



HAL
open science

Review Article: The Bergen Electronic Edition of Wittgenstein's Nachlass: Wittgenstein's Nachlass

David Stern

► **To cite this version:**

David Stern. Review Article: The Bergen Electronic Edition of Wittgenstein's Nachlass: Wittgenstein's Nachlass. *European Journal of Philosophy*, 2010, 18 (3), pp.455-467. 10.1111/j.1468-0378.2010.00425.x . hal-01625868

HAL Id: hal-01625868

<https://hal.science/hal-01625868v1>

Submitted on 29 Oct 2017

HAL is a multi-disciplinary open access archive for the deposit and dissemination of scientific research documents, whether they are published or not. The documents may come from teaching and research institutions in France or abroad, or from public or private research centers.

L'archive ouverte pluridisciplinaire **HAL**, est destinée au dépôt et à la diffusion de documents scientifiques de niveau recherche, publiés ou non, émanant des établissements d'enseignement et de recherche français ou étrangers, des laboratoires publics ou privés.



Review Article

The Bergen Electronic Edition of Wittgenstein's *Nachlass*

David Stern

Ludwig Wittgenstein, Wittgenstein's Nachlass: Text and Facsimile Version. The Bergen Electronic Edition. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2000.
Windows Individual User Version. Text and Facsimiles, £1100.00+VAT; Text Only, £700.00+VAT. Network Version, Text and Facsimiles, £2500.00+VAT; Text Only, £1750.00+VAT

1. Introduction

Wittgenstein's *Nachlass* consists of over 20,000 pages of manuscripts and typescripts. Because Wittgenstein published barely 25,000 words of philosophical writing during his lifetime—the *Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus* (1922) and a very short conference paper—the papers that he left unpublished have played an unusually large role in the reception of his work. The posthumous publications, almost all of them based on materials in his *Nachlass*, contain well over a million words. As the *Nachlass* as a whole contains approximately three million words, one might estimate that roughly a third of Wittgenstein's writing is in print. However, as much of the material that was not edited for publication consists of early versions, rearrangements, and other source material for the previously published material, one could argue that considerably more than a third of his *Nachlass* has already seen the light of day in one form or another. On the other hand, because Wittgenstein never copy-edited any of these papers for publication, each of the posthumous books and papers called for substantial editorial decisions about the content, and how to present it. Consequently, almost all of the twentieth-century publications from the *Nachlass* were extensively edited, often with little or no indication of the relationship between the source texts and the published material, and so one could argue that very little of the *Nachlass* has been available in print.¹ A number of more recent publications, such as the critical-genetical German language edition of the *Philosophical Investigations* (Wittgenstein 2001) and the German-English scholars' edition of the *Big Typescript* (Wittgenstein 2005) are sophisticated critical editions. They make use of the information provided in the Bergen edition to present not only the final state of the text, but also such matters as undecided variant wording, marginal marks, and the different stages of revision, by means of footnotes and the use of an elaborate apparatus. The 'Vienna edition' of the manuscripts and typescripts from the 1929 to 1932 period (Wittgenstein 1993a, 1994-) however, is the product of a separate editing project.

The Bergen electronic edition, freed from the constraints of print publication, provides much more detailed information about each page of the manuscripts and typescripts that make up the Wittgenstein papers. The organizing principle is Georg Henrik von Wright's

1 catalogue of the papers, which lists 83 manuscripts (101–183), 46 typescripts, (201–246),
2 and 11 dictations (301–11). There are approximately 5000 pages of typescripts, a few
3 manuscripts on loose sheets, with the remainder written in bound volumes and notebooks.
4 All references to a specific place in the *Nachlass* are provided in terms of a manuscript
5 number and page number, and search results are always displayed in that order.²

6 In the early 1990s, the first director of the Bergen Wittgenstein Archive, Claus Huitfeldt,
7 a Norwegian philosopher and computer specialist, led the development of the multi-
8 element coding system (MECS) used to produce the digital transcriptions of the source
9 texts. This ‘machine-readable version’, a set of marked-up and encoded transcriptions that
10 aims to record as much of the relevant information about the text as the editors consider
11 appropriate, is the basis of the Bergen electronic edition, but is substantially different from
12 it.³ The machine-readable version can be thought of as a database that systematically
13 encodes the results of the transcribers’ work; the Bergen electronic edition was generated
14 from that database. Transcription, coding, and editing these materials took over ten years,
15 forty man-years of work, and a budget of 14 million Norwegian kroner, or approximately
16 £1,000,000 at the 2001 rate of exchange.⁴ The Bergen Edition comprises over 21,000 colour
17 facsimiles of almost every page of Wittgenstein’s papers, two different editions of the 3
18 million or so words on those pages, and a custom-built search engine.

19 The distinction between the database containing the machine-readable transcriptions,
20 the edited versions of that material presented by the *Bergen Electronic Edition*, and other
21 realizations of that database may seem to be an arcane point of electronic editorial
22 philology to scholars who simply want to read the *Nachlass*. However, those machine-level
23 transcriptions have already served as the basis for other presentations of those texts, both
24 in the server-based Intelix edition of the *Bergen Electronic Edition* and the open-access web-
25 based *Discovery* project currently under development. Furthermore, that distinction
26 between the transcription, usually recorded in computer code, and the resultant editions,
27 prepared for the ordinary reader, is essential for an appreciation of two crucial differences
28 between digital and print publishing. Digital publishing not only opens up the possibility
29 of new ways of working with texts, but the software that provides access to a digital text
30 can also prevent one from doing things that we take for granted with books, such as
31 making copies.⁵ At first sight, it may look as if a scholarly digital edition of an author’s
32 writing is no more than an up-to-date repackaging of familiar components, each of which
33 can be found in the world of scholarly print publishing, such as facsimiles, the
34 concordance, and the critical edition. However, a published book is a physical object, a
35 bound codex, a text that has taken on a definite form. A digital edition is a virtual object,
36 presented in a software package, in which a text can take on multiple forms. Printing a
37 scholarly edition of an author’s writing requires that the editor settle on a specific way of
38 presenting the text. A digital edition, on the other hand, permits multiple ways of
39 presenting and manipulating the transcription of the text. While both print and digital
40 editing involve transcription, digital editing requires additional decision-making:

