AN OVERVIEW OF RESEARCH ON PHRYGIAN FROM THE NINETEENTH CENTURY TO THE PRESENT DAY

Abstract

Contrary to what the title of the paper implies, the author does not limit himself to the presentation of the current state of research on Phrygian, but also provides his own interpretations and evaluations in many places. The very extensive list of references attached will certainly prove to be useful to the reader interested in the subject analysed.

On hearing the word ‘Phrygian’ most people I come across tend to look blank until I remind them of Phrygian stories and personages that seem to be part of our European cultural inheritance, such as King Midas of the golden touch or Alexander the Great cutting the Gordian knot at the Phrygian capital Gordion. Literateurs will of course associate Phrygian with Helen of Troy and her lover Paris Alexander. Classicists will undoubtedly remember Herodotus’ story about the twins who were reared without language and one morning clamoured for bekos, the Phrygian word for ‘bread.’

It seems to be generally agreed that the Phrygians came to Asia Minor from the Balkans, where they were known by names like Brikes, Brugoi, etc., and they arrived at Gordion (about 100 k SW of Ankara on the ancient Sangarios river, now called the Sakarya) about the time of the Hittite collapse, i.e. about 1200 BCE. At the height of their power in the 8th century they occupied a sizable chunk of what is now modern Turkey. Their inscriptions are thought to date from the late 8th century BCE and continue down to the fourth century by which time their political power was on the wane. The language of these inscriptions, 50 odd on stone and some 200 on pottery and other small items, is termed Old or Paleo-Phrygian (OPhr.). They are written essentially in an adaptation of a form

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of the Greek alphabet of c. 700 BCE and are customarily presented in scholarly publications in lower case Roman with some retention of original letter shapes for graphs / graphemes of disputed value.

After the OPhr. period there is a silence of about four centuries until the second century CE when, for about a century and a half, Phrygian inscriptions reappear, this time exclusively on tombs, and in a much smaller geographic region. They are carved in Greek lettering of the time, and in most cases with an accompanying text in Greek. The Greek is not always very good and there is a sprinkling of Greek words in the Phrygian texts. The language of these inscriptions is called New or Neo- or Late Phrygian (NPhr.). They number about 120. The best understood passage of NPhr. is the opening or protasis of an exclamation or curse text; a typical form, in the customary representation in lower case Greek letters, is:

\[\text{ιος νι σκων κνουμενε κακουν αδακετ} \]

whoever to this tomb (?) harm does

i.e. ‘Whoever does harm to this grave/tomb/monument’ vel sim.

The minimal conclusion or apodosis – the curse proper – is

\[\text{πτετακμενος ειτου} \]

(?) cursed (?) may he be / go

i.e. ‘may he be (or go) cursed (for it?; utterly?).’

There is also a funerary stelae dated to the end of the 4th century BCE, but written in the Classical Attic Greek alphabet. This has been repeatedly described as Middle Phrygian by Claude Brixhe (1993: 326f., with a list of characteristic features; 2004: 779, with still no news of an edition).

Apart from these epigraphic texts there are forty or so glosses or remarks on allegedly Phrygian linguistic matters in Greek and Roman authors of antiquity. Apart from doubts about how much of this material is really Phrygian, the readings and even the meanings of much of it is disputed. It really constitutes a secondary source and is best treated as such.

Until the early nineteenth century this secondary material was all that was available to modern European scholarship concerning the Phrygian language. Then a succession of European visitors to Turkey began publishing copies of Phrygian inscriptions. Two Britishers, Walpole (1820) and Leake (1824), published similar copies of two well preserved OPhr. inscriptions¹ on what is now called the Midas monument, a sculptured rock façade in a natural rock fortress now known as Midas City and located in the western part of the Phrygian realm. Leake, a captain in the British army, is actually credited with discovering this site in 1800.

