Luciano F. Farina. *Glossario semantico dialettale Luganese (SDG) computerizzato*. Bellinzona, Switzerland: Archivio Storica Ticinese (AST), 1983 (1984), 304 pp.

Computer applications for language and literature studies have either involved the production of aids with which most of us are familiar (e.g. concordances and indices) or have involved the use of the computer for the analysis of specific works. Farina has combined these two functions in a system which prepares reference works and which allows a scholar a good degree of interactive access to memorized data for the purpose of performing analytic tasks. This Glossary is the first result of experimentation in automating lexicographical practices—in particular the most time-consuming ones like editing and providing location of citations—and is an early attempt to bridge computer scientists (who view linguistic computer applications as a humanistic subject) and their counterpart—the humanists who consider them part of computer science. This progress-hindering view is partially offset by this *SDG* which cleverly combines technology and traditional scholarship. Like others, I think some computer criticism subsides the more sophisticated becomes its adaptation to envisioned tasks, especially analytic ones. The achievement of morpho-semantic discrimination in the execution of concordances by Farina (here, unfortunately, not published with the Glossary due to severe financial limitations as pointed out in V. Gilardoni's preface to the reduced edition) is an example. This and other edit-analytic features point to a new methodology that has been largely overlooked because of lack of experience on the part of those who have traditionally undertaken literary analysis. In general this work proves that the computer can augment the critics' judgement, not replace it, and it does so in a convincing manner.

Two major interrelated linguistic innovations catch a traditional lexicographer's attention. Objectivity and exhaustive documentation on the one hand, and the absence of traditional citations (limited and subjective) on the other. The latter is replaced through integral publication of the text and with the correlation of each word to its location and to its relative and total frequency. Thus the arbitrary character of a century-old tradition is critically exposed, and, more importantly, shown to be replaceable by at least this one alternative. This work, which constitutes the beginning of a series devoted to *Non-literary Italian of the XIV–XV Centuries*, is a study of statutory Italian language and laws, and a needed complement to the various *Spogli elettronici* of Italian literary texts initiated long ago. Farina's 1981 monographic study (in the same AST series), titled "Realtà e potenzialità della computerizzazione: introduzione ad un glossario semantico dialettale luganese computerizzato" (n. 347), is a required introduction to and presentation of this *SDG* (n. 383). Among the discussed premises one finds the basic realization the rich Italian tradition of indexed literary

texts required a parallel system treatment of non-literary texts.

Among the first computer users in Italian applications in the United States, Farina pursued a path at Ohio State University which enabled him to go beyond the standard concordance/indices execution. He ventured into designing a Linguistic Data Management System (LDMS, a research tool) also known as *LEXED* by the system's analytic module used in the humanities for both linguistic and content analysis (computers in the Humanities, 17, 3 (1983). The Italian-Swiss *Glossary* reflects the micro-computer version adaptation for language processing (including composite accented foreign language characters back in 1981). This intuitive merging of wordprocessing functions and analytic task performance within a unified system proved fruitful. Thus this *Glossary* is an experimental expression of an exciting methodology designed to more easily access large quantities of data useful in the verification of past linguistic assumptions and views. Its data is a textual referencing of early Luganese and an effective reflection on modern computational techniques. Without claiming to have devised an all-purpose definitive tool, Farina's prototype is available and open to yet further amelioration. As an operational system it clearly points to a strongly pragmatic approach—at risk of being criticized by formalists—and is focussed on documenting not so much a "formal" language system, but rather its actual use and diachronic variation.

Methodology and linguistic values of the presented data are interdependent. A further proof of their close rapport is evidenced by the author's effort to avoid any "normalizing" of texts. The hitherto unpublished, *Sonvico* texts are a careful transcription by a medieval historian (L. Moroni-Stampa) well known for his editorial works in the juridical field. The Anderloni-Lazzati (*Valsolda*), Heusler (*Capriasca & Carona*), and Casella (*Carona-Latin*) editions are also reproduced with full respect of vacillation and incongruity of both forms and graphies. This ensures the scientific value of texts whose originals are no longer available in Swiss libraries and archives. Thus the distinctive linguistic value of the *Glossary* is enhanced as long as more reliable version cannot be located.

Also, implied in the system's rationale, which stresses research flexibility and independence, is a non-monopolizing approach to linguistic evidence to promote application in diversified scholarly areas and to voice reservations about interpreted data. Thanks to this critical poise and to the achieved morpho-semantic discrimination of homographs in output and in statistical counts, traditional and modern scholarship are brought together in the *Glossary*. Built on surviving texts it becomes, much like each of the originals, a distinctive embodiment of an historical reality of a spoken language (the one being documented, rather than an expression of these texts' intrinsic adherence to the formal language system of which it is only a minimal representation.

