



Dictionary of Old English: 2014 Progress Report

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2014 has been a year of change and renewal for the Dictionary of Old English, with several retirements and corresponding new appointments.

Toni Healey, longtime Editor of the DOE, retired at the end of June 2014. Toni started work at the DOE in 1978 as an Assistant Editor; she became Associate Editor in 1983, a Co-Editor with Ashley Crandell Amos in 1985, and Chief Editor in 1989. Her energy and enthusiasm for the project, her diligence and determination, her care and oversight, are well known to anyone who has used the DOE or supported its work, and are deeply appreciated by all those who know her. In May, the Toronto Old English Colloquium included a well-attended reception in her honour, celebrating her invaluable service to the field of Old English studies and the University of Toronto. Fortunately, Toni remains in Toronto and comes into the DOE offices regularly, and she has agreed to join the International Advisory Committee of the Dictionary, where her experience and wisdom will continue to guide and advise us.

Roy Liuzza has succeeded Toni Healey as the Angus Cameron Professor of Old English Studies and Editor of the DOE after a rigorous international search. He brings to the position a special expertise in the editing of Old English texts, knowledge of digital humanities, and a firm resolve to continue efforts to raise the necessary funds to sustain the project. We know all our colleagues and friends wish him every good thing for the future.

David and Ian McDougall, who have been Drafting Editors at the project since 1985, retired at the end of December. The annual holiday gathering at the Centre for Medieval Studies celebrated their exceptional learning, their hard work, and their selfless generosity with tributes of admiration and respect from their colleagues and students. Robert Getz and Stephen Pelle have been hired as Drafting Editors to succeed them. Both are Toronto PhDs and bring to the job an informed knowledge of Old English language and literature, together with training in medieval Latin and early Germanic languages: Rob earned his PhD from Toronto in 2008, and Stephen in 2012, both under the

supervision of Andy Orchard. Rob and Stephen previously worked at DOE as Research Assistants while doctoral students. A search for a third Drafting Editor was conducted in November 2014, with bridge funding generously provided by the Faculty of Arts and Science, the Centre for Medieval Studies, and the English Department. An appointment is expected to be announced shortly.

In addition to Toni Healey, we welcome two other new members to the International Advisory Committee: Ursula Lenker, University of Munich, and Susan Irvine, University College London.

Finally, it is with great sadness we report the death of Allison Kingsmill in September 2014. Allison worked for many years as a bibliographer for the project, publishing (together with Angus Cameron and Ashley Crandell Amos) *Old English Word Studies: A Preliminary Author and Word Index* (Toronto 1983). The generosity of Allison and her husband Bill towards the DOE manifested itself in a number of ways over the years, from hosting DOE events in their home to, most recently, contacting a potential donor on our behalf. Their kind intervention eventually led to DOE's successful application to the Triangle Community Foundation in 2014. We are so very grateful to Allison for all that she did on behalf of DOE.

Editorial and Technological Advances

Our new team of Editors is working diligently on the production of entries for the letter *H* and for related headwords in later letters of the *Dictionary*. We hope to publish *H* at the end of 2015. At the same time, our systems analyst, Xin Xiang, has continued to test and improve the new platforms for DOEonline and DOE Web Corpus, and to fix any bugs that have been identified. In Summer 2014, the *Middle English Dictionary* (MED) linked its entries to DOE after we first linked to them in 2009. Now, for the first time, the three major historical dictionaries of English, DOE, MED, and OED, are in mutual conversation with each other. We believe no other assemblage of historical dictionaries of a Western language has achieved such

interoperability. Our work on creating reciprocal links to the *Corpus of Narrative Etymologies* (CoNE), University of Edinburgh, also enriches the information provided to users of DOE.

Dissemination and Outreach

In January 2014, Toni Healey gave her annual report to the Old English Executive on the progress of the *Dictionary* at the MLA conference in Chicago. In March, she delivered the keynote address at the “Mapping Metaphor” Colloquium at the University of Glasgow: “Home Truths and Fugitive Pieces: Mapping Metaphor at Toronto’s *Dictionary of Old English*.” She delivered variations on this paper to the Medieval English Colloquium, Yale University, in April, and to the Old English Colloquium, University of Toronto, in May. In June, she spoke at the 150th anniversary celebration of the Early English Text Society in London, on the topic “‘Bountiful Plenty’: EETS and the Making of a *Dictionary of Old English*,” an expression of the collective thanks of DOE to EETS for its resources which have enabled our own research.

We have been fortunate to have Alexandra Bolintineanu working at the DOE as a Council on Library and Information Resources Postdoctoral Fellow in Data Curation for Medieval Studies. Alexandra used the resources of the DOE to build digital project management protocols, instructional resources that connect major research projects to university classrooms, and a virtual exhibit, ‘A Word is Born’, which documents both the evolution of words across the history of the English language and the work of creating a DOE entry. We believe this digital exhibit will be helpful for new users of DOE, and it can be updated and extended to encompass new features as they are developed.

For two weeks this May, we were happy to welcome as a visiting scholar Prof. Javier Martín Arista, University of La Rioja, Spain, who is engaged in theoretical linguistics research on the nature of OE compounds. During his stay, the project sponsored a lecture by him on OE affixation, attended by faculty and graduate students. In October, Prof. Stephen Harris of the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, visited the DOE while in town to speak on “Bede and Æthelthryth: An Introduction to Christian Latin Poetics” at the Centre for Medieval Studies.

Grants and Gifts

We are happy to report that even with all our personnel changes, 2014 was a good year for DOE fundraising. DOE was successful in bringing in new grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities (2014-16), the British Academy (2014), and the Salamander Foundation (2014). We are grateful to these agencies for allowing their grants to be transferred to DOE’s new Editor. The Triangle Community Foundation and the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation have also allowed their continuing grants to be transferred; this will help ensure the ongoing progress of the DOE. DOE is also very grateful to the Faculty of Arts and Science, the Centre for Medieval Studies, and the Department of English for its support of the project through bridge funding which has supplemented the project’s grants and allowed us to hire two new editors in July and a third editor in January 2015. The support of the University of Toronto has been invaluable to us both this year and in previous years.

We are, as always, very grateful to the funding bodies, foundations, and individual donors who have provided us with financial support this year, among which are the International Society of Anglo-Saxonists and the many colleagues and friends who have continued to support our research. We are especially grateful to the estate of Winifred Potter for a generous bequest, and for gifts given in memory of Allison Kingsmill and in honour of Toni Healey and David and Ian McDougall. We would also like to thank all those who have given us offprints and books to enhance our library. A list of gifts is appended.

Staff

EDITOR: Antonette diPaolo Healey / Roy M. Liuzza
DRAFTING EDITORS: David McDougall
Ian McDougall
Robert Getz
Stephen Pelle

EDITORIAL STAFF: Catherine Monahan
Xin Xiang (Systems Analyst)

INTERNATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE:
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Helmut Gneuss, University of Munich
Antonette diPaolo Healey, University of Toronto
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Ursula Lenker, University of Munich
Andy Orchard, Pembroke College, Oxford
Eric Stanley, Pembroke College, Oxford

RESEARCH ASSISTANTS:

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Elaina Lysack Johanna Rodda
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EDITOR, Publications of the Dictionary of Old
English: Andy Orchard

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