

## Note

## TOWARD THE HISTORY OF SLAVIC SCHOLARSHIP

Eric P. Hamp

Every so often Slovene provides us with a piece of unparalleled evidence.

In his Slavisches etymologisches Wörterbuch I (1924) 24 Berneker listed \*adajq adati, supporting the entry with Old Czech jadati 'forschen, untersuchen', and further deriving Cz. bádati Pol. badać 'forschen' and Slovak badať 'ahnen' from a simplex \*badati freshly extracted by misdivision from \*ob-adati. Berneker referred this to Zubatý apud Gebauer. He further listed Cz. obadati, obádati, Pol. obadać 'erforschen', but this of course does not guarantee the segmentation of the compound.

In 1952 Sławski (Słownik etymologiczny języka polskiego I 25) devoted a very short entry to badać, attested from the 15th century. He preferred a relation to bóść 'pierce', SCr. bádati, although he mentioned Berneker's (and Vaillant's) theory of decomposition from \*ob-adati. Both on grounds of the direct semantics and of the attested Old Czech form Berneker's account is to be preferred.

Machek (Etymologický slovník jazyka českého a slovenského 21) helpfully removes the á of bádati as a comparatively recent Polonism, thus validating the Czech form as originally badati. He then subscribes to the misdivision theory, citing Moravian obadnút and Valašský pobádat sa. Both Berneker and Machek show Lith. uodžiu uosti Latv. uōžu uōst 'smell' as the nearest of kin. Pokorny IEW 773 fails to record the West Slavic forms in b-.

Bezljaj (Etimološki slovar slovenskega jezika, 1977, I 9) has now furnished us with a valuable piece of evidence from South Slavic in the form of bájanica. He derives this from \*badianica and compares it to the above West Slavic forms. The earlier compound is found to be matched by Slovene obádati (16th century), which has since become associated with compounds of -bosti.

Two conclusions emerge from this precious Slovene evidence. We now have our root confirmed from two major branches of Slavic; this assures the recovery of \*ad- 'search out' for

Proto-Slavic, and places the Balto-Slavic reconstruction \*ōd- on a firm footing.<sup>†</sup> Secondly, it is now made much more likely that the misdivision ob-adati → \*o-badati > badati occurred somewhere near Proto-Slavic time, and greatly antedated Common West Slavic. The conservation of such an archaism in West Slavic and in this corner of South Slavic is a familiar pattern.

University of Chicago

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<sup>†</sup>\*ōd- must in turn be a vrddhi to \*H<sub>o</sub>ed-, seen in Lat. odor and Armen. hot; or else it is a lengthening by Werner Winter's formulation before traditional IE media.