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Wittgenstein Source, the Bergen Nachlass Edition, and the Bergen Nachlass transcriptions

After almost ten years of availability and some well-tended technical teething problems, Wittgenstein Source (Wittgenstein 2009-) has become a stable platform giving open access to high-resolution images of the manuscripts and typescripts from Wittgenstein’s philosophical Nachlass.¹

Wittgenstein Source was created and is run by the Wittgenstein Archives at the University of Bergen (WAB), and from its start the intention has always been that Wittgenstein Source includes transcriptions of the Nachlass so that users can browse facsimiles and transcriptions in parallel. Thus far the Nachlass manuscripts and typescripts are chiefly available in facsimile versions only, but they are increasingly enriched with two types of descriptions: the first laying out their archival characteristics and the second detailing their text genetic and philosophical place in the Nachlass corpus. Also, last but not least, while today only about 5000 pages of Nachlass transcriptions are uploaded to Wittgenstein Source, in the coming year(s) WAB’s transcriptions of all Nachlass items will be added and interlinked with the images. For examples of a transcription already on Wittgenstein Source and the intended interlinked use of transcription and facsimile see [http://www.wittgensteinsource.org/Ms-115,1\[2\]et2\[1\].n](http://www.wittgensteinsource.org/Ms-115,1[2]et2[1].n).

Transcriptions of *all* Nachlass items are, however, already now available from WAB’s “dynamic interactive presentation” (IDP) site “Nachlass transcriptions” (IDP 2016). A typical scenario for use of this site together with Wittgenstein Source might be the following: I hear about Wittgenstein’s use of a code in his diaries from the First World War and check the transcriptions of the diaries MSS 101-103 on WAB’s site. Wittgenstein’s remarks in code are there indicated by italics and thus easily recognizable, but the site additionally offers possibilities of marking these remarks with highlighting. As with all of WAB’s transcriptions, I can choose between two principal profiles, diplomatic and normalized. In the diplomatic transcription each word, sentence and mark is rendered with all the corrections, orthographic or other idiosyncrasies and mistakes as Wittgenstein wrote them in the original. In the normalized transcription a gentle emendation of the text has taken place and, for example, spelling and grammar (but not punctuation) are broadly unified, some of Wittgenstein’s editorial marks are as a default suppressed (they can be made visible though), everything deleted by Wittgenstein is omitted, and Wittgenstein’s insertions are placed where they belong – in short, the normalized version delivers a slightly normalized and linear transcription, clean copy version of the text.

A diplomatic transcription of Wittgenstein’s first diary entries (August 9-13, 1914) while in Cracow during WWI might thus look as follows (facsimiles of the relevant pages are appended to this contribution):

Ms-101,1r

9.8.14.

Vorgestern bei der Assentierung
genommen worden & dem 2^{ten} Festungs-
artillerie Regiment in Krakau zugewiesen.
Gestern Vormittag von Wien ab. Komme
heute Vormittag in Krakau an. Guter St..
Gab mein großes Schreibebuch
Trenkler zur Aufbewahrung. Werde
ich jetzt arbeiten können??? Sehr
gespannt auf mein kommendes Leben!
Die Militärbehörden in Wien waren von einer
unglaublichen Freundlichkeit. Leute die
von tausenden täglich um Rat gefragt
werden geben freundliche & ausführliche
Antworten. So etwas ermutigt ungeheuer. es
erinnerte mich an englische Verhältnisse.

10.8.14.

Als Rekrut eingekleidet worden.
Wenig Hoffnung meine technischen
Kenntnisse verwenden zu können.

¹ Wittgenstein’s philosophical Nachlass comprises about twenty thousand pages and was first described and catalogued by his trustee G.H. von Wright in “The Wittgenstein Papers” (1969).

Brauch sehr viel gute Laune &
Philosophie um mich hier zurecht
zu finden. Als ich heute aufwachte

— [Ms-101,2r](#)

War es mir wie in einem jener traume worin
man plötzlich ganz unsinniger
Weise wieder in der Schule sitzt. In
meiner Stellung ist freilich auch viel Humor & ich
verrichte die niedrigsten Dienste mit fast ironischem
lächeln. Nicht gearbeitet. Dies ist eine Feuerprobe des
Charakters eben darum weil so viel Kraft dazu
gehört die gute Stimmung & die Energie nicht zu
verlieren.

11.8.14.

