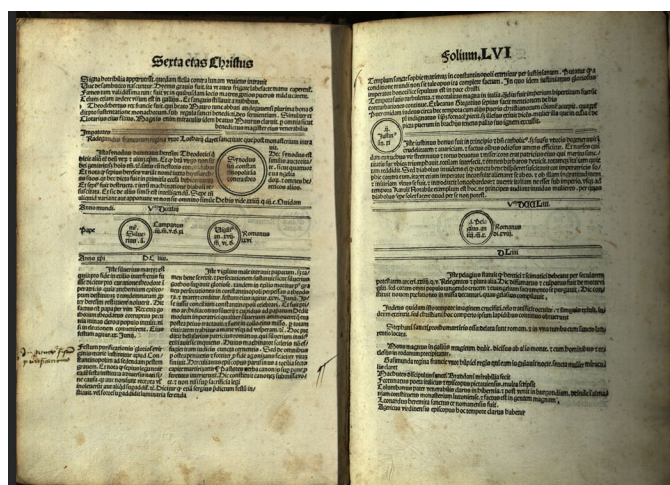
The process of creating this visual tool started with digital scans generated by Carolee Harrison for the class of Spring 2020. These scans were then downloaded from GoogleDrive and saved to an external hard drive. This drive became the home for this project, as working off of Google Cloud would have been far too slow and clunky for the large file sizes involved.

After downloading the files a workflow for importing images to photoshop, cropping them, exporting the crops, and saving the images was established. Following the establishment of this workflow, an organizational template (OrgTemplet) file was created. This template is very important because it ensures that all subsequent files are set up the same way.

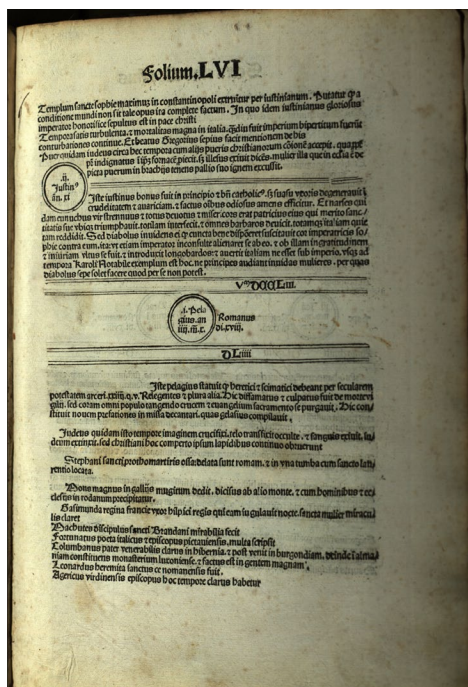


The image above shows how the OrgTemplet is set up. It contains three subfolders, one for exported final crops, one for saving the Photoshop (or image editing software) files, in case you need to return to the file to make corrections, and a folder for the full folium image.

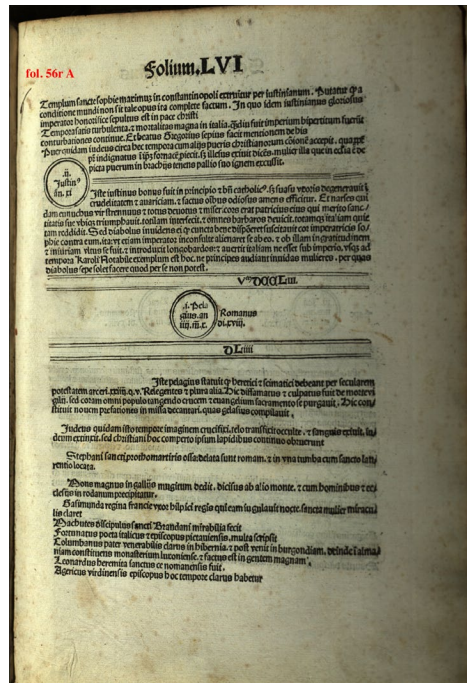
The cropping process: Take the full resolution scan of one of the folios that needs to be cropped and import it to the photo editing software of your choice.



Next, crop the two pages down to the one you want to use.