41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50
51
52
53
54
55
56
57
58
59
60
61
62
63
64
65
66
67
68
69
70
71
72
73
74
75
76
77
78
79
80
81
82
83
84
85
86
87
88
89
90
91
92
93
94
95
96
97
98
99
100
101
102
103
104
105
106
107
108
109
110
111
112
113
114
115
116
117
118
119
120
121
122
123
124
125
126
127
128
129
130
131
132
133
134
135
136
137
138
139
140
141
142
143
144
145
146
147
148
149
150
151
152
153
154
155
156
157
158
159
160
161
162
163
164
165
166
167
168
169
170
171
172
173
174
175
176
177
178
179
180
181
182
183
184
185
186
187
188
189
190
191
192
193
194
195
196
197
198
199
200
201
202
203
204
205
206
207
208
209
210
211
212
213
214
215
216
217
218
219
220
221
222
223
224
225
226
227
228
229
230
231
232
233
234
235
236
237
238
239
240
241
242
243
244
245
246
247
248
249
250
251
252
253
254
255
256
257
258
259
260
261
262
263
264
265
266
267
268
269
270
271
272
273
274
275
276
277
278
279
280
281
282
283
284
285
286
287
288
289
290
291
292
293
294
295
296
297
298
299
300
301
302
303
304
305
306
307
308
309
310
311
312
313
314
315
316
317
318
319
320
321
322
323
324
325
326
327
328
329
330
331
332
333
334
335
336
337
338
339
340
341
342
343
344
345
346
347
348
349
350
351
352
353
354
355
356
357
358
359
360
361
362
363
364
365
366
367
368
369
370
371
372
373
374
375
376
377
378
379
380
381
382
383
384
385
386
387
388
389
390
391
392
393
394
395
396
397
398
399
400
401
402
403
404
405
406
407
408
409
410
411
412
413
414
415
416
417
418
419
420
421
422
423
424
425
426
427
428
429
430
431
432
433
434
435
436
437
438
439
440
441
442
443
444
445
446
447
448
449
450
451
452
453
454
455
456
457
458
459
460
461
462
463
464
465
466
467
468
469
470
471
472
473
474
475
476
477
478
479
480
481
482
483
484
485
486
487
488
489
490
491
492
493
494
495
496
497
498
499
500
501
502
503
504
505
506
507
508
509
510
511
512
513
514
515
516
517
518
519
520
521
522
523
524
525
526
527
528
529
530
531
532
533
534
535
536
537
538
539
540
541
542
543
544
545
546
547
548
549
550
551
552
553
554
555
556
557
558
559
560
561
562
563
564
565
566
567
568
569
570
571
572
573
574
575
576
577
578
579
580
581
582
583
584
585
586
587
588
589
590
591
592
593
594
595
596
597
598
599
600
601
602
603
604
605
606
607
608
609
610
611
612
613
614
615
616
617
618
619
620
621
622
623
624
625
626
627
628
629
630
631
632
633
634
635
636
637
638
639
640
641
642
643
644
645
646
647
648
649
650
651
652
653
654
655
656
657
658
659
660
661
662
663
664
665
666
667
668
669
670
671
672
673
674
675
676
677
678
679
680
681
682
683
684
685
686
687
688
689
690
691
692
693
694
695
696
697
698
699
700
701
702
703
704
705
706
707
708
709
710
711
712
713
714
715
716
717
718
719
720
721
722
723
724
725
726
727
728
729
730
731
732
733
734
735
736
737
738
739
740
741
742
743
744
745
746
747
748
749
750
751
752
753
754
755
756
757
758
759
760
761
762
763
764
765
766
767
768
769
770
771
772
773
774
775
776
777
778
779
780
781
782
783
784
785
786
787
788
789
790
791
792
793
794
795
796
797
798
799
800
801
802
803
804
805
806
807
808
809
810
811
812
813
814
815
816
817
818
819
820
821
822
823
824
825
826
827
828
829
830
831
832
833
834
835
836
837
838
839
840
841
842
843
844
845
846
847
848
849
850
851
852
853
854
855
856
857
858
859
860
861
862
863
864
865
866
867
868
869
870
871
872
873
874
875
876
877
878
879
880
881
882
883
884
885
886
887
888
889
890
891
892
893
894
895
896
897
898
899
900
901
902
903
904
905
906
907
908
909
910
911
912
913
914
915
916
917
918
919
920
921
922
923
924
925
926
927
928
929
930
931
932
933
934
935
936
937
938
939
940
941
942
943
944
945
946
947
948
949
950
951
952
953
954
955
956
957
958
959
960
961
962
963
964
965
966
967
968
969
970
971
972
973
974
975
976
977
978
979
980
981
982
983
984
985
986
987
988
989
990
991
992
993
994
995
996
997
998
999
1000

When one is transcribing for a traditional edition, the choices are bounded by the characters available in the printer’s fount; furthermore, the end of the transcription is its printing, and not its distribution in electronic form. But one can expect a computer-readable transcription to be searched, analyzed, and edited in ways not possible with a printed transcription.(Robinson 1997: 150)

It is also important to distinguish between limitations due to choices made in producing the encoding protocols, limitations that could only be overcome by first altering those

1 protocols and then revising the transcriptions, and those due to Folio Views, the software
 2 package used in the *Bergen Electronic Edition*. The version of Folio Views in the *Bergen*
 3 *Electronic Edition* was developed in the early 1990s, when Windows 3.1 was the standard
 4 operating system and only computer experts knew how to use a web browser. Because
 5 Folio Views is employed in the Past Masters series of electronic editions of the works of
 6 many of the most important figures in the history of philosophy, it is a familiar
 7 environment for many philosophers. Because the customer base is so small, it is sold at a
 8 price that only well-endowed institutions can afford. As of spring 2007, approximately 150
 9 copies of the complete edition (text and facsimiles), 40 copies of the text-only version, plus
 10 an additional 70 copies of the first volume (text and facsimiles) had been sold. In other
 11 words, the market for such technology has, so far, guaranteed it a 'niche' role where it is
 12 only accessible to relatively few researchers. However, as the results of the work of the first
 13 generation of users of this software reaches a broader audience, and as the transcription
 14 work of the WAB is more widely disseminated via initiatives such as the *Discovery* project,
 15 which will make some 5000 pages of the *Nachlass* freely available on the Web, we can
 16 expect that the digital turn in Wittgenstein studies, like the web browser, will eventually
 17 reach a wider audience. In order for the Bergen transcription of the Wittgenstein *Nachlass*
 18 to be made available in this way, the original MECS code must be translated into XML, the
 19 emerging standard for web-based encoding. While the editor's work is done when a
 20 traditional scholarly text is published, an electronic text, like any other software, must
 21 constantly keep up with emerging standards or rapidly become obsolete. Alois Pichler,
 22 who took over the leadership of the Bergen Wittgenstein Archive just as the *Bergen*
 23 *Electronic Edition* was published, has done precisely what was needed to ensure that the
 24 work of the Archive remains not only relevant but also innovative.⁶ Another promising
 25 development is the publication of the Innsbruck electronic edition of Wittgenstein's
 26 correspondence (Wittgenstein 2004), which includes hyperlinks to a substantial and
 27 informative commentary, biographical information about people, places and literature
 28 mentioned in the letters, and a timeline of Wittgenstein's activities.