Schlecht geschlafen (Ungeziefer). Nachdem ich das Zimmer
gekehrt hatte marschierten wir zu ein paar alten Mörsern
& wurden im gebrauch instruiert. **Furchtbar** heiß.
Das Essen ist unessbar. Werde vielleicht in zukunft
außerhalb der Kaserne schlafen. An David
geschrieben. Sehne mich schon nach einem Brief
von ihm um das Gefühl des Kontakts mit
meinem früheren Leben nicht zu verlieren. Noch
nicht gearbeitet.

13.8.14.

Vorgestern beim Hauptmann gewesen. War sehr
vertattert & stand nicht militärmäßig
vor ihm. Er war etwas ironisch und mir nicht

— [Ms-101,3r](#)

recht sympatisch. Resultat = 0. Heute kam
es heraus daß ich Matura etc gemacht
hatte worauf eine ganze Reihe der Ein-
jährigen mich mit Herr College be-
tittelten & auff mich eindrangen
ich solle doch mein Freiwilligenrecht
geltend machen. Dies machte mi[eħ|r]
spaß. (It bucked me up!) Gestern & heute
starken Katarh & oft unwohlbe-
finden. Manchmal ein wenig deprimiert. Traf
heute in der Kantine einen Leutnant dem
es auffiel daß ich dort zu mittag ab er
fragte mich sehr nett was ich im Zivil
sei wunderte sich sehr daß sie mich nicht
zu den ^{einjährig} Freiwilligen genommen hatten &
war überhaupt sehr freundlich was
mir sehr wol tat.

A linear and slightly normalized transcription of the same passages might look as follows:

— Ms-101,1r

9.8.14.

Vorgestern bei der Assentierung genommen worden & dem 2^{ten} Festungsartillerie-Regiment in Krakau zugeteilt. Gestern vormittag von Wien ab. Komme heute vormittag in Krakau an. Guter Stimmung. Gab mein großes Schreibebuch Trenkler zur Aufbewahrung. Werde ich jetzt arbeiten können??? Sehr gespannt auf mein kommendes Leben! Die Militärbehörden in Wien waren von einer unglaublichen Freundlichkeit. Leute die von Tausenden täglich um Rat gefragt werden gaben freundliche & ausführliche Antworten. So etwas ermutigt ungeheuer. Es erinnerte mich an englische Verhältnisse.

10.8.14.

Als Rekrut eingekleidet worden. Wenig Hoffnung meine technischen Kenntnisse verwenden zu können. Brauch sehr viel gute Laune & Philosophie um mich hier zurecht zu finden. Als ich heute aufwachte

— Ms-101,2r

war es mir wie in einem jener Träume worin man plötzlich ganz unsinniger Weise wieder in der Schule sitzt. In meiner Stellung ist freilich auch viel Humor & ich verrichte die niedrigsten Dienste mit fast ironischem Lächeln. Nicht gearbeitet. Dies ist eine Feuerprobe des Charakters eben darum weil so viel Kraft dazu gehört die gute Stimmung & die Energie nicht zu verlieren.

11.8.14.

Schlecht geschlafen (Ungeziefer). Nachdem ich das Zimmer gekehrt hatte marschierten wir zu ein paar alten Mörsern & wurden im Gebrauch instruiert. Furchtbar heiß. Das Essen ist uneßbar. Werde vielleicht in Zukunft außerhalb der Kaserne schlafen. An David geschrieben. Sehne mich schon nach einem Brief von ihm um das Gefühl des Kontakts mit meinem früheren Leben nicht zu verlieren. Noch nicht gearbeitet.

13.8.14.

Vorgestern beim Hauptmann gewesen. War sehr verdattert & stand nicht militärmäßig vor ihm. Er war etwas ironisch und mir nicht

— Ms-101,3r

recht sympathisch. Resultat = 0. Heute kam es heraus daß ich Matura etc. gemacht hatte worauf eine ganze Reihe der Einjährigen mich mit Herr Kollege betitelten & auf mich eindrangen ich solle doch mein Freiwilligenrecht geltend machen. Dies machte mir Spaß(It bucked me up). Gestern & heute starken Katarrh & oft Unwohlbefinden. Manchmal ein wenig deprimiert. Traf heute in der Kantine einen Leutnant dem es auffiel daß ich dort zu Mittag aß er fragte mich sehr nett was ich im Zivil sei wunderte sich sehr daß sie mich nicht zu den einjährig Freiwilligen genommen hatten & war überhaupt sehr freundlich was mir sehr wohl tat.

Both the diplomatic and the normalized transcription of pages 1r, 2r and 3r of Ms-101 have been downloaded from the IDP 2016 site - and every user with access to the internet can use the very same site for producing diplomatic, normalized and other outputs of these passages. For text searches, the normalized version is clearly the better option. By default, IDP 2016 offers for MSS 101-103 the personal and the philosophical remarks in two separate blocks since the two text sequences run in parallel - the personal and code passages mostly on the verso, the philosophical remarks on the recto pages. However, since I may want to study the two in full *chronological* order, a chronological sequence option is available via a simple click.

