

Re: what is etymology? (linguistics and biology)

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- *From:* "Franz Gnaedinger" <frgn@xxxxxxxxxxxxx>
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A second Magdalenian lunisolar calendar

The lunisolar calendar in the Lascaux cave led me to Magdalenian, and Magdalenian, one year later, leads me toward a second lunisolar calendar: via NOPh neiphos nives snow Schnee, novus new neu, novem nine neun, and November, which must have been the ninth period in an old calendar, when the first snow gives the world a new appearance ...

IAS a period of 36 days (Jan 9 – Feb 13), deep winter, coldest time of the year, when many get a fever and seek healing, hence the name ias for healing, later replaced by ian for entrance, marking the end of the old and begin of the new year, double faced Roman god Janus, whence January

CED a period of 37 days (Feb 14 – Mar 22), spring equinox by the end of this period, children conceived in the spring of the previous year are being born now, Celtic festival Imbolc of the midwife Brigid in the middle of this period, name ced means to care for

PhON a period of 36 days (Mar 23 – Apr 27), winter is over, the camp bustles with life, hence the name phon for voice, sound

DKO a period of 37 days (Apr 28 – Jun 3), Celtic festival Beltane by the begin of this period, Magdalenian bel for warm, begin of the summer half year, name dko meaning the walls and ceiling of a tent or hut, which one can leave in this period

PAS a period of 36 days (Jun 4 – Jul 9), summer solstice in the middle of this period (pas 18 / Jun 21), now one can roam the land, follow rivers, name pas meaning everywhere, here, south and north, east and west of me, ancient Greek pas pan for all, every, penta for five, fifth period of the year

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SAI a period of 37 days (Jul 10 – Aug 15), high summer, hottest time of the year, Celtic festival Lughnasadh in the middle of this period, name sai meaning life, existence, origin of Lughnasadh may have been lic sai, light / luck life, sixth period of the year, Italian sei for six, Latin sex for six, may remember sexual activities in this hot and happy time of the year

SAP a period of 36 days (Aug 16 – Sep 20), name sap meaning everywhere in a wider sense, here, south and north, east and west, under and above me, seventh period of the year, Latin septem for seven, September originally the 7th period (now month number nine)

OKD a period of 37 days (Sep 21 – Oct 27), fall equinox by the begin of this period, now one has to look out for a winter camp, name okd meaning the ground plan of a tent or a hut, often an octagon (inverse of dko), eighth period of the year, ancient Greek okta for eight, October once the 8th period (now month number ten)

NOPh a period of 36 days (Oct 28 – Dec 2, covering all of our November), begin of the winter half year, when the first snow falls and gives the world a new appearance overnight, Celtic festival Samhain by the begin of this period, name phon meaning snow, snow fall, snow storm (inverse of phon), ancient Greek neiphos for snow fall, snow storm, Latin nives (plural) for plenty snow, novus for new (new appearance of the landscape when covered with snow – we say brand new, they said snow new), ninth period of the year, Latin novem for nine, November the time of the first snow in Switzerland, originally the 9th period of the year (now month number eleven)

DEC a period of 37 days (Dec 3 – Jan 8), winter solstice exactly in the middle of this period (dec 19 / dec 21), now one stays in the winter camp, cramped together in a tent or hut, so one has to behave, show manners, be decent, whence the name dec (inverse of ced), tenth period of the year, Latin decem for ten, December originally the 10th period of the year (now month number twelve)

While the Lascaux calendar may date from the early Magdalenium, say, 17 000 BP, the second calendar may date from the late Magdalenium, say, 13 000 BP. You can run this calendar the same way as the older one. 8 cycles are 2920 days. Add 2 leap days and you get 2922 days for 8 years (2921.93759 days) or 99 lunations (2923.528323 days). Or you can run it for a quarter of a century. 25 cycles are 9125 days

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and correspond to 309 lunations (9124.952038 days).
Add 6 leap days and you get 25 solar or tropical years
(9131.05497 days).

Two subsequent periods count 73 days and may be
called a double period. 17 36 53 89 125 double periods
correspond to 42 89 131 220 309 lunations. 125 double
periods are 25 calendar cycles or 9125 days. Divide
this number of days by the number of the 309 lunations
and you obtain a phantastic value for the tropical month,
not even fourteen seconds longer than the actual lunation
of 29 days 12 hours 44 minutes 2.9 seconds (modern
value from 1989 AD).

