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LITHUANIAN *árškus*

The thoughtful account of Simas Karaliūnas (Blt XXIX (2), 1994, 166–171) can be simplified, I suggest, in one respect.

árškus, whether or not via **árž-šk-* or **árž-k-* or **árž-sk-*, would reflect **áržu-* >< *áiškus*. And *áržu-* would equal Indic *árju-na-*, Gr. ἄργυ-φος¹, and further Indic *rjrá-*, Gr. ἄργός (whether or not this is dissimilated from **ἄργρός*), and to these the rule-governed Caland *rji-* = ἄργι- (and the Old Irish compound *Airg-dig* ‘White-house’² in the *Táin Bó Cuailnge*). Because of Hittite *har-ki-is*³ we reconstruct **h₂(e)rǵ-*. We may add support to **áržu-* from Latin *arguō* and *argūtus*⁴.

With these points clear, there is no need for a special source for vowel lengthening. Before the media **ǵ*, **áržu-* is exactly what we should expect from **arg-ū-* < **h₂erǵ-* by W. Winter's lengthening. An initial laryngeal will not lengthen a following vowel.

I see no principled evidence for an IE lengthened grade **ē*. The forms in **erž-*, if related, would have to come somehow from **(h₂)irž-*.

¹ Compounded by rule as an *s*-stem ἐν-αργής.

² Later variant orthography *Airgdhigh*; therefore *argǵ'əγ'* < **argǵ'əγ'* < **arg'ǵ'iγ'* < **argi+tigis* < **argi+tegis* < **argi+teges* (dat. sg. *s*-stem).

³ Frisk GEW I 132–133 implies erroneously (133) that *harkiš* cannot be Schwundstufe; but the rest of Frisk's account is very judicious and informative.

⁴ See IEW 64–65, which badly needs sifting and systematizing. We find this root now in Indo-Iranian, Helleno-Armenian, Italic, Celtic, Tocharian, Anatolian, and now in Baltic.