A KEY TO THE KWIC CONCORDANCE OF BRITISH FOLK PLAY TEXTS

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A COMMENT

No concordance is going to be a best-seller, although Crudens' Bible concordance has come close. Most published concordances have a rather small number of serious users who may work with them for hundreds of hours and a larger number who consult them on occasion. Whether hand-made or computer-generated, most concordances serve similar purposes. Because of the element of trust inherent in the uses to which concordances are put, a concordance containing errors - or otherwise flawed - should never be published.

The KWIC concordance I produced in the winter of 1969-70 to some 156 texts and 38 fragments should be used with caution: some texts it contained are suspect, my editorial methods were naive, my 'input data' contained errors and the concordance-generating software employed was crude. That concordance, like the other compilations produced at the same general time, was made for my personal use, but a few microfilm and computer-printout copies were made. I have since destroyed both my own magnetic-tape copies and the data from which the various concordances were generated. It has been my intent to produce something far better when circumstances permit, but that has not yet come to pass.

The sample page (1092) which follows illustrates the design and potential uses as well as many of the flaws of the KWIC concordance - copies of which were sent over to Britain. (2)

The concordance is an alphabetical list of all forms of all words in the texts with all occurrences provided in the contexts in which they appear. (The sample page is from the 'I' entry). The KWIC - Key Word in Context - format indicates that the concorded word (Key Word) is centered in the set amount of context, here eighty characters rigidly determined by the computer, and further alphabetized in order to bring together related phrases and passages.

A reference is supplied on the left, with the key to these references reprinted below from my 1972 M.A. thesis, itself written between 1969 and 1971. (3) The concordance format permitted twenty characters for this identification and they were filled as follows: an initial three-character string indicates county (e.g. LIN = Lincolnshire; YVR = the West Riding of Yorkshire), followed by a four-character string for the town (e.g. SWIN = Swindon), followed by an asterisk when a text is known to be fragmentary, followed by the Ordnance Survey grid references taken from English Ritual Drama (4) and the date of recording, but sometimes the date of
The representation of the text in the concordance is typical of most late 1960s computer printout; it is truly 'utilitarian ugly'. The all-caps contexts are useful, but annoying. Punctuation is omitted, including apostrophes, which results in the existence of such forms as ILL for I'll and HELL for he'll. Ends of 'lines' are marked by equal signs (except in the thirty-characters beginning with the key word where they are replaced by blanks), and the ends of texts are marked by apostrophes. Thus the first two contexts on the sample page contain 'foreign material' from other texts preceding the concorded 'I'. The eighty-character context results in potentially misleading word fragments on both right and left margins.
But despite its manifest lack of elegance, I found this concordance very useful, and I hope it may also be useful to others. What I intend for the future is the creation of an electronic archive of traditional dramatic materials, much like that already established for early English drama and described in A KWIC Concordance to the Plays of the Wakefield Master. (5) Many of the problems inherent in the technology have been encountered — and some of them have been overcome — through such projects as Michael Taft's work with the blues lyrics (6) and his forthcoming Blues Lyric Poetry: A Concordance (7) for an account of his experiences. I would appreciate suggestions from anyone so that an 'open-ended' structure can be developed so that the needs of future researchers can be met. Because of the amount of human time required to do this kind of work, I shudder at the thought of starting afresh for a third time some fifteen years from now.

NOTES
1. This comment and key to the KWIC concordance of British Folk play texts has been reproduced in response to numerous requests for information on this project.
2. The Centre for English Cultural Tradition and Language, University of Sheffield and Paul Smith both hold microfilm and computer printout copies of this concordance.
3. M. J. Preston, The Saint George Play Tradition: Solutions to some Textual Problems (M.A. Thesis; Department of English, University of Colorado; 1972)

KEY TO THE CONCORDANCES

Berkshire

BER CHIL SU 3687 1926 (Childrey) Stuart Piggott, 'Mummers' Plays from Berkshire, Derbyshire, Cumberland, and Isle of Man', Folk-Lore Vol. XL (1929), pp.262-273. (Fragment only).
BER COMP SU 5279 1900 (Compton, Reading, etc.) P.H.Ditchfield, Old English Customs extant at the present time (London, 1896), pp.12-13, 316-326. (Fragment only).
BER STAN SU 4393 1930 (Stanford in the Vale) Stuart Piggott, 'Mummers Plays from Berkshire, Derbyshire, Cumberland, and Isle of Man', Folk-Lore Vol. XL (1929), pp.262-273.
BER UNLO 1900 (Unlocated) P.H.Ditchfield, Old English Customs extant at the present time (London, 1896), pp.12-13, 316-326.

Buckinghamshire

BUC HADD SP7408 1860 (Haddenham) D.C.Baker Collection. (Copy in my possession).
Cheshire

CHE ALDE SJ8478 1955 (Alderley Edge) Alex Helm, Cheshire Folk Drama (Ibstock, 1968) pp.42-51. (Hereafter referred to as Helm CFD)


CHE CCRG SJ8562 1960 (Congleton) Helm CFD p.53. (Fragment)


CHE GREA SJ6677 1949 (Great Budworth) Helm CFD. p.22. (Fragment).


CHE LYM1 SJ6877 1950 (Lyman) Helm CFD pp.28-29. (Fragment).

CHE RUDH SJ7470 1949 (Rudheath) Alex Helm, Five Mumming Plays for Schools (London, 1965) pp.5-12. (Hereafter referred to as Helm, Five)

CHE SAND SJ6070 1949 (Sandiway) Helm CFD pp.30-32. (Fragment).

CHE UTKC SJ5569 1963 (Utiknton) Helm CFD pp.32-35.


CHE UNE1 SJ35 1949 (Delamere Forest) Helm CFD pp.40-41. (Fragment).

CHE UNE2 1928 (Unlocated) (Fragment).

Cornwall


COR MYLO SW8135 1905 (Mylor) Tiddy pp.148-156.

Cumberland

CUM ORT1* 1914 (Orton). (Fragment).

CUM ORT2* 1914 (Orton). (Fragment).


Derbyshire

DER BRM SK4073 1933 (Bramington) Alex Helm & E.C.Carte Six Mummers' Acts (Ibstock, 1968) pp.8-13. (Hereafter referred to as Helm-Carte SMA)

DER CHUR SK2033 1930 (Church Broughton) Stuart Peggott, 'Mummers' Plays from Berkshire, Derbyshire, Cumberland and Isle of Man' Folk-Lore Vol. XL (1929) pp.262-273.

DER REP1 SK3026 1909 (Repton) Stuart Peggott, 'Mummers' Plays from Berkshire, Derbyshire, Cumberland, and Isle of Man', Folk-Lore Vol. XL (1929) pp.83-84. (Fragment).

DER REP2 SK3026 1909 (Repton) A.M.Protheroe, 'Scraps of English Folk Lore: I, Derbyshire (Repton)', Folk-Lore Vol. XXXVI (1925) pp.63-84. (Fragment).

DER UNLO 1921 (Unlocated) Gwen John, 'The Derbyshire Mumming Play of St. George and the Dragon; or, as it is sometimes called, The Foste Eggs', Folk-Lore Vol. XXXII (1921) pp.181-193.

Devonshire

DEV BOVE SX8178 1914 (Bovey Tracey) Tiddy pp.157-158.

DEV BOW SS7201 1948 (Bow) Theo Brown 'The Mummer's Play in Devon and Newfoundland' Folk-Lore Vol. LXIII (1952) pp.30-35.

Dorsetshire


DOR UNE1 1880 (Unlocated) J.S.Udal, 'Christmas Mummers in Dorsetshire' The Folk-Lore Record Vol. III Pt.1 (1880) pp.91-112. (The first text)
Durham


DUR GAI2 NZ1716 1893 (Gainford) ERD pp.82-84. (Fragment).

DUR GAI3 NZ1716 1894 (Gainford) ERD pp.84-87.


DUR HIGH NZ1359 1955 (High Spenn) ERD pp.90-93.


Gloucestershire


GLO CIND S06513 1914 (Cinderford) Tiddy, pp.161-162.

GLO DUPS ST7597 1931 (Dursley) D.A.N. Tod, 'Christmas Mummers' Plays from Bisley, Dursley, Gloucester, Minchinhampton, Wickwar, Glos.', *Folk-Lore* Vol. XLVI, No.4 (1935), (Hereafter referred to as Tod).

GLO GLOU S08318 1931 (Gloucester) Tod, pp.367-370.


GLO ICOR SP1522 1914 (Icomb) Tiddy pp.174-179.

GLO KEMP SU1596 1868 ( Kempsford) Tiddy pp.242-253.

GLO LONG SP1729 1906 (Longborough) Tiddy pp.180-184.

GLO MARS ST7773 1966 (Marshfield) D.C. Baker Collection (Copy in my possession).

GLO MINC S08600 1931 (Minchinhampton) Tod pp.370-372.

GLO SAPP S09403 1914 (Sapperton) Tiddy pp.170-173.


GLO SOUT SU0497 1958 (South Cerney) D.C. Baker Collection (Copy in my possession).

GLO WEST SP1240 1864 (Weston Subedge) Tiddy pp.163-168.

GLO WICK ST7288 1935 (Wickwar) Tod pp.373-374.

