

Interfacing literary genesis





A digital museum exhibition of Raymond Brulez' *Sheherazade*

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The Waste Land

The most revolutionary poem of the last hundred years, brought to life for a 21st century audience.

The Touch Press-edition of T.S. Eliot's *The Waste Land*

The online exhibition of W.H. Yeats at the National Library of Ireland



...nus. Donec
vero, sodales nec, voluptat
scipit non, turpis. Nullam
tis. Suspendisse pulvinar,
e ac venenatis condimentum,
ibera voluptat nibb, nec
tesque velit pede quis nunc.
ulum ante ipsum primis in

B

Key objectives

Introduce genetic criticism to the general public

A digital exhibition of 'genetic paths'

Evaluate approaches to interface design

Following the results of a user study and general interface design principles

Kelly (2015)

Ruecker et al. (2011)

Collaborate with different local parties

The Centre for Manuscript Genetics (CMG), University of Antwerp

Web designer company 'Prophets'

AMVC Letterenhuis (literary archive and museum)

Genetic criticism

Genetic criticism

- Research into the process of writing
- Analysis of textual development

Genetic editing

- Focus on process: not *necessarily* result an final, critical text
- Provide instruments to further explore the text's genesis

Genetic criticism

‘Instead of employing manuscript research in order to make an edition, digital editing can also serve as a tool for manuscript research and genetic criticism’

(Dirk van Hulle, 2016)

Digital exhibition as a ‘teaser’ / ‘trailer’ to present the first insights of genetic research

Genetic criticism

Centre for Manuscript Genetics

- James Joyce (Genetic Joyce Studies)
- Willem Elsschot ([‘Achter de Schermen’](#))
- Lexicon of Scholarly Editing ([LSE](#))
- Samuel Beckett ([Beckett Archive](#))
- Raymond Brulez (brulezarchive.org; under development)

Bring forward literary heritage of Raymond Brulez in a meaningful way

ABOUT ▾

DOCUMENTS ▾

TOOLS ▾



SYNOPTIC SENTENCE VIEW: SENTENCE 9

[prev](#) | [next](#)

- › Compare all **French** versions of this sentence with CollateX
- › Compare all **English** versions of this sentence with CollateX

Versions

L'Innommable Segment 9, version 1 (MS-HRC-SB-3-10, p. 01r)

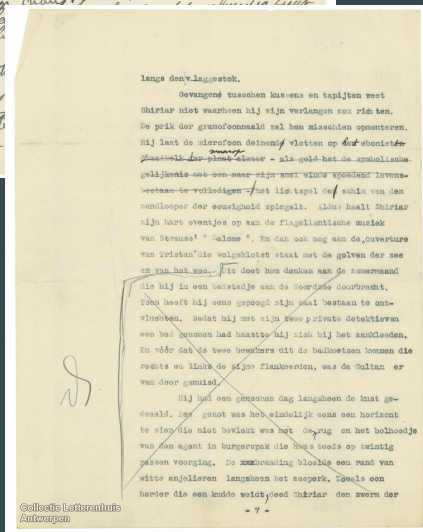
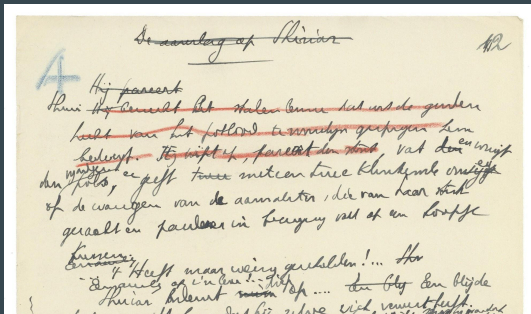
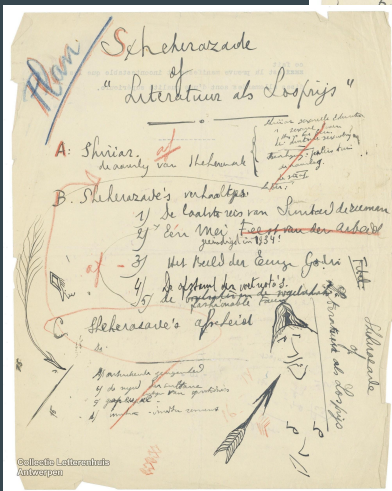
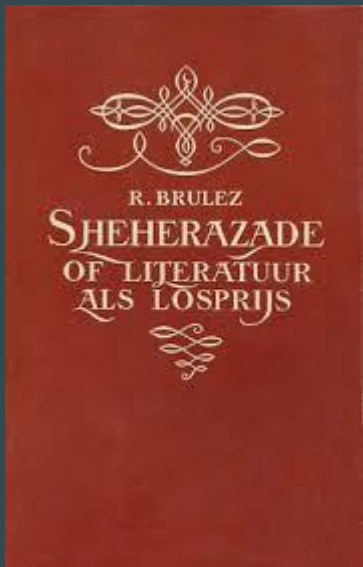
Se peut-il qu'un jour, en fin de compte, la pratique aidant, la faiblesse, j'y sois simplement resté, au lieu de sortir, selon ma vieille habitude, passer la journée et une grande partie de la nuit aussi loin que possible de chez moi?



