Jeremy Bentham and the Computer Age: Reflections on Crowdsourcing the Transcription of Handwritten Documents

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Jeremy Bentham
(1748–1832)
Plan for the ‘panopticon’ prison, by Willy Reveley
Courtesy of UCL Special Collections (Bentham Papers, Box 199a, folio 119)
CONSTITUTIONAL CODE;
FOR THE USE OF
ALL NATIONS
AND
ALL GOVERNMENTS
PROFESSING
LIBERAL OPINIONS.

BY
JEREMY BENTHAM.

VOL. I.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR THE AUTHOR,
AND
PUBLISHED BY ROBERT HEWARD,
AT THE OFFICE OF THE WESTMINSTER REVIEW,
2 WELLINGTON STREET, STRAND.

1830.
### Table of the Springs of Action:

Showing the several Species of Pleasures and Pains, of which Man’s Nature is susceptible; together with the several Species of Virtues, Deeds, and Motives, respectively corresponding to them: and the several Sets of Appellatives, Neutral, Edifying, and Descriptive, by which each Species of Motive is to be designated: to which are added EXPLANATORY NOTES and OBSERVATIONS, indicative of the Application of each to the Foundation, and which is the Art and Science of Motives, otherwise termed Virtue, or Public and Political—(including Legislation)—Theoretical, or Practical, and Descriptive—(including Biography)—in so far as it concerns Ethics, and History (including Biography) in its various aspects as considered in an Ethical Point of View.

#### Table:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Pleasures and Pains</th>
<th>Corresponding Virtues</th>
<th>Motives with Names</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No. V.</td>
<td>Pleasures and Pains</td>
<td>Corresponding Virtues</td>
<td>Motives with Names</td>
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<td>No. XV.</td>
<td>Pleasures and Pains</td>
<td>Corresponding Virtues</td>
<td>Motives with Names</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Notes:

- **Virtues** refer to the moral or ethical qualities that are considered desirable or admirable in a particular culture or society.
- **Deeds** are the actions or behaviors that are performed or exhibited, often reflecting the principles of a particular virtue.
- **Motives** are the reasons or causes that prompt actions or behaviors, often reflecting the influence of virtue or the absence of virtue.

#### Further Reading:

- The table includes extensive cross-references to various categories and subcategories, allowing for a deeper exploration of the relations and implications of different pleasures, pains, virtues, and motives.

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*For a comprehensive understanding, consult the full text for detailed explanations and applications.*
Labour Knowledge

In the action of every man considered with reference
to its effect and every other; nor more than his essential, self-interest,
cled by a principle of self-interest in contracts.

It is an invariable maxim of self-interest to repossess
of the contract to which the interest of those
and his essential interests.

In the ordinary course of life, self-interest is engaged
and more efficient than those of those who are engaged together.

In self-interest is included the desire of belonging to
in which, and all the different conduct of the social, essential
the objects of desire, and by some apprehension that
be attended by the apprehension of the good change of the

Who are not the rulers of wealth, with the most powerful
power in the state, and to what are the
considerable and government of the
its essential interests.

The emancipation of wealth, the freedom of wealth, or what
the people combined. But it is not enough, nor does it
be the case, to be free, to enjoy for the sake of others;
but in the sense of self-interest
and more particularly of the responsibility of the
become the part of all who are engaged, may be an even,
the state and the

As the mere means of wealth, the means of wealth, or what
be the case, to be free, to enjoy for the sake of others;
but in the sense of self-interest
and more particularly of the responsibility of the
become the part of all who are engaged, may be an even,
the state and the
assemblage of which the political state or community is composed—any such indecent
deportment or discourse as if exhibited in the presence of determinate individuals would be
an offence of the lascivious kind injurious to the persons and reputations of those same
individuals.

[074-174]

§ 2. Non-mischiefous—no ground for punishing them from the
principle of utility—only from the principle of antipathy or that of
asceticism

Not being productive of any real mischief, it is not from the principle of utility, that
practices of this nature can receive condemnation, much less be subjected to legal
punishment.

The principle on the ground of which they are thus dealt with comes, therefore, under
the general denomination of the principle of caprice, more particularly, in respect of the
sort of treatment here suggested, the principle of antipathy.

To the man in power, by whom the penal mode of treatment in question is allotted to
a practice of this nature, the operation would not be a source of pleasure. On the contrary,
the very idea of it is a cause of disgust. This disgust extends itself not only to the idea of
the practice, but to every person to whom the practice itself, or any disposition to engage in
it, is ascribed. Towards all such persons, it produces in his breast the sentiment or affection
of antipathy. Of this affection it is the property to seek its gratification in the pleasure of
subjecting to pain the person by whose conduct the dissocial affection has been excited.

