
SINO-PLATONIC PAPERS

Number 239

August, 2013

The Expansion of the Indo-European Languages: An Indo-Europeanist's Evolving View

by
Eric P. Hamp
with annotation and comments by Douglas Q. Adams

Victor H. Mair, Editor
Sino-Platonic Papers
Department of East Asian Languages and Civilizations
University of Pennsylvania
Philadelphia, PA 19104-6305 USA
vmair@sas.upenn.edu
www.sino-platonic.org

SINO-PLATONIC PAPERS

FOUNDED 1986

Editor-in-Chief
VICTOR H. MAIR

Associate Editors
PAULA ROBERTS MARK SWOFFORD

ISSN
2157-9679 (print) 2157-9687 (online)

SINO-PLATONIC PAPERS is an occasional series dedicated to making available to specialists and the interested public the results of research that, because of its unconventional or controversial nature, might otherwise go unpublished. The editor-in-chief actively encourages younger, not yet well established, scholars and independent authors to submit manuscripts for consideration. Contributions in any of the major scholarly languages of the world, including romanized modern standard Mandarin (MSM) and Japanese, are acceptable. In special circumstances, papers written in one of the Sinitic topolects (*fangyan*) may be considered for publication.

Although the chief focus of *Sino-Platonic Papers* is on the intercultural relations of China with other peoples, challenging and creative studies on a wide variety of philological subjects will be entertained. This series is **not** the place for safe, sober, and stodgy presentations. *Sino-Platonic Papers* prefers lively work that, while taking reasonable risks to advance the field, capitalizes on brilliant new insights into the development of civilization.

Submissions are regularly sent out to be refereed, and extensive editorial suggestions for revision may be offered.

Sino-Platonic Papers emphasizes substance over form. We do, however, strongly recommend that prospective authors consult our style guidelines at www.sino-platonic.org/stylesheet.doc. Manuscripts should be submitted as electronic files, preferably in Microsoft Word format. You may wish to use our sample document template, available here: www.sino-platonic.org/spp.dot.

Beginning with issue no. 171, *Sino-Platonic Papers* has been published electronically on the Web at www.sino-platonic.org. Issues 1–170, however, will continue to be sold as paper copies until our stock runs out, after which they too will be made available on the Web.

Please note: When the editor goes on an expedition or research trip, all operations (including filling orders) may temporarily cease for up to three months at a time. In such circumstances, those who wish to purchase various issues of *SPP* are requested to wait patiently until he returns. If issues are urgently needed while the editor is away, they may be requested through Interlibrary Loan. You should also check our Web site at www.sino-platonic.org, as back issues are regularly rereleased for free as PDF editions.

Sino-Platonic Papers is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivs 2.5 License. To view a copy of this license, visit <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/2.5/> or send a letter to Creative Commons, 543 Howard Street, 5th Floor, San Francisco, California, 94105, USA.

The Expansion of the Indo-European Languages: An Indo-Europeanist's Evolving View

by Eric P. Hamp, University of Chicago

with Annotation and Comments by Douglas Q. Adams, University of Idaho

Introduction

In 1989 and again in the period 2009–2012 Eric Hamp produced several hand-drawn *Stammbäume* to represent his understanding of the interrelationships of the various branches of Indo-European. Reproduced here are the 1989 tree and a composite of the 2009–2012 trees (which do not present any differences in branching, but do occasionally have somewhat different notes attached).

These trees are interesting from at least two perspectives. First and foremost, they represent the mature views of an eminent Indo-Europeanist, one who was equally at home at the micro-level and the macro-level, of the complicated picture of these interrelationships. Secondly, comparing the first and second trees, created almost a quarter of a century apart, gives insight into how he assessed the new data and the new arguments that appeared in this period.

His sub-grouping of Indo-European is at times quite conservative (e.g., the primary distinction within non-Anatolian Indo-European between Asiatic [= Indo-Iranian] and European Indo-European) and, at others, quite innovative (e.g., the acceptance of Burushaski as a definite sibling of “Indo-Hittite” [though possibly a creolized one], the placement of Tocharian so deeply within European Indo-European).

Finally, Hamp gave attention to how the geographical spread of these subgroups came about.

