

Author's address:

Dr. David Testen
 Department of Linguistics
 University of Chicago
 CHICAGO, Ill. 60637
 e-mail: dtesten@babylon-orinst.uchicago.edu

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Mír Curad: Studies in Honor of Calvert Watkins. Edited by Jay Jasanoff, H. Craig Melchert & Lisi Oliver. Innsbruck: Institut für Sprachwissenschaft, University of Innsbruck, 1998. Pp. xviii, 715.

Reviewed by BRIAN D. JOSEPH, *Ohio State University*

Not long ago, I finished reading through what I consider to be the single most interesting book in Indo-European linguistics, and perhaps all of

general historical linguistics, of the 20th century, namely Calvert Watkins' *How to Kill a Dragon: Aspects of Indo-European Poetics* (Oxford, 1995).¹ Reading this "optimum opus"² was for me like a trip down memory lane, for so much of the material summoned forth fond recollections of classes and discussions while I was at Harvard under the tutelage of Watkins (hereafter, Cal) and others.

It is thus that I feel honored myself to be in a position to be able to pay tribute to Cal and all he has accomplished in advancing our understanding of the Indo-Europeans — how they talked and how they viewed the world — by writing this review, not of Cal's masterpiece but rather of a remarkable volume designed to honor this remarkable linguist, dedicating to him the "champion's portion" (from Old Irish) mentioned in the title.

As the editor of this journal, I should probably do everything I can to appear as unbiased as possible. However, as a historical linguist, as a long-time admirer of the work of the honorand of this volume, and as a former student of his, I must shed any guise of impartiality and start this review with some personal observations.

There is a joke that I have heard about baseball umpires: it is said that that is the only line of work in which one has to be perfect the first day on the job and yet improve thereafter as time goes on. I expected great things from Calvert Watkins on my first day of class (Classics 135, *The History of Greek*) in 1973 and can report that not only was he perfect as a stimulating lecturer, teacher, and mentor that day, but he also got better and better as time has gone on, a trend that continues to the present day.

I was a graduate student at Harvard during the 1970s — very exciting times in Indo-European linguistics — studying under a stellar array of scholars in Indo-European and historical linguistics (in Linguistics: Cal, the late Hans Jochem ("Joki") Schindler, Jay Jasanoff, and Ives Goddard; in Slavic: Horace Lunt; in Celtic: Bruce Boling; in Classics: Gregory Nagy³). It was a place and a period — an intellectual milieu — that left an indelible impression on me.

¹ Reviewed recently in *Diachronica* (Sihler 1999).

² If I may be permitted a coinage that is in keeping with the honorand's vision of what makes for a catchy noun phrase in Indo-European.

³ My class with Nagy actually took place while he was a visiting faculty member in the Harvard Summer School in 1974 or 1975 (my memory fails me here); he joined the Classics faculty on a permanent basis only after I left Harvard.

Indeed, Harvard had long been a “hotbed” of Indo-European and historical linguistic activity — Roman Jakobson, Jerzy Kuryłowicz, and Joshua Whatmough (*inter alios*) all taught there for several years — and they had a hand in producing numerous important scholars in the field — Eric Hamp, for instance, earned his Ph.D. there in 1954, working under Whatmough.

Over the past 30 years, however, it has been Cal’s presence at Harvard that has defined Indo-European linguistics at that venerable institution. Besides his own scholarship, he has produced — or has been instrumental in producing, even if he was not adviser *per se* — several academic generations of historical linguists: Goddard, Jasanoff, D. Gary Miller, Michael Silverstein, and others from before my time;⁴ Alice Harris, H. Craig Melchert, Alan Nussbaum, Brent Vine, and others, from my own era (now all full professors!); Mark Hale and Andrew Garrett (both now tenured), and recent graduates Joshua Katz and Benjamin Fortson, from more recent years; and so on. These are all scholars who have contributed much and who will continue to contribute much to historical linguistics, and all have benefitted from interactions with Cal while at Harvard and in the years since their Ph.D.s. Cal is thus clearly a scholar deserving of the accolades that are embodied in this Festschrift.