¹ Numbered M-01a and M-01b in the now standard numbering of OPhr. inscriptions introduced by Brixhe / Lejeune 1984.
Other travellers such as the Frenchman Texier (1839) and the Britisher Steuart (1842) added further OPhr. inscriptions (M-01f, -02, -03, -04) from the Midas monument as well as the three from the nearby Areyastis monument (W-01), so called from the epithet of the mother goddess Kybele / Cybele found in the inscriptions. The first NPhr. items to be really noticed seem to be the four presented by the British geologist Hamilton 2 (1842. 2: 435–489, nos. 165, 376, 383, 449 = nos. 7, 5, 12, 25 in the current standard numbering for NPhr. established by Ramsay 1887). Hamilton (1842. 1: 383) also published his drawing of an OPhr. inscription (P-01) found in ancient Pteria far to the east and was uncertain what language it was in.

The first attempt at interpreting any of these texts seems to have been Leake’s (1824: 31) reading of three words in one his inscriptions (M-01a), viz. MIDAI … VANAKTEI EDAE, which he said, if they were Greek, would mean ‘divided or cut or inscribed for King Midas …’. Today we still agree substantially with this interpretation though we read the last word as EDAES and interpret it as ‘placed’ or ‘built’ or ‘dedicated’; it has also been suggested (by Woudhuizen 1993: 2), but probably not widely accepted, that the dative MIDAI… VANAKTEI is a dating formula.

The (presumably) Bavarian scholar A.D. Mordtman (1862) is the first interpreter of the texts who gets a mention in Brixhe / Lejeune’s standard (1984) corpus of the OPhr. texts. He also added to the small store of then known texts a couple of seemingly fairly impenetrable OPhr. graffiti from the Midas monument (p. 26f.; M-01c and d) and (1861: 191) half of a new inscription from Pteria (P-02). Mordtmann overlooked the other half of the inscription because he thought he was merely producing a corrected copy of the quite different inscription Hamilton had seen in the same locality.

Mordtmann began the process of interpretation by isolating the elements of the NPhr. curse formula from Hamilton’s four “Graeco-Phrygian” inscriptions but unfortunately he compared the formula with Greek texts that were not curses but indicated the builder(s) and the occupant(s) of the tombs. By these means and the somewhat dubious help of the segment (si)keneman on the Midas monument Mordtmann did succeed in identifying κνουμαν as referring in some way to the tomb. Another positive achievement was Mordtman’s recognition of OPhr. materan, etc., ‘mother’ in the Areyastis inscription and the Midas graffiti. – Incidentally, the alternation tar ~ ter in this paradigm is now part of the evidence for the sound change PIE *ē > Phrygian a, cf. Greek μητηρ ~ μητέρα. – But Mordtmann was hindered in his interpretations by some bizarre graphological decisions, such as the value /u/ he assigned to four-bar E, and, I would say, by his desire to fit a meaning to a text at almost any price even though he was painfully aware of the provisional nature of his interpretations.

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2 This agrees with Ramsay (1905: 79), though earlier Ramsay (1887: 381) had allowed priority to Pococke’s no. 3822c in the Corpus inscriptionum graecarum, 3 (1853), the Phrygian part being there annotated “is videtur contineri imprecatio fortasse metrica;” in this same volume Hamilton’s no. 385 = CIG 3986b, the set being annotated “ex schedis Seetzenii (21. Oct. 1803.).”
The next noteworthy event is the first useful collection of the glosses by Lagarde (1866: 234ff.) though Mordtmann (1862: 13) gives credit for this to Bötticher.

I have not been able to access Fick’s book of 1873 but I understand he was the first to equate Βρόγου with Φρόγες.

When, some twenty years after Mordtmann, the British traveller-scholar Ramsay produced his own 15-page corpus of a dozen or so OPhr. (“Archaic Phrygian”) inscriptions under the title “early historical relations” etc. (Ramsay 1883: 120–135), he rather stuffily refused to include Mordtmann’s graffiti on the grounds that they had been “not worth copying,” but his efforts at interpretation were much more restrained. He gave a very detailed commentary on the main Midas inscription (M-01a) in particular identifying edaes as = Greek έθη(τ) -, but then he tapered off as he moved through his corpus, regarding the texts as consisting largely of theonyms and anthroponyms. This led him to formulate a theory, later taken up by Kretschmer, that the Phrygians had a love of double names like Ates Arkiaevais, Midai Lavaltaei (dative) (M-01a) and Baba Me-mevais (M-01b and M-02) which made up for their lack of Greek-style compound names. He thought to see Phrygian versions of several Greek names in words we now regard as some sort of official titles, e.g. he equated Lavaltaei, better Lavagtaei, which probably means something like ‘leader of the people,’ with the name of Odysseus’ father Laertes, and similarly Akenanogavos and Proitavos as Achilleus and Proitos, the Argive king, respectively.

