Old Prussian *mary in toponyms of the Warmia and Mazury districts

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Old Prussian water names related to the Proto-Indo-European root *mor- 'stagnant water, sea, moor' occur in the Warmia and Mazury district. Today they occur as water names, field names and place names such as: *Mary, *Maryski Rów, *Moręg, *Morąskie Łąki, *Maryski Las, Marcik, Maradz, Maradza and the drained Maręg lake. In the medieval German documents the root *mor- was recorded as mor- or mör-. It probably occurred on the Prussian territory in two variants, which can be reconstructed as mör- and mär-.

The names of lakes should be considered the oldest among all the names presented in the paper. The remaining water names, place names and field names have been renewed or derived from the names of lakes as a result of different derivational processes.

The Prussian names related to the onomastic basis mor- were derived by means of the formatives -mg-, -ung- and -eu-. Quite a lot of water names are formed with these formatives on the Old Prussian territories.

In the region of Warmia and Mazury lots of toponyms bear the Old Prussian names having their counterparts in other parts of Europe. They also include hydronyms related to the root *mor- reconstructed in the meaning of 'stagnant water, sea, moor, water flow' (Krahe 1964:47). In Proto-Indo-European the root occurred in the words *mōri 'sea, stagnant water', which are continued in common nouns such as Latin mare, maris 'sea, lake', Old-Iranian mair, Breton mor, Gothic māri, Old-Bulgarian mārje 'sea' (Pokorny 748). The common nouns related to the root *mor- also occur in the Baltic languages. Lithuanian: mārė, mārės, mārios 'sea, gulf', Latvian: mare 'sea' and Old-Prussian *marė 'gulf, stagnant water' recorded as mar in the
Elbing Dictionary (Mažiulis 17) can be included here. The root *mor- can also be found in water names all over Europe (Krahe 1963:329) as well as in Lithuanian (Vanagas 204) and Latvian names (Endzelins 377f). The root *mor- occurs also in the names of water expanses: Morze, Pomorze (Falk 1976:140, Biiga 1959:268) situated on the old Jatvingian territories (East Prussia) and in the names of objects situated on the Old Prussian territories (Nalepa 1964). A part of these territories is included in the present Warmia and Mazury districts, two regions of north-eastern Poland. These are the names of the lake Marag, the Marag river and the Maraski Rów stream situated north of Lukta, the town of Marag situated by the lake with the same name, a forest and meadows in the vicinity of Morag, the lakes and villages Maróź, Marózek and the Maróźka river south of Olsztynek, and the drained Marag lake situated between Uniszewo and Pogłity south-west of Olsztyn.

Marag — a lake situated north of Lukta in the administrative district Ostródka is 393 hectares in area. Its depth reaches 20 metres. The name of the lake was first recorded in 1346 in the form Marang, Marink (Gerullis 101). Later it is found in 1347 in the document concerning the grant of 6 wólkas (wółka) is a measure of area equivalent to 16,8 hectares) by lacum Maringin. There have been preserved six copies of this document, in which the name was recorded in the forms: Marungen, Maringen, Maringen (PU IV No 182, p. 162). It can also be traced in the document of December 15, 1348 granting 28 wólkas, whose boundaries reach Marag lake: an dem ze Marink, in other copies: Marinc (PU IV No 358, p. 324). In medieval documents the name was recorded as early as 1361 as: Maring (Gerullis 101). It was later marked on maps in the form Marung See 1576 (M 4), 1629 (M 46) and preserved as Marung See till 1945. In 1931 G. Leyding recorded a common name Marag used by Poles (Leyding 244), which was accepted by the Place Name and Physiographical Object Establishing Committee (KUNM)¹.

The Marag river, a left tributary of the river Pasłęka, rises in the southern inlet of lake Marag. It was recorded only once in the Middle Ages, in a document of September 14, 1359, by virtue of which the Grand Master of the Teutonic Knights Winrich von Knipode grants 6 wólkas in Woyseken field and the right to catch fish in the Marag river, cf: Fischerei im Marungsfließe.

¹The Place Name and Physiographical Object Establishing Committee (KUNM) founded in 1840 by the Polish authorities in order to establish place names on the territories incorporated into Poland in 1945 and to repopulate them.

in other copies of the document: Maringesfließe, Marungesfließe, Mar hung schen flüß (PU V No 768, p. 436). About 1790 the name was marked on Schrötter’s map in the form Mahrung Fließ (Schrötter XVI) and it was used till 1945. In 1931 G. Leyding recorded the common Polish name Marag (Ley ding 244), later accepted by the KUNM, cf: 1951 Marag, German Mahrungs Fließ (Rospund 183).

