LATIN BRADIGABO — OLD ENGLISH FELDUOP
OLD LOW GERMAN FELDHOPPO.

The strange late Latin word bradigabo appears only in some Old English and Old German glosses which are closely connected with each other and the Latin scholars depend for the determination of its meaning on the interpretation of the Germanic glosses.

The word is first found in the Old English Epinal-Erfurt-Corpus group of glosses in the following forms: ¹

- Epinal (Sweet No. 131) bradigabo — felduop.
- Erfurt (Sweet No. 131) badrigabo — felduus.
- Corpus (Sweet No. 313) bradigabo — felduop.

The forms in the Erfurt glossary are a corruption by the foreign scribe who did not understand the English hand-writing. Also the same word occurs in a later O. E. gloss taken from the Epinal-Erfurt-Corpus group in the following form: ²

-bradigabo, ploratio campi — felduop.

From the same group of glosses were taken some of the O. E. and O. L. G. glosses in the 10th century Codex Oxoniensis Auct. F. 1. 16 and published by Steinmeyer and Sievers in their collection of Old High German glosses. There we find (Vol. IV, 245, 45):

-bradigabo — feldhoppo.

Also derived from the O. E. glossaries are the Latin text and marginal glosses in the Codex Trevirensis No. 40 and published

¹ quoted from H. Sweet, The Oldest English Texts, London 1885.
by Schlutter in *Anglia* 35, 145 ff. There the word is recorded as *bradigapo*.

Unfortunately the interpretation of the O. E. and O. L. G. words glossing *bradigabo* is not absolutely certain. Kluge, who seems to have been the first to consider the question ⁹, interpreted the O. E. and O. L. G. words to mean « wild hops », but he did not offer any evidence in support of this beyond the apparent connection of the O. L. G. *hoppo* with the modern German *Hopfen*. In his *Students Dictionary of Anglo-Saxon*, (Oxford 1911) Sweet also explained *feldu(u)op* as a plant name and thought that it denoted « plantain ». This earlier explanation of *bradigabo* as a plant name seems now to have been generally abandoned and it is now thought to be a bird name. In this article no new interpretation of the word is offered but attention is drawn to weighty evidence, which seems to have been overlooked, in favour of Kluge’s explanation.

Firstly the modern explanation that *bradigabo* is a bird name might be considered. It rests upon the following data:

1. The interpretation of the O. E. *feldu(u)op* as « field scream » This is supported by the late O. E. gloss which has *bradigabo*, *ploratio campi*. It seems however more likely the the 11th century glossator misunderstood the word for reasons given below and like the modern dictionary makers associated the second part of the compound with the O. E. *wôp*, a scream.

2. It is argued that the O. L. G. glossator of the Codex Oxon. misunderstood *feldwôp* and associated it with the native bird name *widuhoppo* (upupa) changing it to *feldhoppo*. In reply to this it might be pointed out the *wôp* was a common enough word in O. L. G. and since the glossator knew both O. E. and O. L. G. there is no reason why he should have failed to understand the meaning of the English compound.

The evidence that *bradigabo* is a bird name is therefore very scanty and modern authorities are at variance as to which bird is denoted. Lindsay in his edition of the *Corpus Glossary* (Cambridge, 1921) suggests either a whin-chat comparing *bradigabo* with the Dalmatian *prdevac* or an owl comparing it with

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the French local name brezago. Toller in his Supplement to Bosworth’s Anglo-Saxon Dictionary guesses « peewit » whilst Gal-lée in his Vorstudien zu einem altdeutschen Wörterbuch (Leiden 1903) has under feldhoppo « upupa, hoopoe ». Lehmann (Anglia-Beiblatt 17, 297) thought Feldwop meant « grasshopper » and he is followed in this by Holthausen in his Alldeutsch Etymologisches Wörterbuch (Heidelberg, 1934).

There is considerable evidence in support of the theory that bradigabo meant « wild hops ».