Ramsay (1883: 121) was also doubtful about reading Α as lambda and Γ with various angles as gamma, suggesting that only Γ with a right angle ought to be gamma and Α with an acute angle ought to be lambda, but he did not pursue the matter and thus missed an opportunity to eliminate a graphological perplexity that was to dog Phrygian studies until Lejeune’s paper of 1969 (see Lejeune 1969a: 23–25).

Once again anticipating Lejeune (1969a: 40f.), Ramsay (1883: 122) noted that the OPhr. straight-line iota corresponded to a relatively late Greek form while the archaic Greek iota was very similar to the Semitic yod, and that therefore the Phrygians had got their alphabet from the Greeks, and not vice versa. (Lejeune 1969a bolstered this with further arguments; all this was recklessly ignored by Woudhuizen 1993: 3–5).

A few years later Ramsay (1887) produced a workmanlike corpus of 29 NPhr. inscriptions with draughtsman’s drawings of the inscriptions plus readings in Greek lower case, information on provenience, copying history, and some discussion. His numbering of the inscriptions is the basis of the standard used today. He gave credit to Schmidt (1869) for making the first real progress with the NPhr. texts in 1869 by showing that some of them contained a curse formula in a language closely akin to Greek; Schmidt had also identified εττου at the end of the curse as a 3rd person imperative ‘may he be,’ but had said nothing about the actual content of the curse. From metrical considerations Ramsay claimed to be able to distinguish several original Greek curses from Greek translations of the Phrygian curses. His inscription no.1 contains such an alleged translation.
Thus Ramsay identified most of the main elements of the curse much as we do today. His principal oversight was repaired by Fick (1889) who isolated μανκα, a common alternative to κνουμαν and perhaps meaning ‘memorial.’ It is perhaps surprising that Ramsay missed this since only a few years before (1884: 254) he had, on the basis of Greek inscriptions, identified the two essential parts of a Phrygian tomb as the altar (ΒΩΜΟΣ) and the door (ΘΥΠΑ), although this identification seems to be largely overlooked nowadays as irrelevant.

Fick’s short but important paper confirmed many of Ramsay’s results and proposed IE etymologies for some of the Phrygian terms, some which are still taken seriously today, such as κνου-μαν to Skt. khan- ‘dig,’ μανκα to Greek μνήμα. His connection of σεμων to PIE *kei- ‘this’ is still controversial and has been taken by some (e.g. Jahukyan 1977: 208) as beginning of the trend of regarding Phrygian as a satem language, though I think this trend must stem in part from statements made by ancient writers to the effect that Phrygian was closely related to Thracian and Armenian, because already in 1883 Ramsay’s etymologizing was being influenced by his belief that PIE *ga- would yield Phrygian za- unless it was the labialized sound reflected in Skt. g(a)m-, Greek βαίνειν ‘go’ (Ramsay 1883: 130).

By now there was enough interpreted material available for Hirt (1893) to challenge the satem view of Phrygian. Hirt pointed out that all the examples showing z- reflexes of PIE voiced palatals had front vowel following the z.

Torp (1894: 5, 6) challenged Hirt’s claim, saying there were obvious exceptions to Hirt’s palatalization rule and there were names containing z before back vowel (these were admittedly of unknown origin so neither argument was convincing) and that the similarity alleged by Plato (Kratyllos 410A) between the Phrygian and the Greek words for ‘dog’ could be supported by a hypothetical Phrygian *sunes beside Greek κυνεσ. Thus was originated a debate that continues to the present day: Neroznak (1976: 170) poured scorn on scholars like Meillet and Brugmann who maintained that not enough was known about Phrygian to discuss the matter, but years later Brixhe (1983: 170) still considered the question premature – and perhaps he was right. The most balanced view of the centum / satem question is basically a modification of Hirt’s – that PIE palatals were palatalized in Phrygian before front vowel as in some centum languages, see, e.g., Bednarczuk (1986: 482).