Some technical notes:

1. Hamp’s original trees were drawn freehand, in a “fan-shape.” For typographical reasons they are presented here in a more “genealogical” format.
2. Hamp’s original comments are enclosed within parentheses; the material within square brackets represents my own attempts at amplification/clarification.
3. In places where Hamp supplied no node name, I have done so and put the non-Hampean name in small caps and within double quotation marks.
4. In his 1989 tree Hamp combined the purely genealogical information of the *Stammbaum* with persistent areal influence, using the following linguistic areas:
 - **N** = North European area
 - **S** = South European area
 - **W** = West European area
 - **NC** = North-central European area

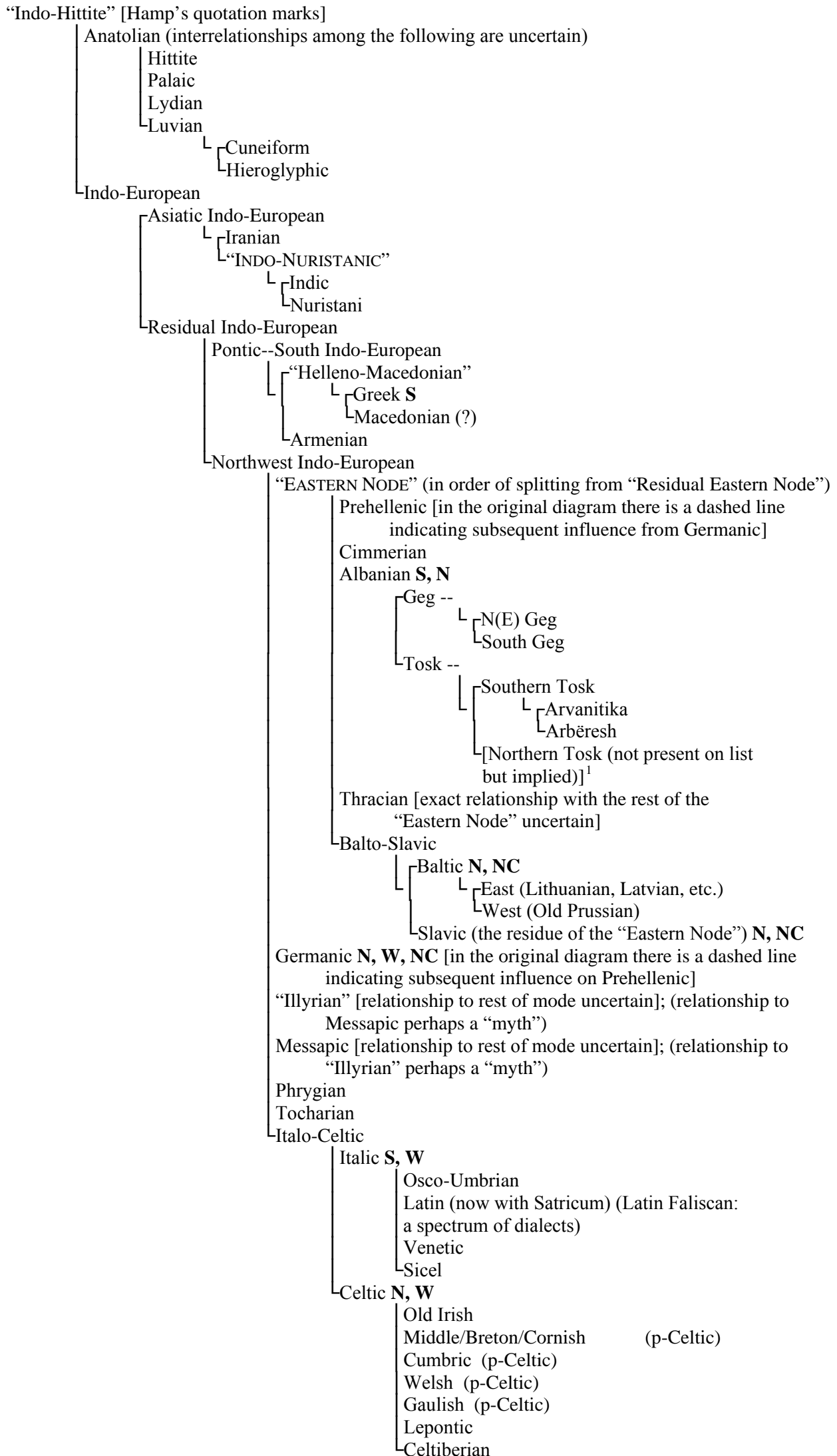
This information was not given with the 2009–2012 trees. The fact that it is missing from the latter trees should not be taken as an indication that Hamp no longer believed in any ongoing areal influences.

