



Learning Paleography

Description: Paleography is the study of ancient handwriting. In our case, we will be focusing on “secretary” and “italic” hands, the most common form of handwriting in 16th- and 17th-century England. Our initial goal is to participate in the International Transcribathon sponsored by the Early Modern Recipes Online Collective (EMROC). Leading up to that participation are several smaller assignments described here.

Week 2: Using the images of manuscript L.a.36 at luna.folger.edu, develop an alphabet for reference, covering at least 60% of the lower case letters and at least 3 upper case letters. You can use the sample document at tinyurl.com/yar8jx92 as an example. **10 points.**

Week 3: Take a short recipe (or 5 lines of any recipe) in Jane Dawson’s recipe book (folger V.b.14) and render it into a semi-diplomatic transcription using Dromio. You can get to the Dromio access by going to transcribe.folger.edu, putting in your name, and following the links for EMROC and then Vb14. Copy the basic Dromio code by clicking on the <xml> button and upload it on the course web. 10 points. **10 points**

Week 4: Participate in the transcribathon. **20 points** for the first hour and 5 points for every extra hour.

Week 5: Write a short reflection on the transcribathon. **10 points**

Purpose: To develop a detailed attention to language. To learn to read secretary hand and to create semi-diplomatic transcriptions. To learn how to use the Folger’s digital collection (luna.folger.edu), their transcription tools (transcribe.folger.edu), and the Oxford English Dictionary (OED).

Evaluation: Points will be assigned for enthusiastic participation.