29 2. Using the Bergen Electronic Edition

30 On starting up the software, the reader arrives at a Contents page containing links to six
 31 options. Three of them are comparable to the 'front matter' of a printed book: an
 32 introduction to the *Nachlass* and the editorial decisions, a user guide explaining how to use
 33 Folio Views, and the usual 'Read Me' file about installation.⁷ The other three provide three
 34 different ways of looking at the papers: colour photographs of each page of the source text,
 35 a detailed 'diplomatic' edition of that text that shows as much information as possible, and
 36 a 'normalized' edition that leaves out such matters as variant wording and information
 37 about deleted text.⁸ Roughly speaking, the 'diplomatic' edition shows a letter-by-letter
 38 representation of every semantically significant mark on the page, while the 'normalized'
 39 edition shows each word at the end of the writing process. The diplomatic edition is a
 40 detailed representation of the state of the original manuscript; the normalized edition is an
 41 edited text that can be read more smoothly. Thus, the diplomatic edition shows mis-
 42 spelled words, and words written in Wittgenstein's letter-replacement code as they stand
 43 on the page; it includes words that are crossed out, deleted, inserted or subsequently
 44 revised. The normalized edition corrects spelling, shows words written in code in their
 45 decoded form, and includes only the last version of wording that has been revised. Links
 between each page of the normalized and diplomatic editions, and the facsimiles, make it

1 easy to move between the different representations of the text, and to check on the editorial
2 work. Close readers interested in rejected alternatives, marginalia, and the intricacies of
3 Wittgenstein's rewriting process will ordinarily turn to the diplomatic edition; readers
4 who prefer a clean final text will usually prefer the normalized edition. In some cases, such
5 as an unedited typescript, the differences between the three are negligible, and it is often
6 easiest to bring up the facsimile of the typescript. In others, where the text has been
7 repeatedly revised, a careful reader will need to move between all three representations.

8 The transcriptions include an elaborate system of 'tags' that track many semantically
9 significant features. One can limit a search to a specified period, volume or group of
10 volumes, to words written in German, in Wittgenstein's letter replacement code, English,
11 French, or Latin; to symbols in logical, mathematical, set-theoretical notation, musical, or
12 miscellaneous notations; to people, a category that covers not only historical figures,
13 famous people, family and friends, but also fictional characters; or for one of the many
14 diagrams and drawings. In each case, clicking on that search option opens a drop-down
15 list of relevant choices; clicking on any of those choices lets one know how many hits there
16 are for that search term. Results can be displayed in a variety of customized formats. It is
17 easy to combine a number of different terms, for instance to collect results for a family of
18 words. Because one searches a previously generated database, results are displayed
19 immediately, even for complex searches with hundreds of hits. Both editions also include
20 2,500 images of Wittgenstein's drawings, diagrams, musical scores, and similar material
21 that cannot be encoded using the specialized mark-up language. The careful handling of
22 the extensive range of graphical symbols, which are often essential to the accompanying
23 discussion, is particularly impressive.⁹

24 When the *Bergen Electronic Edition* was produced, it was expected that users would
25 insert one of five data CDs as needed in order to view the facsimiles. Fortunately, there is
26 plenty of room on today's hard drive for 4GB of images, and it is relatively simple to
27 redirect the software to the new location. Similarly, while the image display program
28 provided is incompatible with Windows XP, one can easily replace it with the viewer of
29 one's choice.

30 The version of the online (server based) edition available at the time of writing did not
31 include any images at all, though there were plans to do so eventually. An even bigger
32 limitation is that it only displays one very short passage at once. In the Windows package,
33 the diplomatic or normalized edition provides a window that can show the complete set of
34 texts, from the beginning of MS 101 to the end of TS 310. It is easy to customize the display
35 to show selected texts, or to flip to a 'contents' display in order to find a given page more
36 easily, but it is crucial that one can move to any part of the text without any delay. At first,
37 it can seem overwhelming, but it is enormously helpful to be able to have as many
38 windows open as one needs, each showing the relevant passages in full. With the online
39 edition, one can only view a few paragraphs at once, even the simplest searches take a long
40 time if one is accessing the server via a remote connection, and the ability to 'cut and paste'
41 is disabled. In the Windows version of the *Bergen Electronic Edition*, with a little training
42 in the appropriate techniques, one can cut whatever parts one needs to examine further and
43 paste them into a word processing document. The cut and paste option is admittedly fairly
44 crude, as there is no control over the format of the output, which shows only part of the
45 detailed onscreen display, yet still leaves a host of data and formatting that one needs to
remove manually before one has a clean text to work with. 'Export to MS Word' or 'ASCII
text only' options would have been welcome.

Before the publication of the Bergen edition, the only public access to the *Nachlass* was
by means of microfilm, or transcripts of unpublished sources of the *Philosophical*

1 *Investigations* produced and circulated by G. H. von Wright, assisted by Heikki Nyman and
 2 André Maury. Indeed, it was not until the end of the 1960s, with the production of the
 3 'Cornell' microfilm of the *Nachlass*, and the publication of von Wright's catalogue and
 4 guide to 'The Wittgenstein Papers' (1969), that research on the Wittgenstein papers became
 5 possible. Anyone interested in working on the *Nachlass* should start by reading the most
 6 recent version of von Wright's catalogue, and his pioneering studies of the composition of
 7 the *Tractatus* and *Philosophical Investigations* (von Wright 1982; see also Stern 1996a, 1996b).
 8 Despite the difficulties involved in working with this material, the promise it held for a
 9 deeper understanding of Wittgenstein's work meant that a remarkably large number of
 10 books were written during the 1980 and 1990s that made extensive use of it.

