



Dictionary of Old English: 2022 Progress Report

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Life at the Dictionary of Old English returned more or less to normal during 2022. As restrictions on office capacity were lifted, we were able once again to work together in person, reviving the spirit of cooperation and collegiality that makes the DOE such a special project. Entries for some of the largest and most semantically challenging words in the first of our two planned *L* fascicles were drafted this year; these include *gelæccan* ‘to take hold of’, *lēasung* ‘lie, deception’, *lecgan* ‘to lay’, the ubiquitous interjection *lā*, and, most recently, *land* ‘land’, which has more occurrences than any other *L* word. Work on *La-Le* is now nearing completion, with the noun *lēoht* ‘light’ being the largest entry still unwritten. We expect to finish the remaining entries in the first half of 2023, and we hope to publish *La-Le* online near the end of the year, together with a long-awaited update to the DOE *Corpus*. The latter will include, *inter alia*, improved texts of a large number of Old English charters, which our Managing Editor Catherine Monahan has been revising on the basis of new editions published by the British Academy.

Despite our happiness at being able to resume some of our normal routines, the past year has also held its share of grief. In May, Professor Hans Sauer (Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität, Munich), a friend and colleague of DOE editors past and present, died suddenly. Not the least of Professor Sauer’s many contributions to our field is an important editorial project focused on the Épinal-Erfurt Glossary (<http://www.doe.utoronto.ca/epinal-erfurt>), on which he had been collaborating with Professors Michael Herren and David Porter, and which continues without him. Near the end of the year, we also lost Jennifer Rigg, wife of the late Toronto Latinist A.G. Rigg and an ardent supporter of the DOE; and Harry Roe, emeritus professor of Celtic and Germanic languages at the Toronto Centre for Medieval Studies and another loyal friend of the project. We hope our work honours their memory.

Dissemination and Outreach

The medieval studies conference circuit has not fully recovered from the pandemic just yet, but we were

happy to see our colleagues and share our research in two online gatherings this year. In March, Stephen Pelle presented a paper on “Revisiting Some ‘Stock Descriptions of Heaven and Hell’ in the Old English Anonymous Homilies” at a virtual conference on “Anonymous Old English Homilies and Saints’ Lives and Their European Sources,” organized by the ECHOE project at the University of Göttingen. The virtual Kalamazoo Congress on Medieval Studies in May included two sessions on Old English runology and lexicography, jointly sponsored by the DOE and the RuneS project (Göttingen) and kindly organized by former DOE editor Haruko Momma.

Work continues on the proceedings volume for a conference co-hosted by the DOE and the Althochdeutsches Wörterbuch in Leipzig in February 2020. The essays to be included are written in English and German and treat topics of Old English and Old High German lexicography, glossography, epigraphy, palaeography, and metrics. The principal editors are Dr. Brigitte Bulitta from the AHDW and Stephen Pelle from the DOE, who are assisted by Robert Getz and by Drs. Almut Mikeleitits-Winter and Katja Schmidt. In the first half of 2022, DOE research assistant Shirley Kinney also worked as an editorial assistant for some of the English contributions. In 2023, we hope to complete work on this volume, which will be published by De Gruyter.

During the past year, we hosted two visiting graduate students from the University of La Rioja in Spain. Sara Domínguez Barragán arrived in Toronto in September 2021 and stayed until March of this year, working on her doctoral research on Old English syntax. This September, we welcomed Yosra Hamdoun Bghiyel, who is at the project researching the lemmatization of various Old English word classes. Both Sara and Yosra are associated with the Nerthus Project in La Rioja, led by Professor Javier Martín Arista.

Grants and Gifts

The financial support we receive from foundations, government agencies, and individual donors is crucial to the success of the DOE, and we can gratefully

report that this support was particularly strong in 2022. A grant awarded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) allowed us to hire a postdoctoral fellow (see the next section); the University of Toronto Faculty of Arts and Science matched dollar-for-dollar all funds that came in as part of a campaign inaugurated by a generous donation by Professor Roberta Frank; and a fund established by a large gift from Jennifer Rigg allowed us to designate one of the project's editors (currently Robert Getz) as the George and Jennifer Rigg Editor. Future contributions to the fund will continue to support the Rigg Editorship and help ensure the completion of the DOE. The Adopt-a-Word campaign organized by the University's Advancement office also continues to attract donors, who in 2022 have adopted entries including *bōc* 'book', *byren* 'she-bear', and *lēof* 'beloved'. For information on how to adopt a word for yourself or a loved one, how to contribute to the Rigg Fund, or other ways to support the project, please visit the DOE website.

Staff

A SSHRC grant that the DOE received in 2020 provided the project with funding for a two-year postdoctoral position, which we were able to fill earlier this year with the appointment of Dr. Cameron Laird, who completed his PhD at the University of Toronto in 2021. Dr. Laird has previously worked at the DOE as a graduate research assistant and as a research associate. In addition to continuing his research on Old English and Latin riddles, he will be spending part of his time at the DOE helping to draft entries for the *Li-Ly* fascicle. He also continues to work as an editorial assistant on the Épinal-Erfurt Glossary project.

We are happy to report that the Centre for Medieval Studies and the Department of English at the University of Toronto have begun a search for the Angus Cameron Professor of Old English Language and Literature. This position was formerly held by several Chief Editors of the DOE but has been vacant since 2018. While the position is no longer associated with the Chief Editorship of the DOE, we nevertheless plan to integrate the Cameron Professor as much as possible into the DOE's scholarly activities and public outreach, and we look forward to working with our new colleague. In the near future, we also plan to advertise a position to replace our longtime DOE systems analyst Xin Xiang, who has continued to help the DOE in an advisory capacity since her departure in 2020.

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