

*Centre for the Study of Ancient Documents
Faculty of Classics, University of Oxford*

**RESTORATION, PALAEOGRAPHICAL
KNOWLEDGE BASES AND
CLASSIFICATION OF LETTER-FORMS**

15:00 - 15:15 Research question: Henriette Roued-Cunliffe
15:15 - 15:50 Invited speaker: Dr Peter Stokes (Cambridge)
15:50 - 16:00 Respondent: Dr Gabriel Bodard (KCL)
16:00 - 16:30 Open discussion



eSAD

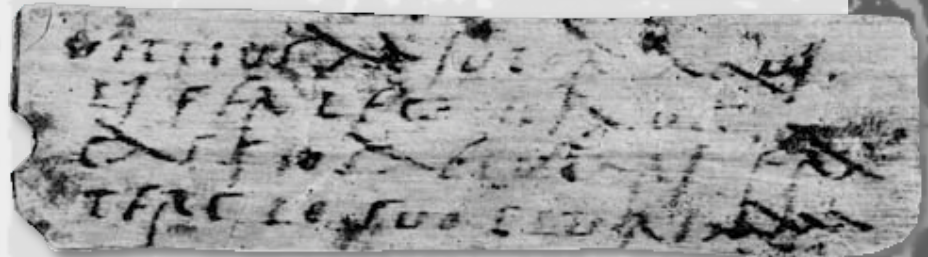
e-Science and
Ancient Documents

esad.classics.ox.ac.uk

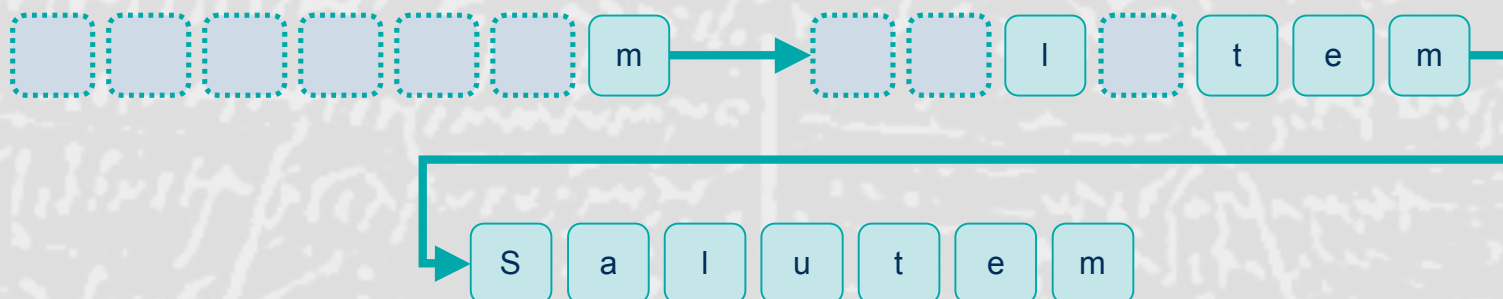
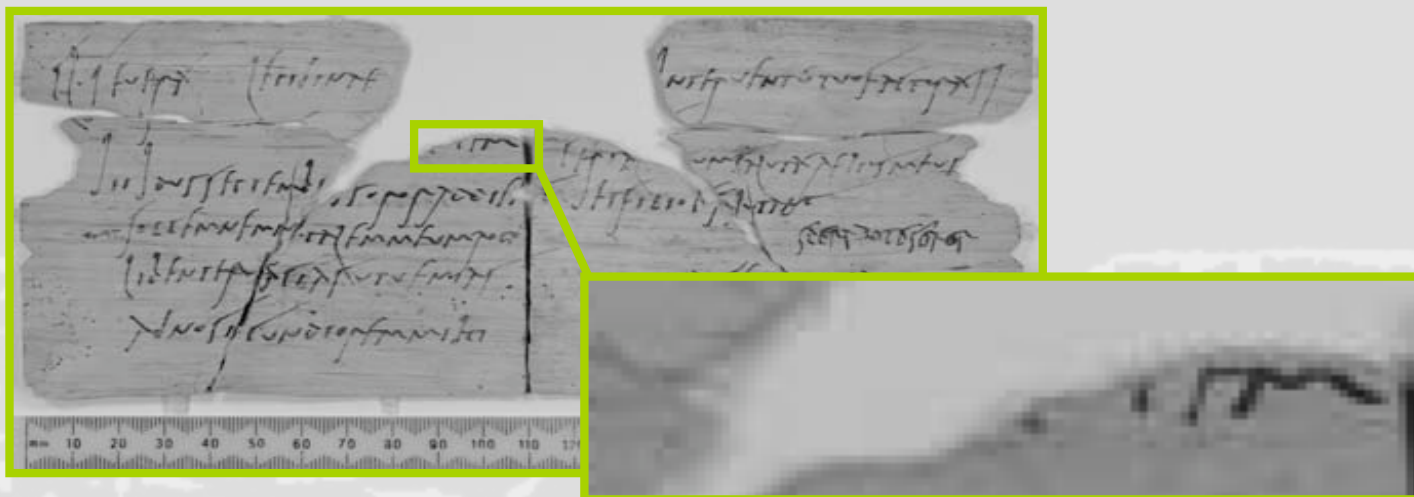
2nd eSAD Workshop, 17th November, 2009

