

UDC 811.162'373.231:811.124'373.231

[https://doi.org/10.62413/lc.2015\(2\).09](https://doi.org/10.62413/lc.2015(2).09) | [Research Sheet Citations](#)

WEST-SLAVONIC (POLISH, CZECH, AND SLOVAKIAN) MALE PROPER NAMES, DERIVED FROM A ROMAN MYTHOLOGICAL NAME

Gergana PETKOVA

Lecturer

(Medical University of Plovdiv, Bulgaria)

Gergana.Petkova@mu-plovdiv.bg, <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-7209-9765>

Abstract

The research object of the present text is 3 Polish, 11 Slovakian, and 6 Czech male anthroponyms, derived from 22 Roman mythological names. The main aims are to present the list of the analyzed anthroponyms and to speak on their meanings. The researched anthroponyms are divided into two major groups according to: 1) the type of the basic word, used during the process of name derivation, as a part of speech; 2) the type formed from a Roman mythological name, i. e. if the West-Slavonic anthroponym is derived from its form of Nom. sg. or from its root. Additional extralinguistic classification is made according to the canonization of the researched names, i. e. if it is a name of a saint, and, if the saint is canonized only by the Orthodox Church, by the Catholic one, or by both of them.

Keywords: *West-Slavonic proper name, Roman mythological name, root, anthroponym*

Rezumat

Obiectul de cercetare al prezentei lucrări îl constituie 3 antroponime masculine poloneze, 11 slovace și 6 cehe, derivate din 22 de nume mitologice romane. Principalele obiective ale investigației sunt prezentarea listei antroponimelor analizate și discutarea semnificațiilor acestora. Antroponimele analizate sunt împărțite în două grupe majore în funcție de: 1) tipul unității lexicale, din care derivă substantivul cu pricina; 2) tipul de derivare din numele mitologic roman, adică din forma lui la Nom. sg. sau din rădăcina acestuia. O clasificare extralingvistică suplimentară se face în funcție de canonizarea numelor cercetate, adică dacă este vorba de numele unui sfânt și dacă sfântul este canonizat doar de Biserica Ortodoxă, de cea Catolică sau de ambele.

Cuvinte-cheie: *nume propriu vest-slav, nume mitologic roman, rădăcină, antroponim*

Introduction

The research object of the present text is 3 Polish, 11 Slovakian, and 6 Czech male anthroponyms, derived from 22 Roman mythological names⁴². The main aims of the present research are to identify a list of anthroponyms and to speak on their initial meanings.

⁴² These names are: names of saints, canonized by the Catholic Church (for example Romulus), names of saints, canonized by the Orthodox Church (*Iupiter/Iuppiter/ Jupiter/Juppiter; Mars/Mavors; Volcanus/Vulcanus* etc.), names of saints, canonized by the Catholic Church as well as the Orthodox one (*Honor/Honos, Mercurius/ Mircurius/Mircurius, Saturnus, Silvanus* etc.).

There are a series of sources of information where the analyzed anthroponyms have been found. These are *Мифы народов мира. Энциклопедия в двух томах*, том 1: А-К (*Myths of the Peoples of the World, volume 1: A-K*), *Мифы народов мира. Энциклопедия в двух томах*, том 2: К-Я (*Myths of the Peoples of the World, volume 2: K-Ja*), and *Oxford Latin Dictionary*. The internet sites <http://www.behindthename.com> and <http://www.kurufin.narod.ru/> have been used, too.

All the additional sources of information are listed in section References at the very end of the text.

The researched anthroponyms are divided into two major groups according to: (1) the type of the basic word, used during the process of name derivation, as a part of speech; (2) the model used for anthroponym coining from a Roman mythological name, i. e. if the West-Slavonic male proper name is derived from the form of Nom. sg. of the basic Roman one or from its root.

Additional extralinguistic classification is made according to the canonization of the researched names, i. e. if it is a name of a saint, and, if the saint is canonized only by the Orthodox Church, by the Catholic one, or by both of them.

1. Classification of the Male Roman Mythological Names According to the Type of the Used Basic Word as a Part of Speech During Their Derivation

(a) names, derived from a common noun:

- *Honor / Honos* (< *honor, oris, m* - "honour") (MNM, 1987) > *Honor* (SLK, CZ43);
- *Ianus / Janus* (< *ianus, i, m* - "arch", "door" (MNM, 1988) > *Janus* (PL51, 52);
- *Silvanus* (< *silva, ae, f* - "forest" (MNM, 1988; BtN; S1) > *Sylwan* (PL), *Silván* (SLK, CZ).

(b) names, derived from an adjective:

- *Latinus* (< *latinus, 3* - "Latin" (OLD, 1968) > *Latínus* (SLK);
- *Leber/Liber* (< *liber, era, erum* - "free; independent" (OLD, 1968)) > *Liber* (SLK), *Libor* (CZ);
- *Mars/Mavors* (< *maris* (form for Gen. sg. of *mas, maris* - "masculine") (BtN)) > *Mars* (SLK);
- *Romulus* (< *romulus, 3* - "something/someone that belongs to Rome" (BtN)) > *Romulus* (SLK), *Romul* (CZ).

