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Roman Bleier, Helmut W. Klug

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Ambraser Heldenbuch: Transcription and Scientific Dataset

Mario Klarer, Aaron Tratter, Hubert Alisade

Team members:	Mario Klarer (principle investigator), Hubert Alisade, Veronika Führer, David Messner, Markus Saurwein, Claudia Sojer, Aaron Tratter
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Website:	https://www.uibk.ac.at/projects/ahb/

Between January 2017 and December 2019, a research group led by Univ.-Prof. Dr. Mario Klarer at the University of Innsbruck worked on the go!digital 2.0 project *Ambraser Heldenbuch: Transcription and Scientific Dataset*, funded by the Austrian Academy of Sciences. The project's aim is to transcribe the entire *Ambraser Heldenbuch* (Vienna, Austrian National Library, Cod. ser. nova 2663) on the occasion of the 500th anniversary of Emperor Maximilian's death.

At the beginning of the sixteenth century, Emperor Maximilian I commissioned Hans Ried, a scribe from Bolzano, to copy texts for the *Ambraser Heldenbuch*.¹ The *Ambraser Heldenbuch* consists of twenty-five important texts of German medieval literature on approximately 5 + 238 parchment folios. Fifteen of these texts have survived solely in the *Ambraser Heldenbuch* as Early New High German versions, including *Erec* by Hartmann von Aue, the anonymous *Kudrun* and *Mauritius von Craûn*. Most modern editions of these uniquely transmitted texts are re-translations into standardized Middle High German that therefore do not represent the original textual source. For many years, scholars and editors have been demanding a transcription of the entire *Ambraser Heldenbuch* that is faithful to the manuscript text.²

The project team transcribed the *Ambraser Heldenbuch* with the software Transkribus. The generated data were saved as XML files, which contain the transcribed text as well as the coordinates of the respective lines in the manuscript. The three text columns of each page of the *Ambraser Heldenbuch* were labeled as *text regions*, which were, in turn, divided into *lines*. The codex's unique status as the only source for a number of canonical medieval literary works required an allographic

¹ See Alisade (2019).

² E.g. Leitzmann (1935); Gärtner (2006); Homeyer and Knor (2015).

transcription that refrained from any kind of standardization or normalization. For example, variants of letters, such as long <ſ> or rounded <ʀ>, were maintained in order to be as faithful as possible to Hans Ried's use of characters and diacritical signs in the *Ambraser Heldenbuch*.

Another important aspect of the project was the tagging of, e.g., verses, stanzas, and caesuras, as well as abbreviations, initials, and rubrications, all of which provide added value to the transcription proper. The meticulous processing of the texts of the *Ambraser Heldenbuch* paves the way for a variety of potential applications in further research and editorial endeavors.

The consistent allographic transcription of the entire *Ambraser Heldenbuch* will serve as a reference and basis for linguistic investigations of Early New High German and will facilitate editorial projects on individual texts from the *Ambraser Heldenbuch*.

In early 2022, the transcription of the entire *Ambraser Heldenbuch* was published as an eleven volume print and open access edition by De Gruyter (Klarer 2022a), which, in addition to the allographic and the diplomatic transcriptions of the text, also synoptically juxtaposes the manuscript scans on each page. Furthermore, the data set, together with the transcription guidelines, were published on GitLab (Klarer 2022b) and on Zenodo (Klarer 2022c).

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