



Dictionary of Old English: 2017 Progress Report

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In May, the DOE celebrated the arrival of our new Chief Editor, Professor Haruko Momma, formerly of New York University. Professor Momma, who now holds the Cameron Professorship of Old English Language and Literature at the University of Toronto, is a Toronto graduate and was a research assistant at the project during her time as a graduate student. She is therefore intimately familiar with the complexities of writing and revising entries, and her expertise on syntax and metre will certainly prove valuable to the project. Professor Momma is now laying the groundwork for several collaborative endeavours to be undertaken by the DOE and other lexicographical and linguistic projects around the world, the fruits of which we hope our users will see in future releases of the *Dictionary*.

Hot on the heels of the long-awaited release of *H*, the DOE is now readying the letter *I* for publication. All *I* words have now been fully drafted and revised — with the exception of *in prep.*, which is nearly complete — and the entries are now being input and proofread. The former task has, in recent years, fallen largely to our Managing Editor Catherine Monahan, but she now has the assistance of our new Computer Editor, Christopher Landon, who joined the DOE team in September. Landon, who recently received his Ph.D. from the University of Toronto, specializes in medieval German history and has studied Old English, Old Saxon, and Old Norse. His addition to the editorial staff has helped to speed up the inputting and revision of entries considerably, and the DOE is very grateful to Dean David Cameron of the Faculty of Arts and Science for agreeing to fund this new position.

We expect that *I* will be ready for publication in the second half of 2018. At approximately 450 headwords, *I* will be a smaller release than *H*, but every letter poses its own problems, and *I* has been no exception. The preposition *in* and the adverb *in(n)* and the many words related to them have been particularly challenging. The entries for two of the more opaque Old English runic characters — *ing* and *ior* — have also presented some difficulties, but we are happy to report that we have enlisted the aid of Dr. Gaby Waxenberger, one of the leaders of the RuneS project, to assist us in solving

some of the many difficulties in interpreting the runic corpus. Now that most of *I* has been written and revised, the editors have begun to draft some of the entries in the early part of *L*. They are currently at work on the *lang* ‘long’ and *læce* ‘physician’ groups.

Xin Xiang, our Systems Analyst, continues to work on technological improvements to the *Dictionary* and *Corpus*. We continue to test and refine the new version of our *Corpus* so that we can provide the best, most intuitive experience for our users. We hope to release the new *Corpus* shortly after the publication of *I*.

Dissemination and Outreach

In January, Haruko Momma gave a report to the Old English Executive Committee on the progress of the *Dictionary* at the MLA conference in Philadelphia. In July, she attended the Advisory Board meeting of the International Society of Anglo-Saxons, held during its biennial meeting in Hawaii, as the Chief Editor of the DOE. In addition, she gave three presentations: “Who’s the Boss: Philology, Philosophy, or Theory?” in the session “The Medieval University Today” at the International Congress on Medieval Studies in Kalamazoo; “Later Ælfric: The John Collins Pope Papers and the Task of the Translator” at the meeting of the International Society of Anglo-Saxons; and “‘B27 Scrib’: Found Space, Truant Pens, and the Question of Communication” at the conference “Anglo-Saxon Micro-texts,” held at the University of Munich in honour of a long-standing International Advisory Committee member, Professor Helmut Gneuss. The last two presentations touched on the project’s text collection and the DOE’s cataloguing system, respectively. Momma was also a discussant at the workshop “Current Trends in Anglo-Saxon Studies,” held at the University of Notre Dame. In May, Stephen Pelle presented a paper entitled “Twelfth-Century Glosses and Revisions in a Manuscript of Ælfric’s Homilies” at the International Congress on Medieval Studies in Kalamazoo. In the summer, Pelle presented another paper on Old English homilies in Göttingen and gave a presentation on the DOE *Electronic Corpus* in Dublin. Robert Getz

participated in a roundtable discussion on “Editing Old English Texts” at the Toronto Old English Colloquium in May. In June, Valentine Pakis chaired a session of a conference on the Physiologus tradition at the Sorbonne in Paris.

On 7 April, during the annual meeting of the Medieval Academy at the University of Toronto, an Old English session was held in honour of our former Chief Editor Toni Healey. In the evening of the same day, the DOE hosted a reception at the Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library and welcomed a large group of medievalists from across North America.

On 20 June, Haruko Momma attended the President’s Donor Reception hosted by the St. George’s Society of Toronto as a guest speaker.

During the summer, the DOE hosted Felix Hausleitner, a Ph.D. student from the University of Graz in Austria. Felix made use of the project’s resources and library in conducting research for his dissertation, which will include a new (and very welcome) German translation of Bald’s *Leechbook*. Felix also helped contribute to the DOE by pointing out several errors in Oswald Cockayne’s edition of this text, which serves as the basis for the version in the DOE *Corpus*.

On 15 August, the DOE sponsored a seminar entitled “Medieval Language Studies in Germany Today.” Four speakers representing various projects and universities in Germany made presentations: Professor Hans Sauer of the University of Munich, Dr. Gaby Waxenberger (mentioned above), Dr. Brigitte Bulitta of the *Althochdeutsches Wörterbuch*, and Professor Elke Ronneberger-Sibold of the Catholic University of Eichstätt-Ingolstadt. The seminar was well-attended and has helped to sow the seeds of greater cooperation between the staff of the DOE and several German lexicographers.

In the winter term of the 2016-2017 academic year, the DOE was again involved in STEP Forward, a pilot project intended to provide undergraduate students with experience in the ways in which digitization can be capitalized on in Humanities research. The students who participate in this project receive practical experience on a Digital Humanities project, including mentorship by graduate students, under the supervision of faculty members. One of our graduate research assistants, Terri Sanderson, mentored two undergraduate students while Revising Editor Valentine Pakis supervised their academic work.

Grants and Gifts

As always, fundraising was one of the DOE’s most important tasks in 2017, and we are happy to report that the support of granting agencies and donors has remained steady. In addition to enjoying long-term grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities (2016-18) and the Triangle Community Foundation (2013-2018), we were successful in bringing in new grants from the Salamander Foundation (2017), the William and Nona Heaslip Foundation (2017), and the Gladys Kriebel Delmas Foundation (2017). We also thank the University of Toronto’s Centre for Medieval Studies, which supports the project by funding our graduate research assistants, and, as mentioned earlier, the University of Toronto’s Dean of Arts and Science for funding the new position of Computer Editor.

We would like to take this opportunity to make special mention of the support of Dr. Wendy Cecil. In addition to her generous donation, she hosted a brunch gathering on 9 April, immediately after the Medieval Academy meeting in Toronto. In attendance were several of the project’s most important supporters, who enjoyed the opportunity to discuss the work of the DOE with the editors and to listen to the beautiful opera arias sung in honour of Toni Healey.

We are grateful to the foundations and individual donors who have provided us with financial support this year. The donations of our many colleagues and friends in the field of medieval studies are always heartening to us, as they represent a vote of confidence in the importance of our project to Old English scholarship. We would like to thank the International Society of Anglo-Saxonists for giving part of its charitable disbursement to the DOE. We are also grateful for those scholars located in Japan who responded to the invitation from Toni Healey and generously gave donations in memory of Angus Cameron, Bruce Mitchell, and Fred Robinson. We would like to thank Mrs. Wendy Cameron and Mrs. Helen Robinson, who gave us permission to launch this campaign. We would like to thank those donors who have responded to the ongoing Adopt-A-Word Campaign run by the University of Toronto’s Advancement Office. Every dollar raised through these campaigns or contributed by other donors will be matched by the Triangle Foundation’s Challenge Fund.

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