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978-1-107-67478-3 - Our Forefathers: The Gothonic Nations: A Manual of the Ethnography of the Gothic, German, Dutch, Anglo-Saxon, Frisian and Scandinavian Peoples: Volume I

Gudmund Schütte

Excerpt

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INTRODUCTORY SECTION

§§ 1-8. THE INDO-EUROPEANS

§ 1. Names.

The oldest and only really popular name for our forefathers is the 17 Biblical expression 'Sons of Japhet' from the genealogy of mankind in Genesis. As the original text, which is vague enough, simply means 'People of the North', most philologists have rejected the old name. Quite inconsistently they adopt the remaining two definitions of the genealogy, Semites and Chamites, although their connotation is not strictly defined. Other names are selected from different individual branches of the Family such as Aryans, Indo-Germans, or pure and simple 'Germans'. In spite of the cumbersome, awkward appearance of the name, the form Indo-Europeans, shortened to I.E., is used here to avoid misinterpretation.

Lit. Whitney, *Language*, 192; Sayce, *Introduction to the Science of Language*, II, 69; Hirt, 4 seq.; Feist, 1; Schrader, s.v. *Indogermanen*.

§ 2. Sub-division.

Our stock comprises about a dozen quite distinct groups of peoples, the most important of which, now extant, are the following (given in alphabetical order and with our own group of peoples last, according to the theory of 'back-stress', i.e. most important things last): Aryans, Armenians, *Arnaut* or Albanians, Baltic-Slavonic peoples, Greeks, Itali, Kelts (Celts), Gothonic nations (Teutons, Germanic peoples).

It has been attempted to divide up the Indo-European Family into large groups according to different points of view—the 'Genealogical-Tree Theory' and 'The Wave Theory'. The most satisfactory differentiation draws a distinction between the 'Satem group'—Aryans (Indians and Iranians), Armenians, Albanians, Baltic peoples, Slavs—and the 'Kentum group'—Greeks, Illyrians (?), Itali, Celts and Gothonic nations, added to which comes a newly discovered ancient people somewhat arbitrarily called 'Tochars'. The difference is that at a very early stage of development the Satem group converted palatal *k* and *g* into sibilants, while the Kentum group converted these into ordinary *k* and *g*, and either not at all or only very much later into sibilants. The catchword is 'hundred' which reads *satem* in the Old Iranian, *centum* (i.e.

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18 *kentum*) in Latin, and is pronounced *kentu* in a Sardinian dialect to this very day.

Lit. Vilh. Thomsen, *Sprogvidenskabens Historie*; Hirt; Feist; Schrader, s.v. *Indogermanen*; Holger Pedersen, *Sprogvidenskabens*.

§ 3. Ethnic Position.

Scholars have attempted to connect the language of our stock with various extant or extinct neighbouring languages—Semitic, Finnish, Tyrrhenian (Etruscan), Lycian, Hittite, etc. Hitherto none of these attempts have led to any decisive result; at the best, we may regard it as almost proved that there exists some relationship between I.E. and Hittite.

As far as blood goes our stock belongs on the whole to the white race although it is doubtful if it enjoys the monopoly of this race-character. A still more exact definition has been sought. A very popular theory identifies our stock with the fair, long-skulled, so-called 'Nordic' or 'Germanic' race, cp. e.g. Penka, Wilser, Kossinna, Madison Grant, Chamberlain, Arldt and many others. Others, such as De Michelis, are for the Celtic-Slav-Iranian short-skulled type. These somewhat premature theories are criticised by Feist, 496 seq. (1913). We have no kind of guarantee whatsoever that our stock had not already absorbed various diverging types of race in remote antiquity.

§ 4. Environment.

Myths and legends contain only slight indications of anything that may be interpreted as a sign of the natural characteristics of non-I.E. neighbouring peoples. The most obvious is a root 'eater' by which our earliest forefathers seem to have designated cannibalistic neighbours to the north and south. Indians distinguished *Ām-ādaka* 'raw-eater' from *Yav-ād* 'corn-eater', i.e. Aryans. An old people, Edoi or Edones, are spoken of in Russia and the Trans-Caspian district; this is reminiscent of modern Russian *Samo-jedi*, i.e. 'self-eaters'. Finally we meet the same name in our own legendary giants—in Tacitus, *Germ.* 46, *Etiones*—who live in north and north-east Europe.¹

The Finno-Ugrian peoples are historically very ancient neighbours to the north-east (see §§ 64–65). After the seventh century B.C. archaeology

¹ Tomasehek in Pauly-Wissowa, s.v. *Amadokoi*, *Androphagoi*, *Edoi*.

