The role of intertextual intervention of copied texts in etymological research

Abstract:

The name *haima Hérakleous* is cited in the Byzantine version of Dioscorides’ famous herbal known as *Constantinopolitan* or *Viennese* (dated 512) as synonymous to *krokos* (together with *castor* and *kunomorphos* being lined one after another). The synonym lists with their alternative nomenclature in other languages found in Dioscorides’ books 1-4 are not by Dioscorides himself. Although these are by later lexicographers such as Pamphilus, they are of interest for the reception of the work, and Wellmann had placed them between the text and the *apparatus criticus* with the designation RV (from the Viennese recension). The name *haima Hérakleous* has never been fully explained and convincingly argued in previous phytonomastical research and its iconic structure is still considered to be obscure. The method of comparative-etymological analysis applied to the naming units with the same denotative function (*castor* and *kunomorphos*) enabled us to mark out the specific concept used in the word-coining process referred to the phytonym *haima Hérakleous*: a narrative that emerged from two different traditions regarding the story of *castoreum* - of which one concerns the early transmission and reception of the ancient medical texts and the other one is in relate with the early transmission and reception of the famous collection of zoological fables and religious moralizations called *Physiologus*. The aim of this study is to give the exact reconstructs of the referred onomasiological procedures (of the name-giver).

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