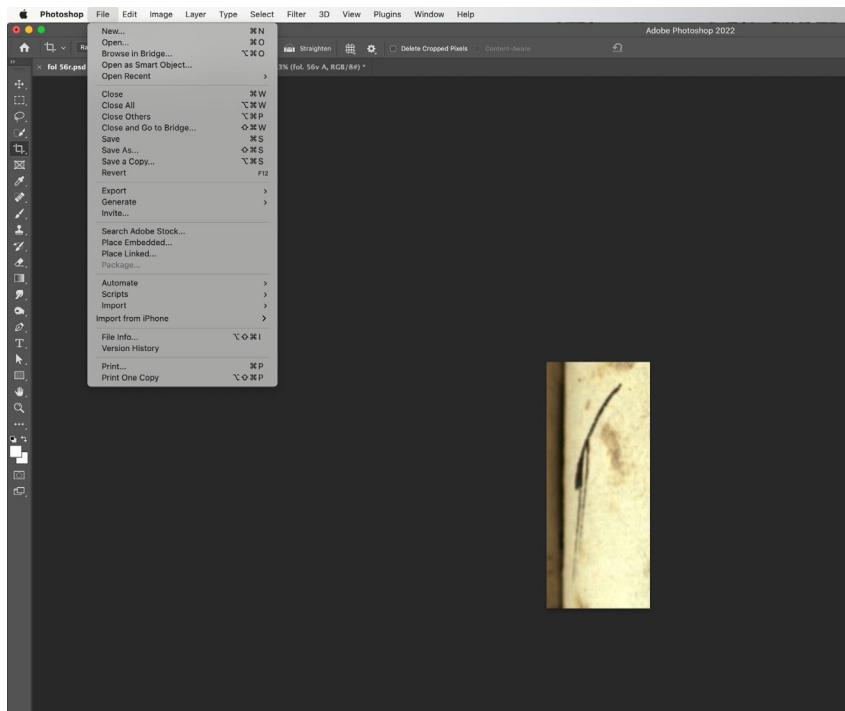
After that, label the mark with clear and legible red text. If you want to match this work exactly use, “times bold” and in red with this hex code: ff00006.