5. Amendments in brackets are mine, as are the numbered lists of commentaries following each of Hamp’s trees.

— DQA

Eric Hamp, "The Expansion of the Indo-European Languages"
Sino-Platonic Papers, 239 (August 2013)

HAMP'S 1989 TREE



¹ Hamp's notes indicate that "Northern Tosk" might be better labeled as "Residual Tosk," as it is not defined by any special isoglosses as are Arbëresh in Italy and Arvanitika in Greece.

Notable characteristics of Hamp's 1989 tree:

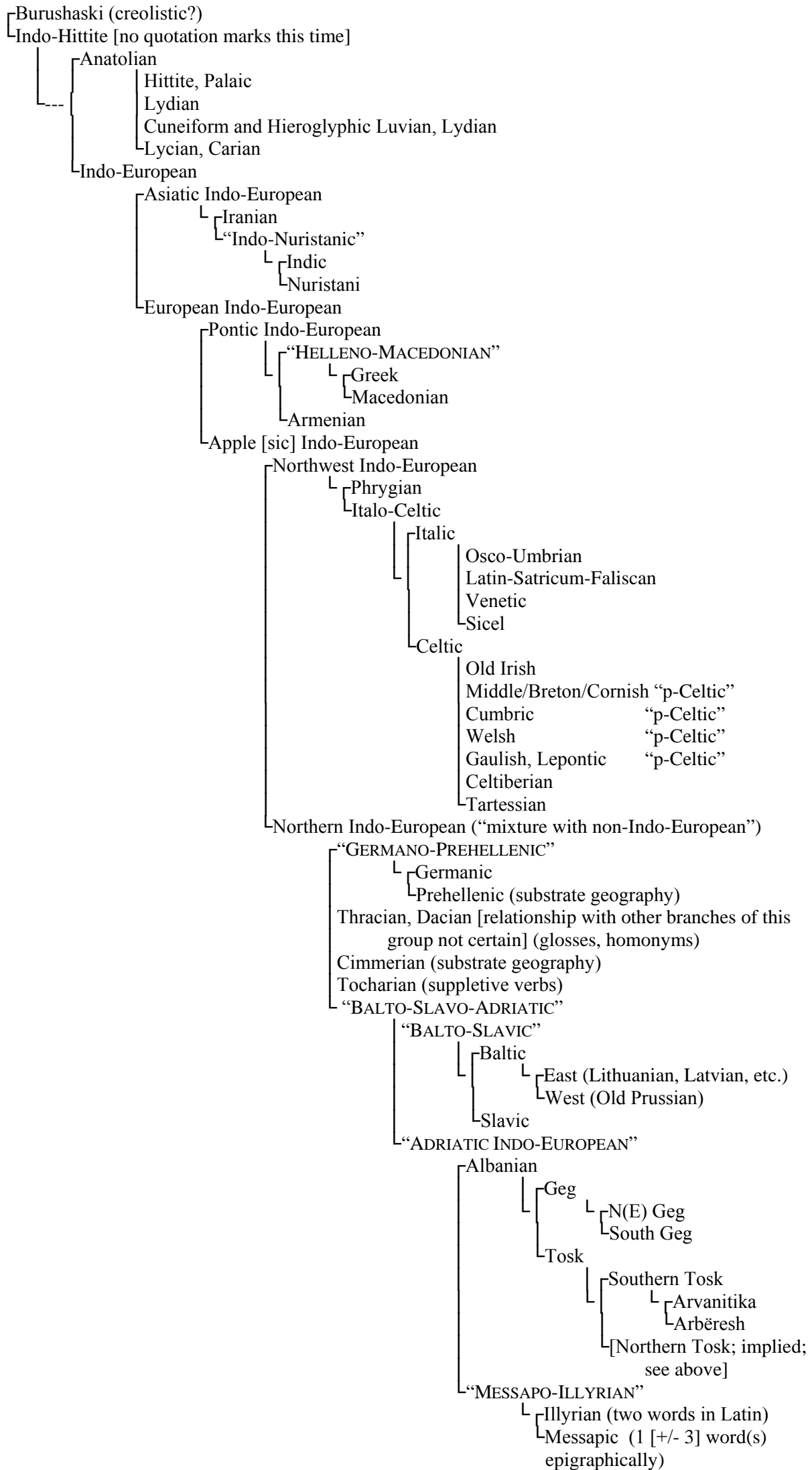
1. As do the great majority of Indo-Europeanists, Hamp separates out Anatolian as the first group to sever itself from the remaining Indo-European community. For the language that includes both pre-Anatolian and the rest of the Indo-European branches, he retains Sturtevant's name, "Indo-Hittite," at least provisionally.
2. Unlike most contemporary Indo-Europeanists, he takes the next major divide to be between Asiatic Indo-European (= Indo-Iranian and Nuristani), with Nuristani more closely related to Indic than to Iranian). Such a division would be consonant with Renfrew's notion of the break-up of the Proto-Indo-European speech community, but Hamp is explicit that the homeland was in north-central or east-central Europe (and not Anatolia as Renfrew supposes).
3. Also unlike most contemporary Indo-Europeanists, he doesn't claim that the pre-Tocharian were "early-leavers" from the rest of the Proto-Indo-European speakers. Rather the pre-Tocharian are one group, along with the Germanic and Italo-Celtic groups who separated themselves from Northwest Indo-European, leaving behind the group I've labeled the "Eastern Node" (but see also comments concerning "Indo-European Migrations" below). (See also Hamp's "Whose Were the Tocharians?: Linguistic Subgroupings and Diagnostic Idiosyncrasy," in *The Bronze Age and Early Iron Age Peoples of East Central Asia*, ed. Victor H. Mair [Washington, DC, and Philadelphia: The Institute for the Study of Man and The University of Pennsylvania Museum Publications, 1998], pp. 307–346. In this article Hamp discusses the position of Tocharian vis-à-vis other Indo-European groups and touches on the reasons he constructs the overall tree as he does.)
4. Italic and Celtic are, without comment, put together in an Italo-Celtic group.
5. Both Venetic and Sicel are included within the Italic family, full sisters of Osco-Umbrian and Latin.
6. The "Eastern Node" of Northwestern Indo-European is probably neither a good name nor a good concept. Those of the "Eastern Node" were simply the residue of Northwestern Indo-European after the pre-Germanics, pre-Tocharian, pre-Italoceltics, and probably the