11 Garth Hallett's *Companion to Wittgenstein's 'Philosophical Investigations'* (1977) was the
 12 first book to give multiple references to the sources of each remark in the *Philosophical*
 13 *Investigations*, and to include frequent quotations from the *Nachlass*. Hallett also provided a
 14 reading of the text that turned on an account of the development of Wittgenstein's thought
 15 between the *Tractatus* and the *Philosophical Investigations*. Peter Hacker and Gordon Baker's
 16 multi-volume commentary (Baker and Hacker 1980, 1984; Hacker 1990, 1996) provided a
 17 great deal of information about the multiple manuscript and typescript sources of remarks
 18 in the *Philosophical Investigations*. Much of this information was based on the painstaking
 19 and detailed research by von Wright and Maury on the manuscript and typescript sources
 20 of each remark in Part I of that book, now also available in Maury's list of the 'Sources of
 21 the Remarks in Wittgenstein's *Philosophical Investigations'* (1994) and appendixes to the
 22 critical-genetical edition of the *Philosophical Investigations* (Wittgenstein 2001). The *Bergen*
 23 *Electronic Edition* does facilitate the exploration of these—and other—processes of
 24 rewriting connecting the various stages of revision, compilation, reorganization, selection,
 25 and rearrangement that are characteristic of his writing. However, there are no hyperlinks
 26 connecting earlier and later drafts, and there are no tags marking these connections that
 27 would enable one to search for them systematically. In practice, it is rarely difficult to find
 28 earlier or later drafts of a given passage, as one just has to use the main search window to
 29 look for a few of the less common phrases in the remark in question. Readers wishing to
 30 explore the systematic links between the *Philosophical Investigations* and its sources, or the
 31 complex process of revision that leads from the manuscript notebooks from 1929–1932 to
 32 the various typescripts based on them, will find a great deal of invaluable guidance in the
 33 previous literature on the topic.¹⁰ However, it is unfortunate that none of this information
 34 was built into the *Bergen Electronic Edition*, and given the proprietary nature of the
 35 software, there is no facility for an individual researcher to add it in.

36 The basic unit in Wittgenstein's process of revision is the remark, a passage that may be
 37 as short as a single sentence, or as long as a sequence of paragraphs stretching over several
 38 pages. Typically, remarks are separate from one another by a blank line, and are usually
 39 numbered sequentially in the more polished typescripts—each numbered section in Part I
 40 of the *Philosophical Investigations* is a remark. Unfortunately, there is no systematic way of
 41 tracking or searching for remarks in the *Bergen Electronic Edition*, and line breaks are not
 42 shown in either of the editions. When I discussed the prospect of an electronic edition in
 43 1996, I certainly imagined that it would be as easy to trace Wittgenstein's process of
 44 revision as his use of key terms, and it is disappointing that the *Bergen Electronic Edition*
 45 does not support searches for remarks or blank lines between paragraphs. Coding for
 blank lines was included in MECS, the Bergen transcription protocol, but due to problems
 with the automated conversion process used to move the MECS data into the Folio Views
 format, that information was not included. Line breaks and the beginning of remarks will
 be shown in the improved diplomatic and normalized editions of the Wittgenstein

Nachlass in the next-generation *Discovery* website.¹¹ The display has also been made more intuitive; for instance, insertions above or below a line show up as superscripts or subscripts.

Wittgenstein often put marginal marks, or sigla, in the margin at the beginning of a remark to indicate plans for revision or reorganization, but never provided a key. There is some consensus about the overall interpretation of a few of the most common signs. Examples include 'S' for 'Schlecht', (bad) a '/' for manuscript remarks to be transcribed in a typescript of selections from that manuscript, and wavy lines in the margin as a way of indicating his dissatisfaction with the wording (the latter is also used under particular words for the same reason). However, such construals are at best reasonably well established hypotheses. While the sigla are included in the diplomatic transcription (but not the normalized one), they do not show up in a search, and the transcription can be inconsistent. Tuomas Manninen pointed out that two capital 'L's, sometimes written somewhat sloppily, are used frequently in MS 137, but are transcribed as 'l.h.' on pages 86a-b, 'h.l.' on pages 88a-b, and 'l.l.' on page 91b, even though there is very little variation in the way they are written on those pages. According to Schulte (1993, 6) 'L.L.' indicated that the relevant remark was 'to be included in MS 144, a loose-leaf (= L.L.) folder on whose contents Part II of the *Philosophical Investigations* is based'.

There has been very little explicit discussion of Wittgenstein's use of sigla and other related editorial techniques in his manuscripts.¹² The only extended discussion of this issue in print is by Josef Rothhaupt (1996: 327–39; 2008.) Indeed, Rothhaupt observes that even in the cases that seem most straightforward, the evidence for the usual reading is not unequivocal. For instance, there is an 'S' in front of the first manuscript record of the Nestroy passage that became the motto to the *Philosophical Investigations*. Clearly, this shows that we cannot take an 'S' as a sign that Wittgenstein had given up on using a remark, or had decided that it was plain 'bad'. Perhaps it meant only that he wasn't entirely happy with it, or that he was planning to have some of the remarks typed up and didn't want to include the remarks marked 'S'. We cannot rule out the possibility that Wittgenstein used the same marks for different purposes in different manuscripts, or at different stages of revision. Indeed, in the case of some of the more elaborate sigla, it is far from clear whether the differences between certain inscriptions are merely orthographic, or should be taken as distinguishing different sigla, let alone how the various sigla interact when several are written on top of one another. Given that we lack a good grasp of the semantics of Wittgenstein's sigla, the question of how to reidentify a siglum—which marks count as the same siglum—becomes pressing. Recently, Rothhaupt (2008) has proposed that a 'Kringel'—a circular siglum, or round squiggle—indicates Wittgenstein's selection of remarks for a book, complete with motto and preface, drawing from manuscripts written between October 1929 and September 1931. Rothhaupt calls this the 'Kringel Buch' text corpus. This is an intriguing and extremely promising proposal that brings together many of Wittgenstein's most interesting writings from this period in an unexpected way, and I regret that space limitations prevent me from discussing it further here.