It is a modification of that antipathy which springs up on the ground of taste—of the
antipathy produced by difference of taste.

Taste for any object is an aptitude or disposition to derive pleasure [from]² that
object.³

² MS “for”.
³ In the text, Bentham has noted at this point: ‘Here give illustrations from other objects of taste—ex. gr.
subjects of the fine arts.’ For such a discussion see The Rationale of Reward, London, 1825, pp. 000
(Bowring, ii. 189–266 at 252–60).
The Bentham Papers Database

Introduction

This database contains a detailed catalogue of the Bentham Papers, held in University College London Library. The collection consists of around 60,000 folios, arranged into 174 boxes. Jeremy Bentham (1748-1832), the utilitarian philosopher, jurist, economist, political theorist, and social reformer, is a figure of outstanding importance in our intellectual heritage. A new definitive edition of The Collected Works of Jeremy Bentham is being prepared by the Bentham Project.

Using the database

To get started, click the 'Search' tab above.

For contextual help information, click on the question-mark symbol in the top right at any time.

For a description of the information captured in the database, click on the relevant headings, e.g., 'penner', 'dates' etc. on the simple search screen or the detailed record display.

Further information

For more information on the Bentham Papers visit the Access to Archives web-site http://www.a2a.org.uk/ and enter 'Jeremy Bentham' into the Search box, and from the results choose the link to ‘London University, University College London (UCL) Manuscripts Room: The Bentham Papers'.

For more information on Jeremy Bentham, the Bentham Project, and The Collected Works of Jeremy Bentham visit http://www.uc.ac.uk/Bentham-Project

The database was compiled by Dr Deborah McVea, supported by a grant from the Arts and Humanities Research Council’s Resource Enhancement Scheme.
The Transcription Desk

Transcribe Bentham
Welcome to the Transcription Desk

The Transcription Desk is the heart of a major online initiative to transcribe the manuscripts of Jeremy Bentham from the archives of University College London. The project is funded by the AHRC, and managed by UCL Bentham Project and UCL Digital Humanities, with the support of the University of London Computer Centre.

Researchers and students interested in the works of Jeremy Bentham are invited to assist us by using the Transcription Desk to type up the text of the manuscripts. For each manuscript to be transcribed, the Transcription Desk shows a digital image of the manuscript and an online text editor to enter and edit your transcription of the text.

New users
- Create an account
- Getting Started
- Find out more about the project and how to get involved
- Watch videos about Jeremy Bentham

Existing users
- Registered users can login here
- Transcription Guidelines
- Select a Manuscript
- Discussion Forum
- Transcribe Bentham Blog

Further information
- Help on using the Transcription Desk
- Check out the project's latest news
- Technical Requirements
- Code of conduct
- Contact the project
- List of Users

http://www.transcribe-bentham.da.ulcc.ac.uk/td/Transcribe_Bentham and http://blogs.ucl.ac.uk/transcribe-bentham
Transcribing, and the TEI transcription toolbar

Transcription toolbar features:
- Button: pb
- Function: Line Break
- Rendering: text

Editing JB/096/271/001

"Of a liberty pure from every taint of faction
which seeks its security <add>stabilisation</add>
in the manner <add>by</add> methods <add></add>
the most regular and the most legal, which
entertains <add>harbours</add> not an intention a thought, nor so much
as a dream of violence . . . . . <add>anything that is incompatible with peace</add>
which knows not what it is to be wanting
in obedience <add>reverence</add> <add>Allegiance</add> to the great . . . . . of power <add>note</add> . . . . .
resolved if successful to exalt with gratitude
if <add>time</add> otherwise, to lament with temper.
"2014: But saying <add><unclear>meaning-full</unclear></add> when I say <add>temper</add> not that of
a Heliot but of an Englishman."
N0 7 p. 483. June 1706. Direction by the Governor

"that none but of these persons who had obtained licenses
*should presume to carry on a traffic with settlers or others
*who might have grain to dispose of, by paying for such
*grain in spirits. He assured them, that should any
*persons, &c. thereafter discovered to have carried on so destructive
*a trade, their licenses would immediately be recalled,
*and such steps taken for their further punishment as they
*might be thought to deserve. He also desired as might be
*understood, that trading with spirits to the extent which he
*found practiced was strictly forbidden to others, as well as
"to those who had licensed public houses"[1] ... of the houses during the year?" If not,
grain
what would have been the [ ... ] or value of a license?