pre-Illyrians and pre-Messapics had more or less simultaneously separated themselves from the remaining speakers of Northwest Indo-European. The "Eastern Node" much more gradually dissolved, one group leaving at a time, and leaving then pre-Slavs more or less *in situ*.

7. Hamp is most hesitant to claim a special relationship of Messapic and "Illyrian," saying that such a relationship may be a "myth."
8. On the other hand, he explicitly posits an Italo-Celtic grouping.
9. He brackets Welsh-Cumbric, Breton-Cornish, and Gaulish ("a trailer in Europe") together as "p-Celtic." It is not clear if this is a strict "genealogical" division or whether it is an areal diffusion that happened not to include the otherwise co-equal Lepontic and Celtiberian. He points out that the classification of the two latter groups is made difficult by the lack of evidence; he thinks it is possible that Celtiberian is a separate Celtic branch.
10. In an area of current controversy, Hamp holds firmly to the concept of an Indo-European Prehellenic (perhaps to be clustered with other largely unknown languages such as Tartessian). Still more firmly, he considers Pictish to be non-Indo-European.

Eric Hamp, "The Expansion of the Indo-European Languages"
Sino-Platonic Papers, 239 (August 2013)

HAMP'S 2012 TREE



Notable characteristics of Hamp's 2012 tree:

