A FEW REMARKS ON THE ETYMOLOGY
OF OE ÆDRE 'VEIN'

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The OE. word Ædreaedre, æder f. 'vein, water stream, brine, a channel for liquids, fountains,' further 'a nerve, sinew,' in the pl. also 'kidneys' seems to be an expression with parallels only in Germanic languages and with certain further relatives in Old Irish, Old Greek, and Cymric.1 To this word family belong OHG. ãd(a)ra, MHG., MLG. ãder(e) 'vein, muscle, sinew, intestines, bowls', MDu. adere, ND. ader, OSw. ṣpra, NSw. ṣdara. The ON. ædr (in which the -r is considered the nominative ending) seems to point to Pr.Gmc. *e̯-p, IE. *ēt-; this may be attached to OGreek ἕτορ 'heart', ἔτρον 'stomach', and these words are generally put into relation with OHG. īnādīri, OIrish inathar, OCornish enederen. The MHG. and MLG. plural forms mean 'intestines', too. To this group belongs also the river name Oder, i.e. 'water vein'.2 Cf. also OSax. út-innāthrian 'to eviscerate'.

A similar explanation is presented by E. Hellquist,3 who records all the forms and meanings to be found in Scandinavian languages; he offers the PrGmc. form *êdrophy, *êdþir(ó) f., Icel. ëdr (g. sg. ëðar, the stem -r, in his opinion, being lost here); this assumption prevents one to see a direct parallel between the word in question and the mentioned OGreek forms containing a -r-; Hellquist therefore accounts for *êdrophy- as derived from an IE. word corresponding to OGreek étor, and the consonant group necessarily remains unclear. He also suggests a possible relation to the Slavonic word jadra 'lap', which in its turn is of dark origin, too. The meanings of the single Scandinavian words are slightly different, but this is undoubtedly no serious obstacle, cf. the various meanings of Goth. hairpra, OE. hreþer 'intestines, stomach, heart'; possibly related to OSlav. ćëršlo.4

J. De Vries5 offers a similar explanation, too: he regards the terminal -r as an i-stem nominative ending; it follows that he assumes the existence of PrN. *āðr-, this basic form being seemingly corroborated by the occurrence of NIcel. æðr, Faroese ædhr; the forms with -r are denoted as r-augmented (while Hellquist interprets the r as belonging to the stem). Even his dictionary records the quoted parallels étor, étron, inathar, but without any explanatory notes concerning their mutual relationship. On the other hand, the author connects with this word group also the expression ûdra f. 'anguish', maybe from Germanic *êþrō 'intestines' (here with a stem-r?), cf. p. 681.

The Germanic form *êþ-, IE. *ēt- being regarded as basic, there have been suggested also some false connections; one got misled by the likeness with OGreek oidma 'swollen spot', oïdos 'boil', oïdðo 'I inflate', all derived from the IE. root *oid-;6 this root in an r-augmented form is to be found in G. Eiter, OE. ǣð(t)or, NE. etter (PrGmc. *aitra-), and, according to H. S. Falk and A. Torp,7 probably also in OSlav. jadro, ēdro (while Hellquist connects jadro with GMC. *êdrophy-; cf. also various explana-
tions in other dictionaries); corresponding forms without the augment are, e.g., Armenian aitnum ‘I inflate’ (< *oid-nu-mi), autumn ‘boil’.

As a matter of fact, the word Ėdēre etc. requires another explanation. One ought to assume an IE. root containing the r-element, viz *ēter-, and interpret the r in OIcel. Ėdēr as belonging to the stem and not as a nominative ending. This is explained in detail by J. Pokorny, who also records most of the quoted words. These forms may occur combined with the prefix/preposition inn(a)-, inno (< *ino), cf. OHG. innodili (with a changed suffix); a similar combination is supposed for PrCelt. (*en-ōtro > OIrish inathar). Pokorny, nevertheless, records no related words in Slavonic languages.

Nevertheless, the examined word group does not seem to lack certain parallels in this language family. It appears to be possible to connect this Germanic word group with Czech řádra ‘bosom’, Russian nědra ‘intestines’, figuratively also ‘the inside’ (cf. a quotation from a technical context: mineral’nye resursy khoromilis’ v nedrakh zemli). The OSl. forms of this word were nědra and jadra, PrSl. Ėđra. The variant with the initial n- may have had its origin in the connection vornědřech (loc. pl.) or vornědra (acc. pl.); according to Vasmer, the occurrence of the group -dr- (instead of the expected -tr-) in the Slavonic languages may be due to the existence of words of related meanings. In this way, it seems possible to rank the expression Ėdra, řádra under the IE. root *ēter and not under *oid-, as Pokorny (774) does.

This new explanation is also borne out by semantic reasons. We should not forget that the original meaning of Ėdra is ‘intestines’, still extant in Russian, Ukrainian, Bulgarian, and Serbo-Croatian; OHG. innādīri, esp. in the pl., carries the same meaning. These words do not seem to convey any implication of swelling, inflating, etc., nor do they cover the specialized meaning of ‘the boils’, or the figurative one of ‘being angry’; on the other hand, this is the case with the expressions derived from the root *oid-. The development of the Germanic forms is accounted for by J. Schmidt.

The Slavonic, as well as the Germanic and the Celtic forms, occur in combination with the preposition-prefix in-; cf. OIrish inathar < *en-ōtro; similarly OHG. inādīri, etc., cf. Pokorny 344, OFranconian innēthron. This is probably due to an extremely high occurrence of this combination in a locative function; the same may be said about the Slavonic forms. But in the Slavonic languages, one comes across expressions whose origin is to be found in a mistaken decomposition; nothing similar is known in Germanic.

NOTES

* Dr. Svatopluk Štěch died in Göteborg on January 7th, 1938. The proofs for his contribution have been read only by the editors. For a tribute to Dr. Štěch, see p. 18 of the present volume. — Eds.

RESUME

Několik poznámek k etymologii sta. ředre

Příspěvek se pokouší najít jiné etymologické vysvětlení a nové vztahy pro sta. slovo ředre, sthn. inadiri, nhn. Ader. Koncové -r u tohoto slova by mělo být považováno za součást kmene (i pět mylný rozklad v islandštině), takže předgermánský tvar by byl *etir. Pak je možno předpokládat příbuznost se slovanským tvarem ědro, v němž se ě vyvinulo z ide. *ě-. Zdá se, že sémantické hledisko podporuje navrhované vysvětlení.