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traces a great invasion of presumably Asiatic nomad tribes almost up to the Carpathians.¹

A number of old historical neighbours are situated to the south: Semites, Sumerians, Caucasians, peoples from Asia Minor, Tyrrhenians (Etruscans) and Iberians. Definition is not everywhere certain; thus, according to the latest theories, the Hittites of Southern Asia Minor spoke an Indo-European language. Sumerian, and the languages of Asia Minor, and Tyrrhenian are extinct; Iberian seems to survive among the Basques in the Pyrenees, unless these come from quite another stock.

In the west it is possible to trace a number of non-I.E. ancient peoples from Gaul right up to North Britain. Their language was early effaced by Celtic but, since they have made substantial contributions to the racial characteristics of the Celts, they must be somewhat more minutely described. 19

The Cave-dwellers, who executed remarkably artistic drawings of mammoths, reindeer, stags, horses and buffaloes immediately after the Ice Age, belong to the primitive peoples of Gaul.²

Various tribes, according to Gaelic tradition pre-Celtic, lived in Scotland and Ireland in historical times. Among these are Picts, Irish Cruithne (i.e. 'tattooed'), in Scotland and Ireland; Fir Bolg (i.e. 'Men of Bags') in Ireland, Fir Domhnann in Connacht, undoubtedly identical with Damnonii in Scotland and Damnonii or Dumnonii in Devon.

The answer to the question of what nationality are all these peoples must be that most of the evidence points to the Spanish peninsula. It must be admitted, however, that the conformity of culture may be due to joint borrowing from the oriental centres of civilisation through maritime trade.

The place-name ending *-ib*, *-ob*, *-up*, reminiscent of Spain and North Africa—Voliba, Rutupiai, Ausoba, Toisobis, Tuerobis³—is peculiar to the British Isles. With the above may be compared the North African Volubilis, Curubis, Rutubis, Ligurian Rutuba, and the Spanish Intibili, Salduba, Corduba, Maenoba.

A matriarchal social system seems to be peculiar to the Picts.⁴ It is well known that the same principle lies at the back of the Iberian 'couvade' or male childbed.

¹ See Hoernes in Hoops, s.v. *Skythische Funde*.

² Cp. Sophus Müller, *L'Europe préhistorique*, Figs. 5–8.

³ Ptol. II, 2, § 3; 3, §§ 2, 12, 13.

⁴ Cp. Zimmer, *Zeitschr. d. Savignystiftung*, Röm. Abt. xv, 207.

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Caesar, *Bell. Gall.* v, 14, alludes to the joint ownership of women by the men in Great Britain, Strabo, p. 201, in Ireland, Dio Cassius in Scotland. A corresponding 'collective polyandry' flourished among the Basques.¹

To this day Britons and Gaels use a kind of leather boat called 'coracle' (a Celtic loan word) in English.² According to Strabo, III, p. 155, the inhabitants of Gallicia used this too. In both Britain and Gallicia the custom appears in connexion with the tin trade and it is probable that it was introduced by the Phoenician merchants who bought tin there; to this day fairly similar vessels are used in the Phoenician homeland. But the introduction may be of ancient date, and the leather ships were very likely the means by which the inhabitants of Spain were enabled to undertake an overseas colonisation in far northern parts. It is remarkable that ancient Irish tradition uses the name Fir Bolg, i.e. 'bag men', of a pre-Gaelic race that used leather bags in connexion with trade with the East.

- 20 Possibly the spreading of the megalithic burial chambers, which appear in very large numbers both in Gallicia, Brittany and in the British Isles, is to be accounted for in the same way. The fact that J. Loth has discovered burial chambers in Ireland of distinct Spanish type lends some countenance to this notion.³

This burial-chamber technique attained a high standard of development in the British Isles, as may be seen from the enormous chamber at New Grange in Ireland, an imitation of the great Mycenaean tombs.⁴ The huge stone circle at Stonehenge in Wiltshire, probably a sun temple, belongs no doubt to the same civilisation. The image of the Irish idol Cenn Cruaich, which was surrounded by twelve similar idols and was worshipped with child sacrifice, was probably more crude.⁵ The name is found in British form Pennocrucium in Great Britain.⁶

The primitive peoples of Western Europe carried on a flint manufacture of highly developed technique. Genuine flint mines were found in Gaul,

¹ Feist, 362.

² Cp. Pliny, iv, § 104, and Solinus, xxiii, 7.

³ Cp. 'l'existence de sépulcres sûrement ibères datant de l'époque énéo-lithique près de Cork', in a letter to Marstrander 27 April 1925.

