



derek beaulieu

HOW TO EDIT

Chapter A.

WALTER BENJAMIN
1892-1940
ES IST NIEMALS EIN DOKUMENT DER KULTUR
OHNE ZUSAMMENHANG MIT EINER BEWEGUNG ZU SEH
UNTER ANDEREM: DIE KUNST
WIE ES AN SICH SELBST, DE LA S'AMBI
...
ALBERTA SERIES #8
above/ground press

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But when shall we actually write books like catalogues?

—Walter Benjamin

It was his intention to edit them with the necessary notes and vocabularies; but, so far as I know, the only specimens which appeared in print were those he laid before the *American Philological Association*, in 1872.

Should this attempt meet with favour, I propose to edit after the same plan some others of the less known and less edited portions of Cicero's writings.

I had imagined every other sort of strange and sudden preferment, of frantic proprietors asking me at a moment's notice to edit their papers, or of taking up some great and responsible position, but never of carrying by assault 1 Wellington Street.

You won't have anything to do but ask people to write novels and edit them.

In 1869 he went north to edit the *Edinburgh Daily Review*, and made a mess of it; in 1870 he represented that journal as field-correspondent in the Franco-Prussian War, was present at Sedan, and claimed to have been the first Englishman to enter Metz.

It may seem peculiar to any but an inhabitant of this renowned city of Caneville, that one of *our* nation should venture on the task of bringing to the notice of the world the memoir I have undertaken to edit.

I begin almost to despair of ever seeing more of the Mabinogion; and yet if some competent Welshman could be found to edit it carefully, with as literal a version as possible, I am sure it might be made worth his while by a subscription, printing a small edition at a high price, perhaps two hundred at five guineas.

In later years, after Amorbach's death, the marked advance in the output of the firm as regards type and paper and title-pages and designs may be attributed to Froben, who was man of business enough to realize the importance of getting good men to serve him—Erasmus to edit books, Gerbell and Oecolampadius to correct the proofs, Graf and Holbein to provide the ornaments. A measure of the confidence which Erasmus subsequently reposed in both his judgement and his good faith is that in 1519 and 1521, when he had decided to publish some more of his letters, he just sent to Beatus bundles of the rough drafts he had preserved, and told him to select and edit them at his discretion.

The rhapsody of gratitude was never sent, and for a peculiar reason: just about the time of writing I came to an arrangement with Smith & Elder to edit their new magazine, and to have a contribution from T. was the publishers' and editor's highest ambition.

"You can't do it," she concluded, "unless you are prepared to keep half the world's literature away from the children, scrap half your music, edit your museums and your picture galleries; bowdlerize your Old Testament and rewrite your histories."

"You used to be a literary little cuss," he said at length; "didn't you edit the magazine before you left?"

Woollett has a Review—which Mrs. Newsome, for the most part, magnificently pays for and which I, not at all magnificently, edit.

Finding that one hand was not equal to the task, Edward offered his brother five dollars for each biography; he made the same offer to one or two journalists whom he knew and whose accuracy he could trust; and he was speedily convinced that merely to edit biographies written by others, at one-half the price paid to him, was more profitable than to write himself. Only by the simplest rules of psychology can he edit rightly so that he may lead, and to the average editor of to-day, it is to be feared, psychology is a closed book. The editor of *The New York Times* asked Bok to conduct for that newspaper a prize contest for the best American-designed dresses and hats, and edit a special supplement presenting them in full colors, the prizes to be awarded by a jury of six of the leading New York women best versed in matters of dress. For one man to edit two magazines inevitably meant a distribution of effort, and this Mr. Curtis counselled against. Doctor Anna Howard Shaw had been appointed chairman of the *National Committee of the Women's Council of National Defence*, and Bok arranged at once with her that she should edit a department page in his magazine, setting forth the plans of the committee and how the women of America could co-operate therewith.

It is a subject in which everybody is interested, and about which it is not polite to say that anybody is not well informed; for, although there are scattered through the land many persons, I am sorry to say, unable to pay for a newspaper, I have never yet heard of anybody unable to edit one.