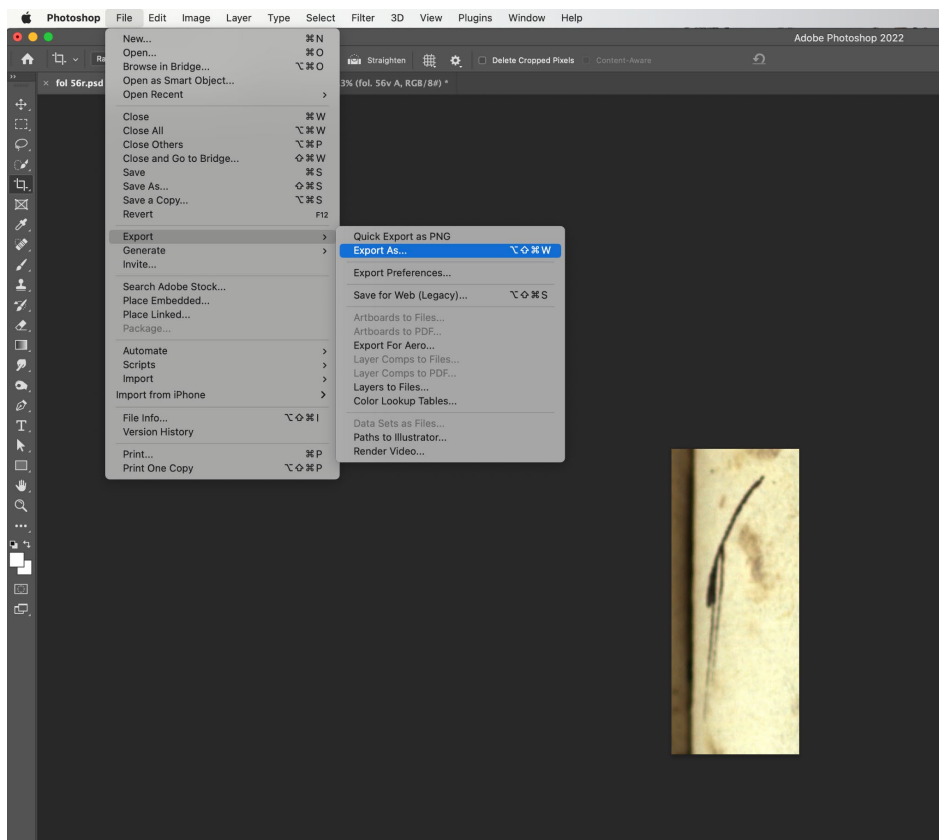
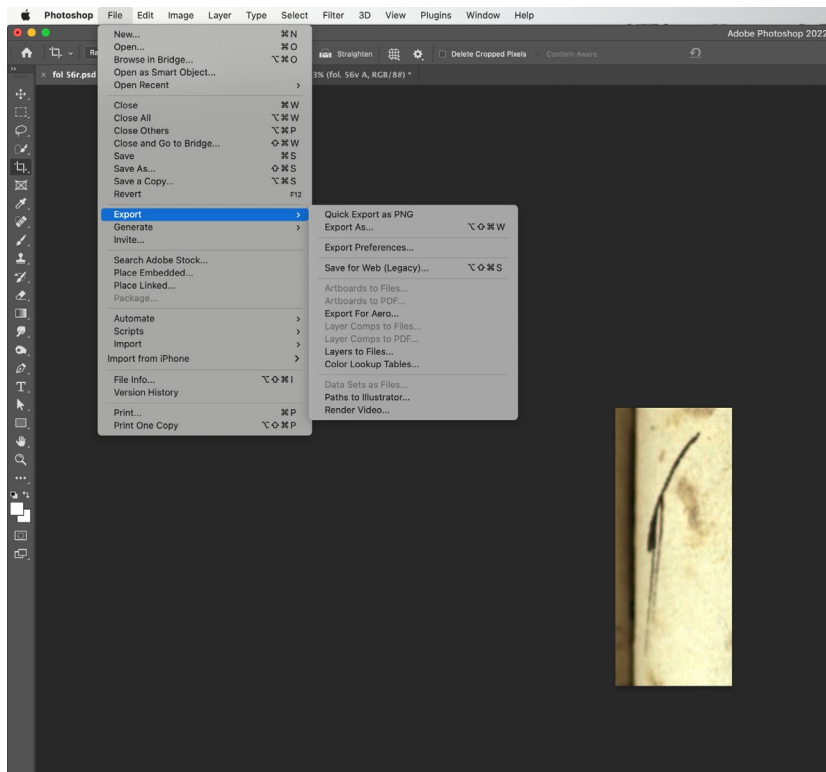