This question is of course only just separable from the question of which languages within Indo-European are most closely related to Phrygian, which has also been hotly debated. A turning point in this debate was Kortlandt’s (1988) demonstration on the basis of shared sound changes that Thraco-Armenian had separated from Phrygian and other originally Balkan languages at an early stage. The consensus has now returned to regarding Greek as the closest relative.

Ramsay’s corpora seem to have inaugurated a thin stream of quite lengthy scholarly articles and some books. It is not possible here to recapitulate the mass of questions these works address. A few of the more prominent details will have to suffice.
Thus in addition to challenging Hirt, Torp (1894: 10, 17) also proposed, among many other useful suggestions, loss of PIE initial *s- generally or in the initial cluster *sw- in Phrygian – we now believe *s- lost only in *sw- – and identification of the connective … ke … ke ‘… and …’ in NPhr. no. 12 (and elsewhere) with Greek τε … τε rather than Greek κοι.

Kretschmer’s Einleitung in die Geschichte der griechischen Sprache (“Introduction to the history of Greek”) is still regarded as a seminal work on many aspects of Phrygian studies, despite a number of oddities such as the belief that PIE *ē remains in Phrygian (Kretschmer 1896: 222). Kretschmer therefore missed an opportunity when he noted that Phrygian stems in -av- (proitavos, akenanogavos) were reminiscent of Greek stems in -nF- but denied they could be connected (Kretschmer 1896: 237).

Solmsen, in two papers published in 1897, compared NPhr. νι ‘-ever,’ proposed that NPhr. αινι means ‘and’ or ‘or’ (Solmsen 1897a: 67f.) and invoked Lydian kan- in Κάνισδούλος to explain Plato’s remark about the ‘dog’ words (Solmsen 1897b: 77–80). He also argued that the glossed word ζέρμα ‘gate’ cannot go with the pure velar root *ghed- ‘seize’ but must reflect the palatal in *ĕhed- ‘defecate;’ Engl. gate can go with either, so the gloss πύλη does not need to be emended to πυγή ‘rump, buttocks.’

There were new contributions by archaeologists such as von Reber (1897: 564–585), who proposed eminently sensible interpretations of some well known OPhr. inscriptions and less extravagant though remarkably precise dates for the Midas and Areystis monuments (ca. 600 BCE and 546 BCE, resp.); and Alfred Körte, who in 1898 provided corrections to existing readings of some inscriptions (Körte 1898: 84–118) and in 1904 (with Gustav Körte) commented on the confusion in the numbering and identification of some of Ramsay’s 1883 corpus (A. Körte, G. Körte 1904: 19f.); and Brandenburg (1906: 637, 645), who noted that approximate decipherment of some inscriptions had been achieved and also gave a slightly better reading of one of Mordtmann’s Midas graffiti (M-01d).

In 1898 Saussure published a chapter on the OPhr. inscriptions observed in Pteria by E. Chantre in the latter’s account of his and his wife’s doings in Cappadocia (cited here according to the reprint in Saussure 1922: 542–575). Thanks to these inscriptions Saussure was able to identify Hamilton’s Pteria inscription as Phrygian (Saussure 1922: 544). He also observed that OPhr. ios ni (P-04) was the same as in NPhr. and recognized the suffix of Arkiaevais (M-01a) in Kanuieivais (P-03) (ibid.), proposing that this suffix was used to generate patronymics or metronymics or gentilics (Saussure 1922: 549). Saussure also deduced, apparently independently of Torp, that ke = Greek τε = (Saussure 1922: 551–553) and cast doubt on Mordtmann’s (1862: 20) by then traditional reading ż of the OPhr. Z-like character (with vertical central bar), and its mirror image, by suggesting it might also on occasion be read as yod (Saussure 1922: 575 n. 2).

