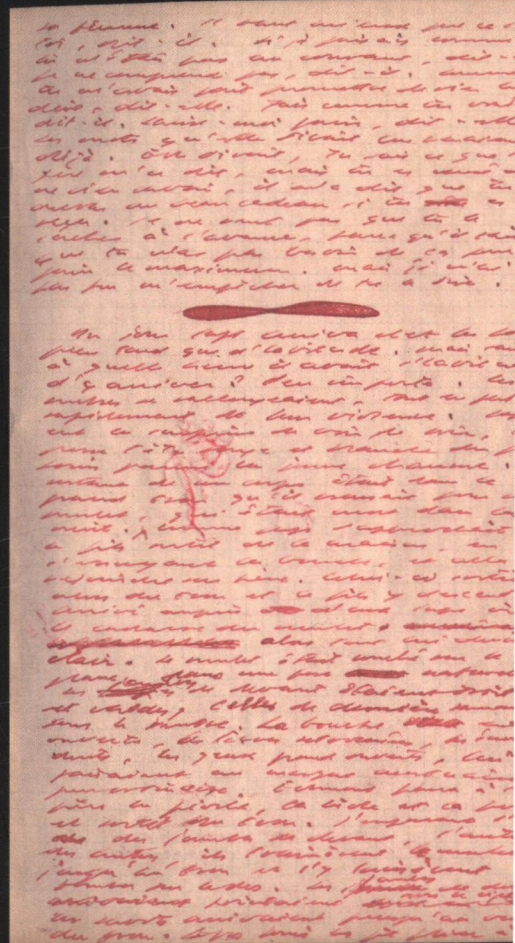


# The Making of Samuel Beckett's *Malone meurt / Malone Dies*

DIRK VAN HULLE  
PIM VERHULST



B L O O M S B U R Y





This volume analyses the genesis of Beckett's novel *Malone meurt / Malone Dies*. Written in French in 1947–1948, and translated into English by the author in 1954–1956, it is the second part of the so-called 'Trilogy', preceded by *Molloy* and followed by *L'Innommable / The Unnamable*. Because Malone's account approximates a diary, this book starts from H. Porter Abbott's notion of 'diary fiction' to examine the surviving manuscripts, typescripts, and pre-book publication extracts. Even though the writing process of *Malone meurt* almost coincides with the progression of the narrative, illustrating what Louis Hay has called 'écriture à processus', Beckett made substantial changes to the text, which can be interpreted as a critique of Honoré de Balzac's programmatic writing method. This analysis extends to the genesis of *Malone Dies* (Beckett's English translation of the novel), which alludes to Balzac's novel *Louis Lambert*, in order to show that self-translation is a crucial and integral part of Beckett's bilingual autographic project.

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This volume is part of the Beckett Digital Manuscript Project (BDMF), a collaboration between the Centre for Manuscript Genetics (University of Antwerp), the Beckett International Foundation (University of Reading) and the Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center (University of Texas at Austin), with the support of the Estate of Samuel Beckett.

The BDMF ([www.beckettarchive.org](http://www.beckettarchive.org)) digitally reunites the dispersed manuscripts of Samuel Beckett's works and facilitates their examination. The project consists of two parts:

- a a digital archive of Beckett's manuscripts, with facsimiles and transcriptions, organized in modules;
- b a series of print volumes, analysing the genesis of Beckett's works.

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DIRK VAN HULST / PRIMVERHULST



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BECKETT  
DIGITAL  
MANUSCRIPT  
PROJECT

VOLUME 05

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PIM VERHULST

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‘Et cependant j’écris sur moi, avec le même crayon,  
dans le même cahier, que sur lui.’

(Samuel Beckett, *Malone meurt*, 1951, 61)

‘And yet I write about myself with the same pencil  
and in the same exercise-book as about him.’

