

*Askaburgija

Runic: ᚠ ᚷ ᚨ ᚠ ᚢ ᚱ ᚷ ᚠ ᚷ ᚠ

Pronunciation: /'as.kə.,bur.yi.jã/

proper noun · neuter · ja-stem

Meanings

Asciburgium, a fortress constructed by the Romans on the present-day boundary between Moers and Duisburg.

Etymology

From Germanic **askaz* + **burgz* + **(i)jq*. The ancient forms Latin *Asciburgium* and Ancient Greek Ἀσκιβούργιον (*Askibourgion*) indicate such a *ja*-formation (Scheungraber & Grünzweig 2014: 78–79). The name is best interpreted ‘(place) at the ash hill/elevation’; ‘ash-fortress’ is possible if **burgz* had already developed ‘height’ > ‘fortified height’ > ‘fortification’, but the homonymous Ptolemaic mountain name favors the older topographic sense (Scheungraber & Grünzweig 2014: 79–80). The first constituent belongs to **askaz* (Kroonen 2013: 38); older scholarship reconstructs Germanic **askiz*, which would more directly account for the transmitted *Asci-/Aski-* (Pokorny 1959: 782, s.v. **ōs*, *ōs-i-s*, *ōs-en-*, *os-k-*). The second constituent **burgz* continues an inherited zero-grade formation from Proto-Indo-European root **b^herg^h-*, with close Proto-Celtic *brig-*; the development toward ‘fortified place, town’ is shared especially by Germanic and Continental Celtic (van Sluis et al. 2023: 199, 224).

Declension

Case	Singular	Plural
Nom.	Askaburgijā	—
Acc.	Askaburgijā	—
Gen.	Askaburgas, Askaburgīs	—
Dat.	Askaburgijai	—
Inst.	Askaburgijō	—
Voc.	Askaburgijā	—

Descendants

Asciburgium (Latin)

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Related Words

Words mentioned in this entry

*-(i)jā suffix *askaz noun *burgz noun