⁴ Cp. Sophus Müller, *L'Europe préhistorique*, Fig. 56.

⁵ Cp. *The Tripartite Life of St Patrick*,* 1, 90, 92, and Dottin, 351.

⁶ *Itinerarium Antonini*, 470, 1.

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Belgium and Britain; at Spiennes in Belgium the galleries go down to a depth of nearly forty feet.¹ Strabo mentions several of the peoples of the Spanish peninsula as engaged in the exploitation of tin and silver.

From what has been said above we may perhaps infer that the primaeval inhabitants of Gaul and Britain were peoples of Iberian civilisation, possibly also of Iberian nationality.

Traits such as these we have been considering are deserving of notice, as the race in question forms the substratum of the Celts of history. It is plain for example that the Celts inherited their genius for mining from this race.

Lit. Braun, *Die Urbevölkerung Europas**; Pandler, *Die hellfarbigen Rassen und ihre Sprachstämme, Kulturen u. Sprachen**; Ipsen, *Der alte Orient und die Indogermanen** (*Streitberg-Festgabe*, 200 seq.); Friedrich, *ibid.** 364 (on the Hittites); Ed. Meyer, *Entstehung der I. E. Völker* (*Sitzungsber. d. Berliner Ak. ph. h. Cl.* 1925); Hirt (*Iberer*, 34; *Urbev. Brittanniens*, 41; *Etrusker*, 50; *Kleinasiens*, 58); Schrader, s.v. *Etrusker*, *Iberer*, *Kaukasusvölker*, *Kleinasiaten*); Feist (*Basken*, 357; *Iberer*, 364; *Etrusker*, 340; *Kleinasiaten*, etc. 381); D'Arbois de Jubainville (*Ibères*, I, 16; *Pélasges*, 74; *Étrusques*, 129); Iberians, Basques: Müllenhoff, I (see Index); L. Will, *La Grande Encycl.*; Myres in *Encycl. Brit.* art. *Tyrrhenians* (*Etruscans*); Budinsky, *Die Ausbreitung der lat. Sprache*, 51; Beloch in Gercke and Norden, *Einleitung in die Altertumswissenschaft*, III, 204; Körte in Pauly-Wissowa, s.v. *Etrusker*; Scherling, *ibid. Suppl.* III, s.v. *Italia* (VI and *Vorgeschichte*); autochthones of Britain: MacNeill, *Phases of Irish History*.

§ 5. Old Home.

In the seventeenth century the Swede Olof Rudbeck declared that the primaeval home of the Japhet people was Sweden. The nineteenth century moved it to the interior of Asia. The controversy has swayed backwards and forwards up to the most modern times.

I do not intend to enter on this controversy, the importance of whose subject hardly corresponds to the diffuseness of the combatants. The whole question may be avoided by the simple practical expedient of giving up asking about a primaeval home for the Indo-Europeans as a whole and being content with asking about an old home for the European part of the stock. 21

Once this limitation is accepted the answer becomes exceedingly easy; an old home for Europeans is obviously Europe.

Tradition or history shows that numerous European and some Asiatic peoples crossed over from Europe to Asia: Armenians, Phrygians,

¹ Cp. Sophus Müller, *L'Europe préhistorique*, Fig. 38.

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Thracians, Greeks, Celts, Romans and the Gothic nations. The Asiatic Aryans apparently wandered in the opposite direction. We can ignore this latter migration, which in many cases may be taken to conceal original Mongols who had adopted Aryan language.¹

As far as language goes we find that distinct traces of non-I.E. primitive languages such as Finnish and Basque have only been preserved on the north-east and south-west outskirts of Europe. Kretschmer is of the opinion that some of the place names of Greece reveal traces of a non-I.E. language of Asia Minor. We may reckon the primitive peoples of Scotland and Ireland, the Cruithne or Picts, among the non-I.E. remnants, since Irish tradition draws a sharp distinction between them and the I.E. invaders (the Gauls) and the Pictish social system seems to betray non-I.E. features such as matriarchy. From the point of view of language, however, this is non-proven. The Tyrrhenians or Etruscans in Italy cannot count as primitive inhabitants as, according to legend and probably on linguistic evidence also, they are immigrants come by sea from Asia Minor.² To sum up, linguistic evidence seems to show that I.E. language and civilisation have had a firm footing in Europe time out of memory. If not, more definite remnants of non-I.E. nationality would undoubtedly have survived in the central mountainous regions or at least in the southern districts of Britain.

With regard to race it should be added that the most direct predecessor of the European 'Nordic' type is the Cro-Magnon race with its centre in Gaul and other western countries. Kossinna also maintains that Western Europe must once have been a racial focus which sent out its emigrants both east and west, in a way analogous to the later Celtic migrations from Gaul under the leadership of Belloc and Sigovesus (cp. § 62).