This possibility of “interactive dynamic presentation” (Pichler & Bruvik 2014) of Wittgenstein’s Nachlass has become possible thanks to WAB’s 2006-07 migration of its transcriptions to XML markup (Pichler 2010). With it, each single remark, “Bemerkung”, has been tagged with a date and can therefore now be extracted from the set of transcriptions as a separate unit and put in chronological order together with other remarks.

Moreover, each single Bemerkung has received a unique and informative name, the “siglum”. The Bemerkungen names, “sigla”, are composed of a sequence of “subnames”: the name of the overarching Nachlass

item in which the Bemerkung is found, the name of the page(s) on which it stands, and the name(s) for the text segments of which the Bemerkung consists. The Nachlass item is identified through a prefix “Ms-” (for manuscripts) or “Ts-” (for typescripts), respectively, followed by the von Wright Nachlass catalogue number. “Ms-101” for example refers to the Nachlass item which in the catalogue has the number 101, belonging to the class of manuscripts and being the very first of the war diaries. Page names are given by following either Wittgenstein’s or the librarian’s pagination or by introducing a new pagination. In a siglum, the page name follows the name of the Nachlass item, separated from it by a comma. “Ms-101,2r” e.g. is the page in Ms-101 which has the page name “2r” (“r” for “recto”). But, as said, the reference system does not stop here; it continues down to Bemerkungen level. “Ms-101,2r[2]” is then the siglum for a specific Bemerkung and refers to the second block of text on page 2r in Ms-101, thus the (personal, but not coded) remark dated “11.8.14”:

11.8.14.

Schlecht geschlafen (Ungeziefer). Nachdem ich das Zimmer gekehrt hatte marschierten wir zu ein paar alten Mörsern & wurden im Gebrauch instruiert. Furchtbar heiß. Das Essen ist uneßbar. Werde vielleicht in Zukunft außerhalb der Kaserne schlafen. An David geschrieben. Sehne mich schon nach einem Brief von ihm um das Gefühl des Kontakts mit meinem früheren Leben nicht zu verlieren. Noch nicht gearbeitet.

The next remark from August 13 goes across the page break which is mirrored in the siglum: Ms-101,2r[3]et3r[1]. Each of the more than fifty thousand Bemerkungen in the Wittgenstein Nachlass is in WAB’s transcriptions identified through such a unique siglum. A Bemerkung can become the unit of not only chronological arrangements, but also arrangements according to genetic paths, reference to persons or works, publication in the so-called works (“Werkausgabe”) etc. It is especially another of WAB’s sites, the “Nachlass semantics” site <http://wab.uib.no/sfb/>, which is entirely dependent on the single Bemerkungen sigla as their basic unit for faceted search and browsing of Nachlass and other Wittgenstein metadata.

Now, in addition to offering a number of interactive filtering and presentation options, IDP 2016 also permits, with a simple click, jumping straight to the facsimile of the manuscript or typescript page in question in the *Bergen Nachlass Edition* on Wittgenstein Source (BNE 2015-). Every Nachlass page has a unique URI; for Ms-101,2r it is: http://www.wittgensteinsource.org/Ms-101,2r_f (“f” for facsimile) and each single Nachlass remark does as well.² And though Ms-101,2r[2] is not yet available in transcription mode on Wittgenstein Source, the URIs for its transcriptions are already fixed and the site thus prepared for receiving the transcriptions: [http://www.wittgensteinsource.org/Ms-101,2r\[2\]_d](http://www.wittgensteinsource.org/Ms-101,2r[2]_d) will house the diplomatic and [http://www.wittgensteinsource.org/Ms-101,2r\[2\]_n](http://www.wittgensteinsource.org/Ms-101,2r[2]_n) the normalized transcription of Bemerkung Ms-101,2r[2].

Every single facsimile on Wittgenstein Source contains a footer informing about the provenance of the facsimile and the license under which it is made available. For Ms-101,2r it is: CC BY-NC 4.0. © 2015 The Master and Fellows of Trinity College, Cambridge; The University of Bergen, Bergen.

Thus, each person and institution is free to copy and redistribute the image of this particular facsimile in any medium or format, adapted or non-adapted, as long as appropriate credit is given to the rights holders, a link to the license provided, any changes made are indicated, and, last but not least, the purpose is *non-commercial* (for details see <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/legalcode>).