The Maraski Rów stream flowing in the Marag river, drains off the water from Jagoty lake, situated near Komorowo. Its common name Marenki Rów is recorded in 1931 (Leyding 244). It was derived from the adjective relating to the river Marag and from the noun rów ‘ditch’.

About 10 kilometres north-west of lake Marag there is the town of Morag. In the location privilege of December 17, 1331, the name of the town was written down as: que Morungen appellatur (PU II No 746, p. 493). In subsequent documents it was recorded fairly uniformly as: Morung, Morungen, Morungen, cf. 1333 consulum Morungen (PU II No 804, p. 538), 1346 advocatus in Morungen (PU IV No 51, p. 57-58); 1347 in Morung (PU IV No 142, p. 129), 1347 in Morung (PU IV No 145, p. 134), 1350 czu Morunge (PU IV No 597, p. 538). From the 16th century onward the official German name Mohrungen became general. It was used side by side with the common Polish form Morąg, accepted after World War II by the KUNM, see 1951 Morąg, German Mohrungen (Rospund 198).

South of the town there is lake Morag, partly drained, which was recorded as: 1331 Mauin (PU II No 746, p. 493). A vast expanse of meadows and numerous streams without outflow in the vicinity of the town testify that it was a vast but shallow water resource. In 1947 Leyding recorded the Polish common name Morzske Jezioro and the official German name Mohrung See (Leyding 145). At present the lake bears the name Morąg and the surrounding meadows are called Morzske Łaki (Morąg Meadows), a name derived from the name of the lake.

Further, in the vicinity of Morąg, one finds Moraski Las. Its name was recorded in 1947 by Leyding side by side with the official German name Mohrunger Stadtwald (Leyding 145). The names are derived from the town name.

The objects whose present names are Maróź, Marózek and Maróżka, situated south of Olsztynek, constitute the third group of names related to the root *mor- Maróź lake, stretching over a considerable distance from north to south lies between the villages of Maróź, Marózek and Swaderki. Its name
was recorded in the Middle Ages in a document of February 24, 1352, cf: et stantem ultra lacum Morensen (PU V No 128, p. 75). In the 15th century the name was recorded as Morensin in 1412-1413 (Leyding 236), in the 16th century as Moransen (OK 191, M 4, Leyding 236). The form Moransen See was also used in the 17th century (1629 M 46) and in the early 18th century. In the late 18th century, the form Gross Moransen See became general and it was officially used till 1945. The Polish name was recorded in the form Wielkie Maroskie Jezioro by W. Kętrzyński in the second half of the 19th century (Kętrzyński 377). The Polish name Maróz or Maraz is given side by side with the German Gross Moransen in the Geographic Dictionary of the Polish Kingdom (Słownik geograficzny Królestwa Polskiego i innych krajów słowiańskich), cf. 1885 (SV VI 135). In 1930 G. Leyding recorded the name Duże Maroskie Jezioro (Leyding 236). At present the name Maróz is used, cf. 1951 Maróz, German Gross Moransen See (Rospond 184), 1964 Jezioro Maróz (Mp 25), 1983 Maróz (PHP I 868).

At about 0.5 km south of Maróz lake there is Marózek or Maly Maróz. It is a hydrologically closed water resource, 17.9 ha in area. The name of the lake was recorded in the same document of February 24, 1352, in which the name Maróz lake occurred, cf: et stantem ultra parvum Morensen (PU V No 128, p. 75). The next record of the name is from the 18th century, cf. about 1790 Kl. Maransen See (Schröter XVII). The Polish name was recorded in 1882 in the form Male Maroskie Jezioro (Kętrzyński 377). In 1930 the Polish name Zdrężno, not related to the Old-Prussian margs, and the German name Klein Maransen See were mentioned by G. Leyding (Leyding 188).

