

A. ARCHI, *Early Anatolian Personal Names at the Banks of the Euphrates (24th cent. BCE)*

ABSTRACT

The cuneiform texts of the royal archives of Ebla, Syria (ca. 2381–2385 B.C.) register several personal names with the ending -a(n)d-u, -ašu for the city of Armi and Dulu(m), located to the north of an area completely Semitized. It is here suggested that these endings have to be interpreted as the suffix -nt- and the element -asu- of the Hittite name-giving. Armi is identified with Armānum, the major city which Narām-Sin of Akkad conquered in his military expedition in Northern Syria (Ebla had been destroyed ca 50/60 years earlier). He did depict the imposing fortifications of this city on the banks of the Euphrates on the base of a commemorative stele. This topographic datum with the mention of the Euphrates compel to identify Armi/Armānum with the large tell (man-made mound) of Samsat, on which was later built the acropolis of classical Samosata. The archaeological excavation at Arslantepe (Malatya) document the arrival of groups of transhumant sheep-farming people from the trans-Caucasus region to Eastern Anatolia. This scenario should be referred to the migration of Yamnaya people from the Pontic steppe which had started in the last centuries of the fourth millennium, and gave origin to the Indo-European languages of Anatolia.

E. FILIPPONE, *Sui valori semantici di mprs. ‘ginocchio’ fra linguistica e filologia*

ABSTRACT

This paper reviews all the known attestations of the lexical forms for ‘knee’ in the Middle Persian (both Pahlavi and Manichean) documentation, also including some unpublished texts. The aim is to establish, from a thorough examination of the relevant passages, and also in the light of documentation on modern Iranian languages, any different senses of these Middle Persian forms and the conceptual implications connected to them. The several readings proposed by scholars for these forms have been discussed; the result is that the Middle Persian word for ‘knee’ is šnūg (with prothetic vowel ušnūg in the Bundahišn and išnūg in Manichaean texts) and that the reading zānūg is in fact a very rare variant. New interpretations for a few debated passages (such as Vendidad 13.48 and 18.11) have been suggested.

G. SCHIRRU, *Il consonantismo delle iscrizioni oscche meridionali, la fonologia strutturale e la scrittura greca*

ABSTRACT

The article focuses on a feature of Southern Oscan, in which forms with final <-τ> (in Greek script) or <-t> (in Latin script) are sporadically attested in correspondence of a stable <-d> of epichoric script. Such a fact has been interpreted as a regional peculiarity within Oscan, phonologically motivated either as a lenition or as a final neutralisation. Difficulties of both solutions are illustrated on the basis of structural and historical phonology. Therefore, a different solution is proposed: a graphic fact induced by the peculiarities of Greek script, in which Oscan was traditionally written in the area, is hypothesised. Hence the phenomenon would later be reflected in the Latin script of the Tabula Bantina.

A. LEDGEWAY, N. SCHIFANO, G. SILVESTRI, *I possessivi in italo-greco e italo-romanzo: paralleli strutturali in un’area di contatto*

ABSTRACT

In this article we undertake a morphosyntactic comparison of the Italo-Greek and Italo-Romance varieties spoken in southern Calabria and Salento. In particular, we offer a comparative examination of the system of possessives in the relevant Italo-Greek and Italo-Romance varieties which both contrast a strong and an enclitic series. This symmetry in the two possessive paradigms is also shown to involve specific structural parallels which we analyse in relation to semantic and syntactic properties of the nominal group such as referentiality and (in)definiteness. Following a close examination of the behaviour of strong possessives in accordance with particular pragmatic uses, we interpret the morphosyntactic properties of the possessives in relation to contact, interference and convergence, not only in southern Italy, but also in the Balkans. Ultimately, we shall demonstrate how the observed convergences are the result of innovative hybrid structures.