Anderson, in a couple of papers published in 1897–98 and 1899, in addition to publishing facsimiles of some very precisely located NPhr. inscriptions also discovered the fem. sg. acc. of the relative pronoun in μονακον ιαν εστιας as ‘the monument which (s/he) set up’ and noted that confusion of gen. and dat. is
common in the Greek inscriptions of Phrygia as well as in the NPhr. ones (Anderson 1899: 288).

There were some misunderstandings along the way: Kretschmer was sent a copy of an inscription he knew quite well (M-02) but the copy, by the explorer von Diest, was so extraordinarily bad that he failed to recognize it and in 1899 he wrote it up as a new inscription (Kretschmer 1899: 352; see also von Diest 1898: 33f.) Two years passed before Kretschmer realized his mistake and published a correction.

In his 1899 paper Kretschmer also proposed that -vais was an ethnic suffix and demonstrated the untenability of Torp’s translation ‘with his household and in person’ of the frequent NPhr. phrase με ζεμέλως κε δεος κε, proposing instead ‘(cursed) by heaven and earth’ (Kretschmer 1899: 357, 358 n. 2). This is similar to Ramsay’s (1905: 107ff.) and Lubotsky’s (1998: 419ff.) ‘among gods and men.’ In 1901 Kretschmer at last also identified the lambda-like letter in the last word of M-01b and M-02, as delta, as in M-01a, thus reading uniformly edaes instead of the variants egaes or elaes (Kretschmer 1901: 116).

In 1905 Ramsay updated his corpus of NPhr. inscriptions, adding another 19 and removing some that had been discovered to be in Greek. He appended a list of regions in which NPhr. inscs. are found which showed them to be rural and hence the preserve of the less educated (Ramsay 1905: 84ff.). He cited Sayce’s claim that the standard curse consists of two hexameters (Ramsay 1905: 85). Meister’s 1909 paper on Aeolian demonstratives ἰδαία, etc. and Phrygian ἰδαία is of historical importance for its extensive if still partly controversial contributions to Phrygian phonology and morphology: it has many examples of *ō > u, ou (Meister 1909: 317 n. 2); it was the first to propose mediae > tenues (except *g” > b) *g and *g > k, e.g. κονιομεν (εϊ) = γνώμας, κονιος, ‘generation,’ κενεχνουν ‘let them become,’ mekas ‘great’ (Meister 1909: 317 n. 2) (Gk. γόνος, γεν-, μέγας); he proposed that the normal loss of final -t as in edaes meant that οδόδεκετ is present not preterite (Meister 1909: 317 n. 3). Some ideas were less happy. e.g. Meister explained the alternation ε/ā in matar materan by the supposed similarity of the two sounds in Phrygian, hence, allegedly, matar, anar, daditi for *meter, *aner, *dediti and ae in edaes, estaes (Meister 1909: 316 fn. 1).

The year 1911 saw the start of a new Corpus of NPhr. by Calder published in the JHS and completed by further instalsments in 1913 and 1926 both with constant updating of inscriptions already published. Calder and Ramsay had amassed another score of NPhr. inscriptions during their several journeys to Phrygia. In his introductory essay, Calder notes some regional peculiarities in the wording of the execration formulae, but unfortunately in updating Ramsay’s 48 texts he does not repeat Ramsay’s information about their provenance. The rest of the Corpus receives much better treatment. The last instalment was followed immediately by Sayce’s enthusiastic reception of the whole and suggestions for improvements, including improvements to Ramsay’s OPhr. inscriptions which had been partly achieved by Ramsay himself: at last the reading edaes was confirmed for the former mixture of this with elaes and egaes.
After Calder’s first instalment Fraser published the first synthesis in 1913, concentrating almost exclusively on NPhr. and acknowledging Calder’s explanations of the inscriptions as the most convincing produced so far. Fraser followed a history of research with a discussion of the curse formula; a detailed (satem) historical phonology rejecting Meister’s devoicing of mediae; morphology; discussion of the meaning and origin of selected lexica; discussion of difficult parts of inscriptions, nos. 35 and 15; and word index – Phrygian, Indo-Iranian, Greek, etc.

