Methodological notes on the study of 11th-century Hungarian hydronyms

Hungarian onomastics research in the 19th and 20th centuries placed great emphasis on the study of hydronyms, partly because of their antiquity and partly because of their characteristic mode of construction. This is especially true for the study of periods with a lack of sources, such as the 11th century, the time of the foundation of the Hungarian state, because the etymology of old water names also served as a basis for ethno-historical studies. In the last two decades, new research has been launched to reassess the earliest written sources of the Hungarian language, using modern tools and methods to uncover data from early charters. The aim of this study is to take stock of the earliest hydronymic data. The data are interpreted from two aspects: which can be considered 11th-century and which can be considered water names. The reassessed corpus is both narrower than the database previously used as it excludes water names that have no verifiable 11th-century data, and broader as it includes data from charters that were not considered in previous studies.

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