



## Dictionary of Old English: 2020 Progress Report

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In 2020, the Dictionary of Old English team continued to work on the first of the two fascicles in which we plan to publish L. Although we were obliged to abandon “Fort Book” (Robarts Library) for some time in the face of the coronavirus, in the refuge of our homes we pressed on with the drafting and revision of entries for words beginning *la-*, *læ-*, and *le-*. Among the entries thus completed are those for *lār* ‘teaching, counsel’ and *(ge)leornian* ‘to learn’, *(ge)laþian* ‘to invite, summon’, *(ge)lātan* ‘to let’, *(ge)lāfan* ‘to leave’, *lencten* ‘spring, Lent’, and *lēoma* ‘radiance, ray of light’, as well as their various derivatives. In the new year, the words related to *lēon* ‘to grant’ beckon, which include *lān* ‘loan’, *lānan* ‘to lend’, and *lāne* ‘granted for a time, transitory’. After these, we intend to deal with the false (*lēas*) and the repulsive and hateful (*lāþ*), so that we may move on to the pleasant and desirable (*lēof*) and into the light (*lēoht*).

Work on a new version of the DOE *Corpus* also continued in the past year, thanks to our Managing Editor Catherine Monahan, who input and proofread revised texts for a number of charters in accordance with the editions published in the Anglo-Saxon Charters Series. She was assisted in this task by our new Research Associate, Cameron Laird.

Our friends at the Épinal-Erfurt Glossary Project, led by Professors Michael Herren, Hans Sauer, and David Porter, have now published online editions of the glossary entries for the letters A through F, available free of charge at the DOE website (see <http://www.doe.utoronto.ca/epinal-erfurt>).

### Dissemination and Outreach

In February, the DOE was proud to co-host a three-day conference at the Saxon Academy of Sciences and Humanities in Leipzig with the Althochdeutsches Wörterbuch. The theme of the conference was “Insular-kontinentale Wechselbeziehungen in der volkssprachigen Überlieferung des Frühmittelalters und ihre lexikographische Erschließung” (“Insular-Continental Interaction in Early Medieval Vernacular Tradition and its Lexicographical Description”). In

attendance, representing the DOE, were Stephen Pelle, who presented a paper on the etymology of the word *werewolf* in Old English and Old High German, and Editor Emerita Antonette diPaolo Healey, who presented on *Genesis B* and the Saxon *Genesis*. Also in attendance were former DOE editor Haruko Momma and Michael Herren from the Épinal-Erfurt Glossary Project. The proceedings of the conference are now being edited and will appear in a volume to be published by De Gruyter.

The hospitality of our friends at the Althochdeutsches Wörterbuch in Leipzig was wonderful, and we are very fortunate that the conference was able to take place as planned before the imposition of restrictions on international travel due to the pandemic. Unfortunately, the pandemic did not spare the International Congress on Medieval Studies that was scheduled to take place in Kalamazoo in May, where the DOE had planned to co-sponsor two sessions on the Old English glossographic tradition with the members of the Épinal-Erfurt Glossary Project. If all goes as planned, these sessions will instead take place at the 2021 (virtual) International Congress on Medieval Studies.

A cause for celebration in the middle of this difficult year was the publication of a volume in honour of Antonette diPaolo Healey, our longtime editor, who retired in 2014. The volume, entitled *Old English Lexicology and Lexicography* and edited by Maren Clegg Hyer, Haruko Momma, and Samantha Zacher, was published by Boydell and Brewer, and contains essays by current DOE editors Robert Getz and Stephen Pelle, International Advisory Committee members Roberta Frank, Christopher A. Jones, and Andy Orchard, and many other friends and students of Toni. The book is a fitting tribute to a remarkable scholar who has devoted her career to sustaining and expanding the work of the DOE.

### Grants and Gifts

Many foundations, government agencies, and individual donors contribute financially to the success

of the DOE. This year, we are particularly happy to share the news that the DOE was awarded a major grant from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) in April of 2020. We had applied for this funding in order to hire a postdoctoral researcher for a period of two years to help the editorial team by drafting some of the smaller entries in *L*. This remains our plan, but we have decided to delay advertising the position until travel and workplace restrictions are relaxed enough for candidates to come to Toronto and work on-site at the DOE. With any luck, this will be sometime in 2021.

As always, the financial and operational support of the University of Toronto were of great importance for the project in 2020. Our new Research Associate (see the ‘Staff’ section) was hired with funding from the Faculty of Arts and Science. The Faculty of Arts and Science has also provided us with valuable assistance in meeting the project’s technological needs. The Centre for Medieval Studies continues to fund our excellent graduate research assistants, whose proofreading of our entries is a critical step in the publication process. The Adopt-a-Word campaign organized by the University’s Advancement office continues to spur the generosity of our donors. Among the words adopted by supporters in 2020 are *gefēa* ‘joy,’ *hwæl* ‘whale,’ *blōstm* ‘flower,’ and *bēor* ‘beer.’ For information on how to adopt a word for yourself or a loved one, visit the DOE website.

## Staff

In February, we welcomed as a part-time Research Associate Cameron Laird, who is currently in the final stages of his dissertation on Latin and Old English riddles at the Centre for Medieval Studies at the University of Toronto. Besides working for the DOE, Cameron is Editorial Assistant to Professor Michael Herren for the Épinal-Erfurt Glossary Project.

In April, we bid farewell to Systems Analyst Xin Xiang, who had worked at the DOE for nearly twenty years and is responsible for innumerable improvements and upgrades in the most recent versions of *DOE: A-I* and the *Corpus*. Xiang has, however, graciously continued to provide us with advice and occasional technical support, and she was instrumental in helping the editors and staff set up their systems to allow them to work productively from home during the early months of the pandemic. We are immensely grateful to her for all the labour and love she has put into the DOE over the course of many years of unfailing help.

## EDITORS:

Robert Getz  
Stephen Pelle

## EDITORIAL STAFF:

Catherine Monahan (Managing Editor)  
Cameron Laird (Research Associate, from February 2020)  
Xin Xiang (Systems Analyst, to April 2020)

## INTERNATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

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## RESEARCH ASSISTANTS:

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## EDITORS, Publications of the Dictionary of Old English:

Robert Getz  
Stephen Pelle

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