

TranscribeEstoria | Training materials

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MODULE 3

Transcribing the manuscript: abbreviations

Abbreviations menu

Vowel abbreviations with macron

Nasal abbreviations with macron

Superscript letters

Combining letters

Special symbols: tironian note

Show and hide abbreviated expansions

Spelling correction

Graphic modifications


Word and union separation

Upper and lower case

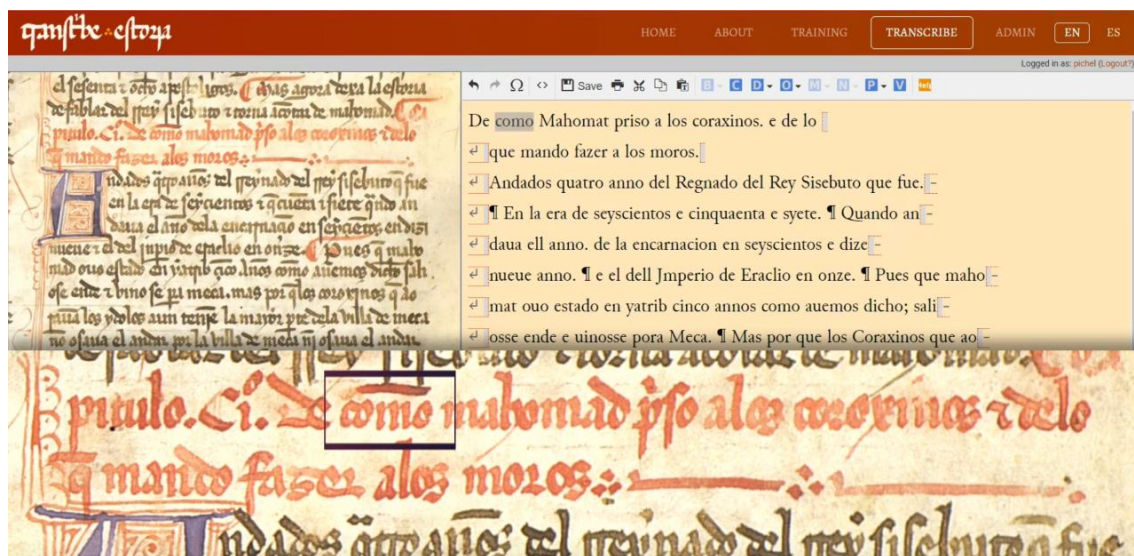
Punctuation marks

Addition or elimination of the full stop and pilcrow

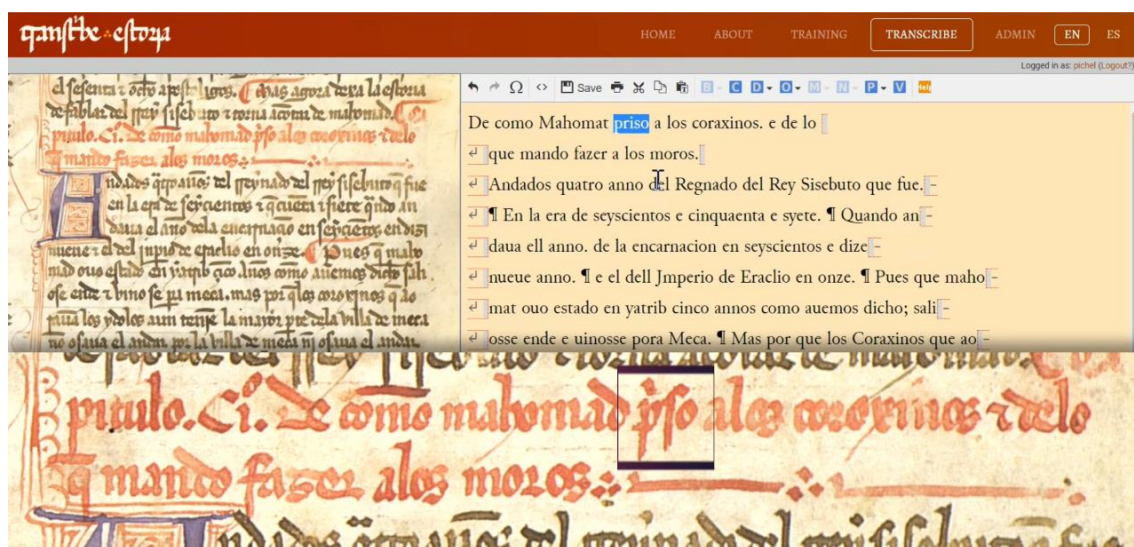
The *tripunctus*

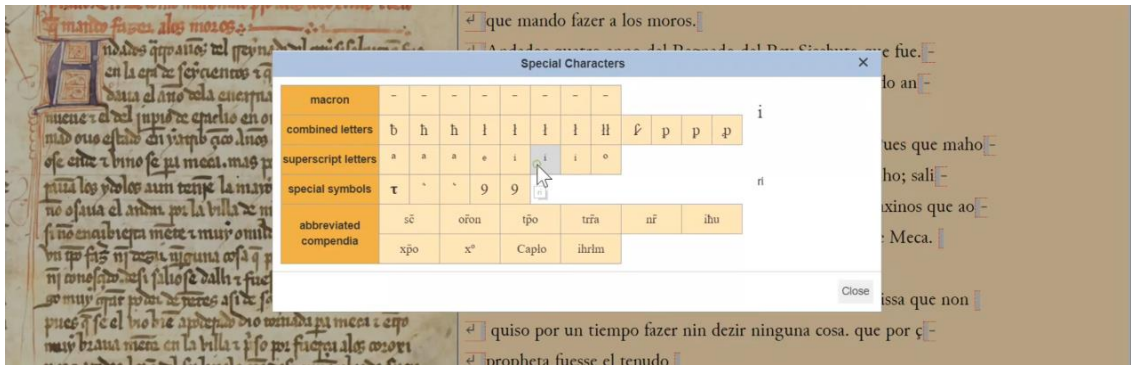
In this video we will learn how to tag more of the detail in our transcription, especially when it comes to **abbreviations**. Remember that the **menu of abbreviation symbols** can be found on the left of the top menu bar, just above the transcription box, with this **button** . We join this passage of the Estoria de Espanna just where we left it - so after the rubrics, column breaks and line breaks have already been tagged.

