



TOEBI Newsletter

TEACHERS OF OLD ENGLISH IN BRITAIN AND
IRELAND

ISSUE XIV, SPRING MMII

Obituary Notices

We regret to announce the deaths of the following members of TOEBI and extend deep sympathy to members of their families:

Dr Margaret Mary Bailey, Stockport, died on 21 April 2001

Mr Ramsey Rutherford, Lanchester, died on 12 January 2001

TOEBI Conference 2001

TOEBI met at the University of Leeds on Saturday 17 November 2001. A total of 36 people attended. Helen Barber, from Boydell and Brewer, mounted a book-stall all day, which was much appreciated.

The morning session, chaired by Elaine Treharne, consisted of three stimulating papers. Philippa Semper gave a lively account of some of her teaching experiences in Birmingham and Dublin in a paper entitled 'A text of my own: student-centred perspectives on Old English'. This was followed by Karen O'Rourke and Joana Proud who explained and discussed peer-assisted study sessions (PASS), a collaborative student-learning project which is being introduced into Anglo-Saxon studies in Manchester this year. Philip Line and Philip Shaw then described some experiences from their teaching at Leeds this year, their first teaching a course in Anglo-Saxon culture. All three papers were full of interesting ideas and insights and provoked a lot of discussion from the audience.

After a delicious lunch, Carole Hough chaired the afternoon session. Margaret Locherbie-Cameron, in a thoughtful and thought-provoking paper, discussed 'What use is Old English?' This was followed by Hugh Magennis whose entertaining paper 'Beowulf on film' was illustrated by clips from two 'retellings' of the *Beowulf* story.

The society is most grateful to Mary Swan for organising such an interesting and informative conference.

TOEBI AGM 2001

The AGM immediately followed the conference proceedings.

The first item was the election of a new Chair. Peter Lucas stood for re-election and, there being no other nomination, was re-elected without a vote.

The second item was the Chair's address. In his address, Peter reviewed the events of the previous year and thanked those office bearers who were standing down, Elaine Treharne as Newsletter editor, and Ivan Herbison and Bella Millett as Committee members. There was one nomination for Newsletter editor, Margaret Connolly, and she was therefore elected without a vote. There were two nominations for the Committee, Mary Swan and Elaine Treharne, and so they too were elected without a vote.

Peter continued by giving the proposed locations for future conferences. The next conference is planned for Glasgow in 2002, the following one for Royal Holloway in 2003, and the 2004 one for Manchester. These were all approved by the society. It is hoped that the 2004 conference may take the form of a two-day meeting, perhaps in May, to celebrate a decade of TOEBI in its present form. Meanwhile, it is hoped to hold the one-day autumn conferences in October rather than November on the assumption that the weather may be more clement and the daylight longer. Peter concluded his address by wishing Bruce Mitchell all good wishes for a full and speedy recovery from his recent hip operation.

The third item was the Secretary's address. Elisabeth Okasha outlined the present membership (71 members), the current state of the society's finances (good), and noted that subscriptions due in November 2001 would be requested soon. She also alerted the Society to the current position of Dee Dyas' *Christianity and Culture* project. She then informed the society that TOEBI has been donated some 50 books from the library of the late Ramsey Rutherford by his sister, Moira Rutherford. Mary Swan had suggested that these books be housed in a post-graduate reading room in the Centre for Medieval Studies in Leeds. The

committee had accepted this offer with alacrity and the society did so also.

The final item on the agenda was AOB. Firstly Gale Owen-Crocker informed the society that she was organising an Anglo-Saxon day for sixth-formers and their teachers, sponsored jointly by the Manchester Centre for Anglo-Saxon Studies and TOEBI. This is planned for 16 October 2002 in Manchester. Secondly, Mary Swan noted that she had received apologies for non-attendance at the conference from Mark Atherton and Barbara Raw. Thirdly, there was some discussion of Paul Cavill's suggestions for an enhanced role for the TOEBI committee. In particular, it was noted that some people coming new to the teaching of Old English might appreciate advice from a 'mentor'. This was approved by the society and will be effected, perhaps by way of advertisement on the website.