By lake Maróz, at its south-western inlet, lies the village Maróz (Bilik 1992,93-94). Its name can be found in documents dating from the 15th century onward, cf: 1411 Maransen (Kętrzyński 378), 1785 Maransen oder Maransen, poln. Marros (Goldbeck 130), about 1790 Gr. Maransen, Maross (Schröter XVII), 1829 Gr. Marassen, Maross (Wald 299). The Polish form Maróz or Maráz, being a counterpart of the German Gross Maransen, is given in 1882 (Kętrzyński 378) and in the Geographic Dictionary: 1885 Maróz or Maráz, German Gross Moransen (SV VI 135).

The village Marózek lies on the eastern shore of lake Maróz. Its name started being recorded in the late 18th century, cf: 1785 Maransen Ofen oder Klein Maransen (Goldbeck 130), about 1790 Kl. Maransen (Schröter XVII), 1829 Kl. Maransen (Wald 299), 1885 Marózek, German Klein Maransen (SV VI 135), 1951 Marózek, German Klein Maransen (Rospond 184), 1964 Marózek (Mp 25). The name of the village was derived by means of the diminutive suffix -ek from the name of the lake or village Maróz. The German name Klein Maransen with the German element Klein (klein ‘little’) is related to the German name Gross Maransen, with Gross (gross ‘great’).

The Maróżka river, a left tributary of the Lyna, flows into the southern part of lake Maróz. It rises from lake Mielno. Its name is derived with the suffix -ek from the name of lake Maróz, because from the 18th century onward the river bore the name recorded as: 1333 bis ex dem fiisse Lubnitz (PU II No 782, p. 320), 1334-1336 Lubnitz (Kętrzyński 224), 1576 Lubnitz (M 4), 1595 Lubnitz (Leyding 244), 1629 Lubnitz Fl. (M 46). About 1790 the name of the river was recorded as Maransen Fl. (Schröter XVII). W. Kętrzyński reconstructed the Polish name Lubieniec (Kętrzyński 372). In 1930 G. Leyding recorded the official German name Maranzen Fließ and the common name Marózka. The name was accepted by the Place Name and Physiographic Object Establishing Committee (KUNM), see: 1951 Marózka, Maransen Fließ (Rospand 184), 1964 Marózka (Mp 25).

Marag was also the name of the drained lake situated in the part between the villages Uniszewo and Pegity in the parish Gietrzwałd (Pospieszyłowa, 143-144). Its name has been mentioned in documents since 1348, see: 1348 in lacibus nostris Marung et wipung (CDW II No 108, p. 116); 1350 circa lacum maring (CDW II No 159, p. 159); 1369 ad stagnum dictum Marung (SRW p. 30), then in the document concerning the grant of the estate Lajzy enacted on May 4, 1378 as Marung See (CDW III No 54, p. 37) and on the maps: 1576 Maring S (M 4), 1629 Maring S. (M 46), 1755 Mohring S. (Enderesch), about 1790 Marung See (Schröter XVI), then as Marahung See till the end of 19th century. As late as 1917 the lake did not exist, cf. z wąskimi lądkami, zwłaszcza na sąsiednim Marungu (Barczewski 42; with very good meadows, especially by the neighbouring Marag). In 1925 G. Leyding wrote down the common Polish name Marangi (Leyding 214). The name of the former lake was recorded in 1938 and 1939 as Marung Seevisen (Leyding 214).

Water names should be regarded the oldest among all the above-mentioned water, place and field names. This is true for the names of the lakes Maróz and Marózek, recorded in documents earlier than the place names and the name of lake Marag, attested in the location privilege of the town. At the time when the names were being formed, lake Marózek may have been a shallow inlet which became a separate water expanse due to the lowering water level. This is confirmed by the depth of lake Maróz, reaching 41 metres,
and that of lake Marózek, reaching only 4 metres, by the distance between the tanks and their location in a deep, steep-sloped valley. The oldest record of the name of lake Marózek as *lacum Morenson* differs from the record of that of lake Marózek only by a Latin element *parvum*, added to differentiate the tanks, surely having one name. The town of Morag, recorded in documents from 1331 as *Morungen*, *Morung*, *Morunge*, must have existed earlier, before the Prussian territories were conquered by the Teutonic Knights. The name of the lake was written by Germans in a different way from the name of the town. The name of this medieval city must have been known to the Teutonic Knights earlier and it was used more frequently than the name of the lake which was hardly of any value. The clerk writing out the location document had heard the name of the town earlier, while the name of the lake was probably unknown to him.

