



Dictionary of Old English: 2024 Progress Report

Robarts Library, Room 14285, University of Toronto

130 St. George St.

Toronto, ON M5S 3H1

Phone: 416-978-8883

Fax: 416-978-8835

<http://www.doe.utoronto.ca>

2024 brought both challenges and successes for the Dictionary of Old English. As we were preparing to release our *La-Le* fascicle in the spring, the server hosting the *Dictionary* and *Corpus* failed, interrupting subscriber access and delaying our publication plans while we found new hosting and dealt with other technical issues. Thankfully, we were able to restore access to the *Dictionary* in July, at which time we published the 750 new entries in our *La-Le* fascicle. The new release of the *Dictionary* also includes various revisions to previously published entries, as well as thirty-two new entries for words in *A-I*. The editors are now at work on the remaining entries for our *Li-Ly* fascicle, presently pondering the meanings of ‘life’ (*lif*), ‘loss’ (*lyre*), and ‘love’ (*lufu* & *lufian*).

The *Corpus* proved more challenging to restore than the *Dictionary*, but we used the longer downtime as an opportunity to complete a newer version of the database, which features a more user-friendly interface, updated texts (especially of the Old English charters), and more powerful search capabilities. The new *Corpus* is now available to our institutional subscribers, and access should soon be restored for individual subscribers as well. We are now at work on restoring our Usage Statistics tool, our limited free access program, and our Word of the Week feature. We are very grateful to you – our users, friends, and colleagues – for your patience and continued support over the last several months. We also thank the IT staff at the University of Toronto Libraries and the Faculty of Arts & Science for all their help this year.

Dissemination and Outreach

In addition to the new releases of the *Dictionary* and *Corpus*, 2024 saw the publication of the proceedings of a 2020 conference held in Leipzig in 2020 and co-sponsored by the DOE and the Althochdeutsches Wörterbuch (AWB). The volume, *Wörter – Texte – Schreiberhände / Words – Texts – Scribal Hands: Sprachliche und kulturelle Wechselbeziehungen zwischen fränkischem Reich, Irland und Britannien im Frühmittelalter* (in English: *Words – Texts – Scribal Hands: Linguistic and Cultural Interactions Between the Frankish Empire, Ireland, and Britain in the Early*

Middle Ages), was edited by AWB editor Brigitte Bulitta and DOE co-editor Stephen Pelle, with the assistance of DOE co-editor Robert Getz and AWB editors Almut Mikeleitits-Winter and Katja Schmidt. The collection, published by de Gruyter, contains seventeen essays in English and German on various subject relevant to Old English, Old High German, Old Saxon, and medieval Irish lexicography, lexicology, glossography, palaeography, and metrics.

Several current and former DOE editors contribute to the new volume. Stephen Pelle writes on disputes over the etymology of the word *werewolf*, first attested in both English and German in the early eleventh century. Antonette diPaolo Healey, Chief Editor Emerita of the DOE, contributes the foreword and an essay on the Old English poem *Genesis B* and its relative, the Old Saxon *Genesis*. Haruko Momma, also a former Chief Editor of the DOE, writes on the history of scholarship of the same two texts. Michael Herren, emeritus professor of Medieval Studies at the University of Toronto and York University, gives an overview of some of the challenges involved in editing the Épinal-Erfurt Glossary, which preserves some of the earliest written Old English words. Also contributing essays to the volume are Alderik Blom (Marburg), Andreas Deutsch (Heidelberg), Anna Helene Feulner (Berlin), Patrizia Lendinara (Palermo), Philipp Lenz (Stiftsbibliothek St. Gallen), Andreas Nievergelt (Zurich), Dáibhi Ó Cróinín (NUI Galway), †Hans Sauer (Munich), Annina Seiler (Zurich), Paolo Vaciago (Rome), and Gaby Waxenberger (Munich/Eichstätt).

Also published in the last year were postdoctoral fellow Deanna Brooks’s article “Wulfstan and His Library: The *De officio missae* and the Homiliary of Saint-Père de Chartres” (*JEGP*); research associate Cameron Laird’s essay “Aldhelm’s *Aenigmata* and the Teaching of Latin Prosody” (*The Anglo Latin Poetic Tradition*, ed. Colleen Curran); and co-editor Stephen Pelle’s book *New Latin Contexts for Old English Homilies* (PIMS).

On May 30 and 31, 2025, the University of Toronto will be hosting (online) a Colloquium on Early

Latin-Old English Glossaries, featuring an international panel of speakers including Michael Lapidge, Rosalind Love, David Ganz, Michael Herren, David Porter, Patrizia Lendinara, Gernot Wieland, Franck Cinato, Claudio Cataldi, Dylan Wilkerson, and Cameron Laird.

