achieved. Copyright problems involving museum materials were discussed. There is apparently a concern by certain museums about having their materials available on the Web, and as a result some museum websites allow only a restricted amount of material to be viewed at one time (or, alternatively, permit an object to be viewed only at a low resolution). To overcome copyright problems for text editions, the Oxford team suggested that authors might donate their own editions of texts for inclusion in a database, thereby bypassing copyright restrictions.

Development and Funding of Projects. The speakers on the two Sumerian projects (Timney; Black and Robson) offered a number of suggestions for establishing and financing Web projects, including: set an attainable goal for the project; make the project accessible to as wide audience as possible (i.e., make it viewable on various computer platforms, whether Mac, PC, or UNIX, and not reliant on a particular brand of software); give careful thought to the structure of the project, noting how other projects have been set up; and for long-range projects, consider locating an endowed funding source, so the project is not dependent upon year-to-year funding.

Archival Support. A need for wider institutional archival support of electronic media was expressed. How should one store various electronic versions (or should one save past versions at all)? A uniform way to note different versions of a Web publication is a desideratum. Should all previous versions be retained in an archive, just as earlier editions of printed works are? If three changes are made to a Web document, does this constitute a new “edition” and should it be archived separately? Should this archival support come from the university or from a governmental agency?

Web Publications. The need for Web projects and publications to count in faculty reviews was brought up. The Stoa project, http://www.stoa.org, addresses this issue by providing a site to post refereed publications and projects.

Editing Concerns of Web Sites. How can a viewer gauge the accuracy of material on websites? Some sites may look reputable, but contain erroneous information. Should the university be giving their stamp of approval to sites? Some of the issues regarding websites and the material they contain are true for print publications as well (poor editing, illegal copying of material, etc.). It was suggested that a “level” might be indicated on publications posted on one’s website, indicating which papers have been peer-reviewed and/or thoroughly edited, and which have not.

At the conclusion of the conference, a working group on the electronic form of ancient Near Eastern texts was created under the leadership of Steve Timney. Such a working group could, on the model of other working groups created within the hard sciences, offer recommendations to international standards bodies. Subgroups could also be established to cover particular issues. The group from the University of Birmingham generously offered to hold the next conference on their campus. The Chicago conference, graciously hosted and organized by David Schloen, concluded on a hopeful note, portending continued cooperation in the future.

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Hamp Lectures on the Albanian Language
Ohio State University
November 29–December 4, 1999

Eric P. Hamp, professor emeritus of the University of Chicago, paid a week-long visit to Ohio State University from November 29 to December 4 to give a series of lectures on the history and dialectology of the Albanian language. His visit was sponsored by the Kenneth E. Naylor Professorship in South Slavic Linguistics, an endowed chair in the Department of Slavic and East European Languages and Literatures that was created by Kenneth E. Naylor in his will. This chair (now held by Brian Joseph) serves to honor the memory of Kenneth Naylor, a leading Balkanist and South Slavic scholar who devoted most of his scholarly career to the promotion of Balkan studies at Ohio State; inviting Professor Hamp to lecture on Albanian was in keeping with the goals of this professorship, namely to continue the Naylor legacy and to continue to promote the study of the languages of the Balkans and their interactions with one another.

Professor Hamp lectured for more than seventeen hours over six days, starting on November 29 with a general introduction to the place of Albanian in the Indo-European family, and followed on suc-
cessive days by talks on the history and development of Albanian studies and the Albanian dialects in particular, often drawing on the extensive fieldwork he has conducted while visiting Albanian diaspora villages in Greece, Macedonia, Bulgaria, and Italy over the past forty-five years.

In addition, Professor Hamp spoke on “A Useful Orthography for Albanian Dialect Differences” as part of a workshop on Albanian linguistics on Saturday, December 4, that included talks by Eda Derhemi of the University of Illinois (“Language Death in Piana [Italy]”), Victor Friedman of the University of Chicago (“Comparative Balkan Perspectives on Admirativity in Albanian”), Brian Joseph of Ohio State University (“Albanian Interjections in a Pan-Balkan Light”), Kelly Maynard of the University of Illinois (“Historical Development of Albanian Dialects”), and Jerry Morgan of the University of Illinois (“Nyje in the Dialect of Matranga”).

While there is much that could be reported on from Professor Hamp’s lectures, we will focus in this report on those points that are of greatest interest to the Indo-Europeanist (as opposed to the pure Albanologist or Balkanist).

In his first and most general lecture, “The IE Character of Albanian,” Professor Hamp—in a typical tour de force—gave a remarkable overview of the history of Albanian linguistics, with a consideration of the most striking contributions Albanian makes to Indo-European linguistics. We list here six that he focused on.

First, he gave a clear presentation of the best forms that show the Albanian evidence for reconstructing a three-way contrast in the guttural consonants (now generally referred to as “tectals,” though Hamp noted that the term “guttural”—found quite extensively in the literature—is “so unphonetic as to be useful as a label”). These forms are: *thotē ‘he says’ = Old Persian thāthī ‘says’ < *kē-, kohē ‘time’ = Slavic časū ‘hour’ < *kēskā, and sorrē ‘blackbird’, a vṛddhi derivative to the zero-grade in Sanskrit kyāna- < *kērsmā. This evidence was recognized as early as 1900 by Holger Pedersen but has not been given its due consideration in the literature, yet it accords with what the comparative method tells us (e.g., contrast before *r) and with the evidence uncovered for Anatolian by Melchert 1987. On a related matter, regarding a centum/satem division within Indo-European, Hamp said “satem-centum-shmentum!” noting that “satem-centum is a name for a grand error of Indo! -European linguistics.”

