David Stifter

The Lexicography and Etymology of Medieval Irish Medical Terminology

This paper focuses on two aspects of the medieval Irish lexicon: the etymology of medieval Irish words belonging to medical terminology in the widest possible sense, and, as an indispensable starting point for this, their textual philology and lexicography.

Medieval Irish medical terminology can be assigned to four broad semantic groups: 1. body parts; 2. names of diseases; 3. medical ingredients; and 4. words relating to medical treatment. Looking at selected examples from those four groups, I will reflect upon the state of the art, and the aims and the challenges to the lexicography and the etymological elucidation of Irish medical terminology, and what this means in the wider context of European languages.

Siobhán Barrett

Máel Eachlainn Mac an Leagha's Concise and Beneficial Compendium

We don't often get an insight into what motivates a scribe's choice to compile a text in a particular way, but fortunately and interestingly for us, Máel Eachlainn Mac an Leagha, the scribe of Dublin, King's Inns Library Manuscript 15, has provided just that (fol. 77r). He reasons that he needed to compose a concise, useful tract because modern people prefer brevity and because a shorter text will relieve annoyance in times of distress. To achieve this end, he has excluded long passages of theory which are a feature of many medical texts. In this text, a tract on pathology, he names many authors from which he has sourced his material, emphasising particularly Gilbertus Anglicus and Geraldus de Solo. There are difficult passages and possible instances of misunderstanding and/or corruption in the text. This paper will discuss and show examples of how comparisons with both Latin and English versions of texts such as Gilbertus Anglicus' *Compendium Medicinae* and Bernard of Gordon's *Lilium Medicinae* can help to improve our understanding of the Irish compilation.

Keith Busby

‘Yes, we have no bananas’: Jofroi de Waterford, Servais Copale, and the Import Trade in Early Fourteenth-century Waterford?

Into his French adaptation of the *Secretum secretorum*, Jofroi de Waterford inserted large sections of Isaac Israeli’s *De dietis universalibus et particularibus*. I will compare sections of the French with the Latin source and argue that Jofroi omits from lists of spices, fruits, etc., items he does not know and which were not available in Ireland at the beginning of the fourteenth century. It is significant that his collaborator and scribe, the Walloon Servais Copale, was a merchant and *custos* in Waterford.

Chiara Benati

Rational Surgery Translated into the Vernacular: The German Versions of Lanfranc of Milan’s *Chirurgia magna*

Lanfranc of Milan (1245–1306) is considered one of the most influential surgeons of the late Middle Ages, and his Latin works—the *Chirurgia parva* (Lyon, 1293–1294) and the *Chirurgia magna* (Paris, 1296)—continued to shape surgical practice until the sixteenth century. The significance of Lanfranc’s works is evident in the numerous vernacular translations produced in the years following their compilation, which made his scholarship accessible across Europe, even to those who could not read Latin.

The *Chirurgia parva* was repeatedly translated into High German, and three different versions have survived. As for the *Chirurgia magna*, parts of Lanfranc’s text are known in two German translations. The first translation of the complete text, along with one of the German translations of the *Chirurgia parva*, has been fully preserved in two manuscripts: Kalocsa, Főszékesegyházi Könyvtár, Ms. 376, and Erlangen, Universitätsbibliothek, Ms. B 32. An incomplete version of the text is found in London, Wellcome Institute for the History of Medicine, Ms. 398. Another independent German version, which includes only the fifth treatise (Antidotarium) of the Latin work, is

preserved in a single manuscript: Budapest, Országos Széchényi Könyvtár, Cod. Germ. 59.

In this talk, these two German versions of Lanfranc's work and their terminology will be examined and compared with the Latin original, with particular attention to the modifications made to adapt Lanfranc's text to a new language and audience.

Conan Doyle

Lost in Translation: Errors, Omissions and Variant Translations of Latin Medical Recipes in Old English (850-1200)

This paper will consider the existence of recipes in multiple separate versions, in several different Old English medical compilations, which were most likely translated from the same ultimate Classical or Late Antique Latin sources recipes. These recipes in multiple versions can shed a light not only on the difficulties of translating from Latin to the vernacular, but also on the text-critical problems of treating the Latin medical corpus itself as static and immutable. Some of the textual variants seem to arise from changes or single common anatomical words, whereas in other cases, the grammatical ambiguity of a Latin phrase seems to have led to two completely different Old English recipes for the same complaint.