1. See note 1 of "Notable characteristics of Hamp's 1989 tree," above.
2. See note 2 of "Notable characteristics of Hamp's 1989 tree," above.
3. Noteworthy is Hamp's addition of Burushaski as an assured sibling of Indo-Hittite (the evidence for shared laryngeals between Burushaski and I-H being particularly significant), though he provides no hyperonym for the siblings.
4. Tocharian is nestled even more deeply in "residual Indo-European."
5. Italic and Celtic remain as members of Italo-Celtic
6. Venetic and Sicel are full members of Italic.
7. Lepontic is moved to "p-Celtic."
8. A noteworthy change from the earlier list is that Messapic and Illyrian are ranked as closely related; they share the Winter's Law lengthening of Balto-Slavic.
9. Macedonian is no longer marked by a question mark in its relationship to Greek.
10. The branching of the Northern Indo-European group shown in the diagram is a bit misleading. In this group Hamp does not assume that all the sub-branches separated at once (as the shape of the diagram would imply), but rather the sub-branches are arranged in the order in which they separated, Germano-Prehellenic first, Thracian/Dacian next, etc. Balto-Slavic forms a proper subgroup with Albanian, Illyrian, and Messapic.
11. In an area of current controversy, Hamp holds firmly to the concept of an Indo-European Prehellenic, explicitly most closely allied to Germanic. Even more firmly, Pictish is regarded as not Indo-European.

Hamp's Notes on Indo-European Migrations:²

After the invention of wheels, pottery, spinning/thread, [and] metal smelting, and after (?) the Anatolian push, we find the following movements of the various Indo-European subgroups. [In Hamp's view it is not clear whether the "Anatolian push" comes after all of these inventions, before, or somewhere in the middle. It presumably precedes the movements of the other subgroups.]

Indo-Iranian: North and east of Kurgan [lower Volga and extreme northeastern Kazakhstan and adjacent portions of Russia]

Helleno-Armenians (= Pontic Indo-Europeans): south and east of Kurgan [northeast coast of the Black Sea and its hinterlands]

1. Via Batoumi and the southern Black Sea coast (Armenians left behind after Batoumi).
2. Greeks enter Aegean and Peloponnesus from Asia Minor, Cyprus via Pamphylia. Troy is a barrier to further migration directly west or to the northwest. So first the pre-Cypriots and then other groups of pre-Hellenics are turned south at this point. The pre-Cypriots continue south to Pamphyllia and ultimately Cyprus, the other groups cross the Aegean (Myceneans first).
3. Mycenaean Greeks were in Thebes and Thessaly before the Aeolians; Myceneans were the first Greeks on Crete [see Map 1].

From the "residual Indo-European" (aka "Apple Indo-European")

1. **Pre-Tocharians** leave first, going east [NB this is a different scenario than is presented by either the 1989 or the 2012 tree].
2. **Apple Indo-Europeans** divide, presumably on an east/west basis into **Northwest Indo-Europeans** (pre Italics, Celts, and Phrygians) and **Northern Indo-Europeans** (Germanics, Balto-Slavs/Albanians/Illyrians/Messapics).
3. **Northwest Indo-Europeans** are likely to have been the first inhabitants of Hallstatt.
4. **Pre-Phrygians** move east and south in the same manner as later do the Galatians.

² As grouped and summarized by Adams.

5. **Pre-Germanics** are the first to separate from the (rest of the) **Northern-Indo-Europeans**; the remainder is marked as a proper linguistic sub-group ("**Balto-Slavo-Adriatic Indo-Europeans**") by the presence of some form of Winter's Law.
6. Leaving behind the Balto-Slavs, the "**Adriatic Indo-Europeans**" all [together or apart? ("not enough evidence")] eventually move south of the Carpathians, presumably along the middle Danube; the Messapics eventually cross the Adriatic.

Non-Indo-European Substrates:³

Hamp identifies the following non-Indo-European substrates that various Indo-European groups came into contact with as they moved towards and into their historic seats (see Map 2).