3. Results of a Close Study of the Transcription

Working with Tuomas Manninen, my graduate student research assistant at the time, we compared passages from the diplomatic edition of four manuscripts (105, 114, 142, and 183) and four typescripts (226, 227a, 233b, 235) against the facsimiles, and a published version, in those cases where one was available.¹³ I chose a variety of different materials

1 for review, from different periods of Wittgenstein's career, and of different levels of
2 editorial complexity. We looked not only for errors in transcription, but also for places
3 where the transcription methods were insufficient to capture details in the source text.

4 Like Joachim Schulte, the only other reviewer who has reported on extensive checking
5 of the quality of the editing, we found that the quality of the transcribers' work varied:
6 'mostly it was good, sometimes it was excellent, and occasionally it was disappointing'.¹⁴
7 In the best cases, we found a mistake every few pages; at worst, an average of several
8 mistakes per page. The vast majority were minor errors of transcription, punctuation, or
9 spelling, and some were certainly debatable; the most serious involved the complete
10 omission of phrases or sentences. Looking at a variety of materials not only allowed us to
11 look at the work of different transcribers, but also to consider some of the strengths and
12 weaknesses of the transcription system itself.

13 TS 226 is an unpublished translation into English, by Rush Rhees, of the beginning of
14 the prewar version of the *Philosophical Investigations*.¹⁵ We were impressed that there were
15 only a few small mistakes in the 12 pages of the diplomatic edition of TS 226 that we
16 reviewed, a typescript with dozens of handwritten changes on most pages, often on every
17 single line. However, we found the handling of typewritten phrases that had been marked
18 for relocation, using square brackets to show the whole passage affected, less than
19 perspicuous. There is a striking example in Wittgenstein's discussion of the difficulty of
20 conceiving of a game as always bounded by rules. In the sentence beginning 'I can well
21 imagine that someone is always in doubt before he opens the door of his house whether a
22 chasm may not have opened on the other side of it ...' (TS 226, 59; cf. *Philosophical
23 Investigations* §84), Wittgenstein had circled 'is always in doubt' and drawn an arrow
24 showing that it should go after 'house,' with the words 'as to' immediately afterward. This
25 is shown in the diplomatic edition with square brackets around the whole passage
26 affected, rather than the words that are relocated, as follows:

26 I can well imagine that someone [is always in doubt before he opens the door of
27 his house] <<↓ as to >> whether a chasm may not have opened on the other side
28 ...

29 We would have preferred a system that placed the brackets around the phrase to be
30 moved, and then indicated the insertion point, along the following lines:

31 I can well imagine that someone [is always in doubt(*)] before he opens the door
32 of his house (*) <<↓ as to >> whether a chasm may not have opened on the other
33 side ...

34 Like most such difficulties with the diplomatic edition, any confusion or unclarity can
35 easily be dispelled by looking at the facsimiles. Indeed, even though the diplomatic edition
36 is extremely thorough, it is usually much easier to follow the handwritten corrections in
37 the facsimile. As the normalized edition does not distinguish between Rhees's words and
38 Wittgenstein's revisions, it is not of much interest.

39 TS 227a is one of the two surviving typescripts of the final version of the *Philosophical
40 Investigations*.¹⁶ We checked 11 pages from TS 227a, and found approximately one small
41 transcription error per page. We also noted the mistaken addition of two extra words in
42 the diplomatic edition ('in' on page 90a, line 1; 'leicht' on page 92, line 6). Cross-checking,
43 we noted that both of these mistakes are repeated in the diplomatic edition of TS 227b,
44 another copy of 227a. This suggested that the transcriptions of the two typescripts are
45 based on one transcription of the shared text.

MS 142 is the earliest draft of the *Philosophical Investigations*, dating from the end of 1936.¹⁷ In ten pages of MS 142, a heavily revised manuscript volume, we identified sixteen minor errors, and two changes of wordings: 'das uns' in the middle of page 106 is replaced by 'welches' in the transcription; 'Leser' on page 110 is replaced by 'Andre' in the transcription. Noticing that both these changes of wording correspond to the wording of the typescript of the next version of this text, TS 220, we formed the hypothesis that the transcription of MS 142 may have been produced by revising a transcription of TS 220, rather than producing it from scratch. In the best of all possible worlds, such expedients would never be adopted. However, the sheer scale of the project must have required some compromises if it was to be brought in on time. Editors who make use of it will be grateful to have so much of their work done for them. The editing of MS 142 and TS 227 in the critical-genetic edition of the *Philosophical Investigations* (Wittgenstein 2001) was exemplary; the intricacies of the source text were unraveled with care in unobtrusive footnotes. Scholars who make use of the *Bergen Electronic Edition* should always check the editing of any passage they study closely, or plan to quote. It should already be clear that it would be a false economy to buy an edition of the *Bergen Electronic Edition* without the facsimiles. The diplomatic edition is an invaluable guide to the intricacies of the source texts, but no replacement for them.

We also noticed a couple of more general transcription issues in TS 227a. The placement of insertions written above the main line of text appeared to be inconsistently handled in the diplomatic edition: sometimes the insertion is transcribed directly after the word it is written above, but at other times, the insertion is placed at the end of the phrase or sentence in question. It may be that the decision about where to place the insertion turned on which location seemed more plausible, but it was hard to discern a clear pattern, and the issue is not addressed in the front matter. Another transcription problem concerned passages that had a circle drawn around them, such as the top two-thirds of page 113. The diplomatic edition shows this as underlining. This is not only contrary to the explanation of the use of underlining in the key, but also makes it impossible to represent the underlined words within the circled passage appropriately.

The most problematic material we reviewed was TS 233, the source for *Zettel*. This is a difficult text to transcribe, as it is not, strictly speaking, a conventional typescript, but rather a collection of heavily revised slips of paper, cut from typescripts, that were glued in their current order by Peter Geach. There can be several layers of revision to transcribe, in different inks and often squeezed into the small space available on the slip. We identified approximately 120 mistakes in the 42 pages of the diplomatic edition of TS 233b that we reviewed, including no less than ten on page 38. While the vast majority were very small, we did find seven passages that had been left out of the diplomatic edition altogether. Also, a couple of substantial passages, each several sentences long, that are shown as insertions in the diplomatic edition (TS 233b, 4a-4b), are not included in the normalized edition. We also noted that the transcription protocol does not distinguish between typed corrections (usually a misspelled word that is crossed out and the correction typed in), and those that are written in later.