Firstly, let's look at the rubric and check if it matches exactly the base transcription of E1. We can see in the image that the word '**como**' has a **macron** over the <m>. We could interpret this as showing that a second <m> has been abbreviated ('commo'), but this practice is more common in thirteenth-century texts. Because of this, in our manuscript we are not going to consider this an abbreviation, so we are actually going to ignore this macron. We transcribe as 'como', with nothing else.

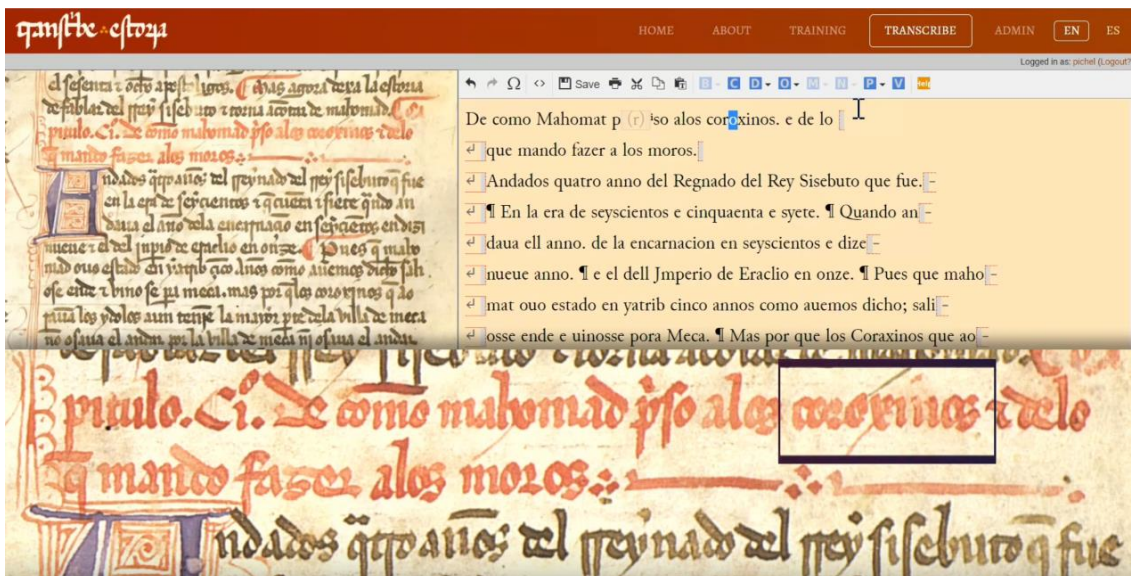


Next up, I can see the <ri> of the verb '**priso**', in modern Castilian '**prendió**,' has been abbreviated by this **superscript** <i>. To mark this in the transcription platform we should choose the place in the base text where <ri> appears and then in the abbreviation menu choose the option of <i> with the corresponding value of 'ri'.