Debby Banham

'Then said he who wrote this book …': Dealing with Plant Names in Bald's Leechbook and Leechbook III

Having spent a lot of time recently trying to translate the Old English plant names in Bald's Leechbook and Leechbook III, I have developed a deep sympathy for the people who produced them in the first place and have ended up adopting very similar strategies. Whether translating or adapting Latin texts, or simply drawing on a tradition that did so, the writers and compilers of Old English medical texts took a variety of

approaches to representing Latin plant names into their own language. Sometimes they would replace a Latin name with an unrelated Old English one, presumably confident that they knew what plant the name belonged to. Sometimes they would translate literally, so that *fel terre* becomes *eorðgealla*, 'earth gall', perhaps meaning that the plant involved was unfamiliar. Often they would keep the Latin name, either giving it an Old English inflectional ending or keeping the Latin one. Those with Old English endings may already have been current in the language, probably referring to more familiar plants, while the last group may have been viewed as untranslatable.

Most of the surviving medical texts exhibit all four approaches to a greater or lesser extent, so this paper will focus on the choices of approach found in Bald's Leechbook and Leechbook III. This would vary, presumably, according to whether a suitable name was already in use in Old English, or the translator had to invent one. It may also have been a question of the familiarity or unfamiliarity of the Latin name, or of the plant it denoted, and these issues would of course be related. A translator or compiler might have to deal with a large body of botanical vocabulary, ranging from the familiar and everyday to the wildly exotic, and we can gain some inkling of their attitudes, even without such explicit outbursts as we read in Bald's Leechbook, in response to 'the bark that comes from paradise': 'Then said he that wrote this book, that that would be hard to get hold of.'

Diana Luft

English Elements in Medieval Welsh Medical Recipes

The earliest medical texts in Welsh exist in a discrete corpus found in four closely-related thirteenth- and fourteenth-century manuscripts. The medical recipes in this corpus are a rich source of medieval Welsh plant names in particular. The corpus also includes two Latin-Welsh plant-name glossaries, which provide crucial evidence for interpreting the plant names used in the recipes. These glossaries, along with a series of later fourteenth- and fifteenth-century glossaries, offer a large variety of Welsh plant names. While many are Welsh in origin, derived in a number of ways (original Welsh terms, translations, calques), there are also a large number of borrowings from Latin,

French and English. While the medical recipes reflect this variety to a certain extent, they contain a large number of English borrowings, even for common herbs where very well-known Welsh terms are available. In this paper I will look at examples of English plant names in the medieval Welsh medical recipes, examining them in the context of the use of English vocabulary in the rest of the corpus, and offer some suggestions for why they seem to appear so often.

Fleur Vigneron and Michèle Goyens

Creating a Vernacular Terminology in Mediaeval France: The Case of Botany and Medicine

In a period where Latin scientific treatises started to be translated into the vernacular languages, translators were facing a situation where their mother tongue did not sufficiently master the terminology of the scientific domain that was concerned and were challenged to coin or enhance that scientific vocabulary, using different coining and lexicalisation techniques.

This contribution focuses on mediaeval French botanic and medical terminology. The first translations of treatises on medicine and pharmacopoeia emerged in the thirteenth century and flourished from the fourteenth century onwards; texts composed directly in the vernacular were still low in number before the sixteenth century. For botany, the focus will be on plant names in pharmacopoeia treatises. The methodology employed by the thirteenth-century translators will be examined, with an attempt to identify the earliest attestations and the subsequent developments. Additionally, the issue of naming types of plants perceived to form a group will be addressed, encompassing the relationship between hypernyms and hyponyms. With respect to medicine, we will explore the task of the medical translators and explore the translation techniques they used, which could differ according to the medical domain. Neologisms could account for up to eighty or ninety percent of the terminology in some of those domains, and very often, they stood the test of time and are still preserved in Modern French.

Sharon Arbuthnot

Medieval Irish Medical Vocabulary: Lives and After-lives

In the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries in particular, a substantial corpus of Latin medical material was translated and adapted into Irish. As was the case with many other vernacular languages, Irish did not have the range of specialised terminology needed to convey all of the concepts encountered in Latin medical texts, and Irish scholars engaged in various strategies to meet the demand for additional vocabulary, including borrowing (from Latin itself and from English and French), calquing, extending the semantic range of common words and phrases, and adding suffixes to create new lexical items.

Some attention has been paid to the vocabulary which was brought into being specifically to provide Irish equivalents for Latin scientific terms, but the late-medieval translations drew also on a layer of medical terminology which already existed in the language and that aspect of their composition has been less studied. Moreover, while many of the newly-created terms seem to have been short-lived, others were put to novel uses in the post-medieval period. Inspired by a current project, based around the *Electronic Dictionary of the Irish Language*, which seeks to profile the lexicon of Irish over time, this paper explores the continuities in medical vocabulary, before, during and after the upsurge of translation literature in the late Middle Ages.