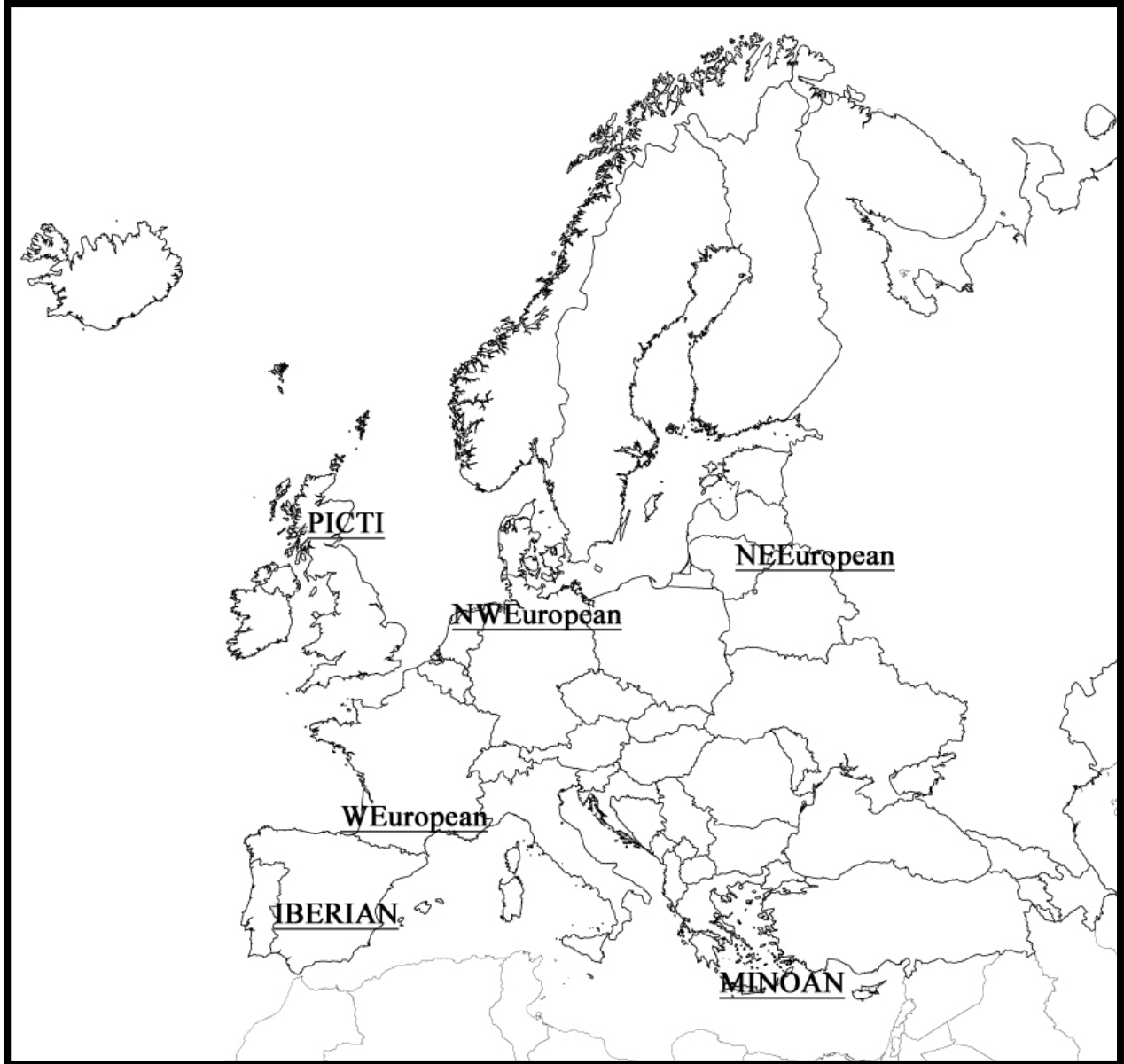
1. **Picts** at least in northern Britain and perhaps originally throughout Britain. (It is perhaps from a Pictish source that the Celts borrowed vigesimal counting and counting the passage of time by nights rather than days.)
2. **Western Europeans** in what is now the Netherlands and northwestern Germany.
3. **Northeast Europeans** in what are now the Baltic republics and northeastern Russia ("a stable area").
4. **Minoans** on Crete.
5. **Iberians** in southern and eastern Iberia.
6. **Western Europeans** in northwestern Iberia and southwestern France (including probably, but not absolutely certainly, the pre-Basques).

³ Again as grouped and summarized by Adams following Hamp's map.



Map 1. Migration routes of Greeks from northeast of the Black Sea to Greece and Cyprus, after Eric Hamp

[a = (pre-)Cypriots, b= Myceneans (and Arcadians), c = other Greeks (Attic-Ionic, Aeolian, Dorian)]



Map 2. Pre-Indo-European substrates as identified by Eric Hamp

Base map from WorldAtlasBook.com

Since June 2006, all new issues of *Sino-Platonic Papers* have been published electronically on the Web and are accessible to readers at no charge. Back issues are also being released periodically in e-editions, also free.

For a complete catalog of *Sino-Platonic Papers*, with links to free issues, visit the *SPP* Web site.

www.sino-platonic.org