French guillemets in Ω

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The Ω system allows one to finetune the layout of a paragraph, using what we call local paragraph primitives. Currently we use two:

- \localleftbox{\textit{typeset-material}}:
  The typeset material will be placed at the beginning of every line that follows the occurrence of this primitive in the text.

- \localrightbox{\textit{typeset-material}}:
  The typeset material will be placed at the end of every line that follows the occurrence of this primitive in the text.

Each time that one of these primitives appears in a paragraph, a whatsit node is deposited in the text stream, recording this new value. The values associated with the primitives can be changed several times in a paragraph, which means that several whatsit nodes will be placed in the paragraph. The effects of these primitives are local to the part of the paragraph that they affect. Finally, grouping is respected by all of the local paragraph primitives.

The local box primitives place fixed-width typeset material at the beginning (or the end) of every line in a paragraph. « The problem to be solved was for fine French typesetting, in which second-level guillemets are placed running down the left side of a paragraph, as in this paragraph, so long as material is being quoted. » Since ΤΕΧ breaks paragraphs in arbitrary places, no robust macro package can place the guillemets in the right positions.

In fact, the above typewritten paragraph itself was laid out as:

```\tt
\localleftbox{\quad}
\localrightbox{\quad}
\begin{flushleft}
...
\end{flushleft}
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Guillemets on every line occur also in other typographies, inspired from the French one. Take for example the following extract from a 1885 book on Roman Law (Σύστημα Ρωμαϊκοῦ Δικαίου, ὑπὸ Π. Καλλιγά, ἈΘήναι 1885):

Εἰς κληρικοῦ καὶ μοναχοῦ ἀπηγορεύθη ἡ μίσθως ἄλλωσιν κτημάτων, ἢ τελων., πλην ἐκκλησιαστικῶν, « ἱνα μὴ διὰ ταύτης τῆς προ-» φάσεως καὶ τοῦ ἐγγέζων σῶος ἡμία γένηται, » καὶ αἱ θείαι ὑπηρεσίαι ἐμποδίζονται ».

Note that the guillemets placed at the beginning of every line are closing ones.

On the other hand, the 1919 Duden, explicitly forbids quotes on every line:

„... so dürfen diese [die Anführungszeichen] nur am Anfang und am Ende des Ganzen geteilt werden, nicht bei jedem Absatz oder gar bei jeder Zeile.“

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