

Re: Etymological Help Needed

Source: <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.lang/2005-06/msg00681.html>

- *From:* "Douglas G. Kilday" <fufluns@xxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Thu, 16 Jun 2005 10:57:27 -0000
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"Robert Rosen" <rosen647@xxxxxxx> wrote ...

- > Thanks very much for the extremely interesting analysis, Doug. I'd
- > like to ask one additional question that seems to be related to these
- > words.
- >
- > The AHD attributes the Gk. verb for throwing "ballein" to the PIE
- > gwel-2, and "bolis" 'missile, javelin' (> L. "bolide" fireball) to
- > gwel-2's "o-grade form." However, for some reason, the AHD does not
- > attribute Gk. "bolos" 'lump, clod' to the same o-grade form, stating
- > instead that the word is "of obscure origin." Why the discrepancy?

Greek <bo:los> and <bo:lax> (both feminine) have a long stem-vowel and cannot be referred to the o-grade of *gwel-. Furthermore, their primary sense is 'lump or clod of earth', like Latin <gle:ba>, not 'lump or clod suitable for throwing': note the Epic compounds <eribo:los>, <eribo:lax> 'with large clods, fertile, fruitful' (referring to soil). The Greek stem bo:l- thus appears to be an isolate, not convincingly connected with other words.

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◇ *From:* o8TY
 - *References:*
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◇ *From:* Robert Rosen
 - ◆ ***Re: Etymological Help Needed***
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◆ ***Re: Etymological Help Needed***

◇ *From:* Robert Rosen

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