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NOTES.

ON THE ETYMOLOGY OF HYBRID (LAT. HYBRIDA).

The Encyclopaedia Britannica prefaces its full discussion of Hybrids with this explanation: "The Latin word *hybrida* or *hibrida*, a hybrid or mongrel, is commonly derived from Greek ὕβρις, an insult or outrage, with special reference to lust, hence, an outrage on nature, a mongrel." The English dictionaries give the same derivation with more or less confidence. Skeat adds, "The Greek origin of the Latin word is somewhat doubtful." Recent Latin lexica, if they say anything at all, connect it with ὕβρις. Vaniček observes a discreet silence in regard to the word in his several dictionaries. Keller, however, in his Epilegomena to Horace, Satires, Book I 7, 2, has gone out of his way to propose an etymology which is as startling as it is indefensible. His words are, "Wie *pumilio* aus Πυγμαλίων, *Cocles* aus Κύκλωψ, so ist *Hybrida* aus Ὑπεριδης, Ὑπερείδης hervorgegangen, und aus einem Eigennamen zum Appellativum geworden. Wahrscheinlich war *Hybrida* zufällig bei einem Komiker der Name eines Bastards und wurde dann zunächst Beiname eines Menschen, des Q. Varius (Valerius Maxim. VIII 6, 4), und später allgemein adjectivisch verwendet wie *cocles*, etc." Saalfeld, in his recent Thesaurus Italograecus, p. 550, quotes Keller's entire article, but adds: "Wir können aber nicht umhin, denselben, wegen seiner Zusammenstellung mit *pumilio* und *cocles* aus Πυγμαλίων und Κύκλωψ, etwas vorsichtig aufzunehmen." Saalfeld, although he offers other and more plausible explanations for *pumilio* and *cocles*, has nothing new to say about *hybrida*. It seems to me, however, that the word is not so hopeless a puzzle that we need resort to such wild conjectures to explain it. *Hybrida*, as Keller shows, has better MS authority than *hibrida*. The following passages establish the fact, which it is important to recognize, that the Romans understood under *hybrida*, strictly speaking, the progeny of a wild boar and a sow. Pliny, VIII 213 (*de suibus*), "*In nullo genere aequae facilis mixtura cum fero, qualiter natos antiqui hybridas vocabant ceu semiferos.*" Isidorus, Orig. XII 1, 61, "*In animantibus bigenera dicuntur, quae ex diversis nascuntur, ut mulus ex equa et asino: burdo ex equo et asina: hybridae ex apris et porcis: tityrus ex ove et hirco:*

musmo ex capra et ariete. Eugenius has turned the above into an epigram. Cf. Latin Anthology, Meyer, Vol. I, No. 387:

*Hæ sunt ambigenæ, quæ nuptu dispere constant.
Burdonem sonipes generat commixtus asellæ.
Mulus ab Arcadicis et equina matre creatus.
Tityrus ex ovibus oritur hircoque parente.
Musimonem capra ex vervegno semine gignit.
Apris atque sue setosus nascitur hybrîs. (Meyer, *ibris*)
At lupus et catulæ formant coeundo lyciscam.*

Hybris, therefore, had as distinct a meaning as *mulus* or *burdo*. On this the whole point of Martial, VIII 22, turns:

*Invitas ad aprum, ponis mihi, Gallice, porcum,
Hybrida sum, si das, Gallice, verba mihi.*

It seems, therefore, not unreasonable to find in *hy-* the Greek $\upsilon\varsigma$ (so Anton Marx Hülfsbüchlein, p. 35.) A gloss of Hesychius gives a clue to the remainder of the word, $\text{ἰβρῖκαλοι} : \text{χοῖροι} . \text{ἰβρῖκαλοισι}$ occurs, Aeschylus, Ag. 135 (Schneidewin), in the sense of ἄβρια . Curtius, Studien, Vol. I, p. 260, has already connected this stem with *apro*. "Es ist um so verführerischer den Stamm ἰβρο sammt der Nebenform ἰβρο mit dem lat. *apro* zu vergleichen, als sich die ἰβρῖκαλοι begrifflich zu *aper* verhalten würden wie unsere Ferkel zu ἰβρος , *porcus*." Compare also μολοβρίτης and μολόβριον . $\upsilon + \text{ἰβρο}$ would form a compound (υ becoming regularly $\bar{\upsilon}$, as in βοτρῦδιον), very like χοιρέλαφος , λυκοπάνθηρ , κυνόλυκος , λεόπαρδος , (cf. Isidorus, Or. XII 2, 11, *Leopardus ex adulterio leaenæ nascitur et pardis*). The form in ἰς (*ἰβρις) may be compared to ἀρνῖς , πάρδαλις , νυκτερίς , etc. Finally, *hybrida* stands in the same relation to *hybris* as *absida* to *absis*, *magida* to *magis*, *cassida* to *cassis*, *stomida* to *stomis*, and *crepida* to *κρηπίς*.

NOTE.—The glosses given by De Vit and Du Cange, *Iber*; animal ex duobus diversæ speciei genitus, *hybrida*. *Iber*; ἡμίονος may, perhaps, point to the actual existence of a Greek form *ἰβρος to which *iber* would correspond as conger (gonger) to γόγγρος , *iber* being, of course, bad spelling for *hyber*. In Pseudo-Acron's Comm. to Horace Sat. I 7, 2, two explanations are given of *Hybrida*, showing that the original meaning had been lost sight of: "*Hybridae autem proprie dicuntur canes qui nascuntur ex cane venatico et cane gregario.*" "*Tractum est ab aquila ea, quæ ex aquila et vulture nascitur.*" Here reference is probably made to the γυπαετός or ὑπάετος . Some such notion of a cross between two species of birds may underlie the Greek ἰβρίς found in Arist. H. A. 9, 12, 5, and commonly supposed to be the *strix bubo*, for which, curiously enough, our English name is eagle-owl.

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