



Dictionary of Old English: 2021 Progress Report

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The Dictionary of Old English pressed on with the first of our two planned *L* fascicles in 2021, drafting many entries for words beginning *la-*, *læ-*, and *le-*. Among the entries we finished in the past year are those for *lāteow* ‘guide’, *lāþ* ‘hateful’, *lān* ‘loan’, *leahter* ‘vice’, *lēod* ‘member of a tribe or people’ (mainly found in the plural as *lēode* ‘people’), *lēof* ‘beloved’, and *leorningniht* ‘disciple’. We hope to finish drafting the remaining entries for *La-Le* by the end of 2022 and publish the completed fascicle soon afterwards. Some of the headwords that we look forward to tackling this year are *land* ‘land’, *lās* ‘less’, and the three species of *lēoht* ‘light’ (not heavy, bright, and *lux*).

Dissemination and Research

While COVID has kept the DOE’s staff from attending any in-person conferences since early 2020, the fact that the International Congress on Medieval Studies was conducted virtually in 2021 allowed two DOE-sponsored sessions planned for last year’s Congress to take place this year. These sessions, co-sponsored by the Épinal-Erfurt Glossary Project, focused on editing early Old English glossaries and on new approaches to the glosses and glossaries of early medieval England. Presenters included Research Associate Dr. Cameron Laird and former Research Assistant Dylan Wilkerson.

The DOE’s co-editors, Robert Getz and Stephen Pelle, both contributed essays to a major volume on Old English homilies published in 2021, *The Anonymous Old English Homily: Sources, Composition, and Variation*, edited by Profs. Winfried Rudolf of Göttingen University and Susan Irvine of University College London. Getz and Pelle are also helping to edit a volume of proceedings from a conference held in Leipzig in early 2020 that was co-hosted by the DOE and the Althochdeutsches Wörterbuch. The volume, tentatively entitled *Insular-kontinentale Wechselbeziehungen in der volkssprachigen Überlieferung des Frühmittelalters und ihre lexikographische Erschließung*, will feature essays by Pelle as well as former DOE Editors Antonette diPaolo Healey and

Haruko Momma. Pelle, Getz, and DOE Research Assistant Shirley Kinney have been editing the English-language contributions, while Profs. Brigitte Bulitta, Katja Schmidt, and Almut Mikeleitits-Winter of Leipzig are editing the German essays. We hope to complete work on the volume in 2022.

Since September, we have been pleased to host Sara Domínguez Barragán at our offices in Robarts Library. Sara, from the University of La Rioja in Spain, is the latest in a long line of international graduate students to spend time doing research at the DOE. While in Toronto, Sara has been working on her dissertation on Old English syntax, supervised by longtime DOE friend Prof. Javier Martín Arista, leader of the Nerthus Project in La Rioja.

Grants and Gifts

We are delighted that, beginning in April 2022, we will finally be able to use the grant that we were awarded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) to fund a postdoctoral fellow to work at the project. Until now, the pandemic has prevented us from implementing plans to hire a new employee for in-person work. See the next section for more information about our new postdoc.

The University of Toronto remains an important source of financial and operational support for the DOE. Since early 2020, the Faculty of Arts and Science has been providing funding that has allowed us to retain Dr. Cameron Laird as a Research Associate for the project. FAS has also provided significant technological support over the last year, aiding our part-time Systems Analyst Xin Xiang in transferring most of the DOE resources to newer and more stable servers. The Centre for Medieval Studies provides funding for our graduate Research Assistants. The University Advancement Office’s Adopt-a-Word campaign continues to attract donors, who in 2021 adopted DOE entries including *æscholt* ‘spear,’ *fæsten* ‘fasting,’ and *hleahtor* ‘laughter.’ For information on how to adopt a word for yourself or a loved one, visit the DOE website.

Staff

While the pandemic has been an obstacle to the production of new entries in 2020 and 2021, the dedication of our Research Associate Dr. Cameron Laird has allowed us to stay on track. His assistance has been especially valuable in helping the drafting editors mark up the citation slips for many important entries, and he has also been instrumental in the improvements that we have been making to the *Corpus*. Dr. Laird, who is also an assistant to Professor Michael Herren in his work on the Épinal-Erfurt Glossary Project, defended his dissertation on Anglo-Latin and Old English riddles at the Centre for Medieval Studies in June.

In 2022, we look forward to welcoming our new SSHRC Postdoctoral Fellow, Dr. Rachel Fletcher. Dr. Fletcher, who spent three months as a visiting researcher at the DOE in 2019, recently defended her dissertation, “Pushing the Boundary: The Periodisation Problem in Dictionaries of Old English,” at the University of Glasgow. In addition to drafting DOE entries, she plans to spend her time in Toronto researching connections between dictionaries of Old English and contemporary dialectology.

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Cameron Laird (Research Associate)
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