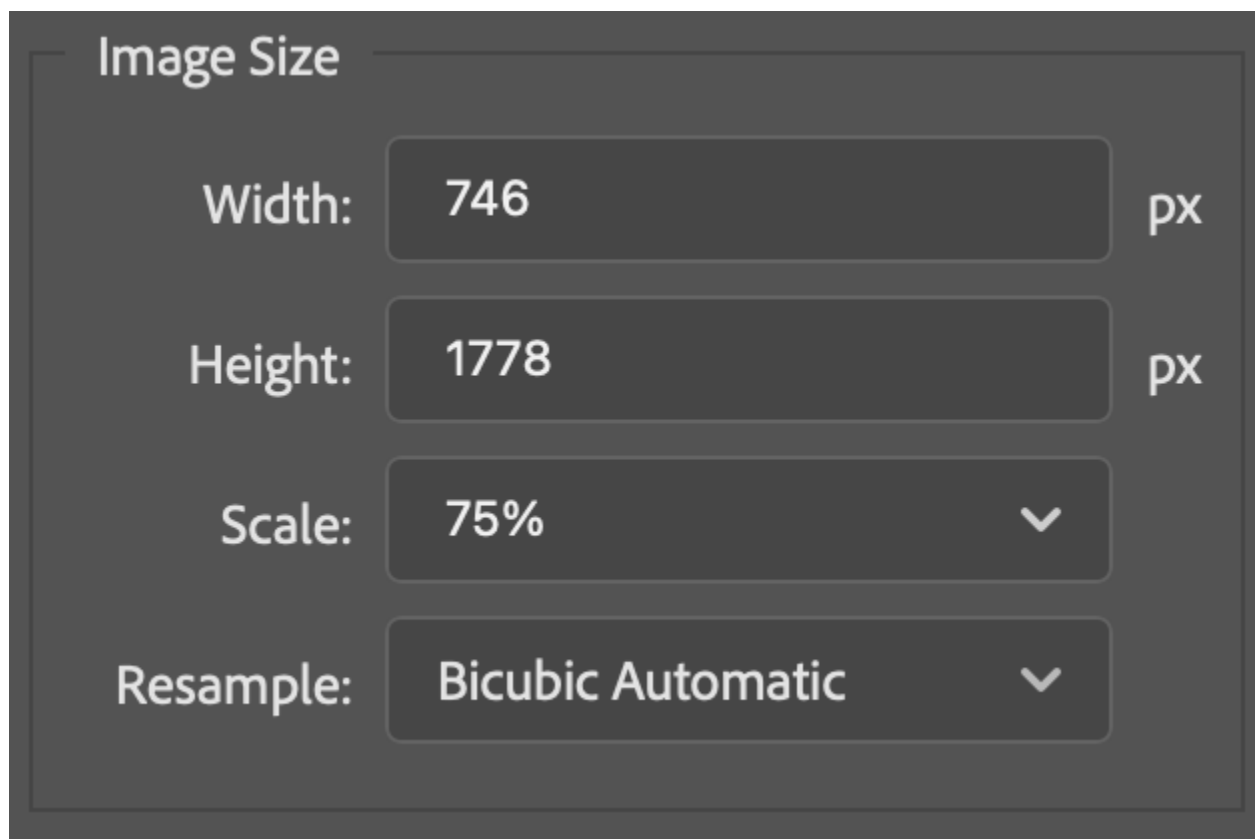
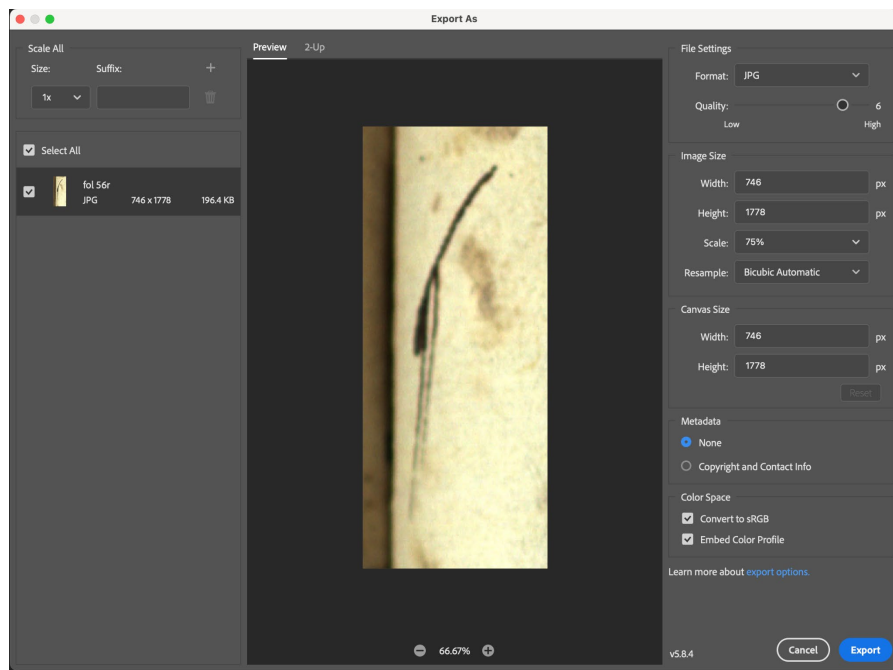
The next step is to isolate the mark and enlarge it.