Proof of the utility[1][2] of a view of something which should diminish the occasion use of spirits
which is what was here in. "With a view to check the drunkenness
*that persisted in the different districts, the Governor
*had directed licenses for retailing spirituals [3] to be given
*to certain deserving characters in cash, [4] viz. as per N0 4 [ ... it] "but it was not
*found to answer the effect he expected" — (And did he
*really then expect it?) Instead of the settlers being disposed
*to industry, they still indulged themselves (continues)
*Captain Collins in inebriety and idleness, and robberies
*was appeared to be committed more frequently than formerly.
Transcribe Bentham quality control workflow

1. Manuscript transcribed by volunteer
2. Transcript submitted by volunteer
3. Transcript moderated and edited by editorial staff
4. Is the transcript of the required standard?
   - Yes: Transcript locked
     - Transcript converted to XML, ready for uploading to UCL digital collection
   - No: Transcript left unlocked for further editing and improvement
Manuscripts worked on by registered volunteers, 8 September 2010 to 1 August 2014

Number of volunteers

Number of transcripts worked on

1  2  3  4  5 to 20  21 to 50  51 to 100  101 to 200  201 to 500  501 to 999  1000+

271  77  29  9  27  6  6  4  5  1  5
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<th>Username</th>
<th>Began participating</th>
<th>Still participating?</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>No. of manuscripts worked on</th>
<th>Average MSS worked on per week</th>
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<td>28 Dec 2010</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
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<td>7</td>
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<td>Clarabloomer</td>
<td>30 Dec 2010</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>US</td>
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<td>Diane Folan</td>
<td>22 Sept 2010</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>UK</td>
<td>1,198</td>
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<td>Lea Stern</td>
<td>4 Jan 2011</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>US</td>
<td>1,314</td>
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<td>Lidunn</td>
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<td>No</td>
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<td>75</td>
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<td>Mfoutz</td>
<td>29 Dec 2010</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>US</td>
<td>133</td>
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<td>Duyfken</td>
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<td>No</td>
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<td>No</td>
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<td>Ohsoldgirl</td>
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<td>OlganNM</td>
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<td>No</td>
<td>UK</td>
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<td>Petergh</td>
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<td>UK</td>
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<td>Keithompson</td>
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<td>Yes</td>
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<td>Robmagin</td>
<td>29 May 2013</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>2</td>
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<td>Laura Terry</td>
<td>13 July 2013</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>UK</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>1</td>
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<td>S.D. Croft</td>
<td>5 Jan 2014</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>UK</td>
<td>336</td>
<td>12</td>
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<td>David</td>
<td>16 Feb 2014</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>US</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>10</td>
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<td>TCMemoire</td>
<td>13 March 2014</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>US</td>
<td>275</td>
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<td>Trascribiris</td>
<td>2 April 2014</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Netherlands</td>
<td>99</td>
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<td>Diane Jonker</td>
<td>2 April 2014</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<td>272</td>
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<td>Chris Riley</td>
<td>12 May 2014</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>UK</td>
<td>1,025</td>
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<td>Hanatori71</td>
<td>5 June 2014</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>6</td>
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Transcribe Bentham volunteers

• 97% of survey respondents educated to at least undergraduate level; 25% had achieved a doctorate.

• Two-thirds of survey respondents were female (most ‘Super Transcribers are female).

• More than a third of respondents were academics or students at various levels of higher education. Others include those working in the arts, editing, and IT.

• Almost a tenth of respondents were retirees (several ‘Super Transcribers’ are retired).

• Two-thirds of respondents were at least 41 years of age, and a fifth were over the age of sixty.
Volunteer motivations

- Interest in the technology and/or crowdsourcing: 30
- Interest in history/philosophy: 31
- Being part of something collaborative: 22
- Addition of new material: 10
- Competition: 2
- Recognition: 1
- Other: 15
- Interest in Bentham: 11
What dissuaded people from taking part?

- Money
- Unable to easily find untranscribed manuscripts
- Intimidation/fear of not being good enough
- Complexity of instructions
- Lack of time
- Text encoding
- Bentham's handwriting

No. of answers
Download the Transcription Desk code from:
https://github.com/onothimagen/cbp-transcription-desk
TB Mark II: ‘Wikitext’ tab for transcribing and encoding
I must defer to another day what concerns the question between an Irish and an English Architect, as likewise a few other matters. But of these there is nothing that need you detain you in London.

