

Summary

FROM THE *DICTIONARY OF MEDIEVAL LATIN* IN CZECH LANDS: *FELE* AND *FURION*

The purpose of this article is to identify the origin and meaning of two Latin zoological terms in the works of Thomas of Cantimpré and Czech medieval lexicographer Bartholomaeus de Solencia dictus Claretus. Both works employ names of animals that are extremely difficult to interpret both semantically and linguistically and whose Greek or Latin origin is not immediately clear. Most of them are attached to animals the description of which Thomas claims to be derived from Aristotle or Pliny the Elder. Thomas used the Latin translation of the Aristotle's work *Historia animalium* translated from Arabic by Michael Scotus. Due to phonetical differences between these languages as well as inaccuracies and mistakes in both translations, the text of Aristotle and the forms of the original Greek names were variously modified. Aristotle's term αἴλουρος, denoting the wildcat (*Felis silvestris* Schreber) or the housecat (*Felis silvestris cattus* Linné), appears in Michael Scotus in the form *furioniorum* (gen. pl.), in Thomas of Cantimpré in the form *furionz* and in Claretus as *furion*. The same animal is also referred to by the second analysed term *feles*, taken by Thomas of Cantimpré from Pliny the Elder's *Naturalis historia*; it appears in the work of Claretus in the form *fele*.

Keywords: medieval lexicography; ancient and medieval zoology; Latin names of quadrupeds; *Felinae*; Bartholomaeus de Solencia dictus Claretus; Aristoteles; Aristoteles Latinus; Pliny the Elder; Michael Scotus; Thomas of Cantimpré

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