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**AN ENGLISH-ROMANIAN  
EXPLANATORY DICTIONARY  
OF  
ONOMASTIC PHRASEMES**



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## A

Aaron 001

**Name data:** (*biblionym*) the name of a Biblical prophet and high priest, who was Moses's elder brother.

**Phrasemes:****(1) Aaron's beard**

**Meaning:** a popular wide plant (*Hypericum calycinum*), identified as having magical powers (DA, 1)

**Romanian equivalents:** sunătoare veșnic verde

**(2) Aron's rod**

**Meaning:** popular name of a widespread plant (*Verbascum thapsus*), an ornamental moulding entwined with sprouting leaves, a serpent, or scrollwork (in the lexicon of architecture)

**Romanian equivalents:** ornament în formă de toiag (ornat) cu frunze, viță de vie, un șarpe sau spirale

**(3) Aaron's serpent**

**Origin:** Aaron shows a powerful force that is apt to eliminate minor powers (Exodus vii.10-12)

**Romanian equivalent:** toiagul lui Aaron [FP]

Abaton 002

**Name data:** (*geonym*) a name used for various inaccessible places of antiquity (WDPF, 1).

**Origin and meaning:** from Greek *a*, "not" + *baino* "to tread"

**Phraseme:****(1) as inaccessible as Abaton**

**Meaning:** extremely difficult to reach

**Romanian version:**

i) **literal:** inaccesibil ca Abaton (nume

atribuit în antichitate unor locuri greu accesibile)

ii) **equivalent:** foarte greu accesibil [NNM]

Abderian 003

**Name data:** (*astionym*) adjective derived from Abdera, the name of an ancient city in Thrace; in modern times, this is also a girl's given name.

**Phraseme****(1) Abderian laughter**

**Origin and meaning:** the inhabitants of this "ancient city were known as rural simpletons who foolishly derided people and things they didn't understand. Thus these Thracians saw their name become a synonym for foolish, scoffing laughter or mockery. Though proverbially known for their stupidity, the Abderites included some of the wisest men in Greece, Democritus and Protagoras among them." (WPO, 2)

**Romanian versions:**

i) **literal:** răs abderian

ii) **equivalent:** răs prostesc [FP]

Abingdon 004

**Name data:** (*astionym*) the name of a town in Oxfordshire, South East England.

**Phraseme:****(1) Abingdon-law**

**Origin and meaning:** "In 1645, lord Essex and Waller held Abingdon, in Berks, against Charles I. The town was unsuccessfully attacked by Sir Stephen Hawkins in 1644, and by

prince Rupert in 1645. On these occasions the defenders put every Irish prisoner to death without a trial" (SCE, 2); hence, the meaning of "summary punishment".

**Romanian versions:**

- i) **literal:** legea (de la) Abingdon\*
- ii) **equivalent:** condamnare care ignoră cadrul juridic; condamnare fără respectarea normelor juridice

[FP]

**Abraham** 005

**Name data:** (*biblionym*) name of the first patriarch and father of the Hebrew nation (BDN, 3), which meant "father of a multitude" (DFN, 215).

**Phrasemes:**

- (1) *Abraham's bosom* or *bosom of Abraham*

**Meaning:** heaven, considered as the reward of the righteous<sup>1</sup>

**Romanian versions:**

- i) **literal:** sânul lui Avraam
- ii) **equivalent:** raiul, un loc în care își află răsplata cei drepți

- (2) *in Abraham's bosom*

**Meaning:** in a state of heavenly bliss, peace

**Romanian versions:**

- i) **literal:** ca-n sânul lui Avraam
- ii) **equivalent:** a trăi bine, a fi fericit

- (3) *an Abraham man* (or *Abram-man / Abraham cove*)

**Origin and meaning:** in Tudor and early Stuart times, the mentally weak licensed beggars placed in Abraham Ward at Bedlam were allowed to go a-begging on certain days, a practice that encouraged the appearance of many impostor beggars faking lunacy for getting alms (WDPF, 4).

**Romanian versions:**

- i) **literal:** un Abraham

- ii) **equivalent:** cerșetor care se prefacă că e nebun

- (4) *Abraham's eye*

**Origin and meaning:** "a magic eye the application of which was supposed to deprive a thief, who refused to confess his crime, of eyesight" (SCE, 2).