In my letter of yesterday I gave you reason to expect this letter in the course of the present day. On second thoughts I thought it better to defer the sending of it till early tomorrow morning as by that means my messenger may if you think proper bring me back an answer, which by the post I could not have before Tuesday — [r]

I and found by the way a time (?) there were no signs of your departure as to day.  
I have the honour to be with the truest respect  
Sir Your most obedient humble serv[er]

Jeremy Bentham

R[2] [3] Mr's John Parnell
&c. &c. &c.

[1] Only for the purpose of answering this
[2] This was a mistake. Sir J. was already gone
TB Mark II: ‘Changes’ tab to show alterations made since the transcript was last saved
Transcribe Bentham progress, 8 September 2010 to 1 August 2014

Number of transcripts

Period 1

Period 2

Period 3

Period 4

Period 1
Period 2
Period 3
Period 4

Manuscripts worked on
Completed transcripts
Monthly rate of transcription, 8 September 2010 to 1 August 2014

Number of transcripts

Period 1
Period 2
Period 3
Period 4

Manuscripts worked on
Average number of manuscripts worked on (week)
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Period length, days (weeks)</th>
<th>Transcripts approved</th>
<th>Average no. of manuscripts approved, daily (weekly)</th>
<th>No. of working days spent checking transcripts</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8 Sept 2010 to 8 March 2011</td>
<td>182 (25)</td>
<td>1,009</td>
<td>6 (40)</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 March 2011 to 30 Sept 2012</td>
<td>572 (81)</td>
<td>3,403</td>
<td>6 (42)</td>
<td>81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Oct 2012 to 15 July 2013</td>
<td>286 (40)</td>
<td>1,295</td>
<td>5 (38)</td>
<td>17</td>
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<tr>
<td>16 July 2013 to 27 June 2014</td>
<td>346 (49)</td>
<td>3,118</td>
<td>9 (64)</td>
<td>16</td>
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</table>
Time spent checking submitted transcripts, 1 October 2012 to 27 June 2014
Quality-control process showing alterations to text and TEI mark-up, 1 October 2012 to 27 June 2014.
Number of changes to text required before acceptance (1 Oct 2012 to 27 June 2014)
Number of changes to mark-up required before acceptance (1 Oct 2012 to 27 June 2014)

- Old system
- New system
- Overall
Impact of *Transcribe Bentham* on the Bentham Project

- UCL Bentham Papers: 60,000 folios
- British Library Bentham Papers: 12,500 folios
- **Total transcripts required:** 100,000

- **Pre *Transcribe Bentham*: 1984-2010:** c. 28,000 transcripts produced by Bentham Project staff. Average of **1,076** per year; would take 67 years to transcribe remainder of collection

- **Transcribe Bentham: 8 September 2010 to 2 May 2014:** 10,195 transcripts from volunteers. Average rate of **2,652** per year; would take another 27 years for volunteers to transcribe the collection
• An EC FP7-funded project, in the ICT for Learning and Access to Cultural Resources challenge

• **Project consortium**

  • Universitat Politècnica de València – UPV (Spain) – lead institution
  • Universiy of Innsbruck (Austria)
  • National Center for Scientific Research “Demokritos” (Greece)
  • University College London (UK)
  • Institute for Dutch Lexicology (Netherlands)
  • University London Computer Centre (UK)

• [www.transcriptorium.eu](http://www.transcriptorium.eu)
• [@transcriptorium](https://twitter.com/transcriptorium)
With thanks to:

- Prof Philip Schofield (UCL Bentham Project, Principal Investigator)
- Dr Melissa Terras (UCL Centre for Digital Humanities)
- Richard Davis (University of London Computer Centre)
- José Martin (ULCC)
- Martin Moyle (UCL Library Services)
- Lesley Pitman (UCL Library Services)
- Tony Slade (UCL Creative Media)
- Miguel Faleiro Rodrigues, Alejandro Salinas Lopez, and Raheel Nabi (UCL Creative Media)
- Dr Arnold Hunt (British Library)
- Kris Grint (Bentham Project)
- Anna-Maria Sichani (Bentham Project)
- Dr Justin Tonra (National University of Ireland Galway) and Dr Valerie Wallace (Victoria University Wellington), bother formerly of the Bentham Project

- And Transcribe Bentham’s volunteers!

- Project currently funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation