

Textual and personal networks: The *Chronique Abrégée* in fifteenth-century Paris

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When Denis Sauvage first edited Nicole Gilles's chronicle in the sixteenth century, he commented on the number of surviving manuscripts with marginal annotations and amendments, suggesting that this reflected a reading and writing community engaging with the text. Subsequent research has not uncovered a multiplicity of manuscripts of Gilles's work as Sauvage's comments might suggest we would, but rather a collection of very similar texts — abridged chronicles of the Latin chronicle of St Denis which appear to have circulated amongst a group of men active mainly in the royal court in Paris in the fifteenth century. This paper will explore the material similarities and differences in a corpus of some 70 manuscripts, representing nine or more closely related textual traditions. The physical objects of manuscripts will be plotted as nodes in a network and their material characteristics (physical support, size, page layout, library stamps) will form edges between them. A separate network will plot the personal connections between the individuals associated with these documents as authors, scribes and owners of the manuscripts. Comparing the two networks will reveal if these personal networks reproduce the material networks of their manuscripts. Since a number of the men associated with this textual tradition had links to publishing, it is possible that their texts are mainly influenced by a printed tradition, rather than through their manuscripts. It is certain that some of these men were linked through the intermediary of printers. This paper represents a preliminary study that ultimately seeks to apply the same methodology to the textual content of the manuscripts. I would be grateful for any feedback that conference participants could provide in approaching this sort of project.