Regards Franz Gnaedinger www.seshat.ch

NPhO OPhN, NOPh PhON, PhNO ONPh ---- snow

CED CES, DEC DES; CDE CSE, EDC ESC;
DCE SCE, ECD ECS ---- giving shelter

NPhO ---- to snow; ancient Greek neipho

OPhN ---- all of a sudden, first snow, winter comes;
ancient Greek aphno for suddenly, surprisingly

NOPh ---- snow falling, snow storm, plenty of snow;
noph snow, ancient Greek niphos for snow storm,
Latin novus for new, the world appearing new when
freshly covered with snow, November as the month
of the first snow ... Novem for nine and November
for the ninth month while actually being the eleventh
month may refer to an old calendar of ten periods of
time (my reconstruction of this calendar shall follow
next time)

PhON ---- not seeing each other in a snow storm, calling
for each other, staying together in order not to get lost,
wolves crying and howling, dangerous when starving in
winter, even for people; ancient Greek phonos with omega
for sound, voice, call (people calling each other, wolves
howling), phonos with omikron for mass, lump (people
staying close to each other, then), phonos phonae with
omikron for murder (wolves are remembered as murderous
animals in fairy tales)

PhNO ---- torches on high poles marking the winter camp,

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seen from afar, guiding hunters home; ancient Greek
phanos for torch

ONPh --- a shining torch by night, shining snow by day
in sunlight; ancient Greek aenops for shining, white

CED --- to care for people, inviting them; ancient Greek
kednos for caring, reasonable, good, honorable, dear

CES --- belt worn by a high ranking person, especially
by the ruler of a tribe; ancient Greek keston for belt

DEC --- being a decent person, helping others when
they are in need, a life savior; ancient Greek decus for
decency, honor (...), consider also decorated for honored

SEC --- providing shelter in the safety of a camp; ancient
Greek saekos for enclosure, Latin securus for safe (...)

CDE --- cooking pit, laid out with leather, filled with water
and food, warmed up with hot stones rolled in from a fire;
ancient Greek kedos for cauldron, kettle

CSE --- a wooden bowl filled with food from the cooking
pit, a spit with roasted meat from the fireplace, ancient
Greek kissybion for bowl, chysis for a heap (plenty food
in the bowl, then), Latin cuspis for spit

EDC --- food, meat; ancient Greek edesma for food, meat

ESC --- fireplace, people eating round a warming fire;
ancient Greek eschara for hearth, fireplace

DCE --- to welcome a guest; ancient Greek deiknanomai
for to welcome, deiknymi deiknyo for to greet, welcome

SCE --- inviting someone into a camp; ancient Greek
skepae for safety

ECD --- a stranger asking for shelter; ancient Greek ektos
for outside (here someone standing outside the camp,
a stranger asking for protection)

ECS --- to save someone; ancient Greek eksozo for
I save

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Homo, human being, a humming animal ...

Latin homo means human being, man, in the plural also people. This word, I believe, might go back to a very early time, even to Homo erectus, a hunter who originated some 1,600,000 years ago in Africa, left this continent for Asia and Europe, and populated Indonesia some 400,000 years ago by crossing a never less than 17 (seventeen) kilometers wide deep sea strait on bamboo rafts. All but a primitive being, Homo erectus. Now picture a group of, say, eight hunters A–H walking in a line, from the left to the right side, looking out for game, also watching out for lions and other dangerous animals:

H G F E D C B A

The leading hunter A will look ahead and scan the area in front of him. The hunters B D F may scan the area to the right side; the hunters C E G may scan the area to the left side; while hunter H at the end of the marching line periodically scans the area behind them. When all is okay, hunter H makes a humming sound: Mmmmm ... Hunter G hears it and hums himself, the same for the hunters F E D C B, whose humming reaches hunter A in front of the line. As long as the periodical hummings reach hunter A, all is well. If the humming sets out, something has gone wrong. Other humming signals, for example Mm Mmmmm Mm ... might convey precise messages, for example game sighted to the left side. And so on. Humming might also have been used as signals when the whole tribe wandered from one to another area. Humming is easy, costs little energy, is both assuring and self-assuring, and may well have been melodic, thus providing entertainment on a long march. Neanderthals had high and melodic voices, might also have been humming, if not yodeling ...

Latin homo for man, human being, may then have been the humming one, the humming animal. Consider the following words in ancient Greek: homadeo for I make noise, shout, homados for noise, bustle, multitude (many people), homaios for consanguine, brother, sister, homaichmia for alliance, homaichmos for ally, brother in arms, homarteo for I accompany, meet, do the same, homatae for together, at the same time, homaulos for united, homaereo for I gather, meet, homiladou for in swarms, in hordes, homileo for I gather, meet, negotiate, fight, occupy myself with something, homilaetaes for follower, intimus, friend, pupil, homilos for a gathering of people, swarm, mass, a gathering of warriors, noise of a battle, homoethaes for the same tribe, homoios for equal, together, united, homologeio for I use the same language (...), homophoneo for I speak the same language, literally I produce the same sounds (...), homoo for I unite, omphae for voice, sound, speech, oracle.

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All these words may come from the hypothetical very early humming language, including homoios for equal, together, united, since the members of a hunting expedition as explained above were required to have about the same strength and skills and good eyes and attentive mind, so they had to be equal in many respects. A chain is only as strong as the weakest link, a saying goes.

Homo, the humming animal, whose language emanated from a very early way of communicating via humming ...

A remainder of the hypothetical humming Mm of the very early human language, I believe, is present in the English words *_my_* and *_myself_* for I (ego), in French *_moi_* for je, keeping a memory of the humming Mmmm that marked presence: here I am, still there, everything fine, you all can go on ...