Festschrift volumes are often difficult to review, since they generally constitute an assemblage of papers of uneven quality written by a diverse array of scholars with different agendas. The present volume, however, is exceptional. The table of contents reads like a “who’s who”⁵ in historical linguistics and Indo-European linguistics in America and Europe. The papers are unified by their uniformly high quality, reflecting the work of former students and colleagues of Cal’s, as well as other notable figures in the field.

The full listing of contributions is as follows: “La mémoire du poète et l’oubli du guerrier” by Françoise Bader; “*Hades and Elysion*” by Robert S. P. Beekes; “*Cáin Ónae*: An Old Irish law text on lending” by Liam Breathnach; “Grimm’s and Verner’s Laws: A new perspective” by Andrea Calabrese & Morris Halle; “On *kim tarhi* in the Mahābhāṣya” by George Cardona; “Etymologica anatolica minora” by Onofrio Carruba; “On the

⁴ These enumerations are not meant as an exhaustive listing; apologies to anyone who may inadvertently have been omitted.

⁵ Unfortunately, to some extent, also a “who was who”, as two contributors (Hans Güterbock and Edgar Polomé) passed away during 2000.

‘thematisation’ of Latin *sum, volo, eo* and *edo* and the system of endings in the IE subjunctive active” by George Dunkel; “Now you see it, now you don’t: The Ukranian phoneme *j* in context” by Michael Flier; “Vedisch *átithipati-*, lateinisch *hospes*” by Bernhard Forssman; “Some new observations on an old topic: *návam̐ vácaḥ* in the Rigveda” by Benjamin W. Fortson IV; “Indogermanisch *g^{wh}en ‘(wiederholt) schlagen, töten’” by J. L. García-Ramón; “Remarks on the Old Hittite split genitive” by Andrew Garrett; “How to kill a cow in Avestan” by Jost Gippert; “Recovering Arapaho etymologies by reconstructing forwards” by Ives Goddard; “Notes on some Luwian hieroglyphs” by Hans G. Güterbock; “Romanischer Einfluß in den ‘Altdeutschen Gesprächen’” by Roberto Gusmani; “Post-lexical RUKI and the *tisrá*-rule” by Mark Hale; “Theoretical aspects of Indo-European nominal morphology: The nominal declensions of Latin and Armenian” by Morris Halle & Bert Vaux; “Two regular milk products” by Eric P. Hamp; “Of donkeys, mules and Tarkondemos” by J. D. Hawkins & A. Morpurgo Davies; “Die Entstehung des homerischen Irrealis der Vergangenheit” by Heinrich Hettrich; “Eũ, ěú and the accent of non-thematic neuters” by Henry M. Hoenigswald; “On the denominative verb *arāwe-*” by Harry A. Hoffner, Jr.; “*mitrāvāruṇā* or *mitrā vāruṇā?*” by Stanley Insler; “Rigvedic *viśvataḥ sīm*, or, why syntax needs poetics by Stephanie W. Jamison; “The thematic conjugation revisited” by Jay H. Jasanoff; “How to be a dragon in Indo-European: Hittite *illuyankaš* and its linguistic and cultural congeners in Latin, Greek, and Germanic” by Joshua Katz; “On the origins of Hittite verbs of the type *tēḫḫi, dāi*” by Sara Kimball; “Sievers’ Law as prosodic optimization” by Paul Kiparsky; “Rigvedic *syá/tyá*” by Jared Klein; “Langues de feu. Grec hésiodique *λελιχμότες*; sanskrit védique *ririhvās-*” by Charles de Lamberterie; “Explanation of syntactic changes in late Indo-European by use of universals” by Winfred Lehmann; “On the origins of the present subjunctive of the substantive verb in Old Irish” by Fredrik Otto Lindeman; “New Phrygian metrics and the *δεως ζεμελως* formula” by A. Lubotsky; “What makes Slavic Slavic?” by Horace Lunt; “Complex adjectival predicates in Insular Celtic” by Proinsias Mac Cana; “The Old Irish chariot” by J. P. Mallory; “‘Double nasal’ presents in Celtic, and Old Irish *léicid* ‘leaves’” by Kim McCone; “Zum Ruhm des Namens im Altirischen” by Wolfgang Meid; “Poetic meter and phrasal stress in Hittite” by H. Craig Melchert; “Is there an etymology for the dactylic hexameter?” by Gregory Nagy; “Hethitisch *ḫurdant-* ‘verletzt, angeschlagen, erschöpft’ vs. hethitisch *ḫu(wa)rtant-*

