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Stang's law in Baltic

It has long been recognized that in accusative singular form of the Indo-European words for 'cow' and 'sky', Vedic *gām*, *dyām*, Greek βῶν, Ζῆν, the phoneme **u* was lost between a vowel and the following **-m*, cf. Vedic nom. sg. *gáus*, *dyáus*. Christian Stang linked this loss, which has long been recognized as an inner-Proto-Indo-European development, with the length of the preceding vowel. The loss of **u* would have caused compensatory lengthening of the preceding vowel. The same process was later argued to have taken place in the acc.sg. of the *ā*-stems as well: **-eh₂m* > PIE **-ām* on the strength of Skt. monosyllabic *-ām*, Greek *-ην* and Lith. non-acute *-ą* (Rix 1992: 75). Stang's law is widely, but not universally accepted, cf. Collinge's (1995: 37f.) conclusion that "[o]ne would like to join the happy throng of believers in Stang II, but the way remains very cloudy". During the talk, Stang's law will be discussed, with a focus on the relevant Baltic data, to wit Latv. *guovs* and the acc.sg. ending of the *ā*-stems.

References

- Collinge, Neville E. 1995 Further Laws of Indo-European. In: Werner Winter (ed.) *On languages and language*, Berlin–New York: Mouton de Gruyter, 27–52.
- Rix, Helmut 1992² *Historische Grammatik des Griechischen: Laut- und Formenlehre*. Darmstadt: Wissenschaftliche Buchgesellschaft.
- Stang, Christian S. 1965 Indo-européen **g^wōm*, **d(i)jēm*. In: Jan Safarewicz & Franciszek Sławski (eds.) *Symbolae linguae in honorem Georgii Kuryłowicz*. Wrocław: Zakład Narodowy Im. Ossolińskich, 292–296.