

The Angus McIntosh Centre for Historical Linguistics:

Document of Governance

1 History

The Angus McIntosh Centre for Historical Linguistics ('AMC') draws on, and seeks to continue, a long and distinguished history of over sixty years. Its roots lie in what was previously called the Institute for Historical Dialectology ('IHD'), originally founded in 1952 by Angus McIntosh (then the University's Forbes Professor of English Language and General Linguistics) as the Middle English Dialect Project.

This project resulted, in 1986, in the publication of *A Linguistic Atlas of Late Mediaeval English* (4 vols., Aberdeen University Press), a work which under McIntosh's leadership revolutionised both the methodology and the empirical basis of Middle English scholarship.

The group of researchers responsible for 'LALME' was given formal status as an Institute in the early 1980s, following McIntosh's retirement in 1979 from the Forbes Chair; and a substantial Endowment was established at that time. Until 1994 (when a major research grant from the Leverhulme Trust was secured – see Appendix) the interest from this Endowment was IHD's sole source of internal funding. Much of the original Endowment is still in existence (see below); its interest will continue to provide AMC with modest funds.

Since 1994 IHD (now AMC) has attracted research grants of approximately £3m from funding agencies such as the Leverhulme and Carnegie Trusts, AHRB, AHRC and the British Academy. (See Appendix for details.) These grants covered the salaries and associated costs of its two long-term researchers, Drs Margaret Laing and Keith Williamson, in a succession of research projects until their retirements in 2013. The pursuit of these projects has given rise to a large number of publications, many in prestigious journals; but this stream of publications was secondary: the projects undertaken by the IHD researchers were designed to produce large-scale, searchable, scholarly resources, which are freely available on-line. These resources inform studies of language variation and change, particularly involving historical dialectology but also historical phonology, morphology, syntax and lexis; they also serve as quarries for PhD projects and for both postgraduate and undergraduate teaching.

To date this suite of IHD on-line atlases comprises: *A Linguistic Atlas of Early Middle English* (LAEME), *A Linguistic Atlas of Older Scots* (LAOS), and a heavily revised electronic version of the original *Linguistic Atlas of Late Mediaeval English* (eLALME). IHD's last project, funded by AHRC, and employing Drs Margaret Laing, Keith Williamson and Rhona Alcorn as researchers (with Professor Emeritus Roger Lass as PI), produced another major electronic resource: *A Corpus of Narrative Etymologies and accompanying Corpus of Changes* (CoNE).¹ This project concluded in 2013 with the publication of its corpora. In November 2013, IHD was

¹ LAEME, LAOS, eLALME and CoNE may be accessed, respectively, at: <http://www.lel.ed.ac.uk/ihd/laeme1/laeme1.html>, <http://www.lel.ed.ac.uk/ihd/laos1/laos1.html>, <http://www.lel.ed.ac.uk/ihd/elalme/elalme.html>, <http://www.lel.ed.ac.uk/ihd/CoNE/CoNE.html>.

awarded £827,418 to fund a new, four-year project entitled *From Inglis to Scots: Mapping Sounds to Spellings*. This funding will cover the costs of a full-time PhD student and a part-time computer programmer, as well as those of the three primary research investigators and their two assistants. This project will be the first to be undertaken under the aegis of AMC rather than IHD.

IHD had minimal governance structure, comprising essentially a Director, who was usually the grant holder and in some cases also the PI of the project of the time, recruited from the fulltime academic staff of the University. IHD has in effect been defined by whatever single major project it was engaged in at any one time; its personnel have comprised Drs Laing and Williamson (and latterly Dr Alcorn) throughout its history. The Endowment provided funds for activities not covered by IHD's major grants and, on one occasion, short-term financial bridging between grants. The capital value of the Endowment is currently (December 2013) £275k. IHD was affiliated with the (Linguistics and) English Language subject area during most of its history, as AMC is now.

2 Rationale

The timing of the transformation, in autumn 2013, of IHD into AMC reflected the confluence of three factors: (i) the appointment in 2013 of Professor Bettelou Los, a historical linguist, to the Forbes Chair of English Language; (ii) the award of a Chancellor's Fellowship to Dr Rhona Alcorn; (iii) the retirement of Drs Williamson and Laing. Moreover, the term 'Centre' is more accurate than 'Institute' in the University's standard nomenclature.

The specific reference in the Centre's name to Angus McIntosh, ultimate founder and intellectual force behind its endeavour, is surely appropriate and timely; but the change from IHD to AMC was not merely a change of name. It was, rather, a major initiative intended to increase IHD's visibility in the research community locally, nationally and internationally. It implied a broadening of its scope, an extension of its remit, and thereby the transformation of a small research unit into a vibrant hub of research activity in historical linguistics. AMC's remit is research into *any* aspect of historical linguistics. In the current, initial phase of the Centre's research activity the history of Scots figures prominently. Associated Institution status has recently been awarded to the Scottish Language Dictionaries ('SLD') in anticipation of this new direction of research and in recognition of long-standing historical ties between SLD and the University of Edinburgh.

AMC will continue to host major, externally-funded research projects involving postdoctoral and postgraduate researchers. It will host conferences, colloquia and symposia as well as being a forum for less formal discussion. It will foster research collaboration with other institutions sharing its academic interests (for example the Universities of Aberdeen and Glasgow).

3 Governance

AMC is part of the subject area of Linguistics and English Language (LEL) at Edinburgh University, currently within the School of Philosophy, Psychology and Language Science (PPLS).

