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***"New Philology", 25 years after - dead or alive?
and what textual criticism and computers have to do with that***

The so-called "New Philology" was born some 25 years ago, and from the harsh criticisms which arose against it at that time and still after (see for example the volume "Alte und neue Philologie" published in 1997), one could have predicted that it would not have survived very long. The increasing use of computers in the "humanities" (a word whose meaning has drastically changed over time to such an extent that it is sometimes used today to indicate its contrary) and the raise of what is called "Digital Philology" seem to have ruled out the detractors of the "New Philology" and to have given it a new strength. Indeed, many technological enhancements, which still looked almost like dreams 20 years ago, have come through and many new possibilities have emerged. The philologists of the "constitution textus" seem to have been left aside from this technological evolution and to have become like fossils in the history of philology. Nevertheless, the fact that something is possible does not make it necessarily sensible.

In this paper, I would like to argue that displaying images and transcripts of manuscripts is not enough, and that philology (digital or not) is much more than that. Using concrete example, I will try to define what an "edition" is or should be in my view, and to what extent a computer can be of help to accomplish the set of more or less complex tasks which are required to produce an edition. Finally, I will ask the question whether such a thing as "New Philology" does exist.