



Dictionary of Old English: 2023 Progress Report

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As 2023 draws to a close, the Dictionary of Old English is pleased to announce that we have completed drafting the 749 entries that will make up our *La-Le* fascicle. We have also made revisions and corrections to many entries previously published, as well as added a number of new citations – and occasionally even new headwords – taken from newly-edited texts or discovered in variant manuscripts. This last task has been greatly facilitated by our cooperation with the Electronic Corpus of Anonymous Homilies in Old English (ECHOE) project (Göttingen), with whom we have collaborated on systematically analyzing new word-forms and spellings found in variant manuscripts of Old English homilies. Revision and final prepublication checks will take a few more months, but we hope to release *The Dictionary of Old English: A-Le* online in the first half of 2024. A new version of the DOE's electronic Corpus is also nearing completion and should be released at about the same time as the new fascicle. In the meantime, the DOE staff has begun working in earnest on the entries that remain to be drafted for our *Li-Ly* fascicle, which will comprise about 575 headwords. Currently occupying our entry-writers are *lifer* 'liver', *loppestre* 'lobster', and *ge-limpan* 'to happen', while *licgan* lies ahead and we look forward to *lōcian*.

Dissemination and Outreach

This year saw the publication of two new volumes in the DOE's book series, the Publications of the Dictionary of Old English (PDOE), which is published through the Pontifical Institute of Mediaeval Studies. In *Philology in Turbulent Times: Joseph Bosworth, His Dictionary, and the Recovery of Old English*, Prof. Dabney Bankert explores the fascinating story of the genesis of the DOE's lexicographical predecessor, Joseph Bosworth's *Anglo-Saxon Dictionary*, as well as the efforts of T. Northcote Toller to produce his monumental *Supplement* to Bosworth's work. Meanwhile, Dr. Claudio Cataldi provides the first complete edition of an important group of multilingual glossaries in *The Bodley Glossaries: The Glossaries in Oxford, Bodleian Library, MS Bodley 730*. These texts, dating from around the year 1200, include

Latin-Latin entries and Latin-Anglo-Norman entries alongside Latin-English items that derive from much earlier English glossaries, and they therefore document the continued importance of the Old English glossing tradition for clerical education long after the Norman Conquest. In October, Dr. Cataldi gave a lecture on the Bodley Glossaries as part of the Convivium series at the Toronto Centre for Medieval Studies. The DOE's postdoctoral fellow, Dr. Cameron Laird, also gave a Convivium lecture in March, in which he explored "The Hidden Tradition of Old English Riddles."

In addition to serving as series editors for PDOE, DOE editors Robert Getz and Stephen Pelle have continued to collaborate with Drs. Brigitte Bulitta, Katja Schmidt, and Almut Mikeleitis-Winter on editing a volume of proceedings from a conference co-hosted by the DOE and the Althochdeutsches Wörterbuch in Leipzig in February 2020. This volume, to be published by De Gruyter, is now at the proof stage, and it will include essays in English and German on several topics related to the study of Old English, Old Saxon, and Old High German texts, as well as runic inscriptions and Latin glossaries.

In March, Pelle gave a lecture at the University of Zurich as part of a lecture series on "Variation and Change in the History of the English Lexicon", convened by Profs. Olga Timofeeva and Annina Seiler. Pelle's lecture, "The Dictionary of Old English and Methods of Historical Lexicography," explored the history and methodology of the DOE and its relationship to other historical dictionaries.

Grants and Gifts

The DOE benefited enormously from the generosity of our supporters in 2023. In 2022, a landmark gift by Prof. Roberta Frank (Yale) inaugurated a fundraising campaign in which the University of Toronto Faculty of Arts and Science agreed to match all new donations to the project dollar-for-dollar. With our Dean's support, this campaign was extended into 2023, and the matching ceiling was increased from \$150,000 to \$200,000. We are happy to say that this new ceiling

was reached. Many of the donations made near the end of the campaign were in memory of Prof. Helmut Gneuss, a beloved supporter of the DOE and longtime member of our International Advisory Committee, who passed away in February. As a result of the success of the matching campaign, \$400,000 of funding was secured for the DOE. The Adopt-a-Word campaign organized by the University's Advancement office also continues to attract donors, who in 2023 have adopted entries including *feohtan* 'to fight', *lēoflic* 'admirable, cherished', and *lēofwende* 'amiable, beloved'. For information on how to adopt a word for yourself or a loved one, or on other ways to support the project, visit the DOE website.

In addition to private donations, the DOE continues to receive important support from several granting agencies and foundations, including the British Academy, the Gladys Kriebel Delmas Foundation, and the Salamander Foundation, as well as funding to support a postdoctoral position from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC).

Staff

Beginning in January 2024, the Centre for Medieval Studies and Department of English at the University of Toronto will welcome Renée Trilling as the new Angus Cameron Professor of Old English Language and Literature. This position was formerly held by DOE editors Antonette diPaolo Healey, and more recently by Roy Liuzza and Haruko Momma. The position is no longer associated with the Chief Editorship of the DOE, but we nevertheless look forward to collaborating closely with the new Cameron Professor to enhance both the research activity and public outreach of the community of Toronto Old English scholars.

The second year of Dr. Cameron Laird's SSHRC-funded postdoctoral fellowship at the DOE began in July. Dr. Laird has provided crucial support to the editors by assisting in the drafting of many of the larger entries in *La-Le*, as well as by writing a significant number of smaller entries for the *Li-Ly* fascicle. Laird also serves as an editorial assistant on the Épinal-Erfurt Glossary Project, and he continues to pursue his research on Anglo-Latin riddles, a topic on which he has a forthcoming article in *Anglo-Saxon England*.

In October 2023, the DOE welcomed two new members to the project's International Advisory Committee: Profs. Richard Dance (Cambridge) and Kathryn Lowe (Glasgow). Among other strengths, Dance brings to the Committee his expertise on the

topic of Scandinavian influence on Old and early Middle English, while Lowe, who specializes in Old English charters, will be able to provide valuable guidance to the editors in interpreting these often difficult texts.

Because of the success of recent fundraising initiatives, we plan, in 2024, to begin the process of hiring another drafting editor at the DOE. It is our hope that adding another entry writer to our team will speed up our progress on *Li-Ly* and subsequent fascicles.

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Stephen Pelle

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