In 1927, the year following the conclusion of Calder’s Corpus, Jokl’s influential article on the Phrygian language appeared in vol. 10 of Ebert’s Reallexikon der Vorgeschichte. Among much else this has an excellent treatment of the problems of Phrygian historical phonology with many, many examples. It is here that I have noticed the first reference to the sound change PIE *ē > Phrygian a, still ignored by Gusmani (1959: 18) and by Diakonov / Neroznak (1985: 43) and by Neroznak (1992: 273).

The year after that (1928) saw the publication of Calder’s first volume in the series Monumenta Asiae Minoris Antiqua of which this first vol. as well vols. 4, 6, 7 and 8 are of direct relevance to NPhr. They contain edited texts and photographs and some drawings of the NPhr. inscriptions embedded in a mass of Greek inscriptions. Only a few of the photos of the Phrygian material are reasonably legible; many are essentially illegible. Most of the originals of the NPhr. inscriptions have now been lost. In view of the Prolegomena articles published by Brixhe (1994b) and Brixhe, Drew-Bear (1999), I understand there may be new corpus of NPhr. in preparation.

In 1932 Friedrich produced his very handy and frequently cited compendium of texts from Asia Minor.

1941 saw the publication of the much cited encyclopedia article of the same Friedrich.

In 1938 Haas began publishing a series of papers investigating inscriptions in both NPhr. and OPhr. as well as the glosses, and the names, and a host of other matters. This culminated in his book of 1966 which is regarded as a major landmark in Phrygian studies. Some would say this assessment owes more to the stimulus the book provided to further studies than for the intrinsic quality of Haas’s innovations. Interestingly enough, though, the NPhr. section of the new online corpus of Phrygian inscriptions being prepared by Alexander Lubotsky takes Haas’s conveniently assembled NPhr. corpus as basic. Some of Haas’s conclusions have been firmly rejected by later scholars, such as his belief that the term “Phrygian” covered at least three distinct linguistic entities. Haas is also widely criticised for excessive and wild use of etymology in interpreting the texts, but I believe I’m not alone in thinking there is a good deal in Haas’s work that is actually sounder than much that has been produced by some of his more strident detractors. A planned second volume containing an etymological dictionary and bibliography never came to fruition: after producing another half dozen publications on Phrygian, Haas died in 1977. For a brief but balanced
evaluation of Haas’ merits and demerits see his fellow Austrian (Fritz Freiherr) Lochner von Hüttenbach 1982.3

While Haas was still gathering momentum for his book another synthesis came out almost without warning in 1958–1959 from the pen of Gusmani in the form of four journal articles, subsequently issued as a book but retaining the original pagination. It contains a collection of 36 glosses based on Friedrich 1941, an alphabetical list of the most securely interpreted OPhr. lexemes, a treatment of the NPhr. excretion formula as well as the rarer types of NPhr. texts, it augments Friedrich’s 1932 catalogue of NPhr. inscriptions by a further 19 texts drawn from MAMA 4, 6, 7, and Am J Arch 36. Controversial glosses are allotted a special section as are Phrygian onomastics, Greek as spoken in Phrygia, and Phrygian historical phonology and morphology. Notably, Gusmani still believed PIE *ē > i and noted occasional devoicing of mediae, together with examples of palatals yielding both sibilants and velars.

After Haas 1966 there was a considerable upsurge of interest in Phrygian. Part of this was due to a sudden large increase in the number of OPhr. texts available due to the efforts of a number of archeologists, both Turkish and German – and especially the American Rodney Young who had begun excavating at Gordion in 1950, publishing a series of reports every other year or so containing among other things good photographs of the inscriptions that came to light together with some attempts at interpretation (see, e.g. Young 1964 n. 7). By 1969 he had amassed enough material to prepare a corpus of Gordion texts complete with photographs and drawings of the inscriptions as well as readings and limited interpretations. His purpose in doing this was to illustrate the evolution of the OPhr. alphabet. This work almost coincided with the preparation by Lejeune (1969a) of his major determinations on the alphabet, including the following:

(1) & (2), as Ramsay had foreshadowed, l had an acute angle and g – a right angle; and the priority of the Greeks over the Phrygians in adopting the alphabet;

(3) that the OPhr. Z-like sign had the single value y (IPA [j]) whatever its orientation, never z (pace Haas [1966: 178f.] who, improving on Saussure [above], proposed that OPhr. y and z were mirror images of each other);

(4) y is not found in inscriptions before the the 6th century;

(5) yC is always separated by word boundary.