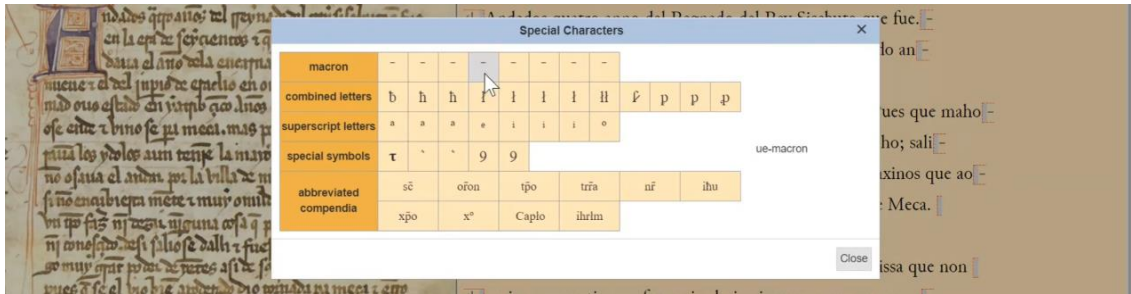




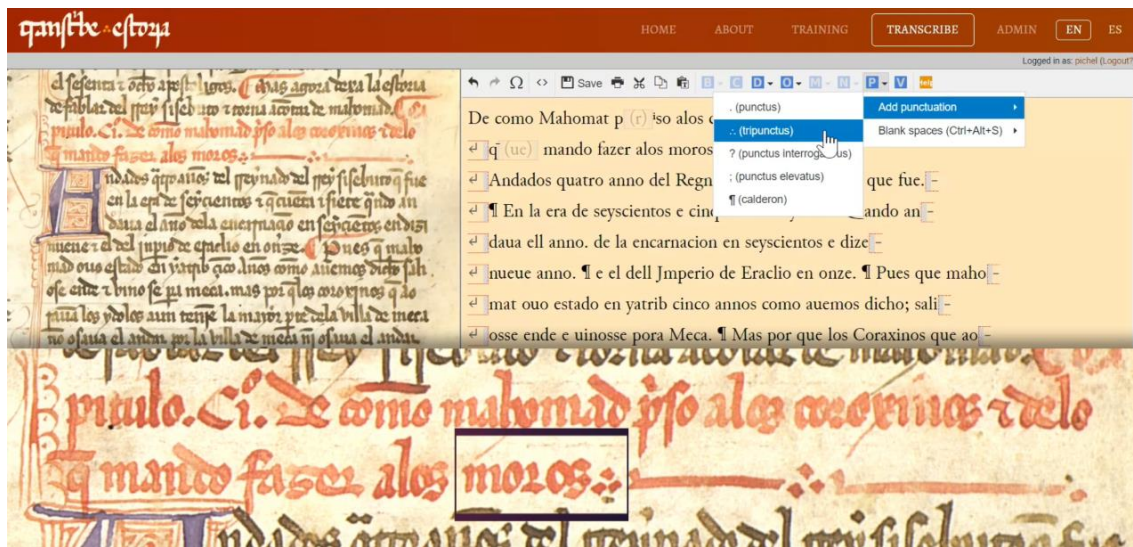
The sequence 'a los' - the preposition and definite article - appear separated in the base transcription, but in the image they appear together – 'alos'. In the transcription we need to unite them, deleting the space between them. Carrying on, we see the word 'coraxinos' in the transcription, but in the image the second vowel is an <o> - 'coroxinos' - so we need to correct it. The same variant, with <o>, can also be found seven lines below. The next thing we see in the manuscript is the **tironian note sign**, but in the base transcription we have an 'e' for and - that is, it appears unabbreviated. To mark the tironian note we have to delete the 'e', or highlight it and then choose the corresponding sign in the abbreviation menu. We should also unit the sequence 'de lo' in the transcription, since it appears without a space between the words at the end of the line.



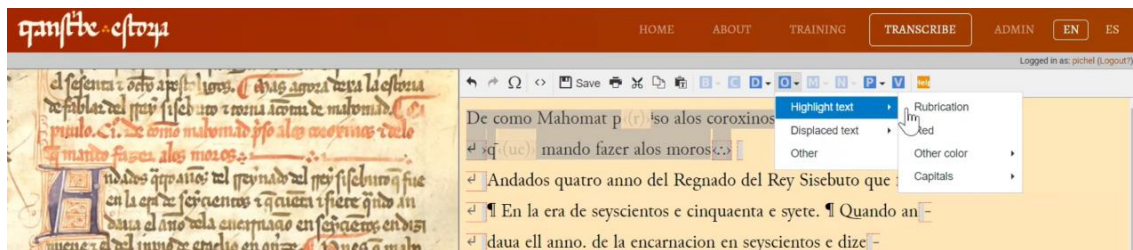
In the image, at the start of the following line, we can see a **<q> with a macron**, so the word 'que'. In the base transcription there is no abbreviation. We highlight the **abbreviated value <ue>** and in the top menu, choose the abbreviation symbol of <q> with a macron.



