

Shea, Ammon. "Violent But Charming." *Humanities*, vol. 31, no. 1, 2010, <https://www.neh.gov/humanities/2010/januaryfebruary/feature/violent-charming>

The *Dictionary of Old English* is a project launched by Antonette diPaolo Healey and her colleagues, who broke with the enduring tradition of editing the most prominent work in Old English lexicography, the Bosworth-Toller dictionary, and endeavoured to reassess the surviving Anglo-Saxon texts. It is a comprehensive collection that includes vocabulary from literary and religious texts in Old English, as well as more common vocabulary, collected from such documents and objects as wills and carvings on jewellery. Not only can the dictionary be helpful for academics who specialize in Old English or the history of the Middle Ages, but it can also arouse English speakers' interest in the predecessor of the language they speak today. Also, it can effectively challenge the stereotype of the Anglo-Saxons' bloodthirsty barbarity and shallowness: apart from the vocabulary dealing with battles and violence, there are also words with intricate nuances of deeper meaning.