

Codex descriptus

A *codex descriptus* (plural *codices descripti*) is a copy of another (extant) [manuscript](#). Given two extant [witnesses](#), A and B: if *recensio* demonstrates that B descends from A, which means that it contains all the errors of A plus at least one more [Eigenfehler](#) (cf. Maas 1960, § 8), i.e. one of a kind that does not imply a different filiation than A (cf. Timpanaro 1981, 120), B is a *codex descriptus* and therefore useless for the reconstruction of the [archetype](#). Nonetheless, such a codex can provide important information as far as the history of textual transmission is concerned. It is often difficult to irrevocably prove that a codex is entirely a *descriptus*.

In Latin *descriptus* means 'copied, transcribed' from the verb *de-scrib*.

References

- Maas, Paul. 1960. *Textkritik*. 4th ed. Leipzig: Teubner. – First ed. 1927.
- Timpanaro, Sebastiano. 1981. *La genesi del metodo del Lachmann*. 2nd ed. Padova: Liviana. – 1st ed., Firenze: Le Monnier, 1963.
- ———. 2005. *The Genesis of Lachmann's Method*. Translated by Glenn W. Most. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. – Translated from Timpanaro 1981.

In other languages

The Latin term is used throughout.

[MB](#)