

Two Graeco - Coptic Etymologies

1. Λιμήν for « picture » in Coptic (also found as « harbour »). This has been attractively derived from (*il*)*luminare*, but there are two difficulties: Latin words do not commonly pass into Coptic except through Greek, and in Migne's *Lexicon Manuale* Alcuin is the earliest authority for *illuminare* = *pingere*; however, a metaphor ing a harbour with a ship riding safely in. These must have been produced and sold daily on the quayside at Alexandria. Could the one, is far older. A perhaps extravagant fancy has also occurred to me. We hear of the votive tablets dedicated by seafarers to Isis (*pictores quis nescit ab Iside pasci?* Juv. 12.28) — no doubt portraying a harbour with a ship riding safely in. These must have been produced and sold daily on the quayside at Alexandria. Could the name « harbour » have been given, humorously at first, in colloquial Alexandrian Greek to such marine paintings and then extended to other pictures? (Cf. « pamphlet », « pasquinade » for equally round-about derivations of the general from the particular). Confusion or contamination with λειμών, « embroidered robe », is unlikely. W. E. Crum relegates our word in despair to a native Egyptian origin.

2. Coptic ἐρμητάριον, *eculeus*. Is this so called from ἔρματα, weights with which the machine was ballasted?

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