

Two Paradigms in 19th Century German Editing

Goedeke's Schiller Edition and the Weimar Goethe Edition as Different Steps towards a Particular Concept of Editing Modern Authors

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If we have a closer look at the "Histories of Editions", we first of all gain an insight into two different aspects. Such histories of editions give information on the conditions under which particular editions came into being, that is, on the basic conditions with regard to organization, culture and academic policy. Thus, these pieces of information enable us to understand the history of a specific edition and to evaluate its achievements from a historical perspective, which leads to a more accurate judgment than comparing it in a rash and unhistoric manner with later editions. A whole series of such individual histories of editions may serve as a basis for a history of the editions of a particular author. In this way, the analyses of individual cases turn into a history of historical development. The histories of individual Shakespeare editions, for example, lead to a history of Shakespeare editions. Many histories of many editions are to become one history of many editions, and the final stage of this development is one great history of editing, which is neither the history of one single edition nor the history of the editions of one single author, but the history of editorial concepts and procedures, namely the history of scholarly editing. For the time being, this history of scholarly editing will probably be confined to the respective national languages, but at the same time this restriction should be counterbalanced by a comparative look at the histories of editing in other countries. Otherwise the impression might be given as if the individual national philologies were some kind of academic islands. An important contribution concerning this comparative look at different editorial procedures is David C. Greetham's handbook *Scholarly Editing: A Guide to Research*, which appeared in 1995 and contains 25 articles on the development of scholarly editing in different philolo-

gies.¹ There is no telling yet whether such parallel descriptions will be the cornerstone of a future international history of scholarly editing. But it would be one of the most important prerequisites for such an international history of scholarly editing to develop first of all very detailed and historically comprehensive presentations of the respective histories of editing within the individual philologies.

Therefore, I should at least mention that the following survey of Karl Goedeke’s Schiller edition and the Weimar Goethe edition, which are probably the two most important editions of 19th century Germany with respect to editorial history, is only a partial result of a much more extensive project on editorial history. In collaboration with Max Niemeyer Publishing Company, Bodo Plachta and I have developed a new series of books entitled “Bausteine zur Geschichte der Edition” (“Building Blocks for a History of Editing”). It is our aim to present in separate volumes various aspects of the historical stages and processes of scholarly editing from a German, but also from an international and interdisciplinary point of view. These separate volumes can be regarded as individual building blocks which might one day help to build the house of a history of editing. In 2005, the first two volumes, which refer to German philology, were published: vol. 1: “Dokumente zur Geschichte der neugermanistischen Edition” (“Documents for a History of Scholarly Editions of Literary Works in Modern German”), which contains reprints of the most important conceptional contributions taken from editions, articles or monographs of the last 250 years; vol. 2: “Editionen zu deutschsprachigen Autoren als Spiegel der Editions-geschichte” (“Editions of the Works of German-Language Authors as Reflections of the History of Editing”) with 21 contributions in handbook format on the history both of the editions of individual authors and of electronic editing.²

¹ *Scholarly Editing: A Guide to Research*, ed. D.C. Greetham. (New York: The Modern Language Association of America, 1995).

² *Dokumente zur Geschichte der neugermanistischen Edition*, ed. Rüdiger Nutt-Kofoth; *Bausteine zur Geschichte der Edition*, vol. 1 (Tübingen: Max Niemeyer, 2005). — *Editionen zu deutschsprachigen Autoren als Spiegel der Editions-geschichte*, ed. Rüdiger Nutt-Kofoth and Bodo Plachta; *Bausteine zur Geschichte der Edition*, vol. 2 (Tübingen: Max Niemeyer, 2005). — The following reflections correspond in parts with some passages in the following German-language publications: Rüdiger