

HEINZ FÄHRNICH: *Kartwelisches Etymologisches Wörterbuch*. Handbuch der Orientalistik 18. 873 pp. Leiden • Boston: Brill. 2007.

In 1998 the late Giorgij Klimov published his *Etymological Dictionary of the Kartvelian Languages*, which I reviewed in these pages. In that review I wrote: 'In 1990 the prolific (East) German Caucasologist Heinz Fähnrich (from Jena) and his Tbilisi collaborator (half-Georgian, half-Mingrelian) Zurab Sardzhveladze, a specialist in both Old Georgian and comparative kartvelology, produced their own 619-page 'Comparative Dictionary of the Kartvelian Languages' in Georgian. A German translation (unavailable to the present reviewer) appeared in 1995. The latter pair acknowledge the importance of Klimov's contribution, whilst Klimov praises the insights of the rival title — Klimov often used to lecture at Tbilisi's Pushkin Pedagogical Institute, where Sardzhveladze worked, and the two men were close friends with high mutual respect.' The German-Georgian team went on to produce in 2000 an 816-page 'second, expanded and revised edition' of their original, again in Georgian (Tbilisi: Sulxan-Saba Orbeliani State University Press). And now a sole-authored German work joins the list. It will perhaps be instructive to compare this both with Klimov ([K] 1998) and Fähnrich-Sardzhveladze ([F-S₁] 1990/1995 and [F-S₂] 2000).

To quote again from my earlier review: 'Kartvelian (or South Caucasian) is a close-knit, geographically compact language-family comprising Georgian, Svan, Mingrelian and Laz (or Ch'an) — apart from Laz, most of whose speakers live in north-east Turkey, these languages are predominantly spoken within the borders of the Republic of Georgia, though Georgian is also spoken to some extent in Turkey. [...] Only between Mingrelian and Laz, which some prefer to treat as a single language called Zan [...] is there any degree of mutual intelligibility.' Proto-Kartvelian's vowel-system is generally assumed to be identical to that of Modern Georgian (viz. /a, e, i, o, u/), whilst most have equated the consonant-system with that of Old Georgian plus an additional series of hissing-hushing (presumably alveolo-palatal) fricatives and affricates (viz., according to their canonical representation, /z₁, s₁, dz₁, ts₁', ts₁), set up to account for such patterns of correspondence as:

Construct	Georgian	Mingrelian	Laz	Svan
*s	s	s	s	s
*f	f	ʃk	ʃk	ʃg
*tʃ [ʔtʃ]	tʃ	tʃk	tʃk	tʃk
*s ₁ [ʔʃ]	s	ʃ	ʃ	ʃ

Both F-S₁ and K operated with this construct-system. However, a problem for the conventionally reconstructed pattern was a correspondence-set such as seen in the word-building prefix:

Georgian	Mingrelian	Laz	Svan
sa-	o-	o-	la-

F-S₁ reconstructed for this type of correspondence *s₁a-, which does not conform to the pattern above for the initial component, whereas K preferred *(s)a- as his construct, even though this should have preserved the alveolar fricative in all daughter-languages. As early as 1962 Karl Horst Schmidt had tentatively proposed in his *Studien zur Rekonstruktion des Lautstandes der südkaukasischen Sprache* that a lateral fricative might best be reconstructed to capture this correspondence-set. In their additional preface to F-S₂ the authors note that they have accepted proposals by Schmidt, the late Givi Mach'avariani and Fähnrich himself in postulating the presence in proto-Kartvelian of not only a lateral fricative but also an ejective lateral affricate /tʰ:/ (denoted in the present volume by *L). They found eleven reflexes of this fricative and six of the affricate; in the present volume Fähnrich's totals are twelve and eight, respectively. North East Caucasian languages, to which Kartvelian is NOT related, can have quite challenging inventories of laterals, but typologists may wish to comment on whether the hypothesised tripartite proto-system /l, ɬ, tʰ/ (lacking a non-ejective lateral affricate) is convincing.

Much in the 26-page Introduction here necessarily recapitulates what is contained in the two prefaces in F-S₂. Wisely omitted are the pages drawing parallels between Kartvelian and some non-Kartvelian languages, whilst there is some speculation that the parent-language might have additionally possessed a voiced pharyngeal (?uvular) plosive (designated *G), a voiced laryngeal (?pharyngeal) fricative (*ω), a voiced prevelar fricative (*ɣ₁), and a voiceless prevelar fricative (*x₁). These items are tentatively (shewn by square brackets) set up in the list of proto-phonemes (pp. 14-15), though no actual construct-forms contain them in the dictionary proper. Placed after the References are six word-lists of the included: (a) constructs, (b) Georgian words, (c) Mingrelian words, (d) Laz words, (e) Svan words, for all of which the Georgian alphabetic ordering is employed (with proto-phonemes unattested in Georgian inserted at appropriate spots — *s₁ immediately after *s, and so on), and (f) German meanings.

By my reckoning, 1,642 lemmata appear in this volume, of which some 378 are either entirely new or sufficiently different (sc. in comparison with F-S₂) to have the look of new constructs; several items from F-S₂ appear to have been omitted, but on closer inspection most of these are actually retained in revised form. Naturally, as more lexemes become known to etymologists resulting from more detailed scrutiny of Old Georgian manuscripts or the modern Kartvelian languages and dialects, the stock of constructs might well increase. But as an example of an item present in F-S₂ and then here awarded a sufficiently different shape to be interpretable as a new entry, let us take the word for 'God', reconstructed in F-S₂ as *ɣmart- but as *ɣamort- here (for

comparison K offers * γ mat-), whose reflexes are: Georgian / γ mert-i/, Mingrelian / γ oront-i/, Laz / γ ormot-i/, and Svan's Upper Bal dialect / γ e:rbet/. Even where entries are common to both F-S₁ and F-S₂, with or without modification, the illustrative material (e.g. Old Georgian attestations) is frequently varied, as other aspects of an article might also be. One item present in F-S₂ (p. 466, and in K p. 201) but absent here is *pefw-, equating to Old Georgian /pefw-eb-a/ 'grope for' and Svan /li-pa:fgw-e/ 'flatter' — a note in the Introduction on such reconsiderations would have been instructive, as would a few words on the decades-long collaboration between the German and Georgian scholars would also have been welcome, as well as statement by the author on the extent to which he feels this work differs from his previous collaborative ventures in Kartvelian etymology.

This book is unarguably a valuable contribution to Kartvelian studies, and even those already possessed of F-S₂ will probably wish to add it to their collection in view of the additional material and/or reconsidered judgments incorporated here.

Although the work is dedicated to the memory of Zurab Sardzhveladze, who died untimely in 2002, readers might be left wondering if, given the amount of shared labour that lay behind F-S₂ (to say nothing of F-S₁), it might not have been more ethical to have retained co-authorship for this volume too, expanding the title along following lines: 'Thoroughly revised, expanded and translated into German by Heinz Fähnrich'.

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1,143 words