

the genetic relationship of Hittite to the rest of Indo-European and its areal relationship to non-Indo-European languages of the second millennium with which it stood in close contact. His philology was consistently of the highest order, and we owe to him several definitive critical text editions, including notably that of the Anitta text and an invaluable edition of all ritual texts in Old Hittite manuscripts, accompanied by a glossary. His philological survey of the Hittite medio-passive remains the foundation for all study of this category. His most recent major contribution of this type was his magisterial first edition of the Hittite-Hurrian Bilingual from Hattuša, a work that will now sadly have to stand as the crowning achievement of his distinguished career.

He played a leading role in developing the use of paleography to establish the relative chronology of Hittite texts and manuscripts, publishing (in collaboration with Christel Rüster) the critical working tools that have allowed others to participate in this enterprise. Establishing this chronology has revolutionized the study of the Hittite language, and it is no exaggeration to say that all recent progress in our understanding of the history and prehistory of Hittite would have been quite impossible without it.

Professor Neu was unusual among Hittitologists in having received training in both Assyriology and Indo-European. Of those studying Hittite from the point of view of Indo-European, he was virtually unique in his generation in advocating that Hittite (Anatolian) required a radical revision of Proto-Indo-European as traditionally reconstructed. He was led to this conclusion in part by the results of his own analysis of the prehistory of the medio-passive. While the latter has not won wide acceptance, his general view that Hittite did not share in many of the developments of "core" Proto-Indo-European is now becoming increasingly dominant in the field.

Always collegial even through episodes of sharp disagreement on issues, Professor Neu was in my experience unfailingly helpful in response to queries or requests for comment on new ideas. In addition to his own research, he was very active as editor and teacher. We will sorely miss him and the further contributions he would have made. His influence will live on through his published work and the activity of his students and others who were touched by him. [H. Craig Melchert, Department of Linguistics, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill]

#### **Erich Neu (1936–1999)**

Erich Neu, Universitäts-Professor in the Institut für Sprachwissenschaft at the Ruhr-Universität Bochum, died on December 31, 1999. Born in Wetzlar, Professor Neu studied at the Universities of Marburg and Göttingen before being called to Bochum in 1976. Professor Neu's research interests included all aspects of Hittite philology, language, and culture, as well as