



Dictionary of Old English: 2015 Progress Report

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The reshaping of the Dictionary of Old English editorial team that began in 2014 has continued in 2015. Roy Liuzza, who succeeded our longtime editor Toni Healey on her retirement in 2014, departed from the project in July for family reasons and has now returned to his former position at the University of Tennessee. Despite his departure, Roy remains committed to supporting the work of the DOE, and in December he spearheaded a fundraising campaign to help the DOE match the next instalment of our Challenge Grant from the Triangle Community Foundation. Both he and Toni continue to help the project in an advisory capacity. We are deeply grateful to Roy for his valuable work at the DOE and wish him all the best in his future endeavours.

A search for a new Angus Cameron Professor of Old English Studies and Chief Editor of the DOE is now underway, being conducted jointly by the DOE and the Centre for Medieval Studies and the Department of English at the University of Toronto. We are happy to report that there are a number of excellent applicants for the position, and we are hopeful that we will be able to announce the appointment of a new Chief Editor in next year's Progress Report.

In the meantime, Robert Getz and Stephen Pelle have taken on the role of Interim Co-Editors of the project. Robert (PhD, University of Toronto, 2008) and Stephen (PhD, University of Toronto, 2012) were hired in 2014 to succeed Drafting Editors David and Ian McDougall on their retirement. They each held a Research Assistantship at the DOE as doctoral students, and they thus have had the privilege of working under both Toni Healey and Roy Liuzza.

We mentioned in the 2014 Report that we had secured funding for a third Drafting Editor. After an international search conducted last fall, the DOE was pleased to hire Valentine Pakis. Prof. Pakis brings to the job a deep knowledge of Old English language and literature and a thorough training in Germanic languages. He earned his PhD from the University of Minnesota in 2008, under the supervision of Anatoly Liberman and Andrew Scheil. His academic publications cover the fields of Old Norse, Old Saxon,

Old High German, Gothic, and Medieval Latin, and he worked as a bibliographer on Liberman's monumental *Bibliography of English Etymology*. He joined the DOE in January 2015.

Editorial and Technological Advances

The DOE Editors have been hard at work in 2015 on the final entries for the letter *H*. We are pleased to report that, as of December 2015, entries for only two headwords remain to be written, while the revision of previously written entries is continuing apace. We plan to publish *H* in the first half of 2016. This will represent a major milestone in the DOE's mission, since *H*, with its nearly 3,000 headwords, covers a greater proportion of the Old English corpus than any other letter except for *S*. We believe we are in a good position to make rapid progress on the letters *I* and *L* in the coming years.

Our systems analyst, Xin Xiang, continues to test and improve the new versions of DOEonline and DOE Web Corpus; these will be released with the publication of *H* in 2016 and should significantly improve user experience. The new search engine for our Web Corpus will be especially valuable for scholars, since it will, for the first time, allow searches with multiple wild cards (e.g., the search term *hl*ht*r** will return various forms of the word for 'laughter', such as *hleahtr*, *hlæhtras*, and *hlehter*).

Dissemination and Outreach

In January 2015, Roy Liuzza gave a report to the Old English Executive Committee on the progress of the *Dictionary* at the MLA conference in Vancouver. In May, he represented the DOE in a roundtable session on "Anglo-Saxon Studies Now" at the International Congress on Medieval Studies in Kalamazoo. The Kalamazoo Congress also featured two sessions on Old English language, literature, and lexicography in honour of Toni Healey. At one of these sessions, Robert Getz presented a paper on "Some Problems for Lexicographers (and Others) in the Taunton Fragments."

In September we were happy to welcome as a visiting scholar Nobuko Imataki, Nihon University of Tokyo, Japan, who is researching the use of preterite-present verbs in *Beowulf*. Nobuko will conclude her stay at the DOE in February.

The DOE sponsored two lectures in 2015. In June, Javier Martín Arista and Ana Elvira Ojanguren López of the University of La Rioja, Spain spoke at the DOE about “The Nerthus Project and the Problem of Lemmatizing Old English Verbs.” In October, Prof. Dabney Bankert of James Madison University visited the DOE and the Centre for Medieval Studies to deliver a lecture on “Defining the Anglo-Saxon World: The Making of Joseph Bosworth’s Dictionary.”

Grants and Gifts

Fundraising continues to be an important task for the DOE, and we are pleased to report that the support of granting agencies and donors has remained steady during 2015. In addition to enjoying long-term grants from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation (2011-16), the National Endowment for the Humanities (2014-16), and the Triangle Community Foundation (2013-18), we have been successful in bringing in new grants from the Salamander Foundation (2015) and the William and Nona Heaslip Foundation (2015). We are also very grateful to the University of Toronto Faculty of Arts and Science, the Centre for Medieval Studies, and the Department of English for their support of the project through bridge funding, which allowed us to hire Valentine Pakis as a third Drafting Editor in January 2015. The support of the University of Toronto has been invaluable to us.

We are grateful to the foundations and individual donors who have provided us with financial support this year. The donations of the International Society of Anglo-Saxonists and our many colleagues and friends in the field of Anglo-Saxon studies are especially important to us, as these donations represent a vote of confidence in the importance of our project to Old English scholarship. We are especially grateful for gifts given in honour of Toni Healey and David and Ian McDougall. We would also like to thank everyone who has given us offprints and books to enhance our library. A list of gifts is appended.

Staff

EDITOR (until 30 June 2015): Roy M. Liuzza

INTERIM CO-EDITORS (from 1 July 2015):

Robert Getz

Stephen Pelle

DRAFTING EDITOR: Valentine Pakis

EDITORIAL STAFF:

Catherine Monahan (Managing Editor)

Xin Xiang (Systems Analyst)

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EDITOR, Publications of the Dictionary of Old English: Andy Orchard

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- William and Nona Heaslip Foundation
- Hal Jackman Foundation
- Jackman Foundation
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