Conference and AGM 2002

Next year's conference and AGM will be held in the University of Glasgow on Saturday 19 October 2002. It is being organised by Carole Hough of the Department of English Language, University of Glasgow. The theme will be 'Old English both inside and outside Anglo-Saxon England'. Carole would be delighted to receive offers of papers by 30 April 2002, and can be contacted at:

Department of English Language
School of English and Scottish Language and
Literature
University of Glasgow
Glasgow G12 8QQ
Scotland
☎ 0141 330 4566
✉ e-mail: C.Hough@englang.arts.gla.ac.uk

In Memoriam Ramsey Rutherford (1934-2001)

[This obituary was written by Professor John Walmsley for the *Henry Sweet Society Bulletin*, and is reprinted by kind permission of the editor Dr Andrew Linn.]

Ramsey William Rutherford died of heart disease, suddenly, on 12 January 2001 at his home in Co. Durham, England. Ramsey Rutherford was born on 3 November 1934 in Consett and attended the local primary and secondary schools. In 1957 he graduated with

honours in English Language and Literature from King's College, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, a Department headed at the time by Professor Barbara Strang, but still part of the University of Durham.

For the next eight years, Ramsey worked alternately as a teacher and journalist, taking in a Postgraduate Certificate in Education at the University of Leicester along the way. His interest in and growing experience with language led him to apply for the course in Applied Linguistics at the University of Edinburgh, where he studied under S. Pit Corder and his staff from 1965-67, supporting himself by working at nights and in the vacations as sub-editor of the *Scottish Daily Mail*. In 1967 he was appointed director of the Child Language Survey as part of the Nuffield / Schools Councils' Modern Languages Project in York for five years, during which he completed his work for his Edinburgh M.Litt.

When the research project in York came to an end in 1972, he was appointed to a post at the recently formed languages centre (*Sprachenzentrum*) in Bielefeld, and he remained a member of the faculty until his retirement in November 1999.

Ramsey published in the fields of language testing (for Robert B. Pinsent), foreign-language teaching methodology, and the language of fifteen-year old children - the latter being an area of particular interest. Since language acquisition is assumed to be more or less complete by the onset of puberty, few studies have been carried out on the language of teenage children in comparison to the vast number devoted to language acquisition in the earlier years.

Through his work Ramsey got to know a number of the most prominent figures in Applied Linguistics personally. His wide reading and his interest in travel and foreign cultures, linguistics and language and languages generally, brought him into contact with many more. On the principle that we are all more or less human, he was always ready to open a conversation with any lost-looking human being he came across, from Bill Gates downwards. This meant that he had met personally a number of world-famous linguists whose names are now known to us, alas, only as the authors of famous books.

In the Henry Sweet Society he provided useful cross-links with modern linguistics (through his membership of the LAGB), and with Old English studies (through the TOEBI). Anxious never to let a debate flag, Ramsey will be remembered by participants at the Edinburgh conference for

his vigorous personal contributions, based on wide knowledge and experience. It is a tragedy that he was not permitted to enjoy much more than a year of his well-deserved retirement.

Lynne Grundy Memorial Trust Awards 2002

As many TOEBI members will be aware, Lynne Grundy was Researcher and Lecturer at the University of London from 1988 to 1997, and died in 1997 when she was forty. The Trust was established with help from her students, colleagues and friends to commemorate her life and work. It gives several grants every year (up to £500 each), to scholars and students in the disciplines of Old English /Anglo-Saxon or Humanities Computing (who do not already have a permanent full-time academic post or adequate funding) to contribute towards knowledge and to continue Lynne's passionate involvement in these disciplines. Grants made over the past three years have helped people to get books published, give papers at conferences, stage theatre productions, finish theses, and generally make a difference to their careers. The Trust relies on academics to pass on its publicity to potential applicants and would be grateful if TOEBI members would encourage likely applicants to send details of their proposals, along with a CV and academic references, to the Trust no later than Easter 2002. Awards will be made in May or June 2002. Every application is confidential.

The Trust welcomes donations by cheque, and any enquiries to:

Lynne Grundy Memorial Trust
2A East Mount Street
London
E1 1BA

☎ 020 7377 2171

✉ e-mail: lynnegrundustrust@talk21.com

Charity Commission Number: 1072150

Forthcoming Conferences etc.

