disciplines that have too long ignored the implications that each has for the other. Although Joseph Greenberg is no longer physically with us, let us hope that his spirit will continue to motivate further investigations in the spirit of interdisciplinary inquiries.

[Carol Justus, Linguistics Research Center, PCL 5.112, University of Texas, Austin, TX 78712, cjustus@mail.utexas.edu]

Book Reviews


The present volume of Epilecta serves as a companion to the previous Analecta Indoeuropaea (IBS 35, 1981), which had comprised selections of the author’s oeuvre from 1952 to 1977. The reprinted articles are arranged in chronological order of composition. As per common practice, they are provided with a double pagination, the original at the top of the page and a new continuous numbering at the bottom. The table of contents is followed by a listing of full bibliographical data, helpfully including date of composition as well as place and date of the original publication. The reprinting has been done with care, and with few exceptions the differences in typeface and page layout are not as jarring as is often the case in such retrospectives (in a handful of instances severely reduced type does cause some distress). Aside from correcting minor errors, Puhvel has allowed himself a few new footnotes of commentary, but he has shown admirable restraint in their use. There are no indices, but the nature of most of the material makes their absence of minimal consequence.

All the selections are marked by Puhvel’s inimitable English prose style, one that manages to combine with unexpected effectiveness highly learned vocabulary with very colloquial turns of phrase. This technique lends a piquancy and pointedness that one does not often find in academic writing. Of rather more importance is Puhvel’s unwavering insistence on the primacy of philological investigation and analysis over linguistic hypothesizing. Likewise consistently beneficial is the general prevalence of common sense and restraint. These qualities assure that one almost always learns something new and useful, even in those cases where one is not persuaded by (all) the conclusions. Puhvel has blind spots, and enthusiasms that occasionally override his better judgment, but who of us does not? Infallibility is not to be sought in scholarship any more than in other human endeavors.

As indicated in both the title and the preface, research on Anatolian and on Hittite etymology in particular dominates the newer collection. One obvious factor contributing to this ratio is the concentration of Puhvel’s time and energies during this period on his ongoing Hittite Etymological Dictionary (1984–present). These labors are reflected in the progress of this massive work (currently five volumes covering A, E and I, H, K and L), an impressive achievement for an individual working alone without editorial assistance. Also shaping the present collection is the fact that at a certain point in one’s career more and more of one’s production tends to be taken up by Festschriften and other anthologies, where brevity is a prime desideratum. As a result, most of the articles here deal with individual problems of the Hittite lexicum whose relevance for larger issues of Indo-European linguistics inevitably varies considerably.

Studies with a broader perspective offering syntheses or state-of-the-art summations are by no means lacking, however. Puhvel’s posthumous appreciation of the work of Georges Dumézil and its significance for IE studies is a balanced and objective appraisal that may be read with profit by anyone and that should be required reading for those whose knowledge of Dumézil is only secondhand. Also highly recommended are Puhvel’s periodic (re)assessments of the place of Hittite/Anatolian within Indo-European (a.k.a. the “Indo-Hittite” question). In the current collection these are: “Whence the Hittite, Whither the Jonesian vision?” (article 19), “Anatolian: Autochthon or interloper?” (33), and “West-Indo-European Affinities of
means that even non-specialist colleagues for whom the PIE root etymology of a given Hittite word is of minimal consequence will find many a nugget of interest in these pages.

[H. Craig Melchert
Dept. of Linguistics, CB#3155
University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
Chapel Hill, NC 27599-3155
melchert@email.unc.edu]


Perhaps the most difficult of Continental Celtic documents to approach is the fragmentarily attested calendar of Coligny (Ain), dated to the late second century CE on epigraphic grounds, but presumably continuing a long tradition, of which ca. 40 percent is now preserved.1 It records a period of five years of twelve months each, with two intercalary months inserted. The computistical content and the fact that many of the linguistic forms are highly—and variably—abbreviated present imposing impediments to the analysis of the calendar. Duval and Pinault published a magisterial edition of the fragments of the calendars discovered in Transalpine Gaul in 1986, but few have taken advantage of it to approach even minor aspects of the calendar, whether computistical or linguistic.

The one exception to this statement is Garrett S. Olmsted, who has attempted not only to explain the computistical mechanisms of the Coligny calendar, but also to reconstruct the missing portions of the text and to reveal changes in the calendar which have taken place, in his opinion, over a millennium.2 The details of his argumentation have been presented in a long article of 1988 and a monograph of 1992, the latter with which the reader should be familiar before picking up the volume presently under review, which, essentially, is supplementary to it. The principal purpose of this new volume is to allow Olmsted to test his 1992 reconstruction of the missing text—and thereby his hypothesis about the calendar’s computistical system—by employing photo-