‘verflucht’“ by Erich Neu; “Zur Trilingue vom Letoon. Der letzte Satz der lykischen Version” by Günter Neumann; “Severe problems” by Alan Nussbaum; “Semantisches zu Pan, Pūṣan und Hermes” by Norbert Oettinger; “Towards freeing a slave in Germanic law” by Lisi Oliver; “The transposition of Aeschylus, *Agamemnon* 1203–1204, and the uses of μῶν” by Hayden Pelliccia; “Healfdene’s honey: A bear bearn in *Beowulf*” by Steve Peter; “Homerisches und Unhomerisches bei Homer und auf dem Nestorbecher” by Martin Peters; “Some considerations on Dutch *erg*, etc.” by Edgar C. Polomé; “Latin *furor*: Help from Hittite” by Jaan Puhvel; “Schwa-rounding and the chronology of sound changes in Tocharian” by Donald Ringe; “Bemerkungen zu den lateinischen Verbformen des Typs *faxo faxim*” by Helmut Rix; “Tradition und Innovation: Zu indoiranischen Formeln und Fügungen im Alpersischen” by Rüdiger Schmitt; “Eastern Iranian epic traditions I: Siyāvaš and Kunāla” by P. O. Skjærvø; “Lateinisches Gerundium / Gerundivum und Vergleichbares” by Klaus Strunk; “Voice, poetics and Virgil’s sixth *Eclogue*” by Richard Thomas; “Calque-Erscheinungen im Anatolischen” by Johann Tischler; “The etymology of Greek κῶμη and related problems” by Brent Vine; and finally “On some problems of final syllables in South Picene” by Michael Weiss.

As can be seen from this list, all of the papers touch on important issues in Indo-European and historical linguistics. Moreover, they cover a broad spectrum of topics, ranging from comparative law to poetics, from etymology to reconstruction, from philology to theory, and they deal with a wide array of languages and language-groups — Avestan, Germanic, Greek, Hittite, Old Irish, Latin, Lydian, Phrygian, Sanskrit, Slavic, Tocharian, etc. — all in keeping with the honorand’s range of interests and research over the years.

Several papers rather directly take Cal’s work as a point of departure. For instance, those by Bader, García-Ramon, Fortson, Gippert, Jamison, Katz, Peters, Polomé, and Skjærvø focus on aspects of Indo-European poetic language, with Katz specifically building, with decidedly intriguing results, on Watkins 1995, exploring Indo-European words for serpentine creatures and specifically “the Hittites’ fabled adversary, the Indo-European dragon par excellence” (p. 317) mentioned in his title, Peters commenting on and developing further the interpretation of the Nestor’s Cup inscription so insightfully analyzed by Watkins 1976, Polomé treating some interesting Dutch evidence bearing on Cal’s seminal work on the family of Greek ὄρχις “testicle” (Watkins 1975), and the others dealing with issues in poetic diction