Giving open access to facsimiles and transcriptions of the Nachlass has become possible thanks to the work, generous funding, and legal permission from a range of institutions. This access has come about first of all thanks to Trinity College Cambridge, the owner of the intellectual rights in the Wittgenstein Nachlass today, with its Wren library where most of the philosophical Nachlass is kept. The Austrian National Library in Vienna, the Bodleian Library in Oxford and the Bertrand Russell Archives in Hamilton, Ontario, where other parts of the Nachlass are kept, are also invaluable partners in WAB’s open access work. Moreover, the production of the new high-resolution facsimiles available on Wittgenstein Source required substantial funding. We need first and foremost to thank the London Stanhill Foundation which through Ilyas Khan generously supported the new digitisation of the materials at the Wren and at the Austrian National Library. Furthermore, we need to thank the Austrian Christian Doppler Forschungsgesellschaft, which provided the funds for the new scans of the material kept at the Bodleian, and the Wren Library, the Austrian National Library and the Bodleian Library, which partly at their own cost produced new scans of their material. We also need to thank the Russell Archives, which entirely at their own cost produced new scans of the materials kept there. And finally, BNE 2015- would never have become possible without the strong and sustained support of the University of Bergen as well as other Norwegian sources. It was at the University of Bergen that the Nachlass was first transcribed in the period 1990-1999 and then made publicly available in the *Bergen Electronic Edition* at Oxford University Press (BEE 2000). Working toward providing the best possible access to the Nachlass of Ludwig Wittgenstein is WAB’s mission also today.

² For retrieving these URIs, the “permalinks”, click the share icon  in the grey menu bar.

So far, I have, of the Wittgenstein Source resources, only been describing and discussing examples from the BNE that WAB itself established and maintains. However, Wittgenstein Source also contains editions contributed by others.

Other editions on Wittgenstein Source: Moore’s Notes of Wittgenstein’s Lectures, Tractatus Publication Materials, Prototracatus Tools

As of May 2018, next to the *Bergen Nachlass Edition*, three more editions are available on Wittgenstein Source: the *Facsimile Edition of Moore’s Notes of Wittgenstein’s Lectures*; the *Facsimile Edition of Tractatus Publication Materials*; and the *Prototracatus Tools*. Additional editions are to come. It must be remembered that for each of these editions – as well as for each subpart of any of the editions on Wittgenstein Source – different permission and rights regulations can apply. Let me now shortly present the three other editions currently available.

The *Wittgenstein Source Facsimile Edition of Moore’s Notes of Wittgenstein’s Lectures* (MWN 2015), edited by David Stern, Brian Rogers, and Gabriel Citron, gives access to the manuscripts containing G.E. Moore’s authentic notes of Wittgenstein’s lectures at Cambridge University 1930-33. These are: (i) Six notebooks that Moore used to take notes at Wittgenstein’s Cambridge lectures from January 1930 to May 1933 (items 10.7.4-10.7.9); (ii) Loose-leaf summary notes, based on those notebooks, which Moore composed in the early 1950s (item 10.7.10); (iii) The manuscript of a short paper on Wittgenstein on grammar which Moore read in Wittgenstein’s class in February 1932 (item 15.10). The originals of these items are kept at Cambridge University Library, Department of Manuscripts and University Archives, George Edward Moore: Correspondence and Papers, MS Add.8875, 10.7.4-10, and 15.10. They are reproduced in MWN by kind permission of the Syndics of Cambridge University Library, Perry Moore, and Thomas Baldwin. An edition with edited transcriptions of these manuscripts has appeared in Wittgenstein 2016.

The *Wittgenstein Source Facsimile Edition of Tractatus Publication Materials* (LPA 2016), edited by Alfred Schmidt, gives access to four highly important items from the publication history of Wittgenstein’s *Logisch-philosophische Abhandlung* and *Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus*: (i) Print pages of “Logisch-philosophische Abhandlung” in *Annalen der Naturphilosophie* 14 (1921) with corrections by Wittgenstein (ÖNB, Cod.Ser.n. 39.597); (ii) The English translation of the *Logisch-philosophische Abhandlung* by Frank Ramsey with corrections by Wittgenstein (ÖNB, Cod.Ser.n. 39.598); (iii) Ogden’s list of questions concerning the translation of “Logisch-philosophische Abhandlung” with comments by Wittgenstein (ÖNB, Cod.Ser.n. 39.037); (iv) The proofs of “Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus” (1922) with corrections by Wittgenstein (ÖNB, Cod.Ser.n. 39.039). These materials were partly published in Wittgenstein 1973 and Wittgenstein 2004, but are for the first time here made available open access and in high-resolution colour facsimiles.

