Dictionary of Old English: 2019 Progress Report

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Most of the DOE team's efforts in 2019 were directed towards the preparation of the first of the two fascicles in which we plan to publish the letter *L*. We have therefore been busy drafting and revising entries beginning with *la, læ,* and *le,* as well as related *ge-*prefixed words. The last twelve months have seen the completion of several important word groups, including the base forms and derivatives of the verbs *lǣdan* 'to lead' and *lǣran* 'to teach,' the adjectives *læt* 'slow' and *lǣwede* 'lay, non-clerical,' and the nouns *lāst* 'track, print' and *gelēafa* 'belief.' The lexical challenges that lie before us include *land* 'land' (the largest word in *L,* with over 5,000 occurrences), *lecgan* 'to lay,' and the important (if rather hard to define) interjection *lā*.

In the meantime, a new version of the DOE *Corpus* continues to take shape. In addition to updating the appearance and search capabilities of the *Corpus*, we have also been at work on updating its content, so that the versions of texts in the *Corpus* continue to reflect the standard critical editions currently in use. At present, we are focusing on charters, since the British Academy has kindly granted us permission to use the texts from the volumes in their Anglo-Saxon Charters series, which has made significant progress in recent years. These texts will eventually replace many of the texts in the *Corpus* that are currently drawn from the old editions of Kemble and Birch. We have also added the texts of about a dozen recently discovered charters to the *Corpus*, most of which we owe ultimately to work done by Simon Keynes on a modern transcript of a lost cartulary of St Albans. All together, these texts have enlarged the *Corpus* by several thousand words. They have also given us examples of several new lexical items never before described in any dictionary, including *ealdorcyre* 'suitable choice for a superior' and *geondra* 'farther, more distant' (the ancestor of Modern English *yonder,* for which no Old English example was previously recorded). We hope to release the new version of the *Corpus,* including the new texts, sometime before the publication of *DOE: La–Le.*

Since late 2018, the DOE offices have hosted a collaborative project whose aim is to produce a new, complete edition of the Épinal-Erfurt Glossary. Composed in the seventh century and containing a large number of Latin-English glosses (alongside an even larger number of Latin-Latin and Greek-Latin entries), Épinal-Erfurt is one of the most important records of the earliest written stage of the English language. The project is led by Professors Michael Herren of the University of Toronto and York University, Hans Sauer of the Ludwig- Maximilians-Universität in Munich, and David Porter of Southern University in Baton Rouge. Three graduate students from the Centre for Medieval Studies – Deanna Brook's, Cameron Laird, and Dylan Wilkerson – have been working for the project as research assistants. Each letter of the new edition is uploaded to the DOE website as soon as it is completed and can be downloaded free of charge. The *A* and *B* entries are currently available, and *C* will be posted early in 2020. For further details, see http://www.doe.utoronto.ca/epinal-erfurt.

Dissemination and Outreach

On May 2, the staff of the DOE gave a tour of the project's offices and a presentation on its history and methods to a group of donors to the University of Toronto's "Boundless" fundraising campaign. This tour was organized by Lanie Treen from the Office of Advancement of the Faculty of Arts and Science, and our presentation was introduced by Professor Melanie Woodin, newly-appointed Dean of Arts and Science. We are grateful to them both for helping us bring the DOE to the attention of a wider audience.

At the International Congress on Medieval Studies in Kalamazoo in May, the DOE co-sponsored two sessions on Old English homilies with the Electronic Corpus of Anonymous Homilies in Old English (ECHOE) project, based at the University of Göttingen. Robert Getz gave a paper entitled "Blickling Homily VI: Sources and Analogues," while Stephen Pelle presented "A Source for Ælfric's First Series Christmas Homily in the Bavarian Homiliary" and participated in a roundtable. Pelle also attended the biennial conference of the International Society of Anglo-Saxonists (now the

International Society for the Study of Early Medieval England) held in August at the University of New Mexico and presented a project report on the DOE to the attendees.

From January to March, the DOE hosted Rachel Fletcher, a graduate student from the University of Glasgow, as a visiting researcher. Fletcher's doctoral thesis, supervised by Professor Kathryn Lowe, examines the lexicographical treatment of texts written during the transition from Old to Middle English in the twelfth and early thirteenth centuries. While working on her research in Toronto, Fletcher learned about our entry-writing process and helped to catalogue a large collection of quotation slips and other material from the early days of the Oxford English Dictionary, which had been sent to the DOE by the editors of the Middle English Dictionary several years ago. She made some remarkable discoveries, including letters, notes, and postcards by some of the most important scholars of Old English in the early twentieth century, including Felix Liebermann, Arthur Napier, and Ferdinand Holthausen, as well as nearly eighty slips written or annotated by J.R.R. Tolkien, who worked on the staff of the OED after the conclusion of the First World War. Fletcher's findings are introduced in her short essay, "The Lexicographer's Art," available on the DOE website, and will be discussed in detail in future publications. We are grateful to Rachel for discovering these treasures, and for her help with several DOE entries.

Grants and Gifts

Our work depends largely on the generosity of foundations and individual donors, and we are immensely grateful for the support we have received in the past year. Donations from medievalists and other users of the DOE are particularly encouraging, as they represent a vote of confidence in the quality and importance of our research. Over the past several months we have received several gifts in memory of Professor George Rigg, a close friend and staunch supporter of the project, who passed in January 2019.

The financial and operational support of the University of Toronto has also been critical for the success of the DOE. Funding from the Faculty of Arts and Science has enabled us to hire a new part-time research associate, who will begin work at the project in 2020. As it has done for many years, the University's Centre for Medieval Studies funds a team of graduate research assistants who lemmatize the *Corpus* and proofread all entries. The Centre also contributes funding toward the salary of our Systems Analyst, Xin Xiang. Our Adopt-a-Word campaign, organized by the University's Advancement office, continues to be popular. Among the words adopted by supporters in 2019 are *blīþe, cat, ēst, frēond, heofon, hlāf,* and *leahtric,* as well as *davidlic,* dedicated by the DOE team to Professor David Cameron, who completed his term as Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Science last summer. For information on how to adopt a word for yourself or a loved one, visit the DOE website.

Staff

Robert Getz and Stephen Pelle were promoted to Editors of the Dictionary of Old English at the beginning of 2019 after the departure of Haruko Momma. They have also taken over editorial duties of the Publications of the Dictionary of Old English book series, published by the Pontifical Institute of Mediaeval Studies. In April 2019, Systems Analyst Xin Xiang accepted a position elsewhere in the University of Toronto, but she continues to work part-time for the DOE to help maintain our systems and develop new versions of the Dictionary and Corpus. Christopher Landon, our Computer Editor, departed the project to take up a postdoctoral fellowship at the Centre for Medieval Studies. We will announce the hire of a new research associate for the DOE early in 2020.

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Stephen Pelle

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