

Greek place names in The deed of foundation of the Abbey of Tihany

The exploration of immediate Greek (Byzantine)–Hungarian linguistic contacts is a long-standing debt of research in Hungarian historical linguistics. In linguistic studies of Hungarian place names scattered in *The deed of foundation of the Abbey of Tihany* (1055), the possibility of Greek etymologies has hardly ever arisen so far. This paper starts from the archeologically supported assumption that Byzantine Greek monks did live in the Tihany Peninsula in the eleventh century. This is witnessed by two place names occurring in contemporary documents. One of these is *p&ra* ‘Petra’, localizable near the Abbey of Tihany, and the other is *tichon* ‘Tihany’ itself. The Greek origin of *Petra* is supported by the fact, established by archeological research, that the place it refers to was a monastery hewn in living rock, founded by Greek monks and constructed according to their habits. In addition, the place chosen (an island) and the name (monasteries called *Petra* ‘rock-cavity’ can be found elsewhere in the period) both suggest Greek, rather than Slavic, foundation. This assumption is further supported by ecclesiastical and legal historical evidence. – The name *Tihany*, assumed earlier to be of Slavic origin and go back immediately to a personal name and ultimately to *ticho* ‘silence’, was merely connected to the family of names like *Tihomir*, *Tihoslav* by folk etymology. In fact, it is the participle of the Greek verb *τυγχάνω*, turned into a personal name. In the Eastern Church, St. Tychon of Cyprus († 425), the Bishop of Amathus was especially highly respected; due to his active missionary work, he may have been especially suited to become the patron of a monastery founded by Greek (or Greek and Slavic) monks.

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