**Romanian version:** ochiul lui Avram

- (5) *Abraham's supreme test*

**Origin and meaning:** the expression originates in "God's command to Abraham to sacrifice his only son, Isaac, as a burned offering on Mount Moriah. Abraham readily agreed to comply and was about to kill Isaac with his knife when God, satisfied that Abraham's faith was genuine, intervened by providing a ram caught in a thicket to take Isaac's place (Genesis 22:1-19)" (DA, 3).

**Romanian version:** încercarea lui Abraham

- (6) *Abraham Newland*

**Origin and meaning:** the chief cashier to the Bank of England, between 1778 and 1807. His name became the synonym for a banknote.

**Romanian version:** bancnotă

- (7) *sham Abraham*

**Origin and meanings:** a guy named Abraham was a wandering beggar, who lived in Tudor times, and pretend to be mad. The expression means to feign sickness or distress; to pretend ignorance (WDPF, 8); to forge bank paper (SCE, 2).

**Romanian versions:**

- i) **literal:** a o face pe Abraham
- ii) **equivalent:** a simula o boală or necunoașterea unei situații; a falsifica bancnote [NNM]

**Acacia (Avenue)** 006

**Name data:** (*hodonym*) a fairly common street name in England.

Phraseme:

(1) *Acacia Avenue* (*British*)**Meaning:** any middle-class suburban street**Romanian versions:**

- i) **literal:** Strada Salcânilor  
 ii) **equivalent:** orice stradă din zona suburbană, tipică pentru clasa mijlocie [NNM]

**Academia (Academe)**

007

**Name data:** (*toponym*) derived from the name of *Academus*, an Athenian hero; *Academeia* was the name of the public garden (or a grove in Athens) where Plato and other philosophers instructed their pupils toward the end of the fourth century B.C.

**Phrasemes:**(1) *the groves of Academe*

**Origin and meaning:** the phrase is used in Horace's *Epistles* XII.ii.45. "The term refers to an actual place in ancient Greece, an olive grove outside Athens" (FFDC, 184).

**Romanian version:** academie, instituție de învățământ superior

(2) *toil in the grove of Academe*

**Romanian version:** a trudi pe tărâmurile lui *Academus*, a trudi în ținuturile Academiei [FP]

**Acestes**

008

**Name data:** (*characteronym*) a brave man in Vergil's *Aeneid* who shot his arrow so hard that it caught fire.

**Phraseme:**(1) *the arrow of Acestes*

**Meaning:** synonym of "fiery vehemence"

**Romanian version:** săgeata lui Acestes [FP]

**Achilles**

009

**Name data:** (*characteronym*) the name of the legendary Greek hero of the Trojan War, the central character of Homer's *Iliad*. It comes from Greek *akros*, meaning "distress", "pain", referring to the grief caused by the warrior's wrathful deeds.

**Phrasemes:**(1) *brave as Achilles*

**Meaning:** extremely courageous

**Romanian versions:**

- i) **literal:** curajos, vitez ca Ahile  
 ii) **figurative meaning:** extrem de curajos  
 (2) *Achilles' heel/an Achilles' heel*

**Meaning:** a fatal weakness of a very strong person that can actually or potentially lead to downfall.

**Romanian versions:**

- i) **literal:** călcâiul lui Ahile  
 ii) **equivalent:** slăbiciune, punct vulnerabil [NNM]

**Adam**

010

**Name data** (*biblionym*) biblical name from the Hebrew word meaning "man, earthman, red earth" (DFN, 216), the name of first human being, as creation myths have it.

**Phrasemes:**(1) *Adam's ale/wine*

**Meaning:** pure water

**Romanian versions:**

- i) **literal:** berea/vinul lui Adam\*  
 ii) **equivalent:** apă chioară  
 (2) *Adam's apple*