The *Wittgenstein Source Prototracatus Tools* (PTT 2016-), edited and provided by Martin Pilch, is a resource in dynamic development, giving access to transcriptions of manuscripts and typescripts of the *Tractatus* corpus. The resource has a strong focus on the genetic processes which led up to the so-called “Prototracatus” in Ms-104 and the first typescripts of the *Tractatus*, Ts-204 with carbon copy Ts-202 (which are all included in BNE 2015-). PTT 2016- is conceived of as complementary to the existing text editions, including B. McGuinness and J. Schulte’s critical edition of the *Tractatus* and *Prototracatus* (Wittgenstein 1989). It contains impressively ultra-diplomatic and linearized transcriptions of Ms-104, utilizing colour-coded representations as well as graphical representations of the various text-genetic and compositional relations that exist within the *Tractatus* corpus. As of January 2018, the resource contains, in addition to an introduction, a presentation of edition plans, and an overview of the site’s overall structure (all in German), the following sub-parts: (i) Ms-104 diplomatic representation; (ii) Ms-104 linearized representation; (iii) Ms-104 colour-coded representation; (iv) “Prototracatus” ordered representation; (v) Ms-104 regularized representation; (vi) Ms-104 normalized representation. Extensions of the edition that are in the works include representations of the Ts-202 complex, bidirectional comparisons between the *Tractatus* and the “Prototracatus”, as well as representations of intermediate stages of the “Prototracatus”.

Digital humanities and the Nachlass search tool WiTTFind

Today’s Wittgenstein Source is an example of an ongoing project in digital humanities committed to promoting digital editorial philology and open access for cultural heritage. WAB’s work on a Wittgenstein ontology (Pichler & Zöllner-Weber 2013) and semantic faceted search and browsing of Wittgenstein Nachlass and other metadata (<http://wab.uib.no/sfb/>) brings it in addition in close connection with the semantic web and work on computational ontologies.

To enable its digital humanities work, WAB has received substantial support through participation in a number of European and other international and national R&D projects, of which only a few can be mentioned here. Arising from the European COST Action A32 project (2006-10), there is a lasting cooperation with the Italian company net7, with whom WAB continues to run Wittgenstein Source. Within the framework of the Austrian FWF project *Culture and Value Revisited* (2006-08) and the European *Discovery* project (2006-09) WAB’s transcriptions were migrated from the earlier Mecs-Wit to XML TEI markup. The Norwegian *Clarino* project (2012-16) and the University of Bergen Library’s *Digitale fulltekstarkiv* project (2012-14) provided the means to boost WAB’s work on interactive dynamic presentation of the Nachlass transcriptions (IDP 2016). And financing from the European *Agora*

(2011-14) and *DM2E* (2012-14) projects permitted advancing work to create the Wittgenstein ontology and to experiment with different browsers to visualize this work. In addition to cooperation and networks initiated through these projects, bilateral partnerships have also been formed. Here one should first of all mention cooperation with a team at the Ludwig Maximilians Universität München Centrum für Informations- und Sprachverarbeitung (CIS) under the direction of Max Hadersbeck with whom WAB is working to develop lemmatized and other search tools for the Nachlass (WiTTFind). The initial inspiration to create Wittgenstein Source came from Paolo D'Iorio's Hyper Nietzsche project (D'Iorio 2002), which is the team with whom WAB joined forces in the COST Action A32, Discovery and Agora projects and to whom WAB is highly indebted for their groundbreaking work on designing and building philosophical platforms. Today, WAB continues to receive vital programming support from the Bergen University Library without which it would not be functional. Finally, one must also honour the many individual scholars who have through valuable advice and moral support contributed to the Norwegian Wittgenstein Nachlass work over three decades.

Since 2001, after the completion of the *Bergen Electronic Edition*, WAB has funding for only half a position and therefore is naturally glad to see other digital humanities projects and institutions help develop its work and transcriptions, including by applying them in their own research, development, and teaching. An important example of this is WiTTFind (Hadersbeck, Pichler et al. 2016) which offers lemmatized online text search across the entire Nachlass. Lemmatized searching was not provided by the BEE and thus represents a big advancement in Nachlass search tools. At the same time, all who are acquainted with the BEE in its offline CD-Rom version will equally find that some of its (Folio Views) search functions are still unmatched in the online environment. Thus, there is a lot of work that remains to be done and for which WAB needs cooperation partners. Such work also includes implementation of WiTTFind on Wittgenstein Source as well as other desirable or even required technical improvements: replacement on Wittgenstein Source of the Adobe Flash Player image viewer, the site's adaptation for Internet Explorer as well as for mobile platforms, optimization of the IDP site's interface and enrichment of its functionalities (e.g. user access to IDP options taking advantage of the full scale of encoding available in WAB's XML transcriptions), addition of similarity search and topic modeling of the Nachlass texts, work towards on the fly machine-translation of the Nachlass texts (at least German-English translation) - to mention at least a few examples. Wittgenstein Source and the digital Wittgenstein Nachlass have the potential of becoming great examples of cooperation through linked open data (LOD) and other means of online collaboration with vast benefits not only for the users, but also with synergetic effects lending support to the cooperation partners themselves.³

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³ I would like to thank Joachim Schulte for comments on an earlier version of this paper.

