

A Note Concerning The Reflexes of Proto-Slavic *ǫbľľ or *ǫbľľ

In his article on the survival of the Proto-Slavic root *ǫbľľ or *ǫbľľ, with the meaning 'well, source, ground depression for obtaining water, pit filled with water,' within the subsequently evolved Slavic world, F. Slawski asserts (6:445) that this root is not attested within the area of present East Slavic languages. This assertion would have to be revised in light of the fact that a reflex of *ǫbľľ does appear on the East Slavic territory, in the name of the village of Ublia. The latter is situated some 30 km North of the city of Uzhhorod (in the Trans-Carpathian oblast' of Ukraine), or some 40 km West of the town of Humenné (in Eastern Slovakia), on the Czechoslovak side of the Soviet-Czechoslovak border (2), i. e., in the South-Westernmost part of the Ukrainian ethnographic territory, situated now in Czechoslovakia. In terms of dialect specification, Ublia is on the territory of the Boïko dialect of Ukrainian, the central and the most archaic (3:31) of the three Ukrainian dialects to be found in the Carpathian mountains. Ublia is situated at its Western outskirts, for the border between the Boïko dialect and the Lemko dialect (which constitutes the Westernmost dialect of Ukrainian) runs along the river Laborets' (5:106), some 40 km West of Ublia. In the vicinity of Ublia, whose dialect has already been studied as early as the 1890's (1), there is also a mountain and a brook called Ublianka, obviously a derivative from Ublia (4:86-87; 7:577). In light of the above, Slawski's claim that the reflexes of the root under consideration appear mainly on the peripheries of the Slavic world (6:444) should also be reexamined.

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