**Meaning:** a bulge in the throat, mostly seen in men

**Romanian versions:**

- i) **literal:** mărul lui Adam  
 ii) **equivalent:** mărul lui Adam, proeminență formată de cartilajul tiroid al laringelui, situat în partea

mediană a gâtului

(3) *Adam's curse* (ironic, col.)**Meaning:** synonym for "work"**Romanian versions:**i) **literal:** blestemul lui Adamii) **equivalent:** trudă, muncă(4) *Adam's needle***Meaning:** another name for *Yucca filamentosa***Romanian versions:**i) **literal:** acul lui Adamii) **equivalent:** spin (al plantei *Yucca*)(5) *the penalty of Adam***Meaning:** the labors implicit in living a life governed by nature and the turn of the seasons (DA, 6).**Romanian version:** pedeapsa lui Adam(6) *Adam's profession***Origin and meaning:** gardening (allusion to the one occupation that was available to Adam in the Garden of Eden, Genesis 2: 15).**Romanian versions:**i) **literal:** meseria / ocupația lui Adamii) **equivalent:** grădinaritul, grădinăria(7) *Adam's rib***Meaning:** woman (allusion to the biblical origin of Eve)**Romanian versions:**i) **literal:** coasta lui Adamii) **equivalent:** femeia(8) *happy as Adam at high tide***Meaning:** extremely happy**Romanian versions:**i) **literal:** fericit ca Adam la apogeuii) **equivalent:** în culmea fericirii(9) *old as Adam***Meaning:** ancient, full of years**Romanian versions:**i) **literal:** încărcat de ani / bătrân ca Adamii) **equivalent:** de pe vremea lui Adam  
Badabam(9) *the old Adam / the offending Adam***Meaning:** the sinful part of human nature**Romanian versions:**i) **literal:** bătrânul / păcătosul Adamii) **equivalent:** partea păcătoasă a naturii umane(10) *since Adam was a boy***Meaning:** from ancient times**Romanian version:** de pe vremea lui

Adam; de pe vremea lui tata Noe; din străbuni; din moși strămoși.

(11) *not know someone from Adam***Meaning:** not to know someone by sight**Romanian versions:**i) **literal:** a nu deosebi pe cineva de Adam\*ii) **equivalent:** a nu ști cum arată cineva la față(12) *Adam ate the apple and our teeth still ache***Meaning:** referring to long-lasting effects of wrongdoings**Romanian version:** părinții au mâncat poame acre și copiii lor li s-au strepezit dinții [NNM]

Adonis

011

**Name data:** (*Greek mythonym*) the name of a handsome young man with whom goddess Aphrodite fell in love.**Phraseme:**(1) *an Adonis complex***Origin and meaning:** a young men's yearn to look and feel good, showing their chest and arms muscles after long hours in fitness halls.**Romanian version:** complexul (lui) Adonis(2) *Adonis flower***Meaning:** name of a spring flower**Romanian version:** rușcuța de primăvară

[FP]

**Name data:** the adjectival form that is used in relation to winds and which is derived from Aeolus, the name of the Greek god of winds.

**Phrasemes:**

(1) *aeolian harp* (poet.)

**Meaning:** sounds which are produced naturally by the wind as it passes over a stretched string (DA, 8).

**Romanian version:** harpă eoliană

(2) *aeolian rocks* (poet.)

**Meaning:** stones deposited or worn by the wind (DA, 8)

**Romanian version:** roci/stânci sau pietre eoliene (roase / tocite de vânt) [FP]

**Name data:** name of a popular novel about middle class villagers "who live in the shire counties and own an Aga stoves, a name derived from that of the original manufacturers [...] A[ktienbolaget] G[as]a[ckumulator]" (ADEP, 42).

**Phrase:**

(1) *an Aga saga*

**Meaning:** the phrase refers to that "bourgeois nostalgia [...] preoccupied with the tribulations of domestic affairs" (ADEP, 42).

**Romanian versions:**

i) **literal:** [o] legendă Aga\*

ii) **equivalent:** (orice) poveste despre viața la țară [FP]

**Name data:** (*biblionym*) the name of the king of Amalekites, mentioned in the Bible.

**Phraseme:**

(1) *walk with the delicacy of/like Agag*

**Origin and meaning:** "you will have to

talk like Agag when you talk to him (1 Samuel XV, 32, 33) i.e., like treading on egg shells or like walking through a minefield".

