LANGUAGE MONOGRAPHS

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LINGUISTIC SOCIETY OF AMERICA

EDITED BY

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Ohio State University

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NUMBER 3 DECEMBER, 1926

POST-CONSONANTAL *W* IN INDO-EUROPEAN

BY

FRANCIS A. WOOD
Professor of Germanic Philology, University of Chicago

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PREFACE

The aim of this work is to discuss only those points that are in dispute or that have been incorrectly interpreted, without a survey of exploded theories or the repetition of well established facts. In giving new etymologies it is hoped that the bare facts presented without comment will be illuminating enough to those among the open-minded who can see for themselves. If in any particular case the etymologies offered do not bring conviction, certainly the body of proof can leave no doubt. This mass of evidence establishes, along with other minor points, the following theses maintained in the paragraphs as given below :

1-5. That the loss of post-consonantal *w* clears up many anomalies in ablaut that have been otherwise explained.

6-8. That initial *qw-*, *gw-*, *ghw-*, lose the *w* in Sanskrit and in Greek, and become *v-* in Italic, thus proving a disputed point and giving consistency to the explanation ; that initial *sqw-* results in Skt. *sk-*, Gr. σπ-, Ital. *skw-* ; that medially the pure velars + *w* are not simplified in these languages.

9-10. That the palatals + *w* give in Greek initially and before and after consonants π, β, φ (never τ, δ, θ), between vowels (when the combination begins the syllable) ππ, β, φ, otherwise κκ, β, κχ ; initially in Italic *k*, *g*, *f*, after consonants (except *n*) *kw*, *gw*, χ*w*, Lat. *qu*, *v*, *v* ; that initial *χĝh-* falls together with *ĝh-* in Italic, in Germanic (cf. **15.24** ff.), and probably in Indo-Iranic, and becomes regularly in Greek σχ- or (before *w*) σφ-.

11. That the intervocalic labials + *w* result in geminations in Greek and Latin.

12. That initial *tw-* (except where *w* is lost by dissimilation) becomes Italic *p-* as claimed by Sommer, *Hdb.* 227 ; but intervocalic *-tw-* results in an early gemination *-tt-* or a later assimilation *-pp-*.

13. That intervocalic *-nw-* regularly gives Italic *-nn-*.

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14. That there is no basis for deriving initial Greek σ- from IE *sw-*.

15. That initial IE *$g^{w}h$-*, *ghw-*, *ĝhw-* result in Germanic *w-* except before *u*, original or developed.

16. That *w* causes pre-Germ. gemination resulting in Germ. *pp*, *mm*, *tt*, *nn*, *kk*, and a later Germ. gemination of the labials, dentals, and gutturals.

Because of my financial inability to pay for the printing of this little book and my failure to secure a subvention for it, this study has had to wait for several years for its publication though, as I believe, the explanations here given are basic and far-reaching. I am all the more grateful to the Linguistic Society of America for accepting this work as one of its series of monographs, especially as it brings no profit to the practical world and is, therefore, limited in its appeal to he unappreciated few whose only reward is the joy of achievement.

F.A.W.

Chicago, January 1926.

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CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION 5
1. Initial Labials + *w* in Indo-European 6
2. Initial *jw-* : *j-* 15
3. Initial Liquids + *w* in Indo-European 21
4. Dissimilatory loss of *w* 24
5. Initial Velars + *w* in Indo-European 26
6. The Velars + *w* in Sanskrit 29
7. The Pure Velars + *w* in Greek 32
8. The Pure Velars + *w* in Italic 46
9. The Palatals + *w* in Greek 55
10. The Palatals + *w* in Italic 69
11. Intervocalic Labials + *w* in Greek and Italic 86
12. The Dentals + *w* in Italic 89
13. IE *-nw-* : Italic *-nn-* 98
14. IE *sw-* in Greek 99
15. IE *g^wh-*, *ghw-*, *ĝhw-* in Germanic 102
16. Germanic *w*-Gemination 114

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