Paper Proposal for the 2014 Annual Meeting of the Text Encoding Initiative Consortium

New Publishing Alchemy: Creating Page Layout from XML Files for a World War I Memoir
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To commemorate the start of the First World War in Europe, the Massachusetts Historical Society will publish a documentary edition of Margaret Hall's memoir of her service with the Red Cross in France, *Letters and Photographs from the Battle Country, 1919-1918*. In the memoir, which exists in only four known typescript copies—one at the MHS—Hall synthesized extracts from the letters and diaries that she wrote while abroad and augmented that written narrative with some 270 photographic prints, most of them her own.

The society will publish both print and electronic editions of the document, in part because only a subset of the photographs can be printed in the bound book. (The full digital edition, which will be free at the society's website, will be delayed to give the print some room for sales.) Since we wanted to retain the authoritative transcription from the historical document in TEI, one of our goals was to use this opportunity to see if we—an office of two editors—could automate formatting of layout, in InDesign, directly from the XML file. The first step of this process was not difficult: we have used the TEI guidelines extensively since 2005 to digitize legacy volumes for web delivery; this book is our first attempt to create a "single source" edition from scratch. The second step—getting labor-saving automated formatting in InDesign—posed a greater challenge. After some experimentation, we managed to extract success from our decent encoding skills, average-to-above-average typesetting skills, and basic-to-intermediate XSLT background. I would welcome the opportunity share with others our duct-tape-and-chicken-wire strategies for transforming the TEI into page layout.

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