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«Boethii, *De institutione musica: collation, editio*, and annotation of the complete *corpus* through computerized collation analysis»

### Abstract

The recommended dissertation focuses –for the first time– on the thorough analysis and publishing confrontation of text correlation that constitute the corpus of *De Institutione musica* (or just *De Musica*), of the third in sequence work of Boethius (after the *In isagogen Porphyrii commenta* and *De Institutione Arithmetica*).

The current proposal:

a) Faces for the first time through a complete system of text management the challenge accentuated by Bower in the 1980s so that an innovative issue can be designed that will take into consideration the ensemble of the scripted tradition.<sup>1</sup>

b) Utilizes the findings of contemporary research regarding the technology of analysis and process of corpus texts especially during the *transcriptio* and *collatio* stage, which up until now has imposed the known restrictions of elimination in the publishing practice of texts. For this purpose the recommended dissertation will utilize the findings that are expected to arise from a different research approach of dissertation –which is also submitted in parallel with the current proposal in the specialization of Computerized Linguistics. The inquiring connection of both these dissertations creates serious perspectives for the management of a vast volume that in estimation exceeds the 8,000 words of transcription and concerns a body that enumerates 137 *codices*.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> The *De Institutione musica* has dramatized a decisive role in the development and evolution of the theory of music, not only as part of the technical rules but mainly as an interpretative philosophical approach of the world. From the first appearance of the work (the beginning of the 6<sup>th</sup> century) and afterwards (at least up until the 18<sup>th</sup> century) it has constituted the fundamental manual of educational and spiritual occupation.

<sup>2</sup> With the addition of manuals that include *fragmenta* and or comments, which are placed among the total tradition of the work, the number comes to 178.

## **Analytical Presentation**

The first stage of research entails the reading and transcription of two major codes of the scripted tradition from the corpus that Calvin M. Bower compiled in 1988. This transcription will on the one hand be based on the basic principles that govern the international policy, whereas on the other hand, will appraise the statistics data that will arise from the training of the “Transcribus” system for both of these codes which will then result in the elimination to the minimum of the human error at this specific stage.

In the second stage of the survey the transcription of the two major *codices* will be classified according to text based on the international standards of transcription, characterization and representation of information after the process of verbal unit segregation (tokenization). This stage will prove to be the most significant and will impress –with the major possible detail– upon the complexity of structure of *De Institutione Musica*, in verbal, constitutional and semantics level. The first trials of the system are expected to reveal any possible omissions that happen to have taken place through the phase of text analysis resulting in the connection of them using the method of feedback.

The third stage will deal with the elevation of the text information through the recommended punctuation. Hitherto, there has been no complete system of analysis through standardization so the results of the text analysis are expected to lead to the need of standardization of punctuation so as for the text information to be correctly imprinted mainly on a semantics level. Therefore, the complexity of structure will also be impressed upon and charts and rules will be drawn up accordingly. The practice followed by publishers of the previous works of Boethius in different publishing houses will also be taken into consideration (through automated applications that the other research proposal will use) so that it can be compared with the findings of this stage.

The fourth stage will supply the system with transcriptions of the two major *codices* and will evaluate the produced (via an automated means) critical analytical annotation. The evaluation of the results and any need of feedback will also be decisive in this stage.

The fifth stage entails the training of the “Transcribus” in the (semi-)automated transcription so that the system with the complete corpus be supplied. During this stage there is a provision for a ten member research team which will use the “Transcribus” system in the transcription of the *codices*.

The final sixth stage of the survey will supply the system with the full *corpus* of the transcription and will meticulously evaluate the quality traits of the published text and its annotation. This specific stage will complete the experiment part of the dissertation and will commence so that the author's part is consummated.

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