TS 235 is a somewhat mysterious document, described by von Wright in his catalogue as a 'Typescript of a Table of Contents to an unidentified work. Date Unknown. 9 pp.'. We were unable to review the editing of this typescript, as the facsimile provided shows a clean typescript, with only a few typed corrections, presumably a carbon copy of the typescript with manuscript corrections noted in the diplomatic edition. This lacuna is not noted in the front matter.

MS 105 is the first of a series of 18 numbered manuscript volumes that Wittgenstein began in February 1929 and continued for over 10 years. It has been published in a

1 scholarly edition as part of the first volume of the Vienna edition, (Wittgenstein 1994). MS
 2 114 is the tenth volume in that series, begun in 1932. We identified an average of only one
 3 minor mistake every two pages, and no missing passages, in the 36 pages we reviewed
 4 from MS 114, an extensively revised manuscript. However, the facsimile for page 43 is
 5 missing, replaced by a second copy of page 44, and this omission is not on the list of
 6 missing pages provided in the front matter. While reviewing this material, we did notice
 7 some limitations to the transcription system's ability to handle the crossing out of signs
 8 and passages. In the case of a deleted dash, or an arrow, the usual method of adding
 9 'strike-through' does not work. In some instances, these problematic deletions are
 10 indicated in the diplomatic edition by a '*', but this convention is not used consistently,
 11 and not mentioned in the front matter. In the case of a crossed-out paragraph, the
 12 transcription conventions do not distinguish between a single line through a paragraph,
 13 and a paragraph that has been crossed out, or has many lines through it. It is unfortunate
 14 that all 'deleted' passages are treated the same way.

15 With one exception, we found the transcription of the first 20 pages of MS 105 was to a
 16 similarly high standard. One surprising small mistake was that an image of a computer
 17 cursor was somehow incorporated into the representation of a logical formula on page
 18 21.¹⁸ The only substantial omission we noted was the motto, 'Hier hilft dem Dummen die
 19 Dummheit allein'. (Here only stupidity helps the stupid), lightly written in pencil under
 20 the title of the volume. MS 105 is one of the few volumes for which only low quality black
 21 and white photos are provided, and the words are barely visible. However, this motto,
 22 taken from Nestroy's play 'Secret Love—Secret Money', and then placed at the very
 23 beginning of an eighteen volume series of manuscript notes, is a serious oversight, and
 24 means that anyone searching for references to Nestroy will only find a few other references
 25 to that author.¹⁹ A search of the person index yields three hits. Two of these are to the
 26 motto of the *Philosophical Investigations*, on page 1 of TSS 227a and 227b, where it is written
 27 in, replacing a typed motto from Heinrich Hertz. The other is to a discussion of the
 28 connections between facial physiognomy and music (MS 154: 26v.) However, there is one
 29 more reference to Nestroy in the *Bergen Electronic Edition*, namely a manuscript note of the
 30 motto of the *Philosophical Investigations*, followed by his name in parentheses (MS 134: 152.)
 31 While this can be found using a regular search for the word 'Nestroy', it does not show up
 32 in a search of the person index, presumably because it was not tagged as a reference to the
 33 playwright.

34 MS 183 contains personal diary entries from the 1930s (published in Wittgenstein 1997,
 35 and translated in Wittgenstein 2003). There were about a dozen small mistakes in over
 36 forty pages of MS 183, and only one missing phrase; almost all of these errors were
 37 corrected in the two-volume Haymon edition of MS 183 (Wittgenstein 1997). The first is a
 38 'normalized' edition, and the second a 'diplomatic' one. However, the 'diplomatic' edition
 39 is somewhat more detailed than the version in the *Bergen Electronic Edition*. It introduces
 40 new symbols for crossed out dashes, crossed out underlining, double underlining, single
 41 letters that are overwritten with another letter (such as replacing a small 'a' by a capital
 42 'A'), and for letters that are written over other letters where the previous letter is no longer
 43 legible.

4. Conclusion

44 The *Bergen Electronic Edition* is an extraordinary editorial achievement. It provides
 45 researchers and editors with unprecedented access to Wittgenstein's unpublished writing

as a whole. It is a landmark contribution to editing in the humanities, both as a state of the art scholarly edition of the papers of a major figure in the history of philosophy, and as one of the first generation of digital editions of the collected work of a canonical author. It will also be of considerable interest to anyone attending to the problems involved in producing a digital edition of a large and complex *Nachlass*. The Bergen edition is not a replacement for the published texts; its principal use will be as a resource enabling editors and researchers to work on the sources of those texts. However, by facilitating new editions and new interpretations of Wittgenstein's work, its impact on our understanding of his philosophy will extend beyond the narrow circle of experts who currently make use of it.²⁰

David Stern
 Department of Philosophy
 The University of Iowa
 USA
 david-stern@uiowa.edu

NOTES

¹ For previous discussion, see Hintikka 1991; Kenny 1976, 2005; Stern 1996a, 1996b. The Bergen edition can also be used to review the editing of the published works. While this information is not provided within the digital edition, Biggs and Pichler 1993 provide detailed charts of the *Nachlass* sources of the published works.

² See von Wright 1969. Revised and updated in Wittgenstein 1993a: 480–510 and in Wittgenstein 2003, with an addendum.

³ The terminology is due to Claus Huitfeldt. See Huitfeldt 1993, 1994a and 1994b.

⁴ These figures are taken from Huitfeldt 2001.

⁵ For further discussion, see Pichler 2002, II; Hrachovec 2000.

⁶ For further information, see http://wab.aksis.uib.no/wab_discovery.page and <http://www.discovery-project.eu/>. For examples of the various display formats, including interactive editions of Wittgenstein manuscripts see <http://www.wittgensteinsource.org/>. See also the brief HyperWittgenstein project description at http://wab.aksis.uib.no/wab_hw.page/. For further discussion, see Hrachovec 2000, 2005; McEwen 2005; Pichler 2002, 2006.