**Romanian version:** a pași cu atenție / grijă / prudentă/ băgare de seamă; a merge ca pe un teren minat/ ca pe coji de ouă/ nucă [FP]

**Name data:** (*charactonym*) king of Mycenae leader of the Greeks during the Trojan war.

**Phraseme:**

(1) *there were brave men before Agamemnon*

**Origin and meaning:** the verse is a quotation from the Odes of Horace.

**Romanian versions:**

i) **literal:** au existat bărbați viteji și înaintea lui Agamemnon

ii) **equivalent:** eroi au fost, eroi sunt încă [FP]

**Name data:** (*charactonym*) a corruption of Arabic *Ala'-ad-Din*, meaning "excellence in faith" (BDN, 11); name of a famous hero of the *Arabian Nights*.

**Phrasemes:**

(1) *an Aladdin's cave*

**Meanings:** (1) accumulation of material or artistic wealth, often unsuspected; (2) a place where something is abundant.

**Romanian versions:**

i) **literal:** peșteră a lui Aladdin

ii) **equivalent:** peștera lui Aladdin; loc al comorilor nebănuite

(2) *fabulous as Aladdin's lamp*

**Meaning:** barely credible, magic

**Romanian versions:**

i) **literal:** fermecat/ vrăjit ca lampa lui Aladin

ii) **equivalent:** ireal, de-a dreptul  
fabulos

### (3) *finish Aladdin's window*

**Meaning:** attempt to complete something begun by a master hand (WDPF, 18)

**Romanian versions:**

i) **literal:** a termina fereastra lui Aladin\*

ii) **equivalent:** a încerca să duci la bun sfârșit ceva început de un profesionist [NNM]

## Alberich 017

**Name data:** (*mythonym*) the name of a king of the dwarfs in the mythology of the Scandinavians.

**Phraseme:**

### (1) *Alberich's cloak*

**Meaning:** a cloak that helps a person to operate undetected (DA, 11).

**Romanian versions:**

i) **literal:** pelerina / mantia lui Alberich

ii) **equivalent:** haină care te face invizibil [FP]

## Aldgate 018

**Name data:** (*urbanonym*) name given to the eastern-most gateway through London Wall, leading from the City of London to Whitechapel and the East End of London.

**Phrase:**

### (1) *old as Aldgate* ([TTEM, 205])

**Meaning:** ancient

**Romanian versions:**

i) **literal:** la fel de vechi ca poarta Aldgate\*

ii) **equivalent:** vechi de când lumea și pământul [NNM]

## Aleck 018

**Name data:** (*andronym*) a diminutival

form of Alexander.

**Phrasemes:**

### (1) *a Smart Alec(k)* (*eponymous term originated in slang*)

**Meaning:** a conceited person who likes to show off how clever and knowledgeable he is.

**Romanian versions:**

i) **literal:** un Alec(k) istețul\*

ii) **equivalent:** (*peior.*) om care face pe deșteptul/ atotștiutorul/ deștept; a se crede buricul pământului

### (2) *to be a smart Aleck*

**Meaning:** to be self-assured and almost impudent

**Romanian versions:**

i) **literal:** a fi Alec istețul

ii) **equivalent:** a se crede buricul pământului / pretinde / da atotștiutor [NNM]

## Alexander 020

**Name data:** (*andronym*) Greek name meaning "defender of man" (BDN, 14) or "a helper of men" (DFN, 219); name of a real historical character, commonly known as Alexander the Great, king of Macedonia, founder of Alexandria (356-323 B. C.).

**Phrasemes:**

### (1) *Alexander's beard*

**Meaning:** a beardless smooth chin

**Romanian versions:**

i) **literal:** barba împăratului Alexandru

ii) **equivalent:** (*ironic*) o bărbie netedă, rasă

### (2) *continnence of Alexander*

**Origin and meaning:** the legend has it that Alexander the Great was well known for treating any woman who became his prisoner with respect; hence, the meaning of self-control and respect to persons in inferior positions (DA, 12).

Romanian version: forță interioară de reținere, capacitate de autocontrol

(3) *brave as Alexander*

Romanian versions:

- i) **literal:** viteaz ca Alexandru (Macedon)
- ii) **equivalent:** voinicul voinicilor [NNM]

Alice 021

**Name data:** (*charactonym*) the eponymous name of a female fictional character made popular by L. Carroll's novels.

**Phraseme:**

(1) *Alice in Wonderland* (*eponymous adjective*)

**Meaning:** illusory; unreal

**Romanian versions:**

- i) **literal:** Alice în Țara Minunilor
- ii) **equivalent:** iluzoriu, ireal [NNM]

Alice Springs 022

**Name data:** (*astionym*) the name of a town (AGL, 13) in central Australia.

**Phraseme:**

(1) *been via Alice Springs?*

**Meaning:** criticism addressed to someone who has taken longer than expected

**Romanian versions:**

- i) **literal:** ai luat-o prin Alice Springs? \*
- ii) **equivalent:** vii din Patagonia/ de la capătul lumii? [NNM]

Amelia 023

**Name data:** (*charactonym*) the name originates in Germanic, where it means "busy, energetic". It is the name of Henry Fielding's heroine in his eponymous novel (1751).