In the sequence 'mando fazer' there are no changes, but we can delete the space between 'a los' because we don't have it in the image - the words appear without a space, as they did above. Finally, after the word 'moros' we see a **punctuation sign** that is very characteristic of medieval codices - the 'tripunctus' - the three dots in a triangular shape (∴). The system allows us to introduce it by choosing the P option, for punctuation, from the top menu. Within P you can choose **add punctuation**, and then choose the triangular dots sign.

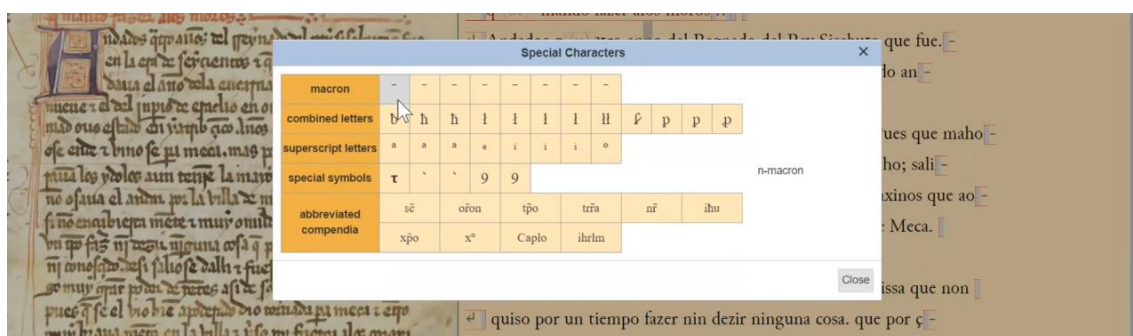
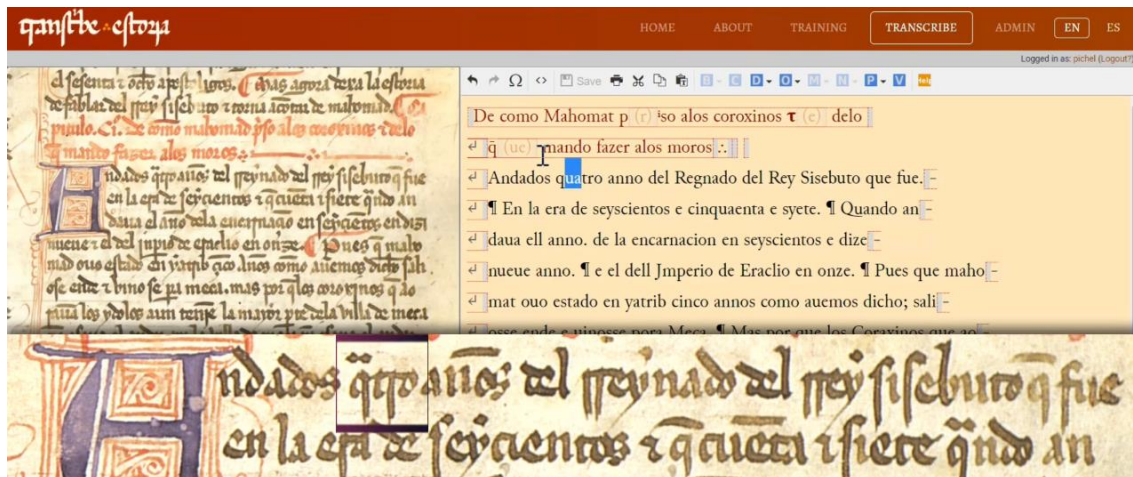


So we have finished checking and tagging the rubric. **ATTENTION!** Remember that, after checking the spelling and abbreviations of the **rubric**, you must select the whole sequence and tag it as such (menu O > highlighted text > add rubric).