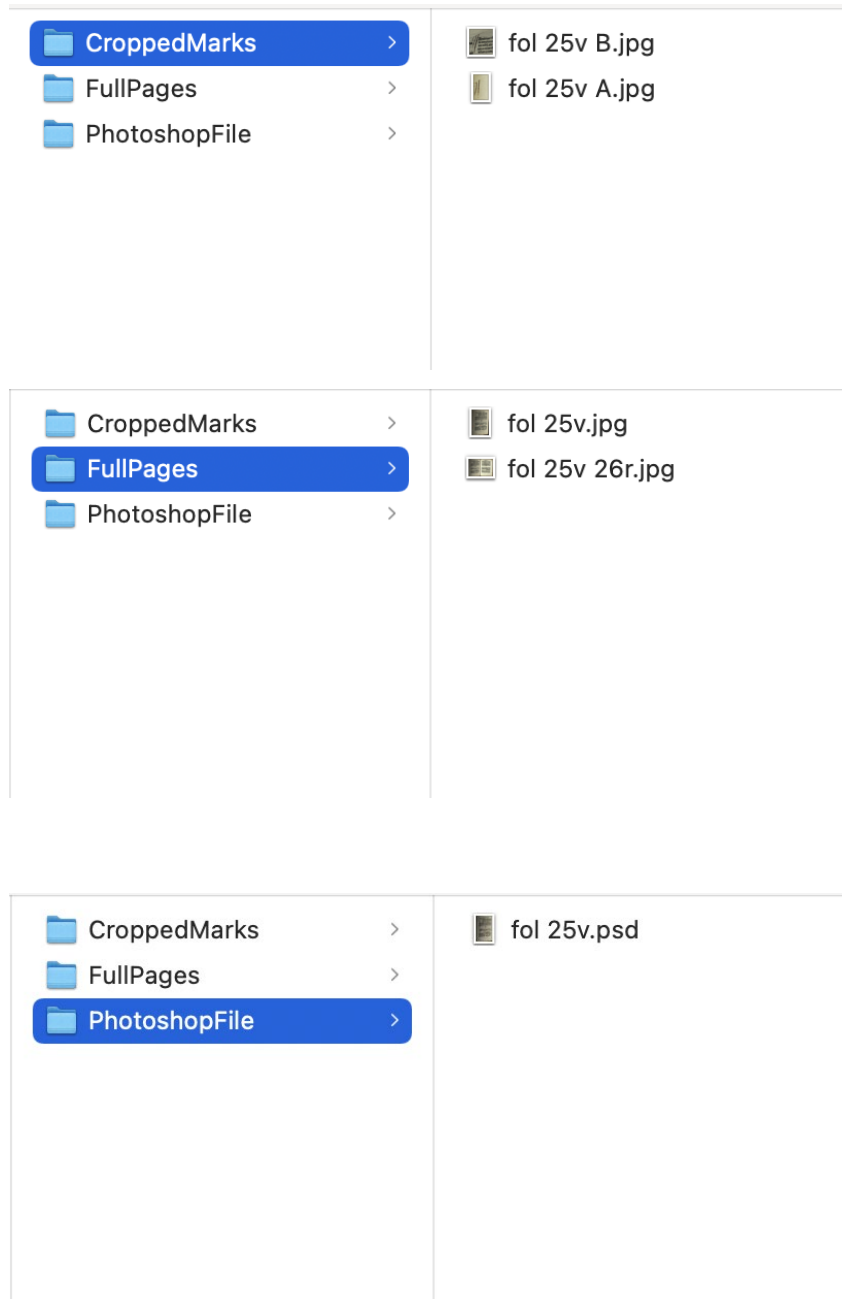
After all marks on the folium are isolated and labeled on the full page, it is time to export. There are a few key things to know when exporting. One, make sure you scale down the full page. The page will be too large for GoogleSheets to import at 100% resolution. I found that approximately 33% of the original size was good for the full pages. A good rule of thumb is to try to keep resolutions with 500 pixels – 2000 pixels in both width and height. This will ensure that images are legible without getting too large.







Do not forget to save your cropped images and working files to the right destinations.



After you have made cropped images you will need to import files to the database. To do this, access the database and locate the field where you wish to import an image.

If you are importing a piece of marginal notation find the square field open for a new image:

741				
742	fol. 56v A			
743	pilcrow			
744				
745				
746				
747				
748				
749				
750				
751				
752				
753				

Select the field:

741				
742	fol. 56v A			
743	pilcrow			
744				
745				
746				
747				
748				
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750				
751				
752				
753				

Locate the “insert” tab at the top of the page and select “insert image in cell”:

The screenshot shows the Google Sheets interface. The 'Insert' menu is open, displaying options like Cells, Rows, Columns, Sheet, Chart, Pivot table, Image, Drawing, Function, Link, Checkbox, People chip, Comment, and Note. The 'Image' option is selected, and a sub-menu is visible with two options: 'Insert image in cell' and 'Insert image over cells'. The spreadsheet in the background shows folios 710 through 730, with fol. 55v B and fol. 56r A visible.

