

# Princeton Prosody Archive

## Rebuilding the Collection and User Interface

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### What Is Prosody?

Prosody is a historically contingent term. Both the branch of linguistics concerning pronunciation (cadence, pitch, tone) and the aesthetic category of poetic form including versification (meter, rhythm, rhyme, verse forms), prosody sits at the border of science and aesthetics and at the invention of linguistics and literary study as disciplines.

### What Is the PPA?

The PPA is a full-text searchable database of ~5,000 HathiTrust-digitized works on prosody published between 1570 and 1923. It collects historical documents and highlights discourses about the study of language, the study of poetry, and how these intersect and diverge. Rather than a static repository of historical data, it compels users to rethink the past and future of organizing, navigating, conceptualizing, and historicizing large amounts of data.

“Of man’s first disobedience and the fruit”



“Of | Mān’s fīrst | dīso|bēdiēnce, | řǎnd thě | frūit |



“Of | thāt for|bīddēn | Trēe, whōse | mōrtāl | tāste

Of | man’s | first diso|bedience | and the | fruit Of | that  
for|bidden | tree | whose | mortal | taste Brought | death |  
into the | world | and | all our | woe | Sing | Heavenly | Muse.

Ov mánz férst diso|bédiens, and ðe frúit 0-1-,½-0,01,00-0-,0-1- (1)

Ov áát ferbíd’n tré, huuz mértal tást 0-½-,01,0-½-,0-1,0-1- (2)

Brét déť intuí ðe wúrlđ, and éł ř wó ½-1-,00-,0-1-,0-½-,0-1- (3)

Wiđ lós ov ‘Ed’n, til wun gráter mán 0-½-,0-1,0-0-,0-1,0-1- (4)

Of man’s first disobedience, and the fruit

o 2 i o o 2 o o o 2

Of that forbidden tree, whose mortal taste

o i o 2 o i o 2 o 2

### PPA + HathiTrust

All material in the PPA comes from HathiTrust, a partnership of academic institutions that offers a collection of millions of titles digitized from libraries around the world. The PPA teamed with Hathi in 2011 to build an archive dedicated to prosody. We used Library of Congress subject headings to curate a dataset of prosodic titles, and Hathi delivered both the plain text and metadata for ~8,500 fair use monographs.

We soon discovered that this method led to many duplicate works due to metadata errors and host library mislabeling.

### Data Cleaning + Interface

Because duplicate works were skewing search results on our beta-site, we knew we would have to clean our initial dataset. We created a spreadsheet of the metadata, ran a script to cut all duplicate HathiTrust catalog IDs, and painstakingly hand-checked these records for accuracy. This whittled the PPA down to ~5,000 works, showing how many duplicates we were hosting – about 40% of the original file transfer.

With a clean, de-duplicated database, we teamed up with the Princeton CDH to create an intuitive user interface with a robust administrative backend. This is crucial for managing HathiTrust works and allows PPA team members to edit metadata, add new works, and even group documents into filterable collections.

