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pro·thon·o·tar·y  (prō-thŏn ə-tĕr'ē, prō'thə-nō tə-rē) also **pro·ton·o·tar·y** (prō-tŏn ə-tĕr'ē, prō'tə-nō tə-rē)

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n. pl. **pro·thon·o·tar·ies** also **pro·ton·o·tar·ies**

The principal clerk in certain courts of law.

[Middle English *prothonotarie*, from Medieval Latin *prōthonotārius*, from Late Latin *prōtonotārius* : Greek *prōto-*, proto- + Latin *notārius*, secretary (from *nota*, mark; see **gnō-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#)).]

pro·thon·o·tar i·al (prō-thŏn'ə-târ ē-əl, prō'thə-nō-târ -) *adj.*

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Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

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The Indo-European appendix covers nearly half of the Indo-European roots that have left their mark on English words. A more complete treatment of Indo-European roots and the English words derived from them is available in our [Dictionary of Indo-European Roots](#).

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