What a dreary waste life in our office must have been before Miss Larrabee came to us to edit a society page for the paper!

He went to Europe again to prepare himself, and after entering upon his work as a teacher made a happy second marriage, served for four years as the first editor of *The Atlantic*, and helped his friend Charles Eliot Norton edit *The North American Review*. But Sparks proceeded to write another biography of Washington and to edit his writings.

That the propositions I have endeavored to establish have a direct bearing in various ways upon the qualifications of whoever undertakes to edit the works of Shakespeare will, I think, be apparent to those who consider the matter. That Shakespeare did not edit his own works must be attributed, we suspect, to his premature death.

During his thirteen years of travel (a more detailed account of which will be given in a subsequent chapter), he found time to revise and edit the books which appear to have formed the common stock-in-trade for all China; one of his ideas was to eliminate from these all sentiments of an anti-imperial nature.

It was the expressed intention of the Abbé Brasseur to edit the original text with his translation, but this he did not live to accomplish.

The object of this effort of Sir Henry Tyler's was obvious enough, and Mr. Bradlaugh commented: "The above letters make it pretty clear that Sir Henry W. Tyler having failed in his endeavour to get the science classes stopped at the Hall of Science, having also failed in his attempt to induce Sir W. Vernon Harcourt to prosecute myself and Mrs. Besant as editors and publishers of this journal, desires to make me personally and criminally responsible for the contents of a journal I neither edit nor publish, over which I have not a shadow of control, and in which I have not the smallest interest.

This paper will have, of course, many pages of business advertisements, and these will usually be well worth looking through, for the more intelligent editors of the days to come will edit this department just like any other, and classify their advertisements in a descending scale of freshness and interest that will also be an ascending scale of price.

I did edit the two first numbers.

Can I be a merchant, and the president of a bank, and a director in a life insurance company, and a school commissioner, and help edit a paper, and supervise the politics of our ward, and run for Congress?

You ought to edit a riddle book, Bertie, my son.

We'll buy a press, hire a printer, and Beth and Louise will help me edit the paper. But this is to be a newspaper reflecting the excitement of the entire world, Beth, and all the telegraphic news of a sporting character you must edit and arrange for our reading columns. "I—we—that is—we are three quite respectable young women who have under-taken to edit the *Millville Daily Tribune*, and the people we have secured to assist us are all—all quite desirable, in their way. So—; ahem! —so—" But she can't edit the telegraph news.

On the death of Mr. John Howard Clark, which took place at this time, Mr. John Harvey Finlayson was left to edit *The Register*, and I became a regular outside contributor to *The Register* and *The Observer*.

A little before the date of my resignation, Mr. James Virtue, the printer and publisher, had asked me to edit a new magazine for him, and had offered me a salary of £1000 a year for the work over and above what might be due to me for my own contributions.

Normans still edit his works—and dedicate these books to the town which also bred Corneille.

Note:

HOW TO EDIT is an exhaustive record of every incidence of the word “edit” in the over 1100 different English-language texts stored at Project Gutenberg (www.gutenberg.org) which are indexed as starting with the letter “A”.

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HOW TO EDIT, Chapter A
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ALBERTA SERIES #8
isbn 1-897224-36-2

produced in an edition of 200 numbered copies in Edmonton, Alberta by
above/ground press a part of above/ground press' ALBERTA SERIES, April 2008.

designed by mdesnoyers

derek beaulieu is the author of 4 books – *with wax* (2003), *fragments from the frag pool* (with gary barwin, 2005), *fractal economies* (2006) and *Flatland* (2007). His most recent *Chains* is a collection of lettraset visual poems. Continuously pushing the boundaries and restrictions of the “regular life” of the twenty-six letters of the alphabet, beaulieu’s work underscores the playfulness of language and challenges the way readers have come to expect letters to behave. Using techniques that combine graphic design, fine art and experimental writing, beaulieu opens up new ways of approaching and interpreting poetry. Author, editor, publisher, translator, illustrator and sessional instructor at the University of Calgary, derek beaulieu has been published and exhibited internationally.

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