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
1	Volume Id	Record Id	Title	Author	Volume URL	Record URL	Enumeration	
2	mdp.39015002131111	000005979	1970 The technique of English non-dramatic blank verse.	Morton, Edward Payson,	http://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=mdp.39015002131111")	http://catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/000005979		
3	mdp.39015005264562	000005979	1970 The technique of English non-dramatic blank verse.	Morton, Edward Payson,	http://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=mdp.39015005264562	http://catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/000005979		
4	mdp.39015035430647	000049281	1912 The Journal of English studies.		http://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=mdp.39015035430647	http://catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/000049281	v.1	1912-1913
5	mdp.39015070412195	000049281	1912 The Journal of English studies.		http://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=mdp.39015070412195	http://catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/000049281	v.2	1913-1914
6	mdp.39015023566352	000108688	1763 The history of England, from the accession of James I. to that of the Brunswick line,	Macaulay, Catharine,	http://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=mdp.39015023566352	http://catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/000108688	v.6	
7	mdp.39015023566378	000108688	1763 The history of England, from the accession of James I. to that of the Brunswick line,	Macaulay, Catharine,	http://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=mdp.39015023566378	http://catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/000108688	v.8	
8	loc.ark:/13960/t55d9fj76	000117764	1916 John Davidson; a study of the relation of his ideas to his poetry,	Fineman, Hayim,	http://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=loc.ark:/13960/t55d9fj76	http://catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/000117764		
9	mdp.39015070461796	000117764	1916 John Davidson; a study of the relation of his ideas to his poetry,	Fineman, Hayim,	http://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=mdp.39015070461796	http://catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/000117764		
10	mdp.39015051357500	000119598	1892 Americanisms and Briticisms, with other essays on other isms,	Matthews, Brander,	http://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=mdp.39015051357500	http://catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/000119598		
11	uc2.ark:/13960/rk9571881c	000119598	1892 Americanisms and Briticisms, with other essays on other isms,	Matthews, Brander,	http://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=uc2.ark:/13960/rk9571881c	http://catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/000119598		
12	mdp.39015058690523	000124288	1917 A new English grammar based on the recommendations of the Joint committee on gran Sonnenschein, Edward Adolf,	Waters, Robert,	http://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=mdp.39015058690523	http://catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/000124288		
13	njp.32101021189756	000124288	1917 A new English grammar based on the recommendations of the Joint committee on gran Sonnenschein, Edward Adolf,	Waters, Robert,	http://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=njp.32101021189756	http://catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/000124288	pt. 1-3	
14	uc1.b4091100	000124288	1917 A new English grammar based on the recommendations of the Joint committee on gran Sonnenschein, Edward Adolf,	Waters, Robert,	http://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=uc1.b4091100	http://catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/000124288	v.1	
15	uc1.b4091119	000124288	1917 A new English grammar based on the recommendations of the Joint committee on gran Sonnenschein, Edward Adolf,	Waters, Robert,	http://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=uc1.b4091119	http://catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/000124288	v.2	
16	uc1.b4091120	000124288	1917 A new English grammar based on the recommendations of the Joint committee on gran Sonnenschein, Edward Adolf,	Waters, Robert,	http://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=uc1.b4091120	http://catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/000124288	v.3	
17	uc2.ark:/13960/t9z03bb73	000124288	1917 A new English grammar based on the recommendations of the Joint committee on gran Sonnenschein, Edward Adolf,	Waters, Robert,	http://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=uc2.ark:/13960/t9z03bb73	http://catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/000124288		
18	njp.32101074756733	000124482	1913 A tract on the present state of English pronunciation,	Bridges, Robert,	http://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=njp.32101074756733	http://catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/000124482		
19	uc1.\$b663298	000124482	1913 A tract on the present state of English pronunciation,	Bridges, Robert,	http://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=uc1.\$b663298	http://catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/000124482		
20	uc1.b4091439	000124482	1913 A tract on the present state of English pronunciation,	Bridges, Robert,	http://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=uc1.b4091439	http://catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/000124482		
21	uc2.ark:/13960/t9571bx39	000124482	1913 A tract on the present state of English pronunciation,	Bridges, Robert,	http://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=uc2.ark:/13960/t9571bx39	http://catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/000124482		
22	loc.ark:/13960/t0dv26z3c	000155577	1883 How to get on in the world, as demonstrated by the life and language of William Cobbe	Waters, Robert,	http://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=loc.ark:/13960/t0dv26z3c	http://catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/000155577		
23	mdp.39015051427998	000155577	1883 How to get on in the world, as demonstrated by the life and language of William Cobbe	Waters, Robert,	http://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=mdp.39015051427998	http://catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/000155577		
24	mdp.39015058690507	000157318	1913 The teacher's manual.	Soames, Laura,	http://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=mdp.39015058690507	http://catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/000157318	part 1	
25	mdp.39015058690515	000157318	1913 The teacher's manual.	Soames, Laura,	http://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=mdp.39015058690515	http://catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/000157318	part 2	
26	wu.89014931398	000157318	1913 The teacher's manual.	Soames, Laura,	http://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=wu.89014931398	http://catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/000157318	2	
27	wu.89014931406	000157318	1913 The teacher's manual.	Soames, Laura,	http://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=wu.89014931406	http://catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/000157318	1	

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