

Studia Etymologica Cracoviensia, vol. 1, condidit et moderatur
Marek Stachowski. – Kraków 1996. – 192 pages

The new linguistic journal *Studia Etymologica Cracoviensia* (abbreviated: SEC) contains a number of interesting articles and reviews. It begins with Raymond Arveiller's paper on the French name of 'cress' (»Français *cresson*«, pp. 5–24), which is not of etymological character and appears here by chance. Kinga Maciuszak presents »Notes on etymologies of the New Persian colour names« (pp. 25–38), including some different explanations of various value. Two articles by Witold Mańczak are not really etymological ones, the first reviews a problem of the Germanic case-endings (»Les étymons protogermaniques sont-ils en *-z ou en *-s«, pp. 39–42), the second suggests an onomatopoeic origin of English *rat* (»Étymologie de l'anglais *rat*«, pp. 43–44). Elżbieta Mańczak-Wohlfeld discusses a lexical-sociological question rather than an etymological one (»The influence of English on the Language of Polish Teenagers«, pp. 45–48). Torbjörn Nilsson's paper (»Notationes Germanicae I–IX«, pp. 49–62, in German) combines a number of interesting conjectures, e.g. on Finnic *perkele* 'devil' and its links with Lith. *Perkūnas* or perhaps Old English *bergyls* 'Grabhügel'. In two other cases, when the author discusses the Germanic name for 'oats' (pp. 53–55) and the tribal name of the Goths (pp. 55–56), references to two related papers (both published in *Lingua Posnaniensis*)¹ should be included. Wojciech Smoczyński reviews a long-standing link between Skt. *pāmsú-* 'dust, sand' (sic!) and the Slavic term for 'sand' (»Altindisch *pāmsú-* und Slavisch *pěsokъ*«, pp. 85–90), suggesting a number of hardly probable derivatons (e.g. OchSl. *pěsokъ* < BSl. **paysu-ka-*, etc.). The author, following J. Pokorny and M. Mayrhofer, prefers a secondary Prakrit form *pāmsu-* instead of *pāmsú-*, though the original term with *-ś-* is securely certificated by Gypsy (Romani) *poš(i)-* 'dust', Kafir equivalences with *-č-* (e.g. Prasnun *pučé* 'earth, clay') and Avestan *pašnu-* 'dust' (with *-s-* < IE. **-k-*). This is why the Indo-European archetype is to be reconstructed as **pē(m)ku-*, never **pē(m)su-*, thus Smoczyński's attempts seem to be both out of date and place. The article contains also many

¹ See P. Stalmaszczyk, K. T. Witzcak, »The Celtic Word for 'oats', *Avena sativa* and its Indo-European equivalents«, *LPosn.* 34, 1991/1992 (publ. Poznań 1992), pp. 83–87; K. T. Witzcak, »Goths and Kuchians: an Indo-European tribe?«, *LPosn.* 35, 1993 (publ. Poznań 1994), pp. 163–169.

obsolete etymologies, e.g. Latv. *ass* 'scharf, spitzig' (< Baltic **ašus* adj.) resembles closely the Greek adjective *oxýs* 'id.' (both from IE. **ok̑sú-*) rather than Lat. *acus* (*u*-stem) 'needle'; similarly, MHG. *sant*, Greek *ámathos*², Lat. *sabulum* and Arm. *awaz* 'sand' (all from IE. **samHdho-*) have nothing to do with OInd. *bábhasti* 'zerkaut', Gr. *psáō* 'reibe', etc.

Two exciting papers by Gábor Takács, both devoted to the Egyptian and Afro-Asiatic etymology (»Egyptian Lexics in an Afrasian Perspective: New Etymologies«, pp. 125–171, and »Aegyptio-Afroasiatica X«, pp. 173–180), should be regarded as the most representative for an assumed shape of *SEC*. There are also four articles on Altaic etymological problems: by Marzanna Pomorska (»Some names for 'button' in Turkic languages«, pp. 63–76, with a discussion of the Turkish words of New Persian and Russian origin), by Mikhail D. Simonov on the etymology of a Xianbi anthroponym (pp. 77–84), by Marek Stachowski (»Über einige altaische Lehnwörter in dem Jenissej-Sprache«, pp. 91–115) and Stanisław Stachowski (»Zur Geschichte des osmanisch-türkischen *zibin* 'eine Art Obergewand'«, pp. 117–124). Possible Indo-European equivalents of Hungarian *vászón* 'Leinwand', including Greek *býssos* 'a fine flax; the linen made from it', are extensively discussed by Peter Zieme (pp. 181–187). The articles are followed by two reviews. Worth mentioning here is that by Kinga Maciuszak, who discusses etymological contributions in the *Kuryłowicz Memorial Volume. Part One* (ed. by Wojciech Smoczyński, Cracow 1995).

Summing up, the first volume of *Studia Etymologica Cracoviensia* is not only a significant contribution to the Indo-European, Altaic, Afro-Asiatic and Uralic etymological investigations, but also a valuable presentation of the attainments by the eminent Cracow linguists; among them Kinga Maciuszak, Witold and Elżbieta Mańczak, Wojciech Smoczyński, Marek and Stanisław Stachowski. I strongly recommend the new journal to scholars and students interested in Indo-European (and non-Indo-European) etymology, firstly – as a place of linguistic (especially etymological) debate, secondly – as a possible source of inspiration for further etymological research. I believe that *SEC* will successfully develop under the careful and conscientious editorship of Marek Stachowski.³

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² Note that a river in Elis was – according to Strabo (VII.344) – named both *Ámathos* and *Pámisos*. If the former (native Greek) hydronym would be a linguistic calque of the latter (non-Greek) one, then *Pámisos* (= *Ámathos*, literally 'sandy river') might easily represent a pre-Greek ("Pelasgian") reflex of IE. **pēm-ku-* 'sand, dust', cf. Skt. *pāmśu-*, Pali *pāmsu-*, etc.

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