Herkinalson

Author(s): Walter Worrall

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‘HERKINALSON.’

This odd-looking word had some currency in the earlier half of the reign of Queen Elizabeth, as the following quotations will show.

(1) Bp Jewel, *A Defence of the Apologie* Part 4 (ed. 1567), p. 380, in a lively handling of the legend of Pope Joan, writes :

For thus he saithe in effecte, What if the Pope were *Hermaphroditus*, an *Herkinalson*, that is to saie, a man, and a vvoman bothe in one ?

(2) T. Kendall, *Flowers of Epigrams* (1577) sig. A (= Spenser Society's reprint p. 17):

My mothers tyme of trauaile came,
her throwes and thrutches past :
A mungrill *Herkinalson*, she
did bryng me forthe at last.

This is a rendering of the line

Iam, qui sum natus, Hermaphroditus eram

of a well-known mediæval epigram which may be found in Riese, *Anthologia Latina* No. 786, or in Baehrens, *Poet. Lat. Min.* vol. 4, p. 114.

(3) Arthur Golding, *The Trewnesse of the Christian Religion* (1587), ch. xxvi, p. 458 :

Concerning the creation of Man, the Ægiptians say hee was created both Male and female. Herevpon Plato gathereth that he was a *Manwoman* or *Herkinalson*.

The original has

...Platon en a retiré qu'il fut fait Androgyne, ou Hermaphrodite.

(*De la Verité de la Religion chrestienne*: par Philippes de Mornay, Anvers 1581, p. 620.)

(4) Lastly, in a long and entertaining enumeration of ‘sprites’ and monsters, occurs this line :

hermafrodites, herkinnalesons, Eatons, pickehornes, & lestrigoni.

The Buggbears III, iii, 71, in R. W. Bond's *Early Plays from the Italian* p. 117. The date of this anonymous composition is very probably *circa* 1565.

These instances of the word leave us in no doubt as to its meaning. Its etymology is not so evident. (Mr Bond, in his note on the *Buggbears* passage, has made a suggestion improbable as to form and bearing no relation to the meaning of the word.) Can it be that ‘Herkinalson’ was deliberately invented by some Tudor wit as a vernacular rendering of ‘Hermaphroditus’—that it is made up of a male and female English

name? The latter part will then represent 'Alison.' The dissyllabic form actually occurs in *Jacke Jugeler*, where the character styled in the *Dramatis Personae* 'Ales trype and go'¹ appears later as 'Aulsoon tripe and goo' (ed. Grosart p. 40). The former part, 'Herkin,' looks like a diminutive of 'Herry' or 'Harry.' Such diminutives were fairly numerous—'Jankin,' 'Wilkin,' 'Tomkin,' etc. Of 'Herkin' or 'Harkin' I have as yet come across no instance in our early literature; but it has survived (like Hodgkin, Wilkins, etc.) in the surnames Harkin and Harkins.

WALTER WORRALL.

OXFORD.

THE ETYMOLOGY OF 'BUCKRAM.'

In the *New English Dictionary* the etymology of this word is discussed at some length, but inconclusively, the final verdict being that 'of the ultimate etymology nothing is really known.' Among other suggested derivations that from Bokhara is mentioned, only to be rejected. Yet this is the derivation accepted unhesitatingly by MM. Hatzfeld and Darmesteter in their *Dictionnaire Général*, in which *bougran* is described as 'dérivé de *Boukhara*, ville d'Asie, d'où venait au moyen âge ce tissu, beaucoup plus fin que le bougran de nos jours. Le suffixe de dérivation (*an* non *ain*) indique que le mot français est emprunté à une forme italienne aujourd'hui inusitée, *bucherano*.' I now find this etymology endorsed by the distinguished philologist, M. Antoine Thomas, who in a note on the word *bocaran*, in his edition of *L'Entrée d'Espagne*, recently issued by the 'Société des Anciens Textes Français,' says '*Bocaran* désigne proprement une étoffe fabriquée à Boukhara.'

PAGET TOYNBEE.

BURNHAM, BUCKS.

TWO ENGLISH TRANSLATIONS OF SCHILLER'S 'WALLENSTEIN.'

1. In modern bibliographies (e.g. Goedeke, and Rea, *Schiller's Dramas and Poems in England*, London, 1906, p. 146) the list of translations of Schiller's *Wallenstein* begins with Coleridge's translation of the *Piccolomini* and *Wallensteins Tod*, 1800, and passes then to George Moir's translation of these dramas in 1827.

¹ i.e., Alice Trip-and-go.