**Phraseme:**

(1) *an Amelia*

**Meaning:** a model of conjugal affection

**Romanian versions:**

- i) **literal:** o Amelie
- ii) **equivalent:** soție model [NNM]

Amphitryon 024

**Name data:** (*mythonym*) the name of a Greek mythological character, king of Thebes and husband of Alcmene.

**Phraseme:**

(1) *an Amphitryon* (eponymous name)

**Meaning:** a generous entertainer; a good host

**Romanian versions:**

- i) **literal:** un Amfitrion
- ii) **equivalent:** un amfitrion, un stăpân al unei case [NNM]

Anania / Ananias 025

**Name data:** (*biblionym*) the name of a rich man who was struck dead because he lied to Peter the apostle who knew about the lie (Acts 5:1-12) (DA, 17).

**Phrasemes:**

(1) *Ananias brand*

**Meaning:** an imposture (DS, 11)

**Romanian version:** impostură, acțiune/ faptă de impostor

(2) *Anania club*

**Meaning:** a band of liars or deceivers (DA, 17)

**Romanian versions:**

- i) **literal:** clubul lui Anania\*
- ii) **equivalent:** o gașcă de minciună

(3) *play Ananias and Sapphira*

**Meaning:** to keep back part of the swag (DS, 11).

**Romanian version:** a păstra/ ascunde/ dosi o parte din prada obținută prin furtul în grup [FP]

Andrew

026

**Name data:** (*hagionym* and *andronym*) the Saint Patron of Scotland.

**Phrasemes:**

(1) (*St.*) *Andrew's cross*

**Origin:** the x-shaped cross on which Saint Andrew is said to have been martyred by crucifixion.

**Romanian version:** crucea Sfântului Andrei

(2) *merry Andrew*

**Meaning:** a quack's attendant (used as a common word, it was a synonym of serving-man).

**Romanian version:** slujbaș / servitor [FP]

Ann (San Fairy)

027

**Name data:** a female given name

**Phraseme:**

(1) *San Fairy Ann*

**Origin and meaning:** this phrase is a jocular representation of "ça ne fait rien", the French phrase which has preserved its original meaning in its anglicised form: (1) it does not matter; it makes no difference (DCPH, 288).

**Romanian version:** nu face nimic / nu contează! [FP]

Anne Frank

028

**Name data:** (*gynonym*) the name of a German-born diarist and World War II Holocaust victim

**Slang phrase:**

(1) *as useful as Anne Frank's drum kit*

**Meaning:** pointless, ineffective, useless

**Romanian version:** complet lipsit de valoare, inutil [NNM]

Annie

029

**Name data:** (*gynonym*) a quite common female name which is used to refer to

"any woman".

**Phraseme:**

(1) *anytime Annie*

**Meaning:** woman who is always willing to have sex (*Am. slang*) (WPO, 32).

**Romanian version:** cea totdeauna gata

(2) *up in Annie's room*

**Origin and meaning:** the phrase was informally used in the First World War in answer to an enquiry about soldiers who were missing or had been killed (ADEP, 62).

**Romanian versions:**

i) **literal:** sus, în camera Anei\*

ii) **equivalent:** (este/stă ascuns/ă) (acolo) după ușă (în știubeiul cu cenușă) [FP]

Anthony (St.)

030

**Name data:** (*gynonym* and *hagionym*) a male given name, popular as the name of a hermit, the patron saint of swineherds (DSUE, 21).