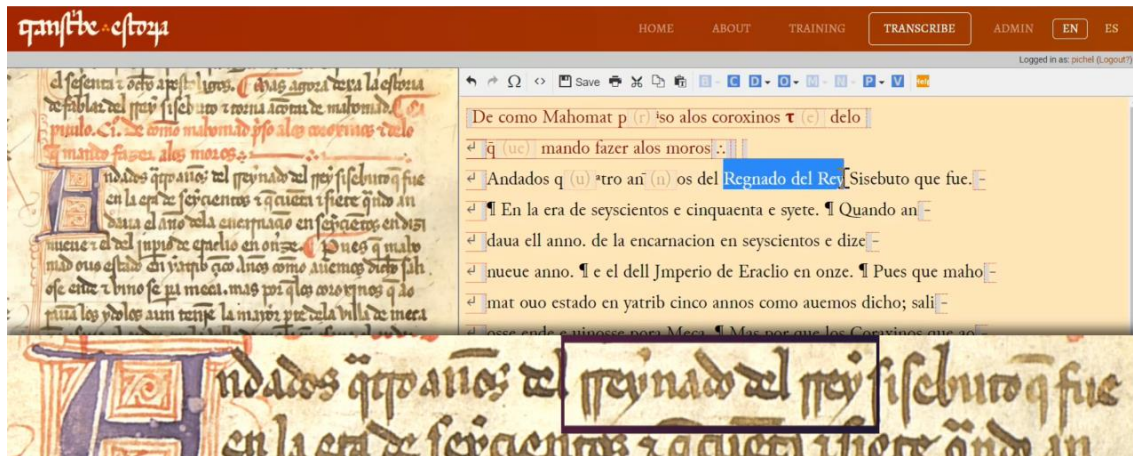


Before continuing we can save the work we've done so far. Go on the top menu and click 'save'. Let's go into the **main paragraph** now, the writing in brown ink, it's not quite black. We start off with an illuminated **capital A** which is three lines high. We saw how to mark large capitals in the previous module, using the Ornamentation (O) option on the top menu.

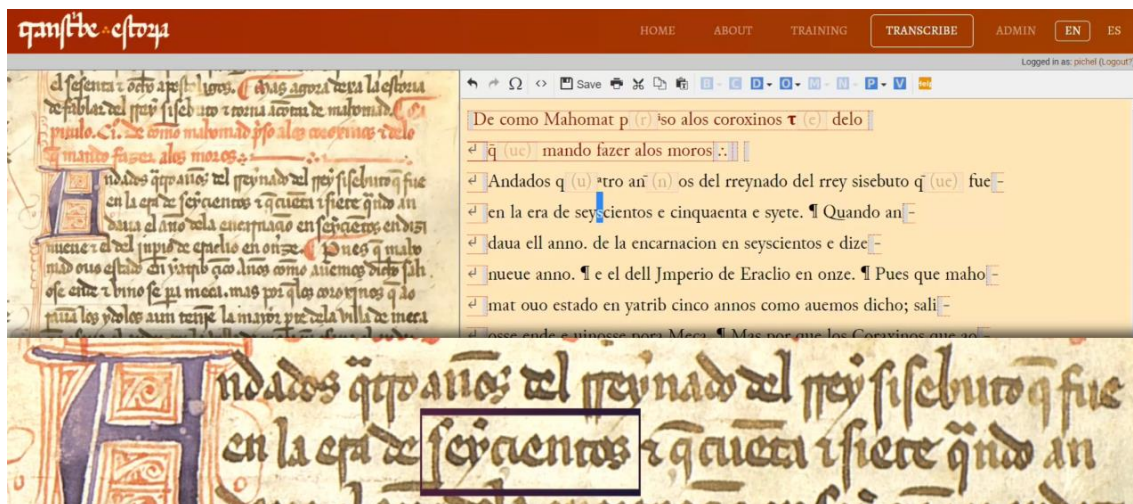
In the phrase 'Andados quatro annos' - I need to tell the platform that the **<ua> sequence** of 'quatro' is abbreviated by this **superscript <a>**. We can do this by highlighting the <ua> and choosing the corresponding value in the abbreviation menu. We do the same for the form 'annos', in which the macron above the <n> abbreviates another <n>. In the base transcription the **two nasal consonants** appear, so we highlight the second n ('annos'), and mark it with the corresponding abbreviation in the menu bar. Of course, you will also have to add an <s> to the end of this word, because in the base transcription there is no <s> on the end, but in the image there is.



Carrying on, we should **change the spelling** in the words ‘**Regnado**’ and ‘**Rey**’, which appear in the image with a lower case r, and an initial double <rr> (“rreynado”, “rrey”). Also, in the first case, we have to change the <g> for a <y>. The name of the king, ‘**sisebuto**’ should appear with a lower case <s> as well.

