

Angus McIntosh Centre for Historical Linguistics

Annual Report, academic year 2014/15

The Angus McIntosh Centre ('AMC') has seen no personnel changes within the reporting period, except that it now has 14 Honorary Members and 46 Affiliates. Details can be found on the AMC's web pages.

Among the AMC's **activities during the academic year 2014/15** I report the following:

The first **McIntosh-Patterson PhD Studentship** was advertised in January 2015 and attracted more than 20 applicants. The successful candidate is Jørgen Michael Sanstedt (Oslo) who will undertake a cross-dialectal study of Old Norwegian vowel harmony in the 13th and 14th centuries. The School will cover 80% of the studentship fees each year. The other 20% plus the entirety of the stipend will be met from two sources: (i) £1,800 from the university's Patterson fund; (ii) the remaining balance from the AMC's endowment income.

The new **Angus McIntosh UG Prize** was set up by the Steering Committee on 11 May 2015. It was determined that this Prize, worth £100, should be awarded annually for the best Honours Dissertation in Linguistics & English Language. It was awarded in June 2015 to Asha Stewart.

Rob Truswell, a Chancellor's Fellow in LEL, has applied for and recently been awarded an **AHRC grant** to parse 40% of LAEME over 12 months, starting in September 2015. This is the first step towards what we hope will be a fully parsed version of the Linguistic Atlas of Early Middle English and — hopefully — subsequently the Linguistic Atlas of Older Scots.

The AMC has hosted the following visiting scholars: Professor Donka Minkova (UCLA), Dr Julia Fernández Cuesta (University of Seville), Dr Christine Elswailer (Ludwig-Maximilians University Munich).

The AMC has made a concerted effort in the reporting period to improve its media presence.

1. Website: The new AMC website (www.amc.lel.ed.ac.uk) was developed in 2015. The main aims of the website are:

- to promote the research of the Angus McIntosh Centre for Historical Linguistics
- to provide background on the Centre's heritage and the projects, institutions and people that have played a part in it
- to serve as a projects hub and a repository of background materials about past and current historical linguistic projects at the AMC (formerly the IHD) and LEL
- to host information on conferences and symposia run by the AMC (the first symposium to be held in June 2016)
- to gather information about funding and studentship opportunities at the AMC
- to create a repository of historical linguistic resources and links
- to provide news and events updates

In the last 90 days the website has attracted 2,600 individual visitors. The most popular pages were the home page with 4,129 visits and the AMC Symposium call with 1,065 visits.

2. Facebook page: The AMC Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/AMCEdinburgh?fref=ts>) was launched on 11 June 2015. We keep a regular feed of posts related to historical linguistics (new projects, useful tools and resources, new publications, etc.). In the last two months the page has been "liked" by 123 people, most of whom are fellow academics interested in historical linguistics, but it has also attracted interest from the general public. The followers are based mostly in the UK (over 50 people) but the interest in the page is worldwide (Spain, Switzerland, Poland, the US, Germany, Canada, Australia, Pakistan, Japan, China, etc.). The most popular post (with almost 2,000 people reached) was the announcement of the AMC Symposium (see below). The followers were also interested in links to various digitization projects of historical texts.

3. Twitter: The AMC Twitter account (@AmcEdinburgh) was also launched on 11 June and has 63 followers to date. The account is intended as an outlet for news concerning the AMC and its fields of interest, as well as a means of remaining in touch with current work and events in historical linguistics. The majority of the current followers are academics. The most re-tweeted news item has been the announcement of the 2016 AMC conference.

The following **activities for 2015/16** have been approved by the Steering Committee:

The second Edinburgh Symposium on Historical Phonology in Dec 2015 will feature Ranjan Sen (Sheffield) as the **Angus McIntosh Centre for Historical Linguistics' 2015 plenary speaker**. Sen will address foundational issues in the discipline over two one-hour slots (one on each day of the event) and considerable time will be allocated for discussion. His (very modest) costs will be covered by the AMC.

An **AMC Symposium on Historical Dialectology** is planned for Spring 2016; preparatory work for this event is now under way.

12 August 2015

Professor Heinz J Giegerich, Director