(C) Alois Pichler 2018. This is a draft version; for reference and citation please use the published version:
“Wittgenstein Source, the Bergen Nachlass Edition, and the Bergen Nachlass Transcriptions”. In: Ludwig Wittgenstein: die Tractatus Odyssee - Ausstellung. Edited by Radmila Schweitzer in cooperation with Bea Laufersweiler, Wittgenstein Initiative 2018. pp. 213-226

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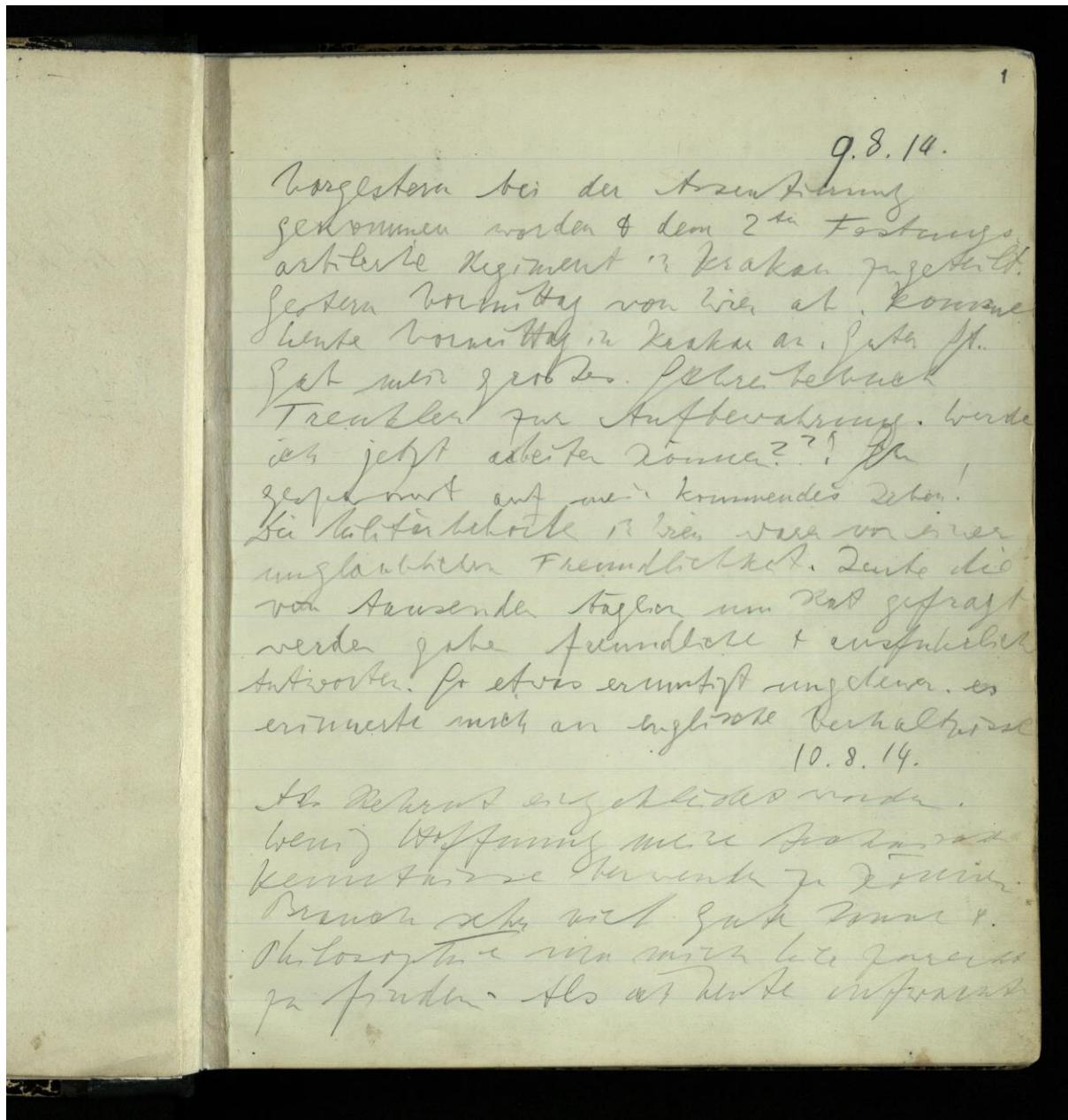
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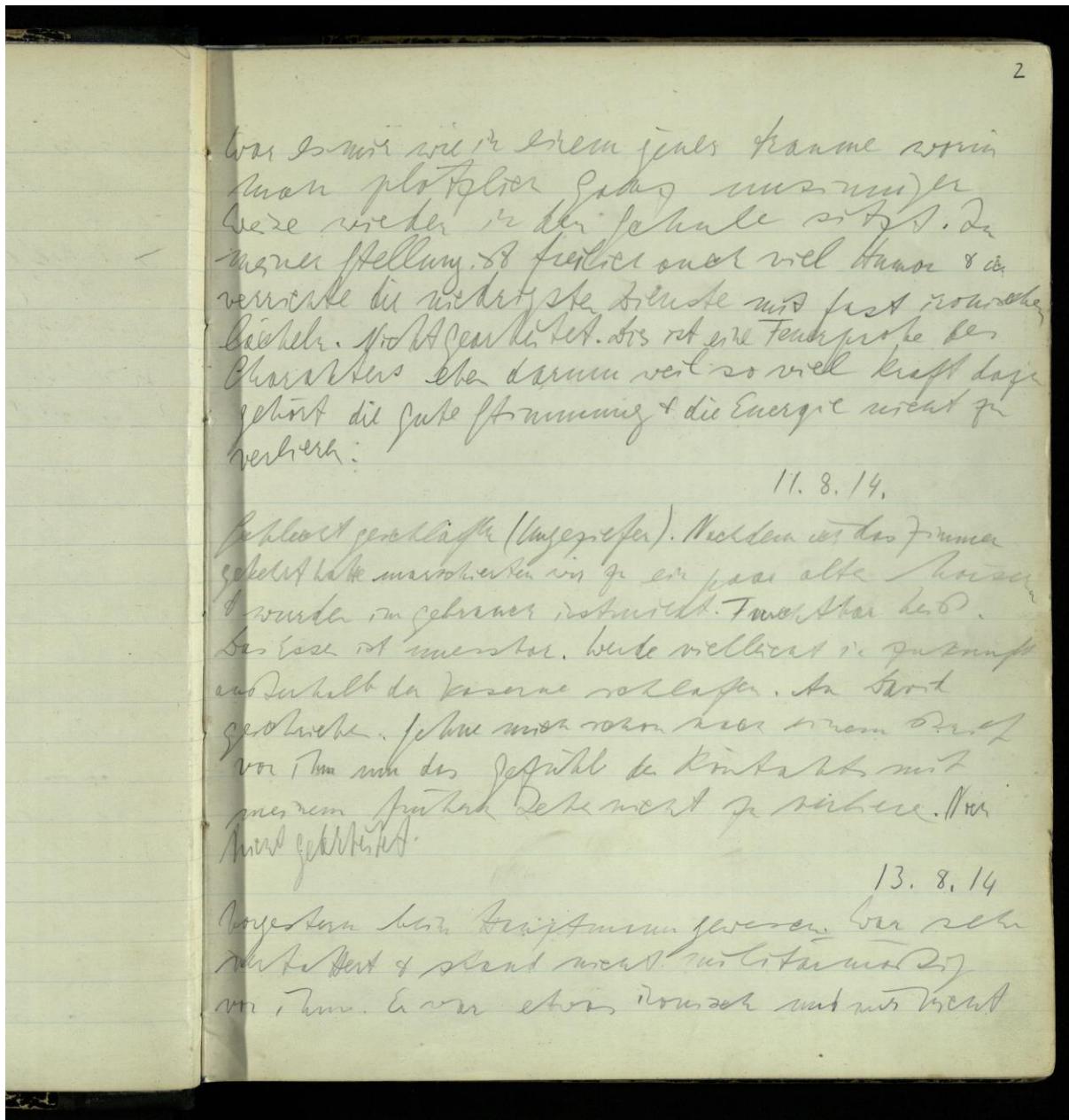
Wright, G.H. von, 1969. “The Wittgenstein papers”. *The Philosophical Review* 78/4, pp. 483-503.