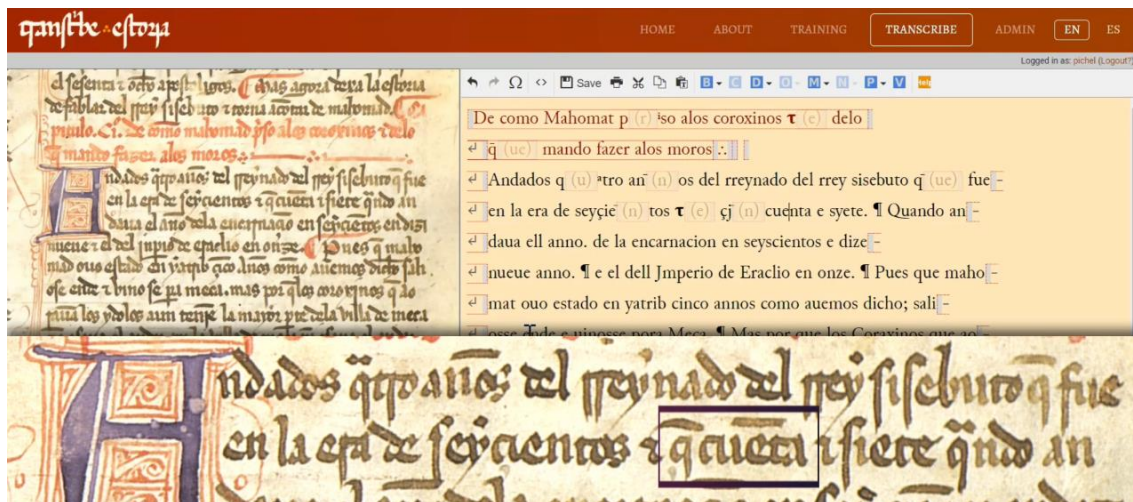


The final line of the passage has the sequence ‘**que fue**’, with the ‘**que**’ abbreviated. We can tag it, as we did before, by selecting and replacing <ue> with the corresponding symbol from the menu. Notice that after this, in the base transcription, there is a **full stop and a pilcrow**. They don’t appear in the image, so you can **delete** them from the transcription. On the following line we first have to change the ‘**En**’ to start with a **lower case letter**. A little further on we have to revise the spelling in ‘**seyscientos**’ - we eliminate the internal <s> and change the <c> for a <ç>-cedilla.

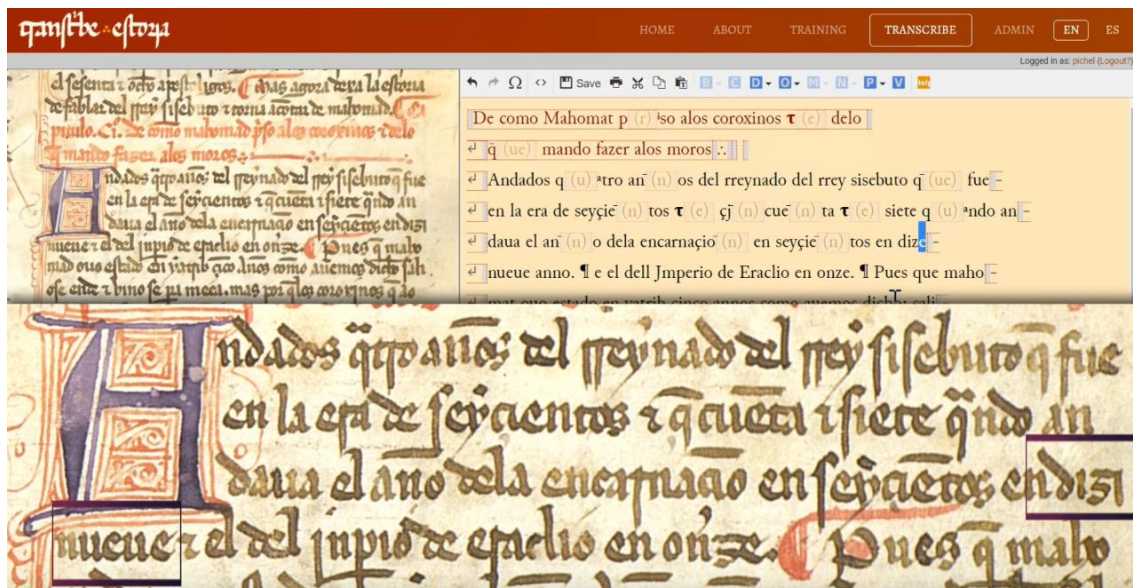


Carrying on, we substitute the ‘e’ for a **tironian note** using the top menu, and we revise the spelling in the next word - the numeral ‘**cinquenta**’. Notice that the first two letter which appear look like a <q>, but they are actually two letters that are very close together - a <ç>-cedilla and a long <i>) <cj>. They are accompanied with a macron, representing an abbreviated <n> (<cjn>). Perhaps you might stumble when you first read it in the manuscript, but then you will realise what it actually says when you **check the base text**. So, you need to correct the <c> for a <ç>-cedilla, the short <i> for a long <i>, and the abbreviation on the <n> using the top menu. Ok, we still

need to correct the second part of this word ('-quaenta'), as it is spelled differently in the image to the base transcription. We can modify what we need to change, and we have to remember to mark the abbreviated <n>.