and usage in various Indo-European languages. The paper by Goddard provides a sterling example of what Watkins 1962 referred to as “forward reconstruction”, i.e. taking “independently established protoforms and running them through the sound changes undergone by the language to find the point at which morphological patterns would have imposed a restructuring that would lead to the attested forms” (p. 183), as he applies this technique to several problematic etymologies in Arapaho, the only non-Indo-European language discussed in depth in the volume. Further, the contribution by Jasanoff, perhaps the most important paper in the volume for the reconstruction of Proto-Indo-European, refines the view put forth in Watkins 1969 of the development of the proto-language verbal conjugation with the thematic vowel *-e- or *-o- as the stem-formative, arguing rather convincingly instead for two chronological layers of thematic stems and claiming that a more recent type (e.g. *pék^weti ‘cooks/3SG’), associated with *s*-aorist forms, involved stems that “were originally the subjunctives of their own aorists, forced out of the aorist system under pressure from the more recent *s*-aorist subjunctive in *-se/o-” (p. 313), whereas the older type (e.g. *bhéreti ‘bears/3SG’), with no associated *s*-aorist forms, was the “only genuinely Indo-European thematic present ... [for which] a modified version of Watkins’ [1969] theory remains the best explanation” (p. 314).⁶

Several papers deal with general areas that Cal himself has worked in. Oliver, for instance, provides an interesting discussion of how philological and linguistic analysis can elucidate the context of an Old English legal formula (cf. Watkins 1970 on Indo-European comparative law). Melchert and Nagy in their papers offer characteristically insightful and well-argued analyses of poetic metrics (cf. Watkins 1963) in Hittite and in Greek, respectively.

Finally, mention must be made of the papers by Nussbaum and by Vine, which are noteworthy for their deft handling of complex morphological patterns, as they give detailed and highly ramified accounts of, respectively, the type of Greek ὄχυρός/ἔχυρός “strong” and the type of Greek κώμη “settlement”.

⁶ Dunkel’s contribution to the volume deserves mention in this context, for he has some very interesting discussion on the question of the thematization of various originally athematic verbs in Latin, most notably *sum* ‘be’ and *eō* ‘go’ taking them (not unlike the process Jasanoff describes for Proto-Indo-European) to reflect the reworking of old subjunctives (but in the pre-Latin period, not within Proto-Indo-European).

Much more could be said about the other papers, and indeed even about the ones given brief mention here. Suffice it to say, though, that the level of quality is extremely high, and all the contributors are to be congratulated for the effort they so clearly put into their papers.

The volume includes a handsome photo of the honorand and a complete listing of his publications from 1954 to 1997, with papers forthcoming after 1997 given as well. There is also an appreciation of his career and his work in the brief editors' introduction.

All in all this is indeed a remarkable volume honoring a remarkable scholar⁷ — all Festschriften should aspire to such high quality!

Author's address

Brian D. Joseph
 Department of Linguistics
 222 Oxley Hall
 Ohio State University
 COLUMBUS, Ohio USA. 43210–1298
 e-mail: joseph.1@osu.edu

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⁷ To close this somewhat personal review with a bit more from the personal side, if I may, I note that in addition to the training in Linguistics and the sheer volume of knowledge that I received from Cal, a few of my published papers have been immediately inspired by work of his, e.g. Joseph 1979 (cf. Watkins 1968) and Joseph 1980 (cf. Watkins 1962), and some unpublished presentations as well, e.g. Joseph 1986 (cf. Watkins 1975) and Joseph & Pappas 2000 (cf. Watkins 1962). My debt to his guidance over the years is enormous and I am pleased to be able to publically thank him here for that.

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Past Participles from Latin to Romance. By Richard Laurent. (= *University of California Publications in Linguistics*, 133). Berkeley and Los Angeles: University of California Press. 1999. Pp. xxv, 574.

Reviewed by STÉPHANE GOYETTE, *University of Ottawa*

This book fills a long-standing gap in Romance studies: while numerous articles and monographs deal with the evolution of various aspects of verb morphology in various Romance languages, there has been no overall treatment of the development of Latin past participles into Romance as a whole. In this impressive monograph Richard Laurent (hereinafter: L) attempts to remedy this deplorable state of affairs, succeeding quite admirably.

The book contains an Introduction (1–14) where the problem of past participial evolution is sketched, sources listed, and an exposition of previous