

Foreword

The present volume contains the proceedings of the conference ‘The Indo European Verb’ of the Indogermanische Gesellschaft/Société des Études Indo Européennes/Society for Indo European Studies held at the University of California, Los Angeles, September 13-15, 2010. Response to the call for papers for a conference in Los Angeles on the theme of the Indo European verb was gratifyingly robust, and I regret that a three day program with a humane schedule and without parallel sessions could not accommodate all worthy submissions. Speakers represented more than a dozen countries, and their chosen topics dealt with data from all sub branches of the Indo European family. The breadth of issues treated also more than met my expressed desire in the invitation that the conference cover all aspects of the verb in PIE and in the oldest descendant languages. Papers addressed not only the abiding problems of the role of ablaut and of the form and function of reduplication in various verbal categories, the form and function of modal categories, the position of the PIE middle and its relationship to the perfect and the “*hi* conjugation” (with due attention to factors including lexical semantics, event types, and valency), but also diverse topics such as incorporation, suppletion, illocutionary force, and the prosodic status of finite verbs. For the usual variety of reasons, a few of the papers presented orally at the conference are not included in this volume. I explicitly note with deep sadness that his serious illness and premature death prevented Dr. Xavier Tremblay from completing the written version of his presentation.

It is my pleasant duty to express thanks to all who contributed to the success of the conference. The presenters, without whom there would have been no conference, also cooperated fully with the editor throughout the preparation of the proceedings – any remaining infelicities in the latter are my responsibility. Heather Gould, former Manager of the Dodd Humanities Group, did an outstanding job in arranging for the excellent amenities throughout the three days – as well as in the reservation of meeting space, dealing with the travel expenses of some participants, and many other logistical matters. All of the students in the Program for Indo European Studies helped the program run smoothly by preparing and distributing handouts, running the registration desk, and in general assisting with whatever tasks arose. Dr. Ursula Reichert graciously agreed to publish the proceedings and provided able and ready assistance in the final preparation of the volume. My warmest thanks to all! Finally, I wish to underscore again my and everyone’s deep gratitude to Dr. A. Richard Diebold Jr., whose generous endowment to UCLA Indo European Studies alone made the entire conference possible, including publication of the proceedings and travel assistance for some scholars from abroad, without which they could not have attended.

H. Craig Melchert
Los Angeles
December, 2011