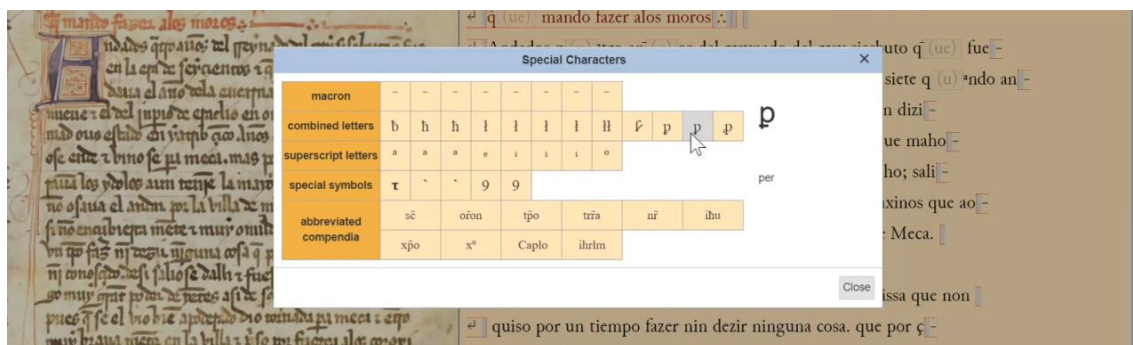
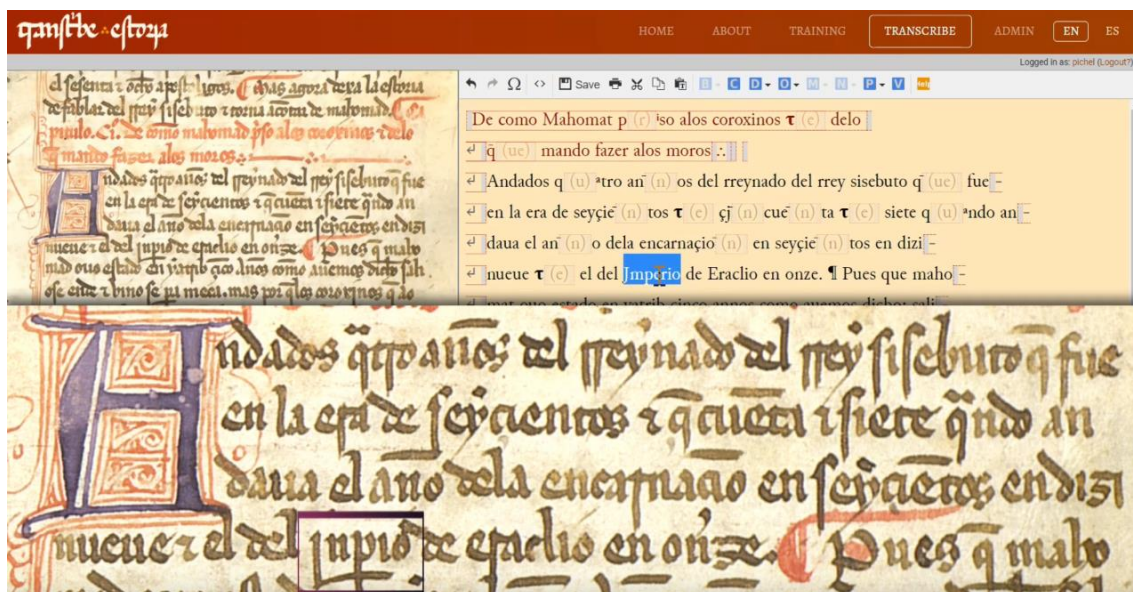
Carrying on we can add another **tironian note** and change the first vowel in 'siete' - changing the <y> griega (the Greek <i>), for an <i> latina (the Latin <i>). After this word, in the base transcription we can delete **the full stop and the pilcrow** as we don't have them in the manuscript. In general the royal manuscript E1 includes a lot more punctuation than the witness we are working on, manuscript C. In the following word 'quando' we have to get rid of the capital letter and mark an abbreviation for 'ua' with the top menu.



At the end of this line we see how the verb 'andaua' is **divided** - you have probably already marked this in the transcription, but if you haven't, remember that you only have to place the cursor in the word exactly where it divides, so here after an, and press **return**. Let's carry on. We get rid of one of the two <l> in the definite article 'ell', we add the nasal abbreviation in 'anno', we get rid of the full stop and we unite 'de' and 'la' (> 'dela'), as it appears in the image. In the following word 'encarnacion'

