Etymological Dictionary of

Latin

and the other Italic Languages

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BRILL

cognate.

The British and Latin forms go back to *mesVl-, the Gm. forms to *amsl-, *amsVl-. Schrijver 1997a argues that this points to a loanword from a non-IE substratum language in Europe.

Bibl.: WH II: 77f., EM 400, IEW 35f., Lloyd-Springer 1988: 211, Schrijver 1997a: 307-311.

merus 'pure' [adj. o/ā] (Pl.+)

Derivatives: *merāculus* 'undiluted' (Pl.+); *merobibus* [adj.] 'that drinks unmixed wine' (Pl.); *submerus* 'nearly undiluted' (Pl.).

PIt. *mero-.

PIE *merH-o- 'remaining, pure'. IE cognates: Hit. *marri* [adv.] 'just so, gratuitously'.

The word has been compared with Gr. μαρμαίρω 'to flash, sparkle', but even if 'pure' can sometimes be paraphrased as 'clear' (thus EM), there is no compelling reason to derive 'pure' from 'shining'. Puhvel connects Hit. *marri*, which he translates as 'just like that, at random'; this seems a better solution than Kloekhorst's (2008: 557) 'with a glimpse', who identifies *marri* as the hapax *marra/i-* '(sun)light'. If *marri* 'just so' goes back to a n. *morHi, it could be related to Lat. *merus* if from *merH-o-. The original meaning of the root may have been 'remaining, core, pure'. This, then, enables a connection with Lat. *mora* 'delay' < *morH-h₂- 'stiffening, remaining'.

Bibl.: WH II: 78, EM 400, IEW 734, Schrijver 1991: 20, Puhvel 2006. → *mora*

merx, -cis 'commodity, goods, merchandise' [f. k] (Pl.+; nom.sg. *mers* Pl.)

Derivatives: *mercārī* 'to buy, trade' (Pl.+), *mercātus, -ūs* 'market' (Pl.+), *mercātor* 'merchant' (Pl.+), *mercātōrius* 'mercantile' (Pl.), *mercātūra* 'trade' (Pl.+); *mercimōnium* 'merchandise, enterprise' (Pl.+); *commers, -rcis* 'friendly intercourse' (Pl.), *commercārī* 'to buy' (Pl.+), *commercium* 'trade, relationship, sexual intercourse' (Pl.+), *praemercārī* 'to buy in advance' (Pl.+); *mercēs, -ēdis* 'payment' (Pl.+), *mercēn(n)ārius* [adj./m.] 'working for pay; hired worker' (Pl.+), *mercēdimerus* 'working for hire' (Lucil.); *Mercurius* 'the god Mercury' (Andr.+); *Mercuriālis* 'of M/mercury' (Cato+).

PIt. *merk- 'trade, exchange'. It. cognates: Fal. **mercui** [dat.] 'deity Merk-', O. **mirikui** [dat.sg.] probably a deity like Mercurius < *merk-o/u-; O. **amirikum** [acc.sg.] 'commerce' < ā- or ad- + *merk-, O. *amiricatud* [ppp., abl.sg.] 'sold' vel sim., denom. verb. According to Untermann, O. *mirk-* was borrowed from Latin.

All derived from a stem *merk- also found in Faliscan and Oscan. The god *Mercurius* was probably the god of exchange. According to WH, the god's name was borrowed from Etruscan; in principle, the same is possible for the stem *merk-* altogether.

Bibl.: WH II: 74, 78f., EM 400, IEW 739, Untermann 2000: 85f., 479.

-met '!' [ptcle. of emphasis] (Pl.+: *egomet* 'I', *nōsmet* 'we', *vōsmet* 'you', *sēmet* 'themselves', *ipsemet* 'he himself')

PIt. *-metī?