Lit. Reinach, *L'Origine des Aryens*,* *L'Histoire d'un Controverse* (1894); Schrader, *Sprachvergleichung*, I, 85 ff.; II, 559; Hirt, 170; Kossinna, *Die ursprüngl. Heimat der Urfinnen u. der Urindogermanen* (*Mannus*, I, 235); Feist, 486; Symons, *Mededeelingen van de Maatschappij van Nederlandsche Letterkunde*, 1898-99; Bender, *The Home of the Indo-Europeans*.*

§ 6. Language.

The language of our stock is of the inflected type. Modern development moreover often involves more and more simplification. There is scarcely

¹ Cp. Peisker in *Vierteljahrsschr. f. Sozial- u. Wirtschaftsgesch.* III, 208 ff.

² Cp. Skutsch in Pauly-Wissowa, s.v. *Etrusker*.

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a solitary case or declension which has not been abolished in one modern language or another. Languages such as English or Boer-Dutch which closely approximate to uninflected types go furthest in this matter of simplification.¹

Space does not permit of touching on details; one point only must be made the object of special mention.

The distinction between different types of word formation is especially important from the ethnic point of view and from that of historical settlement. The different types are: (1) Short Simplexes (i.e. non-compound words of one or two syllables in the nom. sing.); (2) Long Derivatives (polysyllabic in nom. sing.); (3) Compounds (thematic or genitival). The Short Simplex plays a leading rôle in the names of places and peoples; cp. the chief towns of the Age of Epic: Argos, Thebai, Pylos, Aulis, Sparta, Alba, Veii, Roma; names of important peoples in the nom. sing.: Arya-, Sindha- (Indians), Persa, Medus, Scytha, Phryx, Trôs, Threix, Hellên, Graecus, Umber, Samnis, Celta, Gallus, Belga, Brito, Scotus, Pictus, Cimber, Teuto, Suëbus, Saxo, Suio, Goto. 22

Long Derivatives are used for various kinds of specification. While, for example, the small islands of the north have often short names such as Latris, the larger ones prefer the type *-undis*, e.g. *Burgundiz. Compounds are the rule in some parts of speech, e.g. in personal names; cp. the equation Old Indian Vasuṣravas = Greek Εὐ-κλής = Illyrian Ves-cleves 'well-renowned'; further, in vocation titles: Old Indian *dam-pati* = Greek δεσ-πότης 'house-lord'; Old Indian *viç-pati* = Lithuanian *viš-pats* 'house-lord'; Slavonic *gos-pod* = Latin *hos-pes* 'guest-lord'.

Investigators have hitherto entirely neglected to examine the distribution of these types so that vast numbers of false theories have been fabricated. In *Reallewikon* Schrader interprets the name 'Etrusci' as Umbrian *Etro-turskus, 'other-Tyrrhenians'—although it is easy to demonstrate that the Itali did not affect compound names on the whole. In *Alttertumskunde*, II, 232, Müllenhoff explains North German compound river names of the Al-apa type as Celtic loan words although it is clear that the Celts on the whole hardly ever used compound river names and notably not the *-apa* type.

The author's paper *Kortetypens Aldersrang i Sproghusholdningen*

¹ Cp. Otto Jespersen, *Fremskridt i sproget*, I seq.; Meillet, *Caractères généraux des langues germaniques*.

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(*Nord. Tidsskrift f. Filologi*, 1919) attempts to bring up the question of the distribution of the types of name, but hitherto with no effect. The need for systematic differentiation of types must here be reiterated and enjoined. If it be further ignored the conclusions regarding ethnic character and those regarding historical settlement drawn from the supply of names will be found to be entirely groundless.

*Lit. Carnoy, Les Indo-Européens, préhistoire des langues, des mœurs et des croyances de l'Europe**; Vendryes, *Langues indo-européennes** (Meillet and Cohen, *Les langues du monde*).

§ 7. Civilisation.