(c) names, derived from more than one basic word:

- *Iupiter/Iuppiter/Jupiter/Juppiter* < ((1) Indo-European **Dyeu-pater* (< *Dyeus/dieu* - "god" and *pater, tri, m* - "father") meaning "father of gods/ light" (nominative sentence < common noun + common noun) (BtN); (2) Etruscan *dyeu-pater* (< *dyeus* ("shadow" or "sky") and *pater* - "father") (nominative

⁴³ SLK - Slovakian, CZ - Czech, PL - Polish.

sentence < common noun + common noun) (Ilčev, 2012); (3) *iuvo*, 1 – “to help” (MNM, 1988)) > *Jupiter* (SLK);

- *Mercurius/Mircurius/Mircurius* < ((1) *mercor*, 1 – “to trade”; (2) *merx, mercis*, f – “goods” (MNM, 1988); (3) *merces, edis*, f – “salary” (MNM, 1988)) > *Merkúr* (SLK);

- *Remus* < ((1) meaning unknown (BtN); (2) *remus*, i, m – “oar” (OLD, 1968)) > *Remus* (SLK, CZ);

- *Saturnus* < ((1) meaning “unknown” (BtN); (2) *satur, ura, urum* – “fertile” (Petrovskij, 1966)); (3) *sero*, 1 – “sow” (verb) (MNM, 1988); (4) *sator, oris*, m – “sower” (common noun) (Trišnjak, 2005)) > *Saturn* (PL), *Saturnus* (SLK), *Saturn* (CZ);

- *Volcanus/Vulcanus* < ((1) *fulgo*, 3/ *fulgeo*, 2 – “to flash over” (BtN); (2) Etruscan *vulca* – “wolf” (Nemirovskij, 2004) > *Vulkán* (SLK).

2. Classification of the Male West-Slavonic Proper Names, Derived from a Roman Mythological One, according to the Model Used in Their Derivation

(a) male West-Slavonic proper names, derived from a male Roman mythological one:

- *Honor* (SLK, CZ) < *Honor*;

- *Janus* (PL) < *Ianus/Janus*;

- *Jupiter* (SLK) < *Iuppiter/Iuppiter/Jupiter/Juppiter*;

- *Latínus* (SLK) < *Latinus*;

- *Liber* (SLK), *Libor* (CZ) < *Liber*;

- *Mars* (SLK) < *Mars/Mavors*;

- *Remus* (SLK, CZ) < *Remus*;

- *Romulus* (SLK) < *Romulus*;

- *Saturnus* (SLK) < *Saturnus*.

(b) male West-Slavonic proper names, derived from the root of a Roman mythological one:

- *Merkúr* (SLK) < *Mercurius*;

- *Romul* (CZ) < *Romulus*;

- *Saturn* (PL, CZ) < *Saturnus*;

- *Sylvan* (PL), *Silván* (SLK, CZ) < *Silvanus*;

- *Vulkán* (SLK) < *Volcanus/Vulcanus*.

Conclusions

More numerous are Slovakian male proper names, derived from Roman mythological names, compared with the Czech (6 in number) and Polish (3 in number) ones.

Most of the male West-Slavonic anthroponyms are derived from more than one basic word. The number of anthroponyms coined from a common noun is small. The result is a logical one, because Roman mythological names, used as a basis during the process of derivation of the male West-Slavonic proper names, are very ancient and their certain origin is unclear and their initial meaning is forgotten.

There are two models of coining a West-Slavonic proper name from a Roman mythological one. First, the name derives directly from the form Nom. sg. of the Roman mythological name, and second, the West-Slavonic anthroponym derives from its root. The first model of formation is more productive, that is why it is much more analyzed by the scientists.

References

Илчев, С. (2012). *Речник на личните и фамилните имена у българите*. Издателство „Изток-Запад“ / Ilčev, S. (2012). *Rečnik na ličnite i familnite imena u b"lgarite*. Izdatelstvo „Iztok-Zapad“. <https://iztok-zapad.eu/image/catalog/materials/Rechnik-Ilchev.pdf>.

Немировский, А. (2004). *Мифы и легенды народов мира* (Том 2: Ранняя Италия и Рим). Изд-во Мир книги / Nemirovskij, A. (2004). *Mify i legendy narodov mira* (Tom 2: *Rannaja Italija i Rim*). Izd-vo Mir knigi. https://royallib.com/read/nemirovskiy_a/mifi_i_legendi_narodov_mira_t_2_rannyaya_italiya_i_rim.html#0.

*** (1968). *Oxford Latin Dictionary*. Oxford University Press (= OLD, 1968).

Петровский, Н. (1966). *Словарь русских личных имен*. Изд-во Советская энциклопедия / Petrovskij, N. (1966). *Slovar' russkih ličnyh imen*. Izd-vo Sovetskaja ènciklopedija. https://pomnirod.ru/assets/files/knigi/slovar-russ_imen_petrovski_1966.pdf.

Трійняк, І. (2005). *Словник українських імен*. Видавництво Довіра / Trijnjak, I. I. (2005). *Slovník ukraїns'kih imen*. Vidavnictvo Dovira.

*** (1987). *Мифы народов мира. Энциклопедия в двух томах* (Том 1: А-К). Изд-во Советская энциклопедия / (1987). *Mify narodov mira. Ènciklopedija v dvuh tomah* (Tom 1: A-K). Izd-vo Sovetskaja ènciklopedija (= MNM, 1987).

*** (1988). *Мифы народов мира. Энциклопедия в двух томах* (Том 2: К-Я). Изд-во Советская энциклопедия / (1988). *Mify narodov mira. Ènciklopedija v dvuh tomah* (Tom 2: K-Я). Izd-vo Sovetskaja ènciklopedija (= MNM, 1988).

Behind the Name (the etymology and history of the first names). <http://www.behindthename.com> (= BtN).

<http://www.kurufin.narod.ru/> (= S1).