Firstly there is the position of the word in the O. E. and O. L. G. glosses. Lindsay has shown 4 that the word bradigabo was taken from glosses of the type he calls Hermeneumata. These are batches of bird-names, fish-names, plant-names, etc. arranged in meaning groups serving as a basis of instruction between master and pupil. These « batches » were then re-arranged in the English glosses in two ways — in the so-called A order, that is according to the first letter of the word and disregarding the other letters, or in the so-called AB order, that is according to the first two letters of the word. In the Epinal Erfurt glossaries the first method is used, in the Corpus the second. In the Epinal-Erfurt glossaries some of the words of the orginal batches will still be found together whilst the more precise arrangement of the Corpus glossary involves more considerable re-shuffling. The three adjacent words in the Epinal-Erfurt glossaries (Sweet, Nos. 130, 131, 132) bratium (malt) — bradigabo — beta (beet) are taken directly from one of the original batches and the position of bradigabo between two plant-names suggests that it too is a plant-name. In the A order of the Epinal-Erfurt glossaries these three words remained together from an original plant-name group but in the AB order which is adopted in the Corpus bratium and bradigabo remain together (Sweet, Nos. 322, 323) whilst beta is placed earlier (Sweet, No 285).

Turning now to the German MSS. we find (Althochdeutsche Glossen, vol. IV) 245, 42 bracium ; 43 bracinarium ; 44 bouellium ; 45 bradigabo. The lemma bouellium is here an intruder out of place in the alphabetical arrangement and may be ignored, and

bradigabo is therefore associated with the two words bracium and bracinarium. Further, in the Latin glosses published by Schlutter (l. c.) we find the order bratium, bratigapo, brationarium. It is clear that we have here an association of three words connected with brewing and on the basis of the O.L.G. *feldhoppe* bradigabo is to be interpreted as «hops», possibly «wild hops».

The second piece of evidence is decisive. In the Latin glosses of the Codex Trevirensis No 40 bradigabo is further glossed by *herba quae admiscet* (see Schlutter l. c. p. 153). Bradigabo (hops) is to be mixed with *bratium* (malt) to make beer.

Thirdly it does not appear to have been noticed that the O. L. G. word survives into Middle Low German as *velthoppe* (see Lübben, *Mittelniederdeutsches Handwörterbuch*, Norden and Leipzig, 1888, p. 474). It is true that the Middle Low German word has a different meaning from *feldhoppe*. There it denotes «hypericum», but changes in the meaning of plant-names are very common and the confusion may have arisen from the similarity of the pentamerous yellow bloom of the male hop plant to the flower of the hypericum.

Lastly we may enquire why the O. E. word was mutilated and not understood even by the later O. E. glossator who added the words *pleratio campi* which have misled the modern dictionary makers. The wild hop plant grew freely in all the milder parts of Europe and was cultivated at an early date. Hopgardens are mentioned in a deed of gift by Pipin in 768 to the Abbey of St. Denis and frequently in Germany in documents from the time of Charles the Great.

The Germanic word for «hops» was the O. H. G. *hopfo*. Hops were little cultivated in England in the earliest times and the original word was lost to the Anglo-Saxons shortly after they left the Continent. In late O. E. the foreign word *hymele* is found which is taken from Old Norse. It was not until the 16th century that the cultivation of hops became common in England and then the word «hops» was reintroduced from Low German or Dutch along with the use of hops in the manufacture of beer. The second part of the compound O. L. G. *feldhoppo*

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would rapidly become obscure to the O. E. scribes owing to the obsolescence of the simple word and was mutilated in the glosses to feldhu(n)op. Kluge has already shown (l. c.) that the u of this word is a relic of the old stem vowel (*felduho25 (pa)). The Epinal-Erfurt-Corpus glosses preserve many such stem vowels in the bridge of the compound which are dropped in other O. E. texts.

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