Second, he gave a succinct statement of why he believes in a fourth laryngeal. Albanian has #h- in places where Hittite has zero (that is, a vowel-initial form), cf. Albanian hap ‘open’ which is cognate with Hittite appa ‘afterwards’. For Hittite, the absence of an h- is unexpected under a three-laryngeal system, while for Albanian the presence of the h- is unexpected.

Third, Professor Hamp made the important observation that Albanian does a better job (so to speak) of preserving what must be inherited suppletion in the verb than any other language (and certainly any other modern European language). For example, bie ‘bear, carry’, cognate with Sanskrit bhār-, Latin fero, Greek φέρω, etc., has a preterite (in Tosk) pruari, where the preterite is suppletive (as with Greek ἤρενκα) and is from *pro- (with a perfectivizing force, as with Old Irish re and Slavic pro-čítat’, etc.) plus a root form that “is the business end of what is in ἤρενκα”!

Fourth, Professor Hamp identified traces of correlative syntax, familiar from Sanskrit, early Greek, and Hittite, all packed into the preposition tek ‘in, at’ which, somewhat unusually, governs a nominative object. He suggested that tek was originally ‘there where NOMINATIVE is’ with the copula suppressed, the r- reflecting the *t-o- demonstrative, and the -k reflecting the labiovelar *kʷ relative stem.

Fifth, the feminine formation in -n- in zot ‘master’ / zonjē ‘lady’ parallels what is found in Greek πόντου and Sanskrit patni (thus Albanian provides the only non-eastern IE evidence for this feminine formation).

Sixth, he discussed the abundant presence of Wackernagel’s Law in Albanian, in that its effects are found in both the noun phrase and the verb phrase. Wackernagel’s Law placement of the demonstrative within the NP gives the basis for the definite marker. In the verb, the marker u of the nonactive (mediopassive) voice in, for instance, the preterite and the imperative, shows the effects of Wackernagel’s Law in its positioning (u vra ‘he killed himself’ vs. vra-h-u! ‘kill yourself!’).

In addition, Professor Hamp discussed the (non) evidence for Illyrian and explained why there is no foundation for a claim that Albanian is descended from Illyrian.
There was much more in the full week of lectures, questions, and discussion, including a review of other scholars of Albanian and their various contributions to scholarship, the identification of the location and divergences in the Albanian dialects of Italy and Greece, a presentation of various sound changes in Albanian, and a consideration of the relationship between Romanian and Albanian.

An edited version of notes from his lectures is currently being compiled and will be published later this year as a special issue in the Kenneth E. Naylor Memorial Lecture Series, established by the Naylor Professorship in 1999. This booklet will be available at a nominal cost still to be determined. For information on this booklet, expected to be fifty-plus pages in length, or to place an advance order, please contact Brian Joseph at Ohio State University, preferably via electronic mail (at joseph.1@osu.edu).

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Book Reviews


This magisterial two-volume collection of papers on Latin linguistics, beautifully edited by Benjamín García-Hernández and handsomely produced by Ediciones Clásicas, reflects about 70 percent of the material presented at the 1997 colloquium on Latin linguistics held in Madrid. The seventy-eight papers are mostly in French (twenty-nine) or Spanish (twenty-seven) (otherwise: eighteen in English, three in German, one in Italian), but all sport handy English summaries. Like its predecessor volumes (beginning with Pinkster 1983; most recently Rosén 1996, Bammesberger and Heberlein 1996), by far the most prominent topic area is “Syntax and Pragmatics,” here represented by forty-six of the contributions. There are, however, a half-dozen or so papers that address (or include prominent discussion of) historical-linguistic issues of direct or indirect relevance to Indo-European studies.

Most of these are concentrated, predictably, in the section on “Phonetics and Morphology.”


A. Christol, in “Autour de l’infinitif passif” (37–50), treats the Indo-European background, in terms of both morphology and syntax (“diathesis”), of the Latin passive infinitive. Christol makes adept use of comparative material from Indo-Iranian, and offers an attractive account of the origin of the Lat. passive infin. formant -rei (as in uidērī), via original sequences of the sort *uidē-ier (regularly > *uidēr, re-characterized both with -ier [——> uidērier] and -i [——> uidērī]).

In his “Reflexión sobre los nominativos fem. del sg. en -aī de la necropolis de Preneste” (65–74), R. Jiménez Zamudio argues, in my view not altogether convincingly, that the forms in question arise from Etruscan influence, specifically from the feminizing suffix -i vis-à-vis masculine names (Etr. larth, f. larthi etc., including tarna, f. tarnai et sim.). This comparandum would be more attractive if the Latin material had something directly to do with feminized forms of masculine a-stems, which is not the case. The traditional interpretation of these Praenestine forms as genitives (see recently Wachter 1987:202f.) seems preferable, although one can be grateful for Jiménez Zamudio’s interesting discussion of the problem.

In an equally interesting and richly documented presentation, E. Nieto Ballester reconsider the source of Lat. acc. mē(d) and dat. mihi/mī (“Latin med (ac.
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