(Samuel Beckett, *Malone Dies*, 1956, 32)





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# The Beckett Digital Manuscript Project

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## *Series Preface*

This volume is part of the Beckett Digital Manuscript Project, a collaboration between the Centre for Manuscript Genetics (University of Antwerp), the Beckett International Foundation (University of Reading) and the Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center (University of Texas at Austin). The development of this project started from two initiatives: (1) the ‘inhouse’ genetic edition of four works by Samuel Beckett (a cooperation between the Universities of Antwerp and Reading), and (2) the series of Variorum Editions of Samuel Beckett’s Bilingual Works, initiated in 1986 by Charles Krance, with the permission and support of Samuel Beckett. With the kind permission of the Estate of Samuel Beckett, these initiatives were developed into the Beckett Digital Manuscript Project, which combines genetic criticism with electronic scholarly editing, applied to the study of Beckett’s manuscripts.

The Beckett Digital Manuscript Project consists of two parts:

- a A digital archive of Samuel Beckett’s manuscripts ([beckettarchive.org](http://beckettarchive.org)), organized into 26 research modules. Each of these modules comprises digital facsimiles and transcriptions of all the extant manuscripts pertaining to an individual text, or in the case of shorter texts, a group of texts.
- b A series of 26 volumes, analysing the genesis of the texts contained in the corresponding modules.

The Beckett Digital Manuscript Project aims to contribute to the study of Beckett’s works in various ways: by enabling readers to discover new documents and see how the dispersed manuscripts of different holding libraries interrelate within the context of a work’s genesis in its entirety; by increasing the accessibility of the manuscripts with searchable transcriptions in an updatable digital archive; and by highlighting the interpretive relevance of intertextual references that can be found in the manuscripts.

The Project may also enhance the preservation of the physical documents as users will be able to work with digital facsimiles.

The purpose of the Beckett Digital Manuscript Project is to reunite the manuscripts of Samuel Beckett's works in a digital way, and to facilitate genetic research: the project brings together digital facsimiles of documents that are now preserved in different holding libraries, and adds transcriptions of Beckett's manuscripts, tools for bilingual and genetic version comparison, a search engine, and an analysis of the textual genesis of his works, published in print with a selection of facsimile images, as in the present volume.

Due to an agreement with the Estate of Samuel Beckett and the publishers of Beckett's work, the digital editions only contain draft versions leading up to the publication of the text (the so-called 'avant-texte'), including page proofs. It therefore excludes epigenetic material such as later annotated editions or theatrical notebooks.

Dirk Van Hulle  
Mark Nixon

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# List of Abbreviations

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## Holding libraries and archives

BBCWAC	BBC Written Archives, Caversham, Reading
BL	BBC Sound Archives, British Library, London
HRC	Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center, Austin, Texas
HTC	Harvard Theatre Collection, Houghton Library
IMEC	Institut Mémoires de l'édition contemporaine, Caen, France
IU	The Lilly Library, Indiana University, Bloomington
MU	William Ready Research Collections, McMaster University, Ontario
OSU	Rare Books and Manuscripts Library, Ohio State University
SU	Special Collections Research Center, Syracuse University Libraries
TCD	Manuscripts and Archives Research Library, Trinity College Dublin
UoR	Beckett International Foundation, University of Reading
WU	Department of Special Collections, Washington University, St. Louis

## Manuscripts relating to *Malone meurt* / *Malone Dies*

EM	English autograph manuscript of <i>Malone Dies</i> , fragment in notebook MS 4662, Trinity College Dublin, Manuscripts and Archives Research Library (MS-TCD-4662; see chapter 1.1.2).
ET1	English typescript of <i>Malone Dies</i> , Olin Library, Washington University, St. Louis, Samuel Beckett papers, Box 2, Folder 47 (MS-WU-MSS008-2-47; see chapter 1.2.2).
ET2	English carbon copy typescript of <i>Malone Dies</i> , Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center, Austin, Texas, Samuel Beckett collection, Box 4, Folder 3 (MS-HRC-SB-4-3; see chapter 1.2.2).
ET3	English carbon copy typescript of <i>Malone Dies</i> , University of Reading, Samuel Beckett collection (MS-UoR-1227-7-11-1; see chapter 1.2.2).