Grants and Gifts

The support of granting agencies, scholarly societies, and individual donors remains crucial to the success of the Dictionary of Old English. We are pleased to report that, earlier this year, we were awarded a major grant from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) that has allowed us to hire a new postdoctoral fellow to succeed Dr. Cameron Laird, whose term concluded in July (see ‘Staff’) below. We have also received support from the Gladys Krieble Delmas Foundation, the British Academy, the Salamander Foundation, and the International Society for the Study of Early Medieval England (ISSEME).

The Adopt-a-Word campaign continues to inspire the generosity of individual donors to the DOE, who in 2024 have adopted entries including *byrd-tīd* ‘time of a person’s birth; birthday’, *heoru-swealwe* ‘hawk, falcon’, and *hrēow-cearig* ‘sorrowful, troubled’. For information on how to adopt a word for yourself or a loved one, or on other ways to support the project, please visit the DOE website.

Staff

Our longtime Managing Editor, Catherine Monahan, retired in June. In over thirty years of diligent work for the project, Catherine helped see many DOE fascicles through to publication, including *La-Le*, released earlier this year. She was a patient and kind supervisor for our graduate research assistants and a good friend and colleague for the project’s editors. Her careful proofreading work on many entries that are still in draft form will continue to benefit the project for years to come.

Replacing Catherine in her capacity as copy editor is Dr. Cameron Laird, previously a research assistant and then postdoctoral fellow at the DOE. Stepping into his new role with experience in nearly every stage of entry writing and revision, Cameron is proving to be a valuable addition to the DOE’s full-time staff. We have also benefited from the assistance of Ms. Elsie Nisonen, who has been filling in to perform some of Catherine’s administrative duties. We are currently conducting a search for a part-time administrative

assistant who will take over these duties on a continuing basis.

Thanks to a new grant from SSHRC, we were recently able to offer a two-year postdoctoral fellowship to Dr. Deanna Brooks, who completed her PhD at the Centre for Medieval Studies earlier this year after defending her dissertation on Wulfstan’s ‘Commonplace Book’. Deanna will split her time between helping the editors draft entries for *Li-Ly* and working on her own research.

EDITORS:

Robert Getz
Stephen Pelle

EDITORIAL STAFF:

Cameron Laird (Copy Editor [from July])
Catherine Monahan (Managing Editor [to June])

POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWS:

Deanna Brooks (from October)
Cameron Laird (to July)

INTERNATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

Richard Dance, University of Cambridge
Roberta Frank, Yale University
Antonette diPaolo Healey, University of Toronto
Susan Irvine, University College London
Christopher A. Jones, Ohio State University
Simon Keynes, University of Cambridge
Ursula Lenker, University of Munich
Kathryn Lowe, University of Glasgow

RESEARCH ASSISTANTS:

Deanna Brooks
Ryan Hall
Wynn Martin
Mark Gibbard
Thomas Kalil

EDITORS, Publications of the Dictionary of Old English:

Robert Getz
Stephen Pelle

Funding

- The Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (formerly the Canada Council): Grants in Aid of Research, 1970, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1974, 1975; Major Editorial Grants, 1976-81, 1981-86, 1986-91, 1991-96; Grants from the Federal Matching Funds Policy, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991; Special Presidential Grant, 1993; Consortium Support Programme, 1996-98, 1998-2000,

2000-03, 2003-05, 2005-10; Insight Grants
2020-24

- The British Academy
- Canada Foundation for Innovation (for TAPoR [Text Analysis Portal for Research]), 2002-07
- Connaught Fund, University of Toronto, 1986-91
- Gladys Krieble Delmas Foundation, 1998-99, 1999-2000, 2000-01, 2002-03, 2004-05, 2008-09, 2010-11, 2012-13, 2016, 2017, 2018-19, 2021–22, 2023–24
- Early English Text Society
- Marc Fitch Fund
- Foundation for Education and Social Development, Boston
- William and Nona Heaslip Foundation
- Hal Jackman Foundation
- International Society for the Study of Early Medieval England
- Jackman Foundation
- Macdonald-Stewart Foundation
- McLean Foundation, 1992, 1995, 1998, 2000, 2009, 2016
- Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, 1985-90, 1994-99, 2000-05, 2006-11, 2009-11,

2011-16

- Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, Interoperability Grant, 2011-13
- Peter and Melanie Munk Charitable Foundation
- National Endowment for the Humanities, Research Tools Program, 1991-93, 1993-95, 1995-98, 1998-2000, 2000-02, 2002-04, 2004-06, 2006-08, 2008-10, 2010-12, 2012-14, 2014-16, 2016-18
- Presidents' Committee, University of Toronto
- Salamander Foundation, 1998-2001, 2001-04, 2004-06, 2006-08, 2008-13, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020
- Salus Mundi Foundation, 2002, 2004
- St. George's Society, Toronto, 2007-13
- Triangle Community Foundation
- University of Toronto
- Xerox Corporation University Grants Committee

DOE Team