L'Innommable Segment 9, version 2 (MS-HRC-SB-3-10, p. frontflyleafverso)

Se peut-il etc





Raymond Brulez (1895 - 1972)

Collectie Letterenhuis Antwerpen

Collectie Letterenhuis Antwerpen

Interface design approach

User study findings applied:

Tablets for outreach publications

74% tablet users used them for learning activities

Responsive website rather than native tablet application

(Aodhán Kelly 2015)

Interface design approach

‘...the involvement of textual scholars in the provision of new editions for the wider public that are able to support leisure reading, as well as to present some of the aspects of textual variance could be a [...] culturally meaningful and responsible approach.’

(Elena Pierazzo 2015, 153)

Interface design approach

Definitions of 'interface'

2



Interface

Taken from the words Internet and Face. It refers to someone who is a lot better looking on the internet (eg Facebook Profile Picture) than they are in real life.

(Urban dictionary)

Interface design approach

Definitions of 'interface'

- 'a point of contact between a user and a set of embodied information' (Nowviskie 2000)
- 'a point where two systems, subjects, organizations meet and interact' (OED)
- 'User interface - the keyboard, mouse, menus of a computer system. The user interface allows the user to communicate with the operating system.'
(Webopedia)

Interface design approach

Who are our audience or public?

Museum visitors & website visitors

Where is the threshold of age/education level?

Who can identify the affordances of the interface?

Collaboration with local partners

- Letterenhuis museum and archive
 - Enthusiastic but mostly passive
 - Physical space
 - Provided touchscreen device
 - Material (manuscripts & images)
- Local web design company (prophets.be)
 - Active interest in cultural heritage projects
 - Proposed possibilities
 - Responsible for planning and development
- Centre for Manuscript Genetics (that's us!)
 - Forge links with cultural heritage institutions
 - Improving dissemination of research and promotion of the centre
 - Learning about the processes of commercial web design sector



(Letterenhuis museum)

Building the Brulez Digital Exhibition

“[...] aesthetic design promotes the perceived usability and therefore the overall usability of a website”

(Kurosu and Kashimura qtd. in Ruecker 2011, 13)

Building the Brulez Digital Exhibition

- 'RFP' (request for proposal) and 'auditions' with web design companies; introducing genetic criticism
- Balance research objectives with interest of general audience
- Clear communication
- Negotiation: listing our principle needs, prioritise our objectives

Building the Brulez Digital Exhibition

Open source and re-usability

- Code for web interface on GitHub
- Future 'inhouse' development possible
- Possible to reuse design for other writers
- CC license?

Inspiratie

"Ik beleef geen genoeg aan het schrijven"

Brulez beweerde in een brief dat hij niet graag schreef, anders dan schrijven, net als Sheherazade, de beroemde Nachten. Zij moet van de Sultan verhalen blijven vertellen gedood.

SHEHERAZADE OF LITERATUUR ALS LOSPRIJS



START

Blocnote

De moderne Sheherazade van Brulez is uniek in de traditie van Duizend-en-één-nacht: ze moet haar verhalen niet enkel vertellen, ze moet ze ook neerschrijven in een blocnote. De sultan eist dat ze die helemaal volschrijft.

Het modernisme

Brulez hoorde het concert in augustus 1929. Dat is de tijd van schrijvers als Willem Elssler, James Joyce, Marcel Proust en Virginia Woolf, midden in de periode die het 'modernisme' wordt genoemd.