The early civilisation of our forefathers which may be inferred from the common vocabulary was naturally quite primitive Stone Age in character, although metal was already known at least by name (**ais-*). Cattle-rearing was highly developed and waggon-building efficient. A primitive agriculture was carried on in the neighbourhood of the old home in Europe, perhaps even in the common I.E. early home. The social frame was given by the 'joint-family' system; i.e. the married children's families for several generations remained gathered round one and the same hearth as 'sons' and 'daughters' of a chosen patriarch known to all as 'father' or 'house-lord', Old Indian *dam-pati*, *viç-pati* (see § 6). The best known epic illustration of such a community is King Priam of Troy with his seventy
 23 'sons'. The legal form is patriarchal, i.e. the male line has the pre-eminence in the rights of administration, guardianship and inheritance. Traces of the matriarchal system such as female preference in right of inheritance and 'male childbed' (French *couvade*, e.g. among the Iberian and Caucasus peoples) always seem to point to foreign racial elements. It is a characteristic of Indo-Europeans that they do not appear to know of cannibalism either as a form of nutrition or as a religious custom (cp. § 4 on 'eaters' as the symbolic name by which Indo-Europeans denoted neighbours of foreign race).

Religion seems in part to have left the pre-animistic stage which knows no soul as distinct from the body; at all events expressions describing the soul are common to various European languages. The sky is worshipped under the name Old Indian *Dyaus* = Greek *Zeus* = Latin (*D*)*jov-*; it can scarcely be denied that this name is found again in northern *Týr* (see Vol. I, § 95). Old Indian *Parjanya*, Slavonic *Perun*, Prussian *Percunis*, Celtic *Hercules* (**Herkunis* according to phonetic laws), O.N. *Fjörgynn*,

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seems to contain a name for the thunder god. Some of these forms however are not phonetically correct. The Indian and Slavonic ones are undoubtedly on purpose thinly disguised while the form 'Hercules' is due to the academic, comparative study of names indulged in by Roman investigators. On the whole very few positive common features can be worked out from the old vocabulary.

Lit. Hirt, 201 seq.; Feist, 319 seq.; Schrader, *passim*.

§ 8. History.

The gradual expansion of our forefathers from their primaeval home cannot be described here for lack of space. It must suffice to call attention to its most important ethnic phases. The first of these from the point of view of historical tradition is the Aryan Invasion of India; the second, the Greek Expansion with its epic prelude in the Invasion of Troy; the third, the founding of the Iranian Empires; the fourth, the Celtic Migration; the fifth, the founding of the Macedonian Empire (representing an Illyrian element); the sixth, the founding of the Italian Empire, Rome; the seventh, the great Migration of Peoples in which the Gothonic nations and Slavs play the chief part and during which the Frankish Empire is founded; and the eighth, the Viking Age, the Gothonic nations' last great wave of migration. Our forefathers' subsequent expansion in overseas countries and Siberia lies beyond the scope of this present work.

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THE GOTHONIC NATIONS

I. §§ 9-25. NAMES

§ 9. List of Names in Alphabetical Order.

24 Our forefathers who comprise the following younger peoples, Goths (extinct after 1600), Germans, Dutchmen, Anglo-Saxons, Frisians, and Northmen, have more than a dozen different names. This probably unique wealth is due to their central position in Europe. The list contains: (1) Alemains, § 22; (2) Galatians, § 18; (3) Germanic nations, § 19; (4) Goths, Gothonic Nations, *Gotþjóð*, § 24; (5) Gotho-Germans, § 23; (6) Celts, § 18; (7) Celto-Scythians, § 17; (8) Cimbri, § 13; (9) Lochlannacha, § 14; (10) Sons of Man, § 10; (11) Midnight peoples, § 12; (12) *Nēmici*, § 16; (13) Norse peoples, § 11; (14) Septentrional peoples, § 12; (15) Teutons, § 21; (16) Germans, § 20; (17) Varangians, § 15. Add to these some few names, Nos. 18–24, which are either pure individual invention or which should only doubtfully be included in the list: Sons of Fornjot, Sons of Sheaf, Hyperboreans, Scythians, Scando-Goths, Teuto-Goths (Saxons, originally included by the author, should be omitted).

The author has collected the whole series of synonyms for the first time in papers printed in 1904–5 and 1912. The paper printed in 1912 embodies an attempt to arrange the names in approximate chronological order and also contains information about Nos. 18–24 which is omitted in the present work.

Lit. Schütte, *Om Racenavnet og Racetanken* (*Tidsskr. Norden*, 1904–5); *idem*, *Gotthonic Names* (Publications of the Society for the Advancement of Scandinavian Study, Illinois, 1912); *idem*, *Vor. Æts og vor Folkegruppens Navne* (*Danske Studier*, 1917).

§ 10. Mythical Conception.

Sons of Man.

Tacitus, *Germ.* 2: ‘Celebrant carminibus antiquis, quod unum apud illos memoriae et annalium genus est, Tvistonem, deum terra editum, et filium Mannum, originem gentis conditoresque. Manno tris filios assignant, e quorum nominibus proximi Oceano Ingaevones, medii Herminones, ceteri Istaevones vocentur.’