Of all objects situated north of Lukta, lake Marag has the earliest records, such as: *Marunge*, *Marink*, *Maringin*, *Marungen*, *Marinen*, *Marine*. The river name was recorded in the Middle Ages with a German hydrographic element *Fließ*, see: *Maringesßßß*, *Marungisßßß*, *Marungsche Fließ*. When this element and the suffix *-schë* in the last record are dropped, the name acquires the shape: *Maringes*, *Marungis*, *Marung*. The drained Marag lake situated in Warmia was recorded in the forms: *Marung*, *Maringe*, *Marung*.

All the above-mentioned records of the Prussian names come from documents written in Latin or German usually by German clerks who tried to adjust Prussian names to their own language system. They wrote them in different forms, using phonetic and phonetic-derivational substitutions, which caused their original form to be obscured, usually by omission of a Prussian flexional ending or the substitution of a German ending. The Teutonic Knight’s writers came from different parts of Germany and they spoke different dialects, hence they adopted Prussian names in different ways. Most of them were recorded in Middle-High-German with a strong addition of Middle-Low-German dialectal features. In the light of the complicated phonetic, graphic, derivational and flexional substitutes (Zabrocki, 1961:201-233; Górnowicz, 1981:35-45) which were given to Prussian names recorded in documents, special attention must be paid to the great consistency in the records of the element *mor*- . The root was always written as *Mar*- in the name of the lake and the river Marag, as *Mor*- in the name of the town Marag, as *Maur*- in the case of the lake, as *Mor*- in the names of the lakes Maróz and Marózek and as *Mar*- in the names of the drained lake Marag.

It was written in two forms: as *Mor*- and *Mar*- . The variant *Maur*- in the name of Marag lake is purely substitutational, and it testifies that there was a long vowel in the root of the name and that the document was written by a writer who pronounced long vowels as diphthongs. We do not know if these were two long vowels *â* and *ê* in the Old-Prussian dialects or just one sound (Smoczynski, 886-887; Schmalstieg 17-18). The uniform and consequent records of particular names with either the vowel *â* or *ê* may indicate that Prussians used two long low phonemes pronounced with the back of the tongue. According to R. Trautmann the Prussian phoneme *â* occurring in Pomezian relics should be treated as an archaism. It is the reflex of Proto-Indo-European and Baltic *â*, which had not developed into *â* at that time yet. We may assume that at the time when the names were being recorded (14th century), the evolution of *â* into *ê* which Trautmann wrote about was not yet completed (Górnowicz, 1980:359-368, Trautmann, 1910:122-131). Both phonemes must have been pronounced differently in different names, as we cannot find them being confused by German writers. It is of greater interest still that in the language of the Teutonic Knight’s chancellory, long *â* is often used as long *o*. The Proto-Indo-European element *Mar*- may have had two variants *môr*- and *mar*- in the Prussian dialects which became fixed in water names. The boundaries of the use of these two forms can not be marked, as the objects analysed are situated close to one another. The Marag stream and Marag lake are situated 8 kilometres south-east of the former Morag lake and about 35 kilometres north-west of the lakes Maróz and Marózek and the drained Marag lake more or less halfway between the lake and the river Marag and Maróz, Marózek lakes. Considering the supposed Prussian tribal territory boundaries the lakes Maróz and Marózek were situated in the former Sasin area, the lakes Marag and Morag in Pogezania and the drained Marag lake on the border line between the former Galindia Forest and the Sasin area.

The grammatical form of the names presented above is a separate problem. Marag lake, which lies north of Lukta, was recorded in the following ways: *Marunge*, *Marink*, *Maringin*, *Marungen*, *Maringen*, *Marine*, *Maring*, *Marung*. The root *Mâr*- was expanded with a suffix recorded as *-ung*, *ink*, *-ing*, *-inc*. The formative recorded as *-ink* is surely a graphic variant of *-ing*, which arose as a result of the confusion of the sounds *g* and *k*, similarly *-inc* was a variant of *-ing*, in which *k*, denoting *g*, was recorded as *c*. In all the records and variants from the 16th century, the formative *-ung*- occurred
twice, -ing- eight times. In Prussian the name lake Marag may have been used as masculine noun and occurred as *Märingis. The name Mahrung See used by Germans is a phonetic substitute for the Prussian name expanded with the element See, and the name Morag is a Polish phonetic substitute for the Prussian name, in which the Prussian formative -ing- was adopted as Polish -ag.