Then drag the image you want to add into the media browser and wait for it to upload:

Insert image

UPLOAD


CAMERA

BY URL

PHOTOS


GOOGLE DRIVE

GOOGLE IMAGE SEARCH

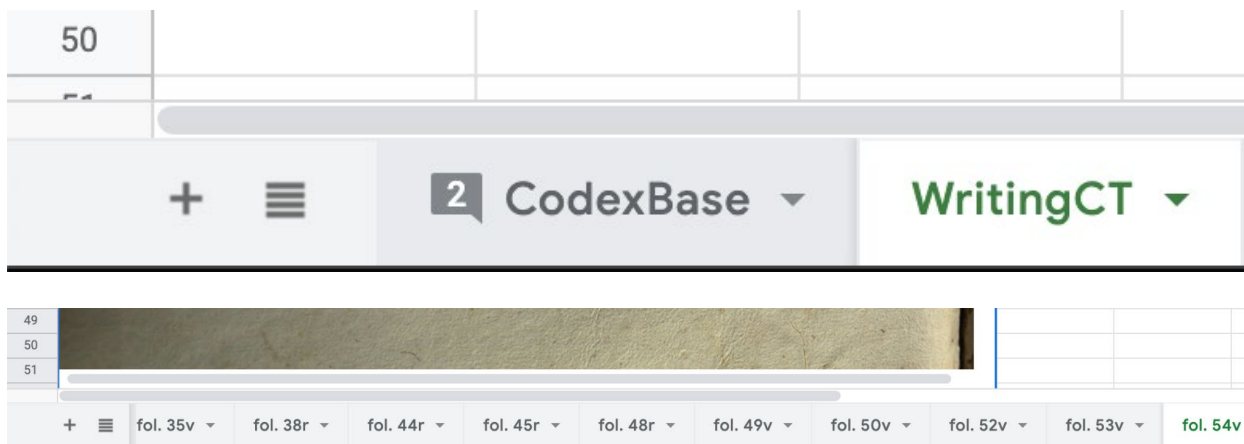


BROWSE

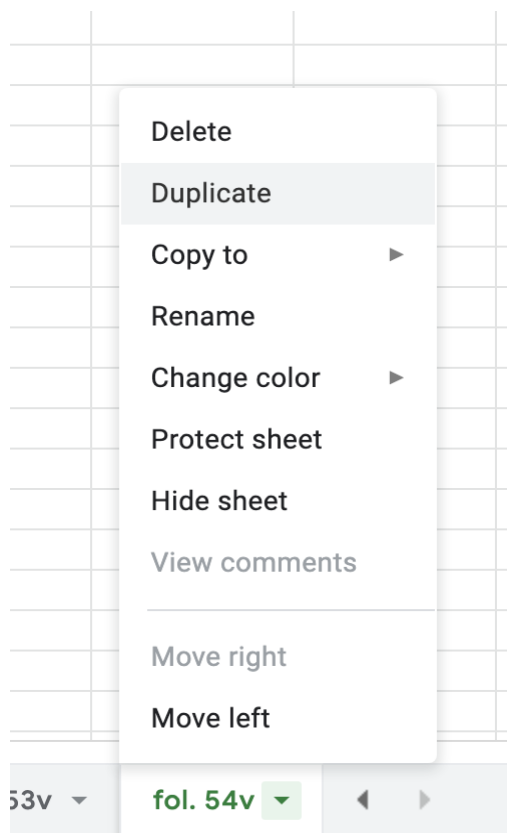
or drag a file here

741				
742	fol. 56v A			
743	pilcrow			
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To create a new sheet containing either a full folio with labeled marks or a mark contact sheet, navigate to the bottom of the page and find the most recent version of the type of page you would like to recreate.



Right-click on the sheet and select duplicate:



After duplicating the sheet rename it to match the name of the new sheet, either a folio (ex: fol. 55v), or a contact sheet (ex: Figure8CT). Then add the new image/images just as you did for the marginal notation: “Insert,” “insert image,” drag in the image.