Hampshire

HAM BUR1 SU4657 1914 (Burghclere) Tiddy pp.189-191.

HAM BUR2 SU4657 1914 (Burghclere) Tiddy pp.183-188.


HAM BURS SU4809 1914 (Bursledon) Tiddy pp.192-194.

HAM CROM SU7948 1912 (Crookall) Printed version in D.C. Baker Collection. (Copy in my possession).


HAM OVE1 SU5149 1914 (Overton) Tiddy pp.195-199.

HAM OVE2 SU5149 1932 (Overton) D.C. Baker Collection (Copy in my possession).

HAM ROMS SU3581 1837 (Romsey) ERD pp.88-90.

HAM TATE SU8161 1960  (Tateley) D.C. Baker Collection. (Copy in my possession)

Lancashire
LAN BLAC* SD3035 1858  (Blackpool) T., Notes & Queries, Series 2, Vol. V (1858) p. 315. (Fragment).
LAN CARK SD3676 1941  (Cark in Cartmel) E.N.W., 'Pace Eggers' Play from North Lancashire', Folk-Lore Vol. LIII (1941), pp. 150-152.
LAN LANC SD4761 1920  (Lancaster) Hella Five, pp. 37-45.
LAN OMER* SD4357 1906  (Ormskirk) (Fragment).

Leicestershire
LEI AB K*  1967  (Ab Kettleby) Hella-Catte SMA, p. 44. (Fragment).

Lincolnshire
LIN BAS2 SK9059 1823  (Bassingham) Baskervill pp. 241-245.
LIN BRAT SK4980 1894  (Brattleby) Hella-Catte SMA, pp. 38-43.
LIN BROU SB9508 1824  (Broughton) Baskervill pp. 259-262.
LIN BULB TF0282 1914  (Bulby) Tiddy pp. 237-240.
LIN JERK SK9171 1959  (Jersey) BRD, pp. 74-78.
LIN KIRM TA1011 1920  (Kirmington) Tiddy pp. 254-257.
LIN SWIN SK8662 1842  (Swinderby) Baskervill pp. 262-268.
LIN UNL1  1888  (Unlocated) Baskervill pp. 259-262.

London
LON HAM* TQ2279 1870  (Hammersmith, Chiswick, etc.) O., Notes & Queries, Series 5, Vol. I (1874) p. 453. (Fragment).

Isle of Man
Middlesex


Northamptonshire

NWH BADB SP5559 1914 (Badby) Tiddy pp.222-223.
NWH SULG SP5595 1921 (Sulgrave) Helm-Cawte SMA, pp.14-22.

Northumberland

NWH EAR1 NZ3722 1911 (Earsdon) Cecil J.Sharp, The Sword Dances of Northern England together with the Horn Dance of Abbots Bromley (London, 1911), pp.84-87. (Hereafter referred to as Sharp).
NWH EAR2 NZ3722 1911 (Earsdon) Sharp pp.87-89.

Nottinghamshire

NOT CLA1 SK7288 1914 (Clayworth) Tiddy pp.241-245.
NOT CLA2 SK7288 1914 (Clayworth) Tiddy pp.246-247.
NOT PIUM SK6133 1939 (Plumtree) Helm Five pp.30-36.

Oxfordshire

OXF BAMP SP3103 1896 (Bampton) P.H.Ditchfield, Old English Customs extant at the present time (London, 1896), pp.320-326.
OXF BROA SP2503 1902 (Broadwell) Gatty pp.32-34.
OXF GILD SP5902 1914 (Cuddesdon) Tiddy, pp.217-218.
OXF LEAF SP3115 1914 (Leaford) Tiddy pp.214-216.
OXF LOWE SP4824 1885 (Lower Heyford) Tiddy pp.219-221.
OXF SHIP SP2717 1914 (Shipston under Wychwood) Tiddy pp.209-213.
OXF THAM SP7006 1853 (Thame) Frederick George Lee, Notes & Queries, Series 5, Vol. II (1874), pp.303-305.
OXF WATE SP6305 1814 (Walterstock) Tiddy pp.206-208.
OXF UNLI 1886 (Uncollected) As above, p.101. (Fragment).

Somerset

SOM KEY1 ST6568 1822 (Keynsham) Ivor Gatty, 'Two variations of the Folk Play and a further account of the Old Horse', Journal of the English Folk Dance & Song Society Vol. V, No. 2 (1947), pp.22-25.
SOM KEY2 ST6568 1822 (Keynsham) Baskerville pp.268-272.
SOM UNLI 1914 (Uncollected) Tiddy pp.159-160.