With the present work, L. Farina pursues then his plan to increase

confidence in computer use while demonstrating the linguistic benefits of text preservation/dissemination and data management in handling some 72,000 textual occurrences. For the first time a glossary is followed by an integral edition of the texts upon which it is derived. As a semantic dialect Glossary (SDG with some 12,000 selected nominal and verbal forms, of which about 300 entries receive full etymologic and bibliographic commentary, it attempts to indentify and to study distinctive works—and variants—semantically interested and/or hard to interpret, all of which attest the colorfully rich lexical tradition of non-criminal statutes of these small communities.

The semantic world is effectively reduced to fifteen categories. Essentially comparable to the attractive theoretical model elaborated by Wartburg and Hallig, it has the added convenience of being structurally simpler without sacrificing the model's complexity which is intelligently modified. Apparently unrelated terms such as *careli*, *cergio*, *pale*, *porvexo buratti*, are unified under an umbrella-concept of 'mulino' and yet numerically subdistinguished. The ingenuity of such an arrangement, though greatly effective, is not total. For example, it is still difficult to properly classify *cercha*, a term fitting in both the agricultural or animal category since it refers to bulls. Similar conflicts arise in other instances especially where abstract terms are involved.

Once memorized in the computer the dynamic nature of the data allows for the kind of glossary manipulation evident throughout the ordering of the lemmata (documented only and/or commented); the materials indexed in four ways (general, semantic or categorical, etymologic, and relational) and fully crossreferenced: the various notes and table relating to the texts; the bibliography; and the reproduction of the six analyzed texts. Taken together these constitute an unprecedented commodity. Only when compared to hand-compiled, fundamental field works such as H. Bosshards' *Saggio di un glossario dell'Antico Lombardo* (1938), can the impact the value of this referencing system be better perceived. Even without the publication of complementary output, the system's versatility is impressive. Unpublished are then the morpho-semantically lemmatized concordances, comparative tables, reverse indices and one-line content summaries of each of the 659 articles of law intended to provide a concise byrd's-eye view of each text. The latter was a way to afford consulting users with a clear content synthesis and circumvent the problematic meaninglessness of most titles. From a functional point of view, it was intended as a feature similar to the relationals grouping-concepts index (see pp. 192–199) which also serves the purpose of orienting the readers. And of course, data base queries and conceptually equivalent searches (available on line) are also lost in published format.

Consequently, remarkable (well beyond the lingusitic value of regional and dialect forms/variants evidenced in this glossary) is the exemplary na-

ture of the SDG, which should not only interest Italianists but also all those concerned with the realization and use of reference works, and who wish a good combination of philological competence and the severity of a machine offering sound and accessible data while following generalized rules to the extent possible. With G. Nencioni (in his key-note address on I Dizionari, at the Second International Conferences on Automatic Processing of Art History Data and Documents, Scuola Normale, Pisa 1984) we recognize both the *valore essenzialmente metodologico* of the devised tool and the lasting contribution of the applications this methodology makes possible. In particular, connected to Farina's Spogli elettronici and referencing of Statutory Italian of the XIV–XV Centuries begun with the Luganese and Milanese texts used for the glossary, the SDG is the beginning of a Dictionary of *Medieval Statutory Italian* as well as a contribution to the recovery and collection of non-literary rare Italian forms in dialect regions lacking a formal dialect literature.

Against a successfully implemented instrument, the already mentioned limitations and occasional disagreement on etymologies or in categorizing specific terms, are of small importance and of little detracting to the author's meticulous precision and implementation of good philological principles. However, in view of the fact that on-line systems still have a few years to go before radically uprooting the role of the printed book, one additional observation may be appropriate. Though typographically elegant, this volume could be improved had a quality printer been used, and (for the six texts) a large page format adopted.

Finally, the *Glossary's* overall features do not rely on ephemeral etymo-semantic interpretation, which is bound to change as newer evidence is uncovered. Rather, its lasting characteristic is its explicit acceptance of traditional philology and distinctive methodic innovation.

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Alessandro Manzoni. *Quell'innominato*. A cura di Luca Toschi. Palermo: Sellerio Editore, 1987. Pp. 80.

In this short but stimulating book are published the three descriptions by Manzoni of the Conte del Segrato and of the Innominato, as he came to be called in *I Promessi Sposi*, and also an essay of Toschi on "Il brigante, la vergine e lo scrittore," in which he discusses Manzoni's artistic and psychological development as evidenced therein. The first description was published by Chiari and Ghisalberti in their edition of Manzoni's works, but Toschi reproduces the autograph itself now in the Biblioteca Nazionale Braidense.