Anglo-Saxon Day

An Anglo-Saxon day for sixth-formers and their teachers, sponsored jointly by the Manchester Centre for Anglo-Saxon Studies and TOEBI will be held on 16 October 2002 in Manchester. Details are available from Gale Owen-Crocker:

✉ e-mail: groc@man.ac.uk

Lampeter Summer School

The University of Wales, Lampeter, is running a Summer School for American students for the first time this year. The programme will contain an Old English module entitled 'Beowulf and Anglo-Saxon Heroic Literature' which will examine the dynamics of *Beowulf* and the ways in which it scrutinizes concepts of the heroic within a Christian culture. The text will be studied mostly in a translation but the module will introduce students to aspects of Old English language and heroic vocabulary and concepts.

For further information contact William Marx:

✉ e-mail: marx@lamp.ac.uk

Interdisciplinary Seminar

'The Place of the Cross in Anglo-Saxon England'

Interdisciplinary Seminar hosted by the Manchester Centre for Anglo-Saxon Studies, 5-7 July 2002.

For further information contact: Catherine E. Karkov, Department of Art, Miami University, 124 Art Bldg, Oxford OH 45056

☎ 513-529-2907; 513-529-1532

✉ e-mail: karkov@muohio.edu

<http://www2.hawaii.edu/~kjolly/cross/cross.html>

Recent Books

A Guide to Old English, 6th Edition

Edited by Bruce Mitchell and Fred C. Robinson

Blackwell 2001

400 pp. 0-631-22636-2; pbk £17.99

This updated sixth edition retains the structure and style of the popular previous editions and includes two new, much-requested texts: *Wulf and Eadwacer* and *Judith*. The book consists of two parts. Part One comprises an introduction to the Old English language, including orthography and pronunciation, inflexions, word formation, and an authoritative section on syntax. This is followed by an introduction to Anglo-Saxon studies which discusses language, literature, history, archaeology, and ways of life. Sound changes are treated as they become relevant in understanding apparent irregularities in inflexion. Part Two contains verse texts, most of them complete, which illustrate the range that Old English poetry offers in mood, intensity, humour, and natural observation. Full explanatory notes accompany all the texts, and a detailed glossary is provided.

Notices

A Companion to Anglo-Saxon Literature

Edited by Philip Pulsiano and Elaine Treharne
Blackwell 2001
544 pp. 0-631-20904-2; hbk £80

Leading scholars from America and Europe point the way ahead for Anglo-Saxon studies in the 28 original contributions to this *Companion*. The scope of the volume is unparalleled, embracing not only the literature of the period, but also the cultural background and the discipline of Anglo-Saxon studies, past, present, and future. Discussion of primary material and manuscript sources is combined with critical analysis and readings. This *Companion* breaks new ground - fresh approaches are offered, genres of writing not normally studied are opened up, and readers are shown how texts can be read in their particular cultural milieu.

Mary Swan of the University of Leeds and Jill Frederick of Minnesota State University are the authors of the Old English chapter of *Year's Work in English Studies*. Some books and articles for review in this chapter of *YWES* are sent to the authors by publishers, but some publishers are much more forthcoming (and prompt) than others, so Mary and Jill would welcome review copies of any published articles or books written by TOEBI members. Members who have copies of articles or books published from 2001 onwards which they can send directly to Mary or Jill for review should post them to the following addresses:

For the *YWES* Old English chapter sections on Bibliography; Manuscript Studies, Palaeography and Facsimiles; Social, Cultural and Intellectual Background; Literature: General; and Prose:

Dr Mary Swan
Centre for Medieval Studies
University of Leeds
Leeds LS2 9JT

✉ e-mail: m.t.swan@leeds.ac.uk

For the *YWES* Old English chapter sections on the Exeter Book; The Poems of the Vercelli Book; The Junius Manuscript; the *Beowulf* Manuscript; and Other Poems:

Dr Jill Frederick
Department of English
Minnesota State University
Moorhead
Minnesota 56563-0002
USA

✉ e-mail: Frederick@mnstate.edu

Advertisement

MA in English (Old English Literature and its Legacy)

National University Of Ireland, Cork

Course Co-ordinator: Elisabeth Okasha
Lecturers: Margaret Connolly; Eamonn O Carragáin; Elisabeth Okasha
Period of Study: one year

Course Objective: The course gives students the opportunity to read selectively within the range of Old English and early Middle English literature, with special reference to literature in its cultural context.