All this constitutes one of the first major advances post-Haas 1966 and in my view ushers in the modern period in which there is quite a plethora of publications on the subject. Among the more notable are:

The magnificent Brixhe / Lejeune Corpus of OPhr. inscriptions of 1984 with good photos of nearly all the inscriptions and / or squeezes of them, as well as drawings, readings, conservative attempts at interpretation and massive documentation. The book also introduces a new numbering system allowing the in-

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3 Haas 1966 was reviewed by Gusmani (1967), Brixhe (1968), Dressler (1968), Heubeck (1969), D’jakonov (1972).
scriptions to be classified according to provenience and material (i.e. stone or portable utensil). Some of the more direct responses to it are:

(1) A review by Bajun / Orel (1986) claiming the authors’ interpretation of ‘OPhr.’ was too narrow; (2) Georgiev (1985) describing the work as “magnifique” and giving a brief morphology, a vocabulary and interpretations of several of the OPhr. texts; and (3) Perpillou’s (1986) article Le paléo-phrygien, dans son obscure vérité – apparently a pessimistic view of the potentials of OPhr. research.

Rather less worthy, despite the massive effort and ingenuity involved, are a couple of attempts by Soviet scholars to provide complete translations of the entire Phrygian corpus viz. Diakonoff / Neroznak in 1985 and Bajun / Orel in 1988(a), both of which incorporate some unorthodox views of Phrygian phonology and have more than their fair share of bizarre interpretations. Orel’s book of 1997 marks a return to a more orthodox phonology and a decrease in the number of bizarre translations. The book is well organized and a handy reference for the entire corpus, but in my opinion the renumbering of the NPhr. material in line with the system of locality prefixes devised for OPhr. by Brixhe / Lejeune (1984) has not been sufficiently thought through.

Some further momentous events are:

(1) The 1995 First International Symposium on Phrygian published by Gusmani et al. (1997); and

Of the literature published since Haas 1966, I think for anyone investigating the interpretation of the inscriptions the following authors are required reading: Lejeune, Neumann, Brixhe, Lubotsky, Gusmani, Kowal, Heubeck, Janda. Bajun and Orel should also not be neglected and one should at least be aware of the contributions of Diakonov and Neroznak, bearing in mind that few serious efforts are entirely without merit.

Recently some old problems of historical phonology have been readdressed, such as the question of devoicing of PIE mediae by Lubotsky (2004), Matzinger (2006) and Woodhouse (2006), the question of palatalization of tectals by Woodhouse (2005) and other papers of mine that resulted in my being invited here; and last but not least your own Dr Sowa’s papers on Balkan IE, apparent Phrygian words in Greek and a systematized catalogue of Phrygian verb forms.

The situation of Phrygian is very similar to that of Lydian. If anyone is looking for a PhD / Kandidat project, I think there is probably room for a book like Gusmani’s Lydisches Wörterbuch that would contain not the biased conclusions of one scholar but an annotated compendium of whatever useful interpretations have been advanced for each interpreted word that has been divined in the corpus or corpora.

I should like to finish by echoing the sentiments of Neumann (1987: 93) and Lubotsky (1997: 115) that further progress in elucidating the Phrygian texts needs to be based on a combination of paleographic and combinatorial analysis with a constant eye on the Greek inscriptions of Phrygia and a minimal reliance on etymology. The temptation to sin against these provisions is of course strong:
I regret to say that I myself have succumbed to this temptation on more than one occasion.

References


Bayun L.S. see Bajun L.S.


Although this bibliography makes no claim to being exhaustive it nevertheless does contain many items not specifically mentioned in the lecture. Some journal articles were not available to the author and remain here without title.
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