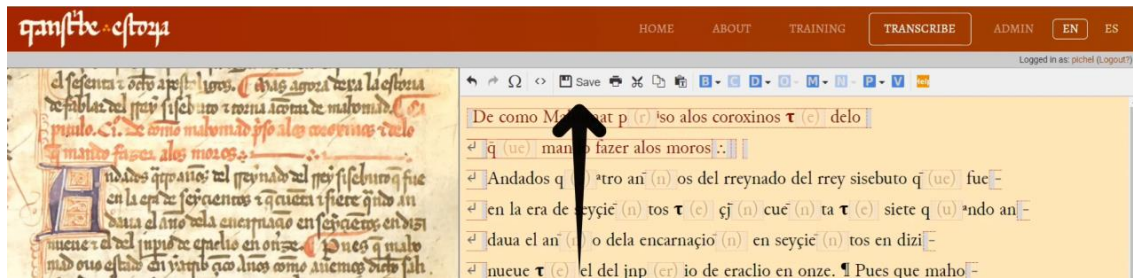
we have to substitute the <c> for a <ç>-cedilla and we include the abbreviation for <n>. The line ends with the form 'dizinueue' divided by the line breal. The only thing we have to do is change the <e> in 'dize-' to an <i> for 'dizi-'. Watch out. In the transcription we see 'anno', but not in the image, so we delete this word, as we do the full stop and the pilcrow that follow it.

We can carry on a bit. We add in the **tironian note**, which we can see by now almost always appears in the transcription as 'e', and we delete one of the <|> in the contraction 'dell'. After this we see the word 'jnpério' - we get rid of the capital letter in the transcription, substitute the m for an n and we incorporate the abbreviation for 'per' - so for this we select this syllable and substitute it for the corresponding abbreviating symbol using the top menu bar.



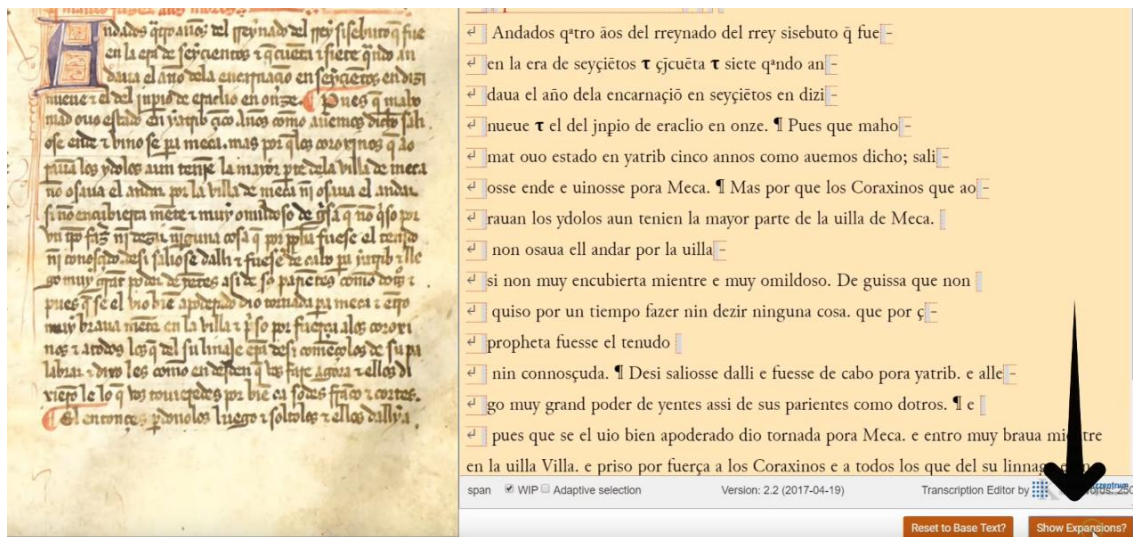
Carrying on, we **delete the capital** in the name of the emperor 'Eraclio', and we reach the end of the first paragraph of this chapter. We know this because after 'onze' we see a **full stop and a pilcrow**, which indicates to us that the scribe of our manuscript considered this to be the first section of text which makes autonomous sense. In this case, this also coincides with the punctuation in E1, which we know the scribe is copying from.

So now I have the first section of our text transcribed and revised. Do you fancy carrying on with the rest of the passage? Don't forget to **save** your work every so often.



In this short tutorial we have only seen a few abbreviations, but actually they all, or at least most of them, are indicated in the transcription in the same way, using the **abbreviation menu** above the transcription box. There you will find all the possible options. We have discussed many of them in the first training module.

There is one last interesting thing to comment on here. In the examples we have seen, you will have noticed that each time we insert an abbreviation in the transcription there is the option to see just the abbreviation symbol or the expansion, that is, what the abbreviation represents. For example: \bar{q} / q(ue), q^ando / q(ua)ndo, jn^prio / jn(per)io. You can choose which presentation you want to work with by choosing the options '**show expansion**' or '**hide expansion**' at the bottom of the transcription platform.



The **version with expansions** is very useful, because it allows you to easily check if it fits correctly into the word in the base transcription.

In the next module, we will show you how to mark other elements of the transcription, such as marginal notes, or maginalia, scribal corrections, or passages which are damaged and difficult to read. See you soon!