

Summary

FROM THE *DICTIONARY OF MEDIEVAL LATIN* IN THE CZECH LANDS: *ANA*

The main aim of this article is to identify the origin and meaning of a Latin zoological term used in the medieval encyclopaedias of Thomas of Cantimpré and Jacob van Maerlant, as well as in a glossary compiled by the Czech medieval lexicographer Bartholomaeus de Solencia, known as Claretus. In all three works, the name *ana* is included in the books or chapters devoted to quadrupeds. The creature is described as a ferocious animal equipped with long, sharp teeth that attacks other animals in packs. This description is consistent with illustrations in the illuminated manuscripts of both Thomas and Jacob's encyclopaedias. The hitherto enigmatic name *ana* was addressed by Hermann Stadler, the editor of Albert the Great's *De animalibus*, who suggested that it referred to a giraffe, whose description and the name *anabula* appear in the immediately following passage of Albert's work. This interpretation was subsequently adopted by the translators of Albert's treatise into English.

The present study first examines this identification and, on the basis of both the interpretations associated with the Latin names applied to the giraffe and the diverse representations found in medieval illuminated manuscripts, concludes that *ana* is neither another name for nor a description of a giraffe. The correct identification should instead be sought in the text of Aristotle's *Historia animalium*, specifically in the Latin version produced by Michael Scot, not directly from the Greek original but from an Arabic translation. This Latin translation constituted a key source for Thomas of Cantimpré.

Aristotle's passage does not concern, however, a quadruped. Thomas' account instead corresponds to a considerable extent with a passage in which Aristotle comments on the fearlessness and social instincts of the marine fish *amia* (Atlantic bonito). Michael Scot did not refer to the creature as *piscis* but instead employed the more general term *animal*, and Thomas of Cantimpré apparently understood this term as referring to any kind of living creature. As a consequence, he erroneously

classified the *amia* (*ana*) as a terrestrial beast, as he also did in the case of several other animals.

Keywords: medieval lexicography, ancient and medieval zoology, Latin names of quadrupeds, Claretus, Aristoteles, Aristoteles Latinus, Michael Scotus, Thomas Cantimpratensis, Jacob van Maerlant, illuminated manuscripts

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