**Origin and meaning:** in Latin, it has the meaning of "priceless"

**Phrasemes:**

(1) *St. Anthony's pig* (eponymous name)

**Meaning:** the type of person who follows unthinkingly, a sponger.

**Romanian versions:**

i) **literal:** porcul Sfântului Anton

ii) **equivalent:** un lingău, o căpușă

(2) *follow about like an Anthony pig / T Antony pig*

**Meaning:** follow very closely

**Romanian versions:**

i) **literal:** a urma îndeaproape pe cineva întocmai precum porcul Sfântului Anton

ii) **equivalent:** a urmări pe cineva ca o umbră; a se ține ca gaia-mașu după cineva; a se ține de coada cuiva

[NNM]

Antyphates

031

**Name data:** (*mythonym*) the name of the king of Laestrygones, a tribe of gigantic cannibals.

**Phraseme:****(1) Antyphates' wife**

**Meaning:** the king's wife was so ugly that she became the epitome of ugliness (MM 20)

**Romanian versions:**

- i) **literal:** soția / nevasta lui Antyphates (simbol al urâteniei feminine) \*
- ii) **equivalent:** urâtenia întruchipată, urâtenia absolută, întruparea slujeniei [FP]

Apache

032

**Name data:** name of a Native American people inhabiting the southwest United States and northern Mexico.

**Phraseme:****(1) apache(s)**

**Meaning:** member of the Parisian underworld

**Romanian meaning:** apaș (mafioț parizian; membru al lumii interlope pariziene)

**(2) Apache silence**

**Origin and meaning:** a syntagm used to name "the use of silence as a form of communication in situations where words are difficult to find" (WPO, 24).

**Romanian version:** tăcere care provine din dificultatea găsirii cuvântului potrivit [FP]

Apollo

033

**Name data:** (*mythonym*) the Greek god of prophecy, music, medicine and poetry, whose sparkling and brilliant nature made him be considered "the most powerful of the gods" (Comte

1994: 46).

**Phraseme:****(1) the son of Apollo**

**Meaning:** a scholar

**Romanian versions:**

- i) **literal:** fiul lui Apollo
- ii) **equivalent:** învățat, erudit, savant (un fiu al lui Apollo) [FP]

Arab

034

**Name data:** (*ethnonym*) of or related to the inhabitants of the Arabic Peninsula.

**Phraseme:****(1) fold their tents like the Arabs**

**Origin and meaning:** this phrase is found in Longfellow's poem *The Day Is Done* (1844) and it means to make a discreet, unnoticed exit.

**Romanian version:** a părăsi un loc pe nesimțite [FP]

Ararat (Mountain)

035

**Name data:** (*oronym*) an extremely beautiful mountain peak, one of Armenia's natural beauties, now part of the Turkish territory.

**Phraseme:****(1) the ark rested on Mt. Ararat**

**Meaning:** this phrase is used in familiar language as an ironical retort.

**Romanian version:** a(u) descoperit America! / apa caldă! / roata! [FP]

Arcadia

036

**Name data:** (*geonym*) the name is used for: 1. a region offering rural simplicity and contentment; 2. a vision of harmony with nature.

**Phraseme:**

**(1) an Arcadia** (eponymous name) = an idyllic place

**Origin and meaning:** the term is derived

from an ancient Greek province of the same name and it became "a poetic byword for an idyllic vision of unspoiled wilderness"<sup>2</sup>.

**Romanian versions:**

- i) **literal:** o Arcadie
- ii) **equivalent:** "o țară imaginară cu oameni de o rară puritate în comportarea lor, raiul pe pământ"<sup>3</sup>

(2) *et in Arcadia ego*

**Meaning:** and I too in Arcadia

**Romanian versions:**

- i) **literal:** și eu am fost în Arcadia
  - ii) **equivalent:** și eu am fost fericit
- [NNM]

Archylocus 037

**Name data:** the name of a Greek satirical poet who lived in the 7<sup>th</sup> century B. C.

**Phraseme:**

(1) *Archylochian bitterness*

**Meaning:** mocking, personalized satire (DA, 25)

**Romanian versions:**

- i) **literal:** amărăciune arhilochiană, satiră personalizată\*
  - ii) **equivalent:** ironie îndreptată asupra unei anumite persoane
- [FP]

Argus 038

**Name data:** (*mythonym*) the name of a giant in Greek mythology. *Argos*, the common word which means "bright" was a giant with a hundred eyes who guarded the heifer Io.

