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## THE ETYMOLOGY OF TWO SEA TERMS IN LATVIAN

The aim of this small article is to explain two etymologies in a way different from that of J. Endzelīns in ME.

The word *gīne* is defined in ME (repeating Ulmann, 74) as follows: „ein Tau zum Emporziehen der Windmühlflügel oder bei Schiffsspillen“. With some uncertainty Endzelīns states: „Wohl als ein Lituanismus zu *dzeinis*“ (ME I, 700)<sup>1</sup>. *Dzeinis* (ME I, 540; EH I, 352) is undoubtedly a cognate of Lithuanian *genys*, *geinys* and Russian *жень*, cf. *Фасмер* II, 47. *Gīne*, *gīna* or *jīna* (B, 215), on the contrary, was borrowed most probably in the beginning of the 19th century from German *gien* or Low German *gīn* (Schwers, 34), which in its turn (according to Kluge, 315) was borrowed from English. Later it could acquire additional meaning(s) among Latvian fishermen and peasants as it sometimes happens with a loanword. The most precise definition of *gīna* gives KV 1891, 532. Also compare Russian *гуна* (*Фасмер* I, 407).

More complicated and uncertain is the case with the word *kaile*. Endzelīns again connects it with *ceinis*, *cainis* (ME I, 363), *dzeinis*, viz., with Lithuanian. The meanings of the word given in ME II, 133 and especially that of EH I, 574 „ein scheibenförmig zusammengerolltes Tau“ as well as the form [kaile] itself prompt to connect it with English *coil* [kɔil] “a length of cable, rope etc. when gathered up into a number of concentric rings” (OED II, 602; also Ansted, 54). The visual similarity of the subject in question is undoubtful if pictures of *coil* in English and Latvian sources are compared, cf. PD II, 617 and Kalniņš, 12. The question arises, how Latvian could borrow this word from English? German sources available to the author of the present article do not present this word, cf. Kluge. Maybe it was borrowed into the local German dialect and then entered Latvian. The direct borrowing, however, cannot be also ruled out because already in the 18th century Englishmen were among the main freight carriers of Riga. Latvians began their trips to Great Britain in the middle of the 19th century. Endzelīns in his judgement

<sup>1</sup> There is a small inconspicuous *Korrekturen der Etymologien* in ME IV, 894 where J. Schweser's etymology is given.

on this word was obviously carried away by the fact that *kaile* appears in a folksong (though only one), cf. LD IV, 30918. Still this can also be explained. The particular folksong was registered in the coastal area (Dubulti) among fishermen. It must be said that in the 19th century Latvian sailors and fishermen lived as neighbours along the coasts of the Baltic Sea and the Gulf of Riga, so that nautical terms could easily pass from sailors to fishermen. Besides, the particular folksong can be regarded as the 19th century variant of an older song. Another possible way of borrowing was trade, viz., import of foreign ship gear (particularly from Great Britain). It is known that rope was sold "in coils", cf. KV 1931, 14886; also in fiction: "Saimnieki brauca uz Rīgu un veda mājās... auklu kailes" (LV, 28).

The verb *kailēt* (to coil) is closely connected with *kaile*, cf. ME II, 133; EH I, 574. In printed matter it was first used in B, 135, e.g. *Kailē orpes laivā* — Coil the warps down in the boat — *Schiesse die Werptrossen nieder in's Boot*. This verb is still used (or at least recognized) by both older and younger generations of Latvian seamen and fishermen. It is also used in today's Russian seamen's speech, cf. ЛРЯ, 150.

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