

THREE GREEK ETYMOLOGIES.

ἀμια, κρῶσι, μάσω .

by Sten Ebbesen .

ἀμια

Modern Gk. (but not common speech) = θεία "aunt" : Lat. amita > Venetian amia¹⁾ > Gk. ἀμια , not, as suggested by Meyer and Andriotis,²⁾ Gk. ἀμιά > ἀμμία > Ven. amia > Gk. ἀμια.

κρῶσι

κρῶσι· βοῶσι Theognost.Can.21³⁾ The verb *κράω , though not attested elsewhere, can be safely posited as a variant of κράζω. It fits neatly in a pattern which is common in MGk. :

	aorist	imperfective	
αρκ-	άξω	άζω & άω	"snatch"
βαστ-	άξω	άζω & άω	"hold"
κοιτ-	άξω	άζω & άω	"look"
κρ-	άξω	άζω & *άω	"shout"

μάσω

Modern Greek possesses three different, but very similar, verbs meaning "gather", viz. μαζεύω, μαζώνω and (*)μάζω with aorists : μαζέψω, μαζάξω, μάσω. According to Andriotis⁴⁾ (following Chatzidakis) these verbs are derived from ομάδα (→ομαδεύω >μαζεύω with paronymological influence from μάζα), μάζα (→μαζώνω) and ομάδα (→*ομάζω >μάζω) respectively. This was disputed by Tsopanakis⁵⁾ who, observing correctly that any attempt of establishing the origin of (*)μάζω-μάσω must concentrate on the aorist form which is the only one in regular use (μάζω being extremely unusual) proposed a derivation from Dor. άμάσω (pres. άμάω) .

Maybe another approach could be ventured. Ancient Gk. has a verb closely related in sense and form, viz. ματεύω/ματέω "search

for". To this has been assigned the aorist μάσσαι found in Hsch.⁶⁾ who says μάσσαι' ζητῆσαι, καθαρῶσαι, φυράσαι⁷⁾ which would seem to mean "search for, gather". It is then reasonable to declare Hsch.'s word the infinitive of our μάσω (probably then better spelt μάσσω). If that is accepted, and if the derivation of μάσσαι from ματέω = ματεύω is correct, we have established the connection between the ματεύω-family and μάσω. Whether possibly ματεύω could be derived from ματεύω too, is another question.

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- 1) cf. Ernout-Meillet: Diction. étym. de la langue Latine s.v. amma, and Battisti & Alessio: Dizion. Etimol. Italiano 1:161 Firenze 1950.
 - 2) N.Π. 'Ανδριώτη' Ετυμολογικό λεξικό τῆς Κοινῆς Νεοελληνικῆς, 2.εκδ. Θεσ/νίκη 1967 s.v.
 - 3) edited in J.A.Cramer: Anecdota Græca e codd. mss. Bibliothecarum Oxoniensium, vol. 2 , Oxf. 1835
 - 4) op. cit. s.vv.
 - 5) 'Α.Γ. Τσοπανάκη Αί Γλωτται, Ρόδος 1949 p.52f.
 - 6) so Bechtel: Lexilogus zu Homer, Halle 1914, p.223 (following Ficht).
 - 7) Cited from LSJ, s.v. μάσσαι (so they correct the accent).