**Phrasemes:**

(1) *an Argus*

**Meaning:** a watchful or alert person

**Romanian versions:**

- i) **literal:** un Argus
- ii) **equivalent:** un păzitor vigilant

(2) *Argus-eyed*

**Meaning:** jealously watchful

**Romanian version:** cu ochi de Argus

[NNM]

Ariadne 039

**Name data:** (*mythonym*, resulting from Greek, *αρι* [ari] "most" and *αἶνος* [adnos] "holy"); the name of the daughter of Minos and Pasiphaë who helped Theseus to find his way out of the Minotaur's labyrinth by giving him a thread.

**Phraseme:**

(1) *Ariadne's thread*

**Meaning:** the solving of a problem through an exhaustive application of logic to all available routes

**Romanian versions:**

- i) **literal:** firul Ariadnei
  - ii) **equivalent:** soluție salvatoare, salvare; fir călăuzitor
- [NNM]

Arkansas 040

**Name data:** (*geonym*) a state name in south central United States; the Indian tribal name Arkanseá (ANP, 30), whose meaning is unknown; the name is also indicated as deriving from the same root as the one for the state of Kansas.

**Phraseme:**

(1) *Arkansas toothpick*

**Meaning:** a large knife, dagger

**Romanian versions:**

- i) **literal:** o scobitoare de Arkansas\*
  - ii) **equivalent:** un cuțit cât toate zilele
- [NNM]

Arkell 041

**Name data:** brand name which comes from *Arkell's brewery* with an

established tradition in Stratton St. Margaret near Swindon, in the UK. Our assumption is that the Arkell refers to the Arkell family and their brewery.

**Phraseme:**

- (1) *go all round the Wrekin to get to the Arkell*

**Meaning:** go the long way, not say something directly (ITEM, 404)

**Romanian versions:**

- i) **literal:** a o lua pe după Wrekin pentru a ajunge la Arkell  
 ii) **equivalent:** a o lua pe ocolite/pe după prun [NNM]

**Arthur Duffey** 042

**Name data:** (*andronym*) full name of an American track and field athlete (1879-1955).

**Phraseme:**

- (1) *take it on the Arthur Duff(e)y*

**Romanian versions:**

- i) **literal:** ia-te după Arthur Duffey  
 ii) **equivalent:** a spăla putina; a fugi mâncând pământul [NNM]

**Asian / Asiatic** 043

**Name data:** (*toponym*) of or related to the continent of Asia.

**Phrasemes:**

- (1) *Asian levy*

**Origin and meaning:** a bribe that was paid by ship-owners to the National Union of Seamen at £30 a head annually for each lowly paid Asian crew member employed on a British-registered ship in return for the union raising no objection (ADE, 13).

**Romanian version:** dijmuire / dijmuială / plată / taxă asiatică neoficială achitată de armată

- (2) *Asiatic hoards*

**Origin and meaning:** "hoarde" was first used to name the tent of Batu Khan,

Genghis Khan's grandson, who crossed the Volga River in 1235. His savage invasion of Europe left destruction and horror behind. Batu's "tent, made mostly of embroidered silk, was called the sira ordu, the "silken camp." Conquered Poles called it the horda and soon the name "Gold en Horde" was applied to both Batu's tent and his army. In time "horde" came to describe any large, savage army, especially in the phrase Asiatic hordes" (WPO, 53).

**Romanian version:** Hoarda de Aur, hoardele tătare [FP]

**Assfordby** 044

**Name data:** (*comonym*) the name of a village (AGL, 13), north-east of Leicester, UK.

**Phraseme:**

- (1) *has gone over Assfordby Bridge backwards*

**Meaning:** one of the past learning or who gets things in the wrong order.

**Romanian version:** a pus carul înaintea boiler/ căruța înaintea cailor [FP]

**Atalanta** 045

**Name data:** (*mythonym*) the name of a fleet-footed huntress in Greek mythology who raced against Hipomenes, but, with Aphrodite's help, he won the race (DA, 30).

**Phraseme:**

- (1) *Atalanta's race*

**Meaning:** a contest won through trickery

**Romanian versions:**

- i) **literal:** întrecerea / cursa / concursul Atalantei  
 ii) **equivalent:** concurs câștigat pe nedrept, prin fraudă; victorie câștigată prin înșelătorie / înșelăciune [FP]