A Diplomatic Digital Edition of Pliny the Elder's Bamberg Manuscript

This paper will explicate recent discoveries in our undergraduate manuscript club's conversion of Pliny the Elder's *Natural History* Book 36, Bamberg Class. 42 (M.V.10), into a diplomatic TEI (digital) edition. This new information should reinforce and develop existing scholarship on Pliny the Elder.

We have been utilizing open-license photographs of the text, which are particularly valuable because previous research only occurred during brief observations at the Bamberg State Library. It appears that various modern editions of the text, such as the Loeb Classical Text, still use a similar system of chapter divisions to this manuscript. Where the Loeb uses numbers, the Bamberg manuscript uses a capital letter and an e-dent. The Bamberg manuscript may also include subsections designated by capital letters within the text without the e-dent.

Moreover, Bamberg Class. 42 (M.V.10) shows evidence of a potential collaboration between at least two scribes. Certain letters are written in different script, while some words within the text appear to have been corrected by another hand. This discovery suggests the existence of a supervisor and may be a valuable addition to an *apparatus criticus* of the *Natural History.*

We have also made several editing decisions which intend to make the XML document of the manuscript most accessible to a public sphere. All abbreviations and scribal corrections are expressed within the XML as both original and expanded forms. High-stops and low-stops, which can be ambiguous forms of punctuation, are designated by colons and periods respectively. Roman numerals are designated by capital letters, which are better understood by the modern reader.

The project is taking great steps forward and expects to advance significantly by October, so new additions to this paper should likely be expected before presentation. The research with the Bamberg manuscript has a bright future ahead.

Note on audio-visual equipment: We would like to project images of the manuscript during the presentation, and, thus, will need a projector.