It is with great joy that we report that we have now completed our $500,000 Mellon Challenge Grant. We are so very grateful to each one of you, our colleagues and friends, who have supported our research through our fundraising campaign which began in April 2011. The year 2012 has come to a magnificent end for us with an unparalleled single donation of $500,000 from the Honourable Hal Jackman as a gift to his wife Maruja. Both have been generous supporters of the humanities at the University of Toronto, and their gift to DOE brings to a close the unmatched portion of the Mellon Challenge. Words cannot express our gratitude to them for their great generosity in enabling our research. A list of gifts to the project for 2011 and 2012 which helped us to complete the Mellon Challenge is appended.

Toni Healey

Editorial and Technological Advances

Despite our loss of Joan Holland to a happy retirement last year, our production of entries from the letter H has continued apace in 2012. Since it is an efficient use of editorial time to work on an entire word-family at once whenever possible, we have also continued to draft entries for words in later parts of the alphabet related to entries in H and the previous eight letters. We have also continued to make good progress with the lemmatization of the corpus, and nearly 70% of citations for the letter S have now been lemmatized.

Our principal technological advance this year has been the development of a new version of DOEonline which will be released when DOE: A to H is published. A working model was launched for internal use in March, and the DOE team has been testing it rigorously since then. Making use of new web technologies and libraries, our systems analyst Xin Xiang redesigned the interface to give our users a more contemporary experience, perhaps most noticeably through the replacement of the frame layout with the Cascade Style Sheets layout. To complement this new tool, Xin has now also developed a new web interface and search engine for the DOE Web Corpus. It will have a uniform interface with DOE: A to H, and was launched for internal use in November.

Work is advancing well on DOE links to “Parker on the Web”, using the Digital MappaeMundi (DM) tool developed by our colleague Martin Foys and his team. DM provides the environment where we can highlight an image in Parker, annotate it, connect image and annotation to each other and then export them out to problematic citations in the online DOE. At present, the annotations are accessible only through our internal server. When the project is finished, a DOE user will simply click on a crux within a citation and see a thumbnail image of its manuscript context together with DOE’s annotation. This latest innovation represents another step in providing scholars of language and literature a richer way of experiencing medieval texts and enhances the way dictionaries are made and read.

Sustainability Issues

The question of sustainability is already a real concern to us at DOE, even before our dictionary is completed. The question we ask of our markup and software is not just how useful is it for our work at this very moment, but will it have a future? Is it maintainable? Is it extensible? As we have discovered from the worrying condition of some other databases, preserving a database in a repository is not the same thing as sustaining it. We hope that we can all work towards a solution on this vital question. We welcome suggestions from colleagues as we think through these issues.

Grants and Gifts

We are, as always, truly grateful to the foundations and individual donors who have provided us with financial support this year: the National Endowment for the Humanities, the British Academy, the Salamander Foundation, the William and Nona Heaslip Foundation, the Jackman Foundation, and the St. George’s Society, Toronto, the Triangle Community Foundation, Raleigh, the Gladys Krieble Delmas Foundation, New York, and the Faculty of Arts and Science, University of Toronto, as well as to the International Society of Anglo-Saxonists and the many colleagues and friends who have continued to support our work.
Dissemination and Outreach

Our editor, Toni Healey, represented the project at a number of conferences this year. In January, she attended the MLA conference in Seattle, and gave her annual report on the progress of the DOE to the Old English Executive. On April 3, she delivered the Eighteenth Annual Gryphon Lecture at the Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library, University of Toronto. Her talk, entitled ‘Dictionary of Old English: Linking Past to Present’ was presented to a large audience of, for the most part, librarians, book collectors and book dealers -- an entirely new group to hear about the work of the DOE. In mid-April, she gave a Keynote Address at the Rocky Mountain Medieval and Renaissance Association Conference, Idaho State University, Pocatello ID. In mid-May, she was one of the speakers on a panel on ‘Sustainability in Digital Medieval Studies’ at the International Medieval Congress, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo MI; here she also attended the annual meeting of the board of the Richard Rawlinson Center for Anglo-Saxon Studies and Manuscript Research, Western Michigan University, and the first meeting of the board of the Lexomics Project, under the direction of our colleague Michael Drout.

Our systems analyst Xin Xiang delivered a paper to the Ontario Universities Computing Conference and the University of Toronto’s TechKnowFile Conference, a joint conference held at the University of Toronto in May. Her talk, entitled ‘Searching the Dictionary of Old English with Solr’ was based on her work developing the new version of DOEonline.

For six months this year we were happy to welcome as a visiting scholar Prof. Javier Martín Arista of the University of La Rioja, Spain. Prof. Martín Arista made use of our collection to conduct research on the nature of compounding in Old English. In April, the project also sponsored a lecture by Dr. Luisa García García of the University of Seville, who gave a stimulating talk on Old English causative verb-formations.

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2011-2012

It is with gratitude to each one of you that we report we have successfully completed the five-year (2011-2016) Mellon Challenge of $500,000 in aid of our research. Donors who supported our research in honour of or in memory of individuals are also noted separately at the end of this list. We are especially grateful to our International Advisory Committee for their letter of appeal to colleagues in the field to help us meet our Mellon Challenge Grant. We are particularly indebted to the Cameron family for creating a Facebook page “In memory of Angus Cameron” to help us in our fundraising campaign. The funds raised in this campaign amounted to $870,897 given by over 240 individuals, foundations, and societies. We would like to acknowledge in a special way the donations from the Salamander Foundation and its Director which enabled the first two releases of funds from the Mellon Foundation, together with a grant from the British Academy and other individual donations. We also received generous donations from the Gladys Krieble Delmas Foundation, the William & Nona Heaslip Foundation, the International Society of Anglo-Saxonists, the Jackman Foundation, the St. George’s Society, Toronto, and the Triangle Community Foundation. The third release of Mellon funds was activated by the matching requirement of our 2012-2014 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. The Mellon Challenge was brought to its completion by the magnificent gift of Hal and Maruja Jackman. We hope to have included all who have so generously supported our work, but must apologize to any of our donors inadvertently left off this list of acknowledgements. This list encompasses gifts received between April 1, 2011 and December 15, 2012. Toni Healey

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