The name of the river Marag, draining off the water from lake Marag to the river Pasłęka, has the forms Maringe, Morungis, Marungs, with the German substitutional elements dropped. Originally it may have been the same as the lake name and have had the form *Märungis.

The name of the present-day town Morag was recorded in the Middle Ages as: Morungen, Morung, Morunge. The Old-Prussian name of the town can be reconstructed as *Mörungis with the formative -ung- and the flexional ending -is in the nominative singular, masculine, of the Prussian -or-, -jo-stem declension. The name *Mörungis may have also been ascribed to the lake formerly situated south and south-west of the town and recorded in the 14th century as Mærin. The formative -ung- can also be reconstructed in the Prussian name of the drained Marag lake, which was recorded in the oldest documents as: Marung, maringe, Marung, Marang. Old Prussians may have used the name *Mörungis, the form with the suffix -ing- being its variant. The name recorded by Germans as Marung in 1378 may have emerged under the influence of the Polish pronunciation. In Prussian the formatives with -ng- occurring in: -ing-, -ung-, -ang- form many water names.

It is possible that the lakes Maròz and Marózek bore the Prussian name *Mörëns, derived from the formative -en- and recorded with the German endings -en, -e, as Morensen, Morense. In these records the Prussian ending of the nominative singular masc. -s, derived from the former -is, was preserved. Germans used the name Morensen and from the 18th century onward Maransen See with the elements Gross and Klein. The form Maransen was adopted by Poles as Mararg in the plural with the synchronic pronunciation -an- in front of the voiced fricative consonant. The Polish name Maroz resulted from the loss of nasality before fricatives in the pronunciation of the people inhabiting this area. The non-nasal pronunciation was recorded in 1785 in the name of the village Maros and in 1820 in Marosz. The vowel o occurring in the final syllable was pronounced as ū or closed o. The Prussian suffix -en-,

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Old Prussian marë in toponyms of the Warmia and Mazury districts similarly to -ing-, -ung-, -ang-, is used to form many other hydronyms in the Warmia and Mazury districts.

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Abbreviations


Endersch — the abbreviation refers to the map: *Tubula Geographica Episcopatum Warmiensium in Prussia exhibens Heilsberg, sola habitatio Episcopatus longitudinem 36 gradum et 16 minituarum ab inula Parro numero J. F. Endersch, 1793*.


OK 281 — *Prussia Accurate descripta a Casparo Hennengro, Königsberg 1576*.


SRW — C. P. Woelky, *Scriptores rerum Warmiensiam, Braunsberg 1889: E. Peter.*


ul. Żolnierska 22 m. 120
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Bezüglich der sprachlichen Konvergenzerfassungen im Baltikum lagen bislang in der Hauptsache Untersuchungen zu Einzelproblemen vornehmlich aus den Bereichen Phonologie und Lexik vor. Das vorliegende Bändchen, das aus einem Habilitationsvortrag entstanden ist, bringt nun einige neue und bisher kaum beachtete Argumente in die Diskussion, was die sprachlichen Beziehungen zwischen dem Lettischen und Estnischen angeht; das Livische wurde hier leider nicht berücksichtigt. Da der Verf. bewußt darauf verzichtet, den Vortragscharakter des Textes zu ändern, wird allenthalben deutlich, daß wir es hier nicht mit einer endgültigen Lösungen präsentierenden Monographie zu tun haben, sondern, wie der Verf. selbst mehrfach betont (S. 8, 14, 19 u.5.), mit einer Schrift, die vor allen Dingen zukünftige intensive linguistische Beschäftigung mit dem Baltikum anregen soll, darüber hinaus auch denen Denkanstöße geben soll, die sich allgemein mit dem Thema „Sprachbund“ befassen.

Das Werk besteht aus drei Teilen: In der Einleitung („Definitionsversuche“, S. 6-26) verdeutlicht der Verf., ausgehend von zwei Sprachbunddefinitionen, einer alten (Trubetzkoy) und einer neueren (Bußmann), seine eigene Zielsetzung und Vorgehensweise. Er macht auf die Mängel in diesen Definitionssätzen und auf die recht ungünstige Literaturlage aufmerksam, kritisiert vor allem die partiellen Ansätze früherer Arbeiten. Seines Erachtens ist es notwendig auf möglichst allen linguistischen Ebenen Argumente zu finden, die für einen möglich Sprachbund im Baltikum sprechen. — Im