3.1 Office bearers, Steering Committee, membership

AMC's office bearers, responsible primarily for the Centre's administration, are the following.

- (1) Director: a senior member of LEL's fulltime academic staff, appointed by the Head of School in consultation with AMC's steering committee. Tenure normally three years, renewable.
- (2) Depute Director and Secretary: a member of LEL's academic staff appointed by the Head of School in consultation with AMC's steering committee. Tenure normally three years, renewable.
- (3) Treasurer: a member of LEL's academic staff appointed by the Head of School in consultation with AMC's steering committee. Tenure normally three years, renewable. The Treasurer has the assistance of the School Finance Officer.
- (4) Web Master: the School Web Master.

AMC's Steering Committee, responsible primarily for strategic planning, comprises the following:

- (1) The Director (Chair of Committee)
- (2) The Depute Director (Secretary to Committee)
- (3) The Treasurer
- (4) Some three members of LEL's academic staff, invited by the Director and Depute Director (each serving no more than five consecutive years)
- (5) External members temporarily co-opted as deemed beneficial by the Committee

AMC's membership will comprise the following:

- (1) The members of the Steering Committee
- (2) The members of AMC's externally-funded research staff
- (3) Scholars of historical linguistics as elected (for a period of typically five years, renewable) by the Steering Committee.

3.2 Funding

The Endowment's annual interest is available to fund two types of activity. First, it may be used to meet project-related costs incurred by externally-funded researchers to the extent that such costs are not met by grant income. Second, it may be used to provide a (real or virtual) space for social and intellectual interaction among AMC members and students, e.g. by hosting conferences. Both types of spending would require the approval of the Director, the Depute Director and the Treasurer.

The Endowment's principal is not normally expected to be spent down. Such spending is not on principle ruled out but requires the approval of the Steering Committee.

3.3 Planning, reviewing and reporting

The steering committee meets annually to:

- (1) review the achievements of the preceding year
- (2) set aims and objectives for the coming year
- (3) identify opportunities for knowledge exchange and non-academic impact

In addition, the steering committee reviews quinquennially the continued rationale for the existence (in its current form) of the AMC. Further meetings may be held for specific purposes.

The Director reports annually to the Head of School regarding AMC's activities within a given academic year.

4 Office bearers from December 2013:

Director:	Professor Heinz Giegerich
Depute director and secretary:	Dr Rhona Alcorn
Treasurer:	Dr Rhona Alcorn
Further members of the Steering Committee:	Professors Bettelou Los, Caroline Heycock, Nikolas Gisborne
Co-opted external members:	Dr Robert McColl Millar (Aberdeen), Professor Jeremy Smith (Glasgow), Dr Joel Wallenberg (Newcastle).

Professor Heinz Giegerich, Director

December 2013

Appendix: IHD and AMC grants, 1994 to present

- 1994–98 Grant of £245,290 from the Leverhulme Trust to pay salaries of Laing and Williamson. Grant holder Prof Alexander Fenton (Director of the School of Scottish Studies and of the Institute for Historical Dialectology). *The Medieval Linguistic Atlas Projects*. Grant ref: F158/AK.
- 1999–2000 Grant of £30,000 from the British Academy’s Transitional Fund to pay salary of Laing. Grant holder Dr Margaret Mackay (Director of the School of Scottish Studies and of the Institute for Historical Dialectology). Grant ref: LRG-AN5021/APN8763.
- 1999–2000 Grant of £30,000 from the Carnegie Trust to pay salary of Williamson. Grant holder Dr Margaret Mackay. No grant ref.
- 2000–2003 Grant of £309,360 from the Arts and Humanities Research Board to pay salaries of Laing and Williamson. Grant holder Dr Margaret Mackay. Project: *The Edinburgh Historical Linguistic Atlases: Early Middle English and Older Scots*. Grant ref: B/RG/AN5021/APN11064.
- 2003–2006 Grant of £311,487 from the Arts and Humanities Research Board/Council to pay salaries of Laing and Williamson. Grant holder: Mr Derek Britton (Director of IHD). Project: *The Edinburgh Historical Linguistic Atlases and Text Corpora: Early Middle English and Older Scots*. Grant ref: AN10105/APN16240.
- 2007–2010 Grant of £426,600 from the Arts and Humanities Research Council’s Resource Enhancement Scheme, to pay salaries of Laing and Williamson. PI: Mr Derek Britton. Project: *Revised On-line Edition of A Linguistic Atlas of Late Mediaeval English (e-LALME)*. Grant ref: AH/E007848/1.
- 2010–2013 Grant of £683,370 from the Arts and Humanities Research Council to pay salaries of Alcorn, Laing and Williamson. PI: Professor Roger Lass, University of Cape Town, Hon Professorial Fellow University of Edinburgh. Project: *A Corpus of Narrative Etymologies (CoNE) from Primitive Old English to Early Middle English*. Grant ref: AH/H032517/1.
- 2014–2017 Grant of £1,020,702 from the Arts and Humanities Research Council to cover: (i) the salaries of two full-time Research Assistants for 38 months each; (ii) the salary of one part-time (0.5 FTE) computer programmer for 48 months; (iii) the fees and stipend of one full-time PhD student. PI: Professor Bettelou Los, Co-Investigators: Dr Rhona Alcorn and Dr Warren Maguire. Project: *From Inglis to Scots (FITS): Mapping Sounds to Spellings*. Grant ref: AH/L004542/1.