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ON LITHUANIAN *o* : INDO-EUROPEAN \**ō*

VGBS (p. 41) adduces, with a certain amount of discomfort, Lith. *vókas* as cognate to Slavic *věko*. Of course the Lith. *o* points to Baltic \**ā*, and on the Indo-European plan, this goes poorly with Slavic \**ē*. In fact, Albanian *vetullë* f. 'eyebrow, -lid' < \**uōklā* (> \**uōt(V)lā*<sup>1</sup> fits perfectly with *věko*, showing \**ō* : \**ē* in ablaut. Naturally, Lith. *uo* might be expected.

It must then be that the Lith. *o* < \**ā* presents a neo-lengthening from \**a*, which in turn is best here regarded as the outcome of \**ə*, i.e. a vocalized laryngeal. Thus we have \**vākas* or \**vaHkas* ← \**uakas* or \**uHkas*<sup>2</sup>.

Slavic *věko* then is \**uelk-o-m*, Albanian shows \**ol*, and Baltic \**u<sub>o</sub>lk-*.

Another form troubled Stang (VGBS 42), \**dā*- 'give'. Again, we must have a lengthening of *a* < \**ə*, and this time it seems plausibly to be Winter's lengthening, i.e. from the reduplicated forms, before \**d* (media). This would give a relative chronology for vowel quality, since Albanian shared with Balto-Slavic in Winter's lengthening.

<sup>1</sup> For the treatment of post-tonic velar + *l* in Albanian see E. P. Hamp, *Studia Albanica* 8(2), 1971, 155; *AJP* 75, 1954, 186–9.

<sup>2</sup> J. E. Rasmussen, Some additional examples of PIE \**-ēh<sub>2</sub>-* and \**-h<sub>2</sub>ē-*, ~ Copenhagen Working Papers in Linguistics, I, 1990/91, 87–100, proposes \**uáh<sub>2</sub>k-a-h<sub>2</sub>*, but that would require Alb. *vot-*.