Staffordshire

STA ASTB* 1867 (Astorby, Rode and Lawton) Ricardus Frederici, Notes & Queries, Series 3, Vol. XII (1867), p.479. (Fragment)
STA BURN SK0609 1954 (Burntwood) Helm-Cawte SMA, pp.25-29.
STA ECC1 SJ8329 1879 ( Eccleshall) Charlotte S.Burns, 'Quisers' Play, Songs and Rhymes from Staffordshire', Folk-Lore Journal Vol. IV (1886) pp.350-357. (Hereafter referred to as Burns).
STA ECC2* SJ8329 1884  (Eccleshall) Burne p.357. (Fragment).
STA ECC3* SJ8329 1884  (Eccleshall) Burne p.357. (Fragment).
STA ECC4* SJ8329 1884  (Eccleshall) Burne pp.357-358. (Fragment).
STA KEEL*  1880  (Keele) (Fragment).
STA KNOT*  1867  (Knotty Ash and West Derby) Ricardus Frederici, Notes & Queries, Series 3, Vol. XII (1867) p.479. (Fragment)
STA MOW *  1867  (New Cop) As above. (Fragment).

Sussex

SUS BRIG*TQ3105 1884  (Brighton) Frederick E.Sawyer, 'Sussex Tipteers' Play', Folk-Lore Journal Vol. II (1884) p.8. (Fragment).
SUS CHIT SU9423 1911  (Chithurst) Hals Fives pp.19-29.
SUS OVIN TQ3503 1870  (Ovingdean) Tiddy pp.203-205.
SUS SOM1 TQ1605 1882  (Scrapting) Frederick E.Sawyer, Notes & Queries, Series 6, Vol. VIII (1883) pp.483-484.
SUS SOM2*TQ1605 1882  (Scrapting) Frederick E.Sawyer, Notes & Queries, Series 6, Vol. VIII (1883) p.484. (Fragment).

Warwickshire

WAR GREA SP243 1914  (Great Wolford) Tiddy pp.229-231.
WAR ILMU SP2143 1914  (Ilmington) Tiddy pp.226-228.
WAR PILL SP2948 1914  (Pillerton) Tiddy pp.224-225.
WAR RUGB*SP5075 1897  (Rugby) W.H.D.Rouse, 'Christmas Mummers at Rugby', Folk-Lore Vol. X (1899) pp.196-194. (Fragment)
WAR RUGB SP5075 1899  (Rugby) Gatty pp.21-22.
WAR STOW SP3272 1924  (Stoneleigh) Mary Dormer Harris, Notes & Queries CXLVIII (1923) pp.42-43.

Westmorland


Isle of Wight


Wiltsire

Worcestershire


Yorkshire (East Riding)


Yorkshire (North Riding)

YNR AMP1 SE5878 1913 (Ampleforth) Sharp III pp.52-76.


YNR GOAT*WZ8301 1928 (Goathland) Kennedy pp.27. (Fragment).

YNR HUNT*SE1892 1928 (Hunton) Karples pp.42-43. (Fragment).


YNR SOWE SE8381 1913 (Sowerby) Karples pp.43-46.

Yorkshire (West Riding)


YWR GREW*SK3394 1911 (Gresford) Sharp p.57. (Fragment).

YWR HEPT SD9827 1909 (Heptonstall) Tiddy pp.234-236.

YWR KIRK*SE8271 1911 (Kirby Malzeard) Sharp pp.42-43. (Fragment).


YWR RIPO SE3171 1920 (Ripon) Kennedy pp.23-25.

Scotland

S EBE SPO* NT6049 1900 (Spottiswoode, Berwickshire) Gatty pp.26-27.

S FEB FEB 1900 (Unlocated, Peeblesshire) 'Collectanea', Folk-Lore Vol. XVI (1905) p.211. (Fragment).


Ireland


I - AN BE2 J4474 1914 (Belfast (Chapbook) Co. Antrim) Tiddy pp.141-143.


I DU SWO 01846 1965  (Swords, Co. Dublin) Galley pp.10-14.
I PB BEL H0838 1965  (Belcoo, Co. Fermanagh) Hels-Carte SRA, pp.32-35.
I LO DU2 J0407 1911  (Dundalk, Co. Louth) As above, pp.304-307.
I TY SPA H2985 1965  (Spaught, Co. Tyrone) Galley pp.30-34.

Canada (Newfoundland)
C NE ST. 1885  (St. John's, Newfoundland) Halpert & Story pp.193-196.
C NE SAL 1930  (Salvage, Newfoundland) Halpert & Story pp.202-207.

United States (Kentucky)
U KE CAN 1930  (Gander, Kentucky) Campbell pp.10-14.
U KE UNL 1938  (Unlocated, Kentucky) Campbell pp.18-22.

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