⁷ Hrachovec 2000 reviews some of the difficulties and limitations of using the software on a campus network.

⁸ A few pages could not be photographed; these exceptions are listed in the introduction. A few manuscripts could only be reproduced in black and white photographs, with a quality comparable to a microfilm; the color photographs are of considerably better quality, although they do not show some fine details, such as very light pencil marks. For more detailed discussion, see Schulte 2002: 241.

⁹ For further information, see Biggs and Pichler 1993, and Biggs 1998, 2001.

¹⁰ For lists of references connecting different stages of revision, see: Maury 1981, 1994; Nedo 1994, index volumes; Wittgenstein 2001, appendix.

¹¹ For further information, see above, n6.

¹² Some rare exceptions to this rule are the brief but helpful remarks in Schulte 1993: 6–7, Pichler 1994: 2.2, and the preface to *The Big Typescript* (Wittgenstein 2005: x). See also Paul 2007. Nedo observes that 'Wittgenstein's marginal marks, which in general relate to the relevant remark *in toto*, present both a form of commentary and indications for further

use in revision,' (Wittgenstein 1993b: 100) but to the best of my knowledge does not provide further guidance in construing those remarks.

¹³ I would like to express my appreciation for his thorough and painstaking work on this project. I am responsible for any errors in the following discussion. Some of his corrections are noted in the WAB's online error list at <http://wab.aksis.uib.no/bee-errors.htm> That list is no longer being updated; future suggestions will be used in the forthcoming *Discovery* edition.

¹⁴ Schulte 2002: 240. Other reviews of the *Bergen Electronic Edition* include Roser 2001, Binder and Haller 2002, McGuinness 2002b, Soulez 2003.

¹⁵ See Wittgenstein 2001: 205–446.

¹⁶ See Wittgenstein 2001: 739–989.

¹⁷ Wittgenstein 2001: 51–204.

¹⁸ Because Wittgenstein first wrote on the odd-numbered pages, only filling in the even pages afterwards, page 21 is part of the first 20 pages of this volume. Wisely, the diplomatic transcription follows this order, rather than showing the pages in their physical sequence.

¹⁹ The Nestroy passage is included in the Vienna edition (Wittgenstein 1994: volume 1, vii and 1), but is overlooked in Biesenbach's (2008) collection of references and citations in Wittgenstein's work.

²⁰ Mauro Engelmann, Jim Klagge, Alois Pichler, Brian Rogers, Joachim Schulte and George Wrisley provided extremely helpful comments on an earlier version of this paper.

REFERENCES

- Baker, G. and Hacker, P. (1980), *An Analytical Commentary on Wittgenstein's Philosophical Investigations*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. [Revised second edition, Oxford: Blackwell, 2005].
- and — (1984), *Scepticism, Rules and Language*. Oxford: Blackwell.
- Biesenbach, H. (2008), *Anspielungen und Zitate im Werk Ludwig Wittgensteins*. Internationale Ludwig Wittgenstein Gesellschaft site: <http://www.ilwg.eu/>
- Biggs, M. (1998), 'Ludwig Wittgenstein: A Visual Concordance to the Published Works', *Minerva* 2, University of Limerick, Ireland. <http://www.ul.ie/~philos/vol2/>
- (2001), 'Why Study Wittgenstein's Diagrams?', in R. Haller and K. Puhl (eds.) *Wittgenstein and the Future of Philosophy: A Reassessment After 50 Years*, Vol.1, 95–100. Kirchberg a/W, Austria: Die Österreichische Ludwig Wittgenstein Gesellschaft.
- Biggs, M. and Pichler, A. (1993), *Wittgenstein: Two Source Catalogues and a Bibliography*. Working Papers from the Wittgenstein Archives at the University of Bergen, No. 7. <http://wab.aksis.uib.no/wp-no7.pdf>
- Binder, T. and Haller, R. (2002), 'Wittgensteins Nachlass. The Bergen Electronic Edition', *Nachrichten*, 10: 98–106.
- Hacker, P. (1990), *Wittgenstein: Meaning and Mind. An Analytical Commentary on the Philosophical Investigations*, vol. 3.. Oxford: Blackwell.
- (1996), *Wittgenstein: Mind and Will. An Analytical Commentary on the Philosophical Investigations*, vol. 4.. Oxford: Blackwell.
- Hallett, G. (1977), *A Companion to Wittgenstein's 'Philosophical Investigations'*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press.
- Hintikka, J. (1991), 'An Impatient Man and His Papers', *Synthese*, 87: 183–201. [Reprinted as chapter 1 of J. Hintikka (1996) *Ludwig Wittgenstein: Half-Truths and One-and-a-Half-Truths*. Dordrecht: Kluwer.]

