

## **Greek and Latin as etymological inspirers**

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Gradually, over the years, my interest in lexicology grew, and as if unnoticed and without any degree-oriented academic studies I became actively engaged in the field. For some reason my fame as an expert in etymology had spread, and, as a consequence of this, requests to explain the origins of certain words and phrases began to arrive. At some stage I noticed that, in addition to its actual function, my study had developed into a kind of “linguistic agency”. Yet, it is my own personal interest in classical languages – Greek above all – that has been the most important source of inspiration to me.

What is said above makes it understandable that the focus of this lecture is on examples which open themselves up to interesting connections. According to my personal motto, etymology combined with knowledge of the historical facts of the age in question is an excellent means of making the world transparent.

By education, I am a theologian and a teacher of piano; in addition, philosophy is my favourite pastime.