Programma

18:00 uur - 19:00 uur: Inleiding door de docent



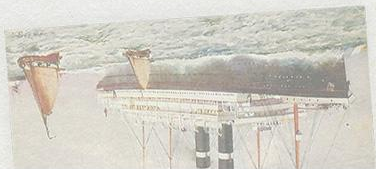
Verhalen van literatuur als losprijs door Raym Sheher

Verhalen van literatuur als losprijs



Literatuur als losprijs

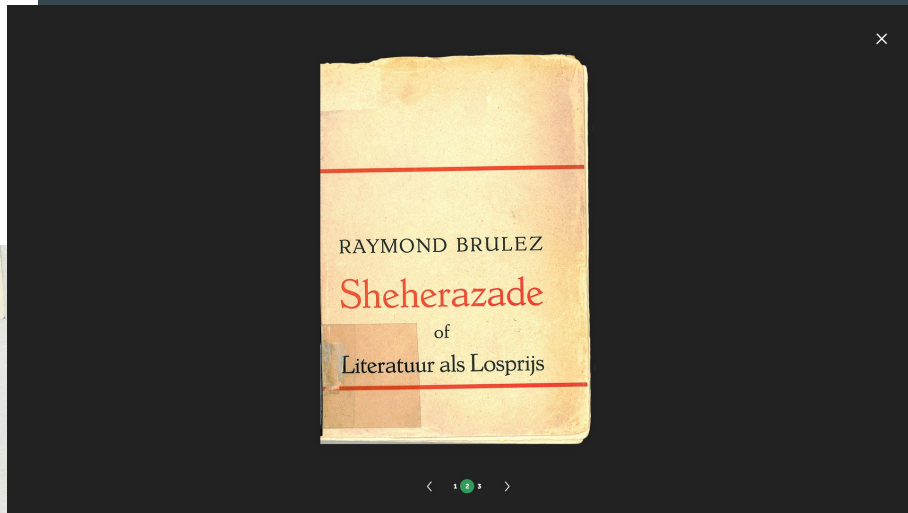
Brulez leest de moderne nacht en schrijft van de verhalen die ze moet vertellen. De sultan eist dat ze die helemaal volschrijft.

