

## PO-DA-KO

The identification of the ideogram \*109 has been much disputed, but after the commentary given by Ventris—Chadwick (*Docs.* p. 195 f.) there is no doubt that its value is *ox*, not *horse*. The words mentioned along with this ideogram in KN Ch 896, 897, 898, 899, 1015 1929 (X 5754): *ai-wo-ro*, *ke-ra-no*, *ko-so-u-to*, *po-da-ko*, *to-ma-ko*, *wo-no-go-so* denote names of oxen. Nevertheless there are still some scholars who disagree with this opinion and think that both ideogram and names are those of horses. *Po-da-ko*=Πόδαργος, with a meaning *swift-footed* mostly supports this last hypothesis. This was also the main reason for Furumark's considering it as a horse name (cf. *Eranos* LIII, p. 29f.). Since these names are given in *Documents* (p. 105, 427) without any larger explanation concerning their meaning, it is necessary to draw attention to the etymology of these words, especially to Πόδαργος.

If *swift* were the only meaning of ἀργός, Πόδαργος would be a strange name or epithet of an ox (cf. ψ 30: βόες ἀργοί), but the first and principal meaning of ἀργός is: *shining, glistening, white, bright*, cf. Skt. *ṛjra-* and the words: ἀργεμον, ἀργής, ἀργεννός, ἀργαίνω, ἄργυρος etc. are derived from this root (s. H. Frisk, *Gr. Et. Wb.* s. v., J. Pokorny, *Indg. Wb.* p. 64 f.). Bechtel's supposition (*Lex.* p. 57) that the idea of light developed from that of the swift movement, and Pokorny's considering (l. c.) „Leuchtkraft der Farbe und Schnelligkeit der Bewegung als versch. Seiten derselben Anschauung“ are scientifically correct. But for the conception of primitive people it is more probable that the meaning *swift* in ἀργός is a secondary development, built on the idea of light moving fast. Flashes of lightning in storms at night with their quick appearance and disappearance were possibly the most outstanding cause of mixing the idea of swiftness with the idea of light (cf. ἀργι-κέραυτος). This opinion is also shared by M. D. Petruševski.

Animals, especially oxen and horses are named according to some remarkable feature, first of all according to their colour. Πόδαργος might mean *white-footed* rather than *swift-footed*, because at the moment when this name is given, one does not know whether the animal will move quickly or not, while the whiteness is noticeable from its birth. Thus Πόδαργος could be as much a name of an ox, as of a horse. All the above-mentioned words denote some colour too: *ke-ra-no*=Κέλαινος *black, dark*, *ko-so-u-to*=Ξοῦθος *golden yellow*, *wo-no-go-so*=Οἶνοψ (not Φοίν-οψος C. Лурье, ЯКМГ p. 250, because neither is the wine ὄψον but ποτής, nor does the word ὄψον contain the labioy. -qu-) *wine-coloured, w.-red, w.-dark*, a special colour of oxen (cf. βόε οἶνοπε N 703, v 32) and *ai-wo-ro*=Αἰώλος (αἰόλος) has a meaning *glittering, chequered* (cf. αἰολέω=ποικίλλω). The name *to-ma-ko*=Στόμαργος, probably „with a white patch around the mouth“ gives more proof that Πόδαργος is an animal's name, in this case of an ox, described according to its colour.