DECISION SUPPORT SYSTEM

- To aid the process of reading ancient documents
 - Record the scholars decisions
 - Remind the scholar of previous decisions
 - Base each decision on evidence for and against
 - External evidence can be added through:
 - Word search
 - Character recognition



THE ART OF INTERPRETATION



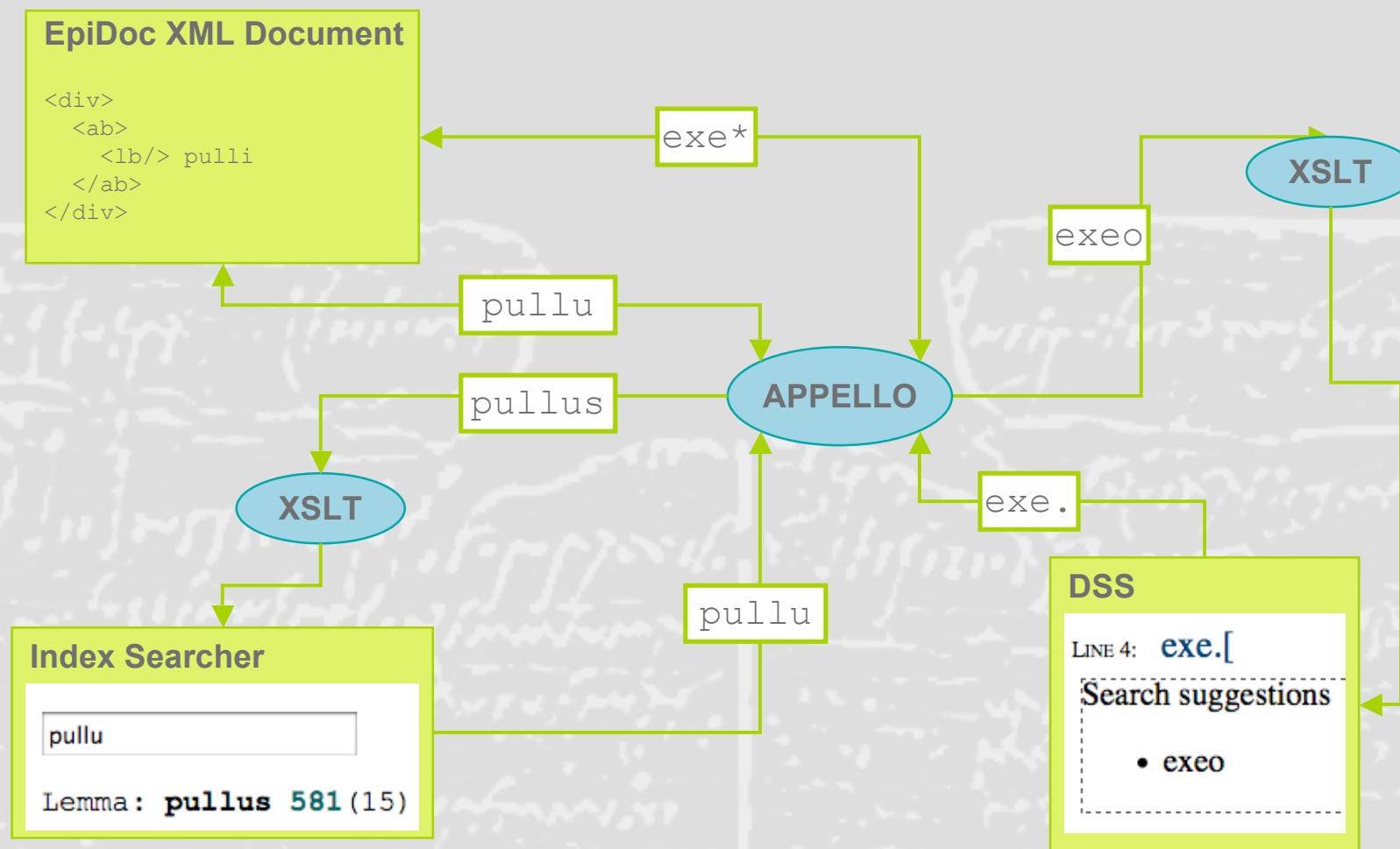
THE ART OF INTERPRETATION

- Reconstruct illegible text
 - System that could suggest characters from a reconstruction of fragments and partially preserved strokes.
 - Needs a knowledge base of letter-forms.
- Restoring missing text
 - System suggesting words that fit in a certain size gap, based on characters that can be found to fit or a formulaic phrase which would suit the context.
 - Needs knowledge base of phrases and words

KNOWLEDGE BASES OF WORDS

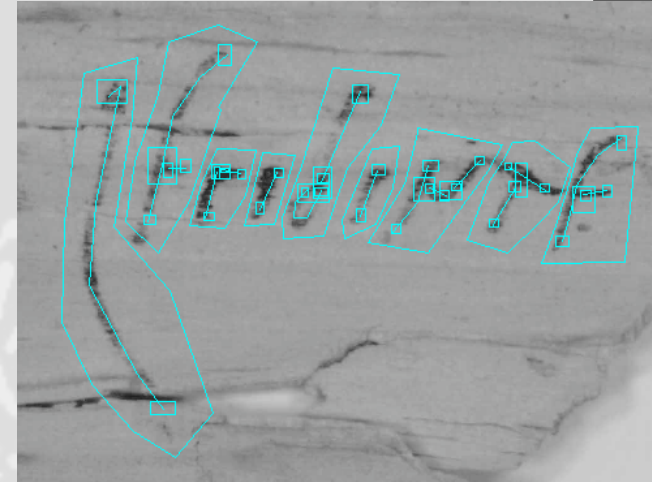
- Henriette developed a word-search Web Service (APPELLO) that works with different EpiDoc based corpora.
- So far we have the following knowledge bases for word-search:
 - Vindolanda ink tablets
 - MAMA XI (Monumenta Asiae Minoris Antiqua XI)
- It would be great if we can include datasets such as:
 - Inscriptions of Aphrodisias (should be easy enough with APPELLO)
 - Any other EpiDoc formatted XML dataset - ANY SUGGESTIONS?
 - Perseus (more difficult unless they get a Web Service)

WHAT DOES APPELLO DO?



CLASSIFICATION OF LETTER-FORMS

- Melissa Terras' markup system for annotating characters in a corpus of images of Vindolanda texts.
- Martin Moran's system is capable of suggesting ways of completing 'strokelets' to form an image of a character that he can compare with annotated letter-forms from Terras' corpus.



SPEAKER

- Peter Stokes is an associated lecturer in palaeography at University of Cambridge and in early medieval history at University of Leicester.
- His area of interest is Anglo-Saxon palaeography and Digital Humanities
- Peter Stokes is here to talk to us on the subject of how to organize and access palaeographical knowledge in order to use it as evidence in an emerging interpretation.

RESPONDENT

- Gabriel Bodard is one of the architects behind the EpiDoc encoding schema, co-author of the Inscriptions of Aphrodisias and consultant on the Integrating Digital Papyrology project.
- His area of interest is epigraphy and digital publication of epigraphic and papyrological editions.