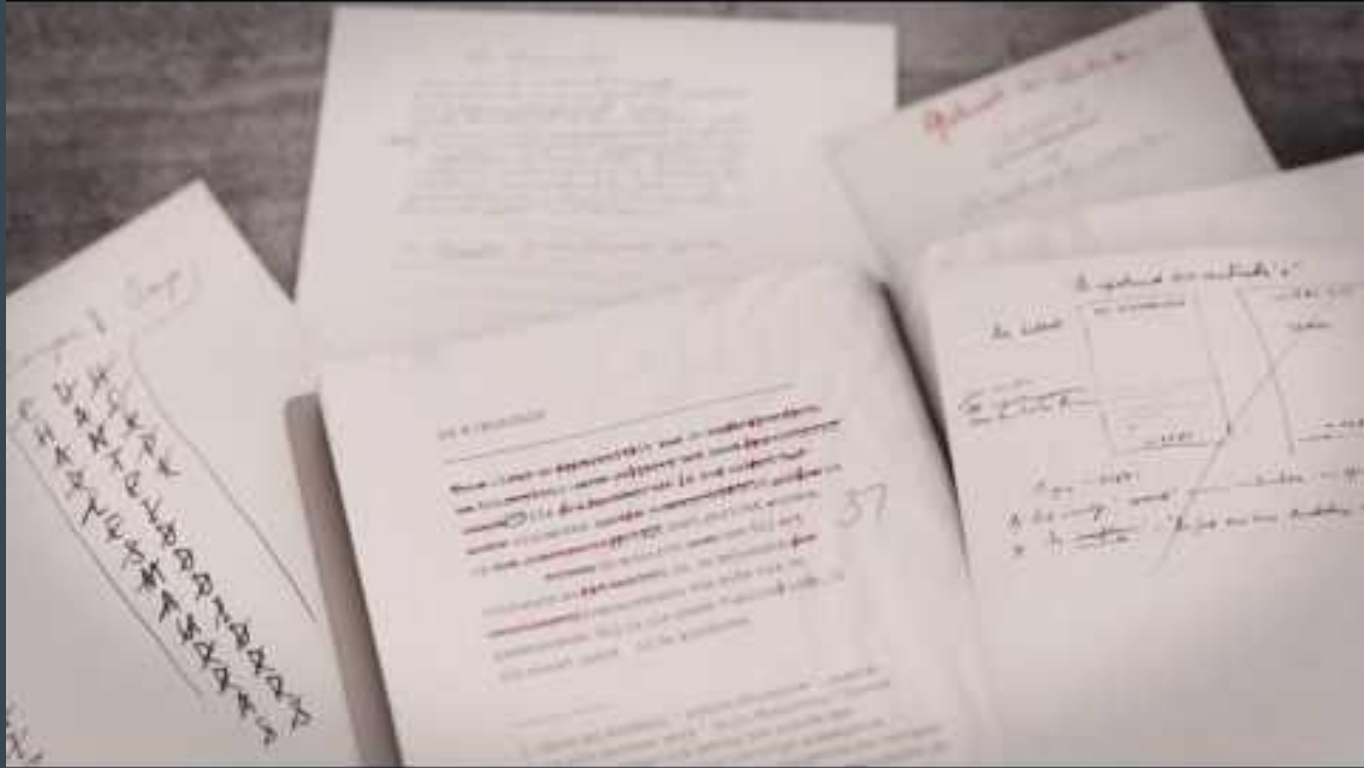


Het schrijfproces is zeker zo belangrijk als het eindproduct voor Brulez. Vergelijk een schip dat uitvaart met een bepaalde koers, maar tijdens het varen vaak van zijn koers afwijkt, waardoor het onverwachte plekken landt. Dat geldt ook voor zijn eigen werk.

Inspiratie

Brulez kwam op het idee om literatuur als losprijs voor te stellen tijdens een concert in Oostende. Op het programma stond de symfonie Shéhérazade van Rimsky-Korsakow. In zijn notities schreef hij later: 'Eerste Gedacht: 16 augustus 1929 te Oostende op het klassiek Concert ter Kursaal bij het luisteren naar Shéhérazade van Rimsky Korsakow.'





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 9. 10/10/10
 10. 10/10/10

The following is a list of the names of the members of the committee who have been appointed to investigate the matter mentioned in the above resolution. The names are given in the order in which they were appointed.

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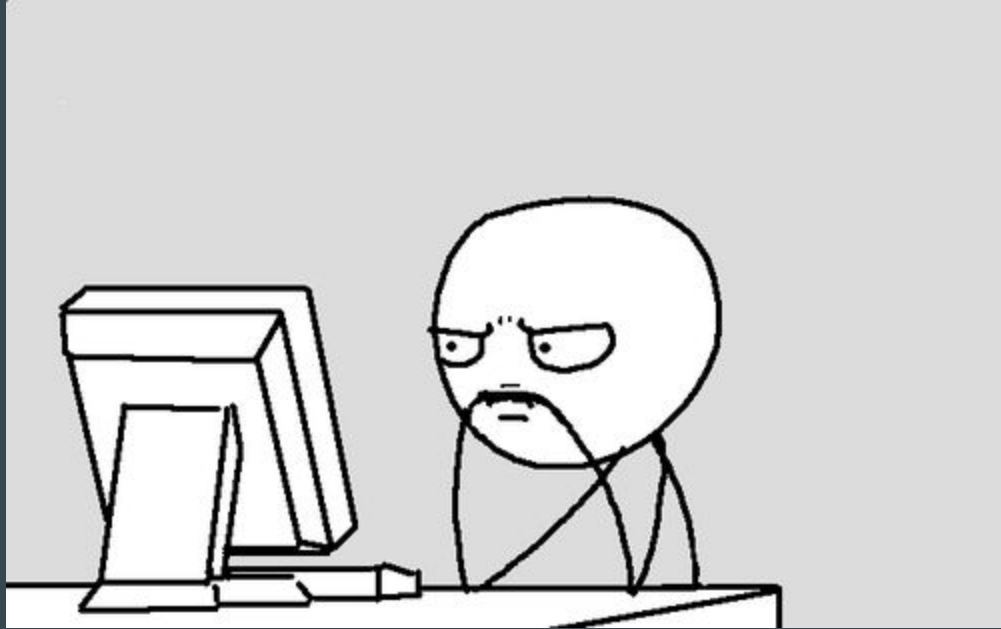
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Reflections



Reflections

Make complex research results understandable and accessible

In-house development vs. outsourcing design?

Following interface design principles / results of user study?

Reflections

Classification of digital exhibition:

Not an 'edition' but maybe an 'exhibition of an edition'?

A first entry point for some users to an edition?

Spin-offs for outreach can also be scholarly?

Conclusion

Next Steps

Did it work? i.e. how effective is the interface?

- User testing: on-site and on personal devices
- Refinement of design and content

Promotion/marketing of the exhibition

Possible re-use of application with new content

Integration of application within the finished DSE



Thank you.
We are on Twitter.
@aodhankelly
@ellibleeker
@CMG_UA

