

(e.g., the numeral МЕОДРЪ 'million,' p. 59) ? One regrets that the funds of the Conseil des Arts du Canada were spent on this flimsy work by the Conseil Canadien de Recherches sur les Humanités.

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THE GREEK PROTHETIC VOWEL. By *William F. Wyatt, Jr.* Philological Monographs of the American Philological Association, no. 31. Cleveland: Press of Case Western Reserve University, 1972. xvii, 124 pp. \$10.00.

If, like Wyatt, one rejects the notion that PIE possessed laryngeal consonants, he must offer alternative analyses for those phenomena which laryngeals are invoked to explain. This work is an attempt to account for the Greek prothetic vowels as a purely internal Greek matter—in opposition to the now dominant view which holds them to be reflexes of PIE initial laryngeals before consonants.

Any account of the prothetic vowels must account for two facts: (1) not all words with initial resonants in other IE languages show a prothetic vowel in Greek; and (2) the prothetic vowel may be /e/, /o/, or /a/. Wyatt assumes that some initial resonants were devoiced under certain conditions and that, at a later date, the voiced resonants developed a prothetic schwa. Subsequently the voiced and voiceless resonants fell together and the prothetic schwa became /e/, /o/, or /a/ depending on what followed the resonant.

The rules (of which there are sixteen) that describe these developments are ad hoc and artificial. Even Wyatt admits to having difficulty in suggesting a plausible phonetic basis for them. That he can fashion environments at all for his rules is the result, it seems to me, of certain accidental gaps in the Greek lexicon. A telling point against Wyatt's whole position would be a comparison of his ingenious but arbitrary rules with the straightforward ones assumed by the laryngealists to explain the same data. There is no question that the latter is the more elegant solution, and it would seem the more insightful one as well. Also, Wyatt's explanation will only explain the Greek data, whereas the laryngealist position provides insights into such phenomena as compound-lengthening in Sanskrit as well.

The book is interesting and stimulating as a tour de force but, in the end, not very convincing.

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SYMPOSIA

FORSCHUNGEN ZUR OSTEUROPAÏSCHEN GESCHICHTE: WERNER PHILIPP ZUM 65. GEBURTSTAG VON SEINEN SCHÜLERN. Edited by *Klaus Meyer* and *Hans-Joachim Torke*. Osteuropa-Institut an der Freien Universität Berlin, Historische Veröffentlichungen, Herausgegeben von *Mathias Bernath* und *Werner Philipp*, vol. 20. Berlin: In Kommission bei Otto Harrassowitz, Wiesbaden, 1973. 151 pp. Paper.

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Karl Marx und Friedrich Engels." Lyman H. Legters, "Marx, Marxism, and Religion." Jutta Scherrer, "Die russischen Religiös-Philosophischen Vereinigungen als Ausdruck des religiösen Suchens der Intelligencija zwischen Jahrhundertwende und 1917." Klaus Meyer, "Sowjetrussland und die Anfänge der Weimarer Republik." Wolfgang Mitter, "Erziehungsziele und Probleme ihrer Verwirklichung in sozialistischen Gesellschaften." Hans-Joachim Torke, "Die neuere Sowjethistoriographie zum Problem des russischen Absolutismus." Mathias Bernath, "Südosteuropäische Geschichte als gesonderte Disziplin." Verzeichnis der Veröffentlichungen Werner Philipps. Anhang: Gesamtinhaltsverzeichnis der Forschungen zur osteuropäischen Geschichte, Band I-XX.

A HISTORY OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK REPUBLIC, 1918-1948. Edited by Victor S. Mamatey and Radomír Luža. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1973. xi, 534 pp. \$22.50.

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A Theme and Its Variations in the Poetry of Soviet Latvia." Vaira Vikis-Freibergs, "The Poetic Imagination of the Latvian *dainas*." Richard Switzer, "Charles Nodier and the Introduction of Illyrian Literature into France."

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LETTERS

TO THE EDITOR:

In her article on A. M. Kollontai (*Slavic Review*, June 1973) Barbara Evans Clements refers on page 323 to Lenin's "famous interview" with Klara Zetkin as having taken place in 1919. The date was autumn 1920. On page 330 Professor Clements writes that "Trotsky's theory of permanent revolution . . . asserted that in an agrarian society like Russia's, with its weakly developed bourgeoisie, the proletariat and peasantry would have to lead the capitalist stage of development.