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Summary

FROM THE OLD CZECH VOCABULARY: CLARETUS' OMĚK OR ÚMEK

The main aim of the article is to reconstruct the form and meaning of the Old Czech equivalent of the Latin term *mолос* preserved in the manuscript of Claretus' *Glossarius* in the chapter *De piscibus* in two forms, *vmek* and *omek*. Two different interpretations are possible. They are based on a description of the fishes *mulus* and *mullus*, both identified with some uncertainty as a mullet by modern scholars, in the encyclopaedia *Liber de natura rerum* of Thomas of Cantimpré, a main source for Claretus, as far as zoological terms, especially fish names, are concerned. The first interpretation is based on the Medieval etymology of Isidorus of Sevilla, that *mullus* is allegedly derived from the Latin adjective *mollis* "soft", thus Claretus in all probability connected it with Old Czech *měkký* "soft"

and created the new word *oměk* with the secondary form *uměk*. The second interpretation is inspired by the sliding movement of a mullet on the seabed, where a mullet can find seaweed, bivalves, and mud (the description of the food of the mullet comes from Pliny the Elder). The Old Czech *úmek* with the secondary form *omek* is identified as a derivative of the unpreserved verb **umknúti*, which belongs to the Slavonic verbal family *mъčati*, *(s)mъknǫti*, *(s)mykati* “to slide, to move fast or suddenly”.

Keywords: Old Czech; Latin-Czech lexicography; lexicology; etymology; Bartholomaeus de Solencia dictus Claretus; Thomas of Cantimpré; Isidorus of Sevilla; Pliny the Elder

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