Course Content: The course introduces students to a variety of Old English poetry and prose and offers the option of studying early Middle English literature. Particular attention is paid to the relationship between the literature and the culture of early medieval England. The course concentrates on topics from amongst the following: oral transmission and literacy; literature in the context of material culture; history as literature; monasticism; the persistence of Old English styles and genres beyond the Norman Conquest.

Course Components:

1. Taught course in Old English literature and its legacy

Period of Study: October to mid-February
Hours of study: 2-hour seminar per week for 16 weeks

2. Taught course in Research skills

Period of Study: October to mid-January
Hours of Study: 2-hour seminar per week for 12 weeks

3. Language Skills

Period of study: October to mid-February
Hours of study: 1 hour per week of language teaching for 16 weeks

4. Dissertation

Period of research: February to September
Submission of dissertation: October

1. Taught course in Old English literature and its legacy: course description

Weeks 1,2 (4 hours): Oral and literary transmission of Old English literature (EOC)

Weeks 3,4 (4 hours): Old English literature and the material culture of Anglo-Saxon England (EOC)

Weeks 5,6 (4 hours): Old English literature and the material culture of Anglo-Saxon England (EO)

Week 7 (2 hours): individual advice and assistance on choosing a research topic (MC, EOC, EO)

Week 8,9 (4 hours): History as literature (EO)

Weeks 10,11,12 (6 hours): Old English religious writing (EOC)

Weeks 13,14 (4 hours): Old English homilies (EO)

Weeks 15,16 (2 hours): Old English styles and genres persisting after the Conquest (MC)

There is provision for an individual student to substitute some of the above with an equivalent number of seminar hours from the taught course in the MA (Texts and Contexts: Medieval to Renaissance).

2. Taught course in Research skills: course description

[Students registered for this MA are taught with students of the MA (Texts and Contexts: Medieval to Renaissance) for Research Skills] weeks 1-5 (10 hours): this section covers the requirements for research presentation, including the *MLA Handbook*

Weeks 6-12 (14 hours): this section covers IT skills, how to access research-specific databases, how to use the internet, etc.

3. Language skills: course description

Weeks 1-16 (16 hours): language teaching is provided at a level appropriate to the student's proficiency.

4. Dissertation

Following the individual assistance given in choosing a research topic (see under 1. above), a member of the course team will supervise the writing of the student's dissertation.

Application Process:

For further details and an application form, please contact the course co-ordinator at:

Department of English
University College Cork
Cork
Republic of Ireland

Deadline for receipt of applications:

1 June each year.

TOEBI committee

The dates refer to when members of the committee are due to retire or to stand for re-election.

President: Professor Eric Stanley (2003)

Chair: Professor Peter Lucas (2004)

Secretary: Dr Elisabeth Okasha (2003)

Newsletter Editor: Dr Margaret Connolly (2004)

Committee members:

Dr Paul Cavill, PR Officer (2002)

Dr William Marx (2002)

Dr Richard Dance (2003)

Dr Carole Hough (2003)

Dr Mary Swan (2004)

Dr Elaine Treharne (2004)

For membership details and general enquiries contact the secretary:

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Send submissions for the next Newsletter by September 28th 2002 to the editor:

Dr Margaret Connolly
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✉ e-mail: mconnolly@english.ucc.ie

Action points for Members:

- **Send topics or proposals for the November TOEBI meeting** to the Secretary or to Dr Carole Hough
- **Contribute to the Newsletter:** responses to this issue; book reviews; short articles on your Old English courses or assessment procedures; material about professional practice; student howlers
- **Please send information about the following items for inclusion in the Newsletter:**
 - Conferences on Anglo-Saxon Studies
 - Special Lectures by Anglo-Saxonists
 - Postgraduate Courses and Opportunities in Old English in your Department
 - News about promotions, or general (non-salacious) news about lecturers in your Department
 - The publication of new books or articles useful for teaching Old English