Appendix: Facsimiles of Ms-101,1r-3r⁴

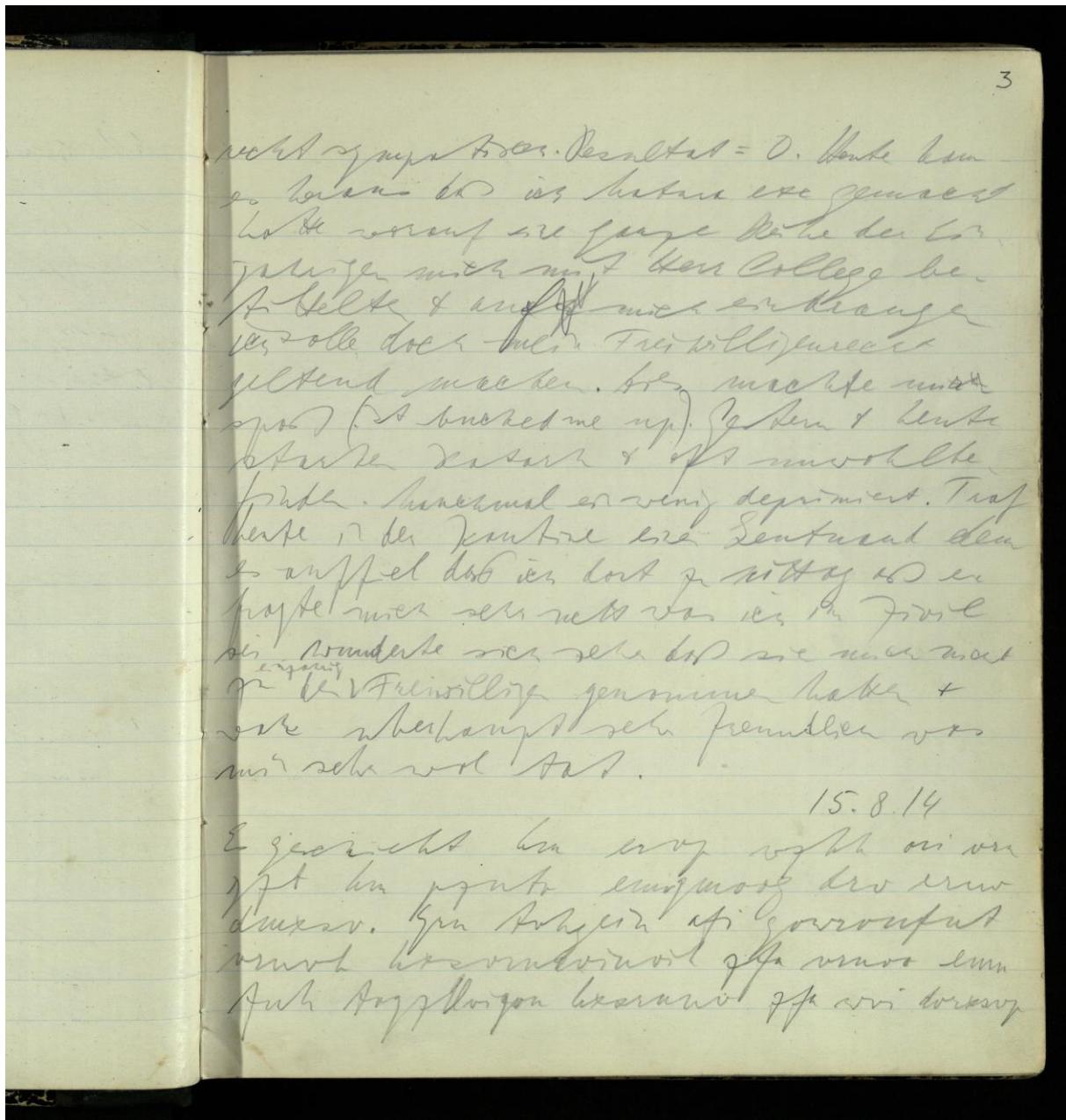


Ludwig Wittgenstein Nachlass item Ms-101,1r as published on http://www.wittgensteinsource.org/BFE/Ms-101,1r_f. CC BY-NC 4.0. © 2015 The Master and Fellows of Trinity College, Cambridge; The University of Bergen, Bergen

⁴ The original of Wittgenstein Nachlass item Ms-101 is at the Wren Library, Trinity College, Cambridge, where in 2014-15, on the request of the Wittgenstein Archives at the University of Bergen (WAB) and with the generous financial support of the Stanhill Foundation, London, the following scans were produced. The image files were post-processed at WAB and uploaded to Wittgenstein Source in the autumn of 2015. They are reproduced here by permission of The Master and Fellows of Trinity College, Cambridge, and the University of Bergen, Bergen.



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