- Hrachovec, H. (2000), 'Wittgenstein On Line/On the Line' http://wab.aksis.uib.no/wab_contrib-hh.page
- (2005), 'Evaluating the Bergen Electronic Edition', in A. Pichler and S. Säätelä (eds), *Wittgenstein: The Philosopher and his Works*. Working Papers from the Wittgenstein Archives at the University of Bergen no. 17, 364–76. Bergen: Wittgenstein Archives at the University of Bergen.
- Huitfeldt, C. (1993), *MECS – A Multi-Element Code System*. Bergen: Wittgenstein Archives at the University of Bergen.
- (1994a), 'Multi-dimensional Texts in a One-dimensional Medium', *Computers and the Humanities*, 284/5: 235–41.
- (1994b), 'Toward a Machine-Readable Version of Wittgenstein's Nachlaß: Some Editorial Problems', in Hans Gerhard Senger (ed.) *Philosophische Editionen. Erwartungen an sie – Wirkungen durch sie*, 37–43. Tübingen: Max Niemeyer Verlag.
- (2001), 'The Bergen Electronic Edition of Wittgenstein's Nachlass'. Lecture in Bergen, December 13, 2001. Link to audio recording: <http://wab.aksis.uib.no/w-konferanse/>
- Kenny, A. (1976), 'From the Big Typescript to the *Philosophical Grammar*', *Acta Philosophica Fennica*, 28: 41–53. [Reprinted in A. Kenny (1984), *The Legacy of Wittgenstein*, 24–37. Oxford: Blackwell.].
- (2005), 'A Brief History of Wittgenstein Editing', in A. Pichler and S. Säätelä (eds), *Wittgenstein: The Philosopher and his Works*. Working Papers from the Wittgenstein Archives at the University of Bergen no. 17, 341–55. Bergen: Wittgenstein Archives at the University of Bergen.
- Maury, A. (1981), 'Sources of the Remarks in Wittgenstein's *Zettel*', *Philosophical Investigations*, 4: 57–74.
- (1994), 'Sources of the remarks in Wittgenstein's *Philosophical Investigations*', *Synthese*, 90: 349–78.
- McEwen, C. (2005), 'Wittgenstein in Digital Form: Perspectives for the Future', in A. Pichler and S. Säätelä (eds), *Wittgenstein: The Philosopher and his Works*. Working Papers from the Wittgenstein Archives at the University of Bergen no. 17, 377–89. Bergen: Wittgenstein Archives at the University of Bergen.
- McGuinness, B. (2002a), *Approaches to Wittgenstein: Collected Papers*. London: Routledge.
- (2002b), 'The Other Side of Silence', *Times Literary Supplement*, June 14: 3–4.
- Paul, D. (2007), *Wittgenstein's Progress 1929–1951*. Bergen: Publications from the Wittgenstein Archives at the University of Bergen.
- Pichler, A. (1994) *Untersuchungen zu Wittgensteins Nachlass. [Investigating Wittgenstein's Nachlass.]* Working Papers from the Wittgenstein Archives at the University of Bergen 8. <http://wab.aksis.uib.no/wp-no8.pdf>
- (2002), 'Encoding Wittgenstein: Some Remarks on Wittgenstein's *Nachlass*, the Bergen Electronic Edition, and Future Electronic Publishing and Networking', E-publication: <http://www.inst.at/trans/10Nr/pichler10.htm>. In: TRANS. Internet-Zeitschrift für Kulturwissenschaften 10/2001ff.
- (2006), 'What Can/Shall the Next Bergen Electronic Edition(s) Look Like?' Paper presented at the 29th International Wittgenstein Symposium 'Cultures: Conflict-Analysis-Dialogue', org. Georg Gasser, Christian Kanzian and Edmund Runggaldier.
- Robinson, P. (1997), 'New Directions in Critical Editing', in K. Sutherland (ed) *Electronic Text—Investigations in Method and Theory*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Rothhaupt, J. (1996), *Farbthemen in Wittgenstein's Gesamtnachlass*. Weinheim: Beltz Athenäum Verlag, pp. 327–39.

- (2008), *Kreation und Komposition: Philologisch-philosophische Studien zu Wittgensteins Nachlass (1929–1933)*. Habilitationsschrift, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München.
- Roser, A. (2001), 'Wittgensteins Nachlass auf CD-ROM', *Information Philosophie*.
- Schulte, J. (1987), *Erlebnis und Ausdruck: Wittgenstein's Philosophie der Psychologie*. München: Philosophia.
- (1993), *Experience and Expression: Wittgenstein's Philosophy of Psychology*. New York: Oxford University Press. [Translation of J. Schulte (1987), *Erlebnis und Ausdruck: Wittgenstein's Philosophie der Psychologie*. München: Philosophia].
- (2002), 'Wittgenstein's Nachlass: The Bergen Electronic Edition', *Grazer Philosophische Studien*, 65: 237–46.
- Soulez, A. (2003), 'Le CD-Rom Wittgenstein: l'histoire du Nachlass', *Revue de Métaphysique et de Morale*, 37: 107–11.
- Stern, D. G. (1996a), 'The Availability of Wittgenstein's Philosophy', in Hans Sluga and David G. Stern (eds.), *The Cambridge Companion to Wittgenstein*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 442–76.
- (1996b), 'Towards a Critical Edition of the *Philosophical Investigations*', in K. S. Johannessen and T. Nordenstam (eds), *Wittgenstein and the Philosophy of Culture*, 298–309. Vienna: Hölder-Pichler-Tempsky.
- Q6 — (2008), 'Digital Wittgenstein Scholarship: Past, Present and Future', in A. Pichler and H. Hrachovec (eds) *Wittgenstein and the Philosophy of Information: Proceedings of the 30th International Wittgenstein Symposium*, volume 1. Frankfurt: Ontos Verlag: 223–38.
- Von Wright, G. H. (1969), 'The Wittgenstein Papers', *Philosophical Review*, 78: 483–503. Considerably modified in Wittgenstein (1993), 480–510. With an addendum in Wittgenstein 2003.
- Q4 — (1982), *Wittgenstein*. Oxford: Blackwell.
- Wittgenstein, L. (1922), *Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus*, translation on facing pages by C. K. Ogden. London: Routledge and Kegan Paul. Second edition, 1933.
- (1953), *Philosophical Investigations*, edited by G. E. M. Anscombe and R. Rhees, translation on facing pages by G. E. M. Anscombe. Oxford: Blackwell. Second edition, 1958. Revised edition, 2001. Q5
- (1993a), *Philosophical Occasions, 1912–1951*, eds. James Klagge and Alfred Nordmann. Indianapolis, IN: Hackett.
- (1993b), *Wiener Ausgabe* [Vienna Edition] Introduction, ed. Michael Nedo. Vienna: Springer.
- (1994), *Wiener Ausgabe* [Vienna Edition], multiple volumes, ed. Michael Nedo. Vienna: Springer.
- (1997), *Denkbewegungen: Tagebücher 1930–1932, 1936–1937 (MS 183)*. ed. Ilse Somavilla. Innsbruck: Haymon.
- (2001), *Philosophische Untersuchungen. Kritisch-genetische Edition* [Philosophical Investigations. Critical-genetic edition] ed. Joachim Schulte. Frankfurt: Suhrkamp.
- (2003), *Ludwig Wittgenstein: Public and Private Occasions*, ed. James Klagge and Alfred Nordmann. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers.
- (2004), *Briefwechsel Innsbrucker elektronische Ausgabe* [Correspondence, Innsbruck Electronic Edition], eds Monika Seekircher, Brian McGuinness and Anton Unterkircher. Charlottesville, VA.: Intelix.
- (2005), *The Big Typescript*, eds C.G. Luckhardt and M.A.E. Aue. Oxford: Blackwell.

