

Preface

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The Laws of Indo-European

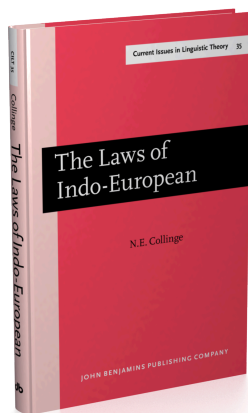
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PREFACE

On first embarking on the stormy waters of Indo-European studies — as often since — I wished I had a guide to those named ‘laws’ of history which scholars seemed to treat as old friends, thinking them too familiar to need introduction. This work is the report of a personal voyage of exploration around those ‘laws’. In compiling the log of the voyage I know I have not shed the enthusiasms or the dislikes which attach themselves like limpets to the long-term traveller. But the record, however subjective, may serve as an initial chart for other explorers.

The blame for what is not said as it should be (or said when it should not be) must be mine only. But my sincere thanks are due — and have been given — to those who have contributed to my understanding on various hypotheses. By their repeated helpfulness, the late Alan S.C. Ross, and more recently Greville Corbett, Harry Leeming, John Payne, and Patrick Stiles have deserved a particular record here of my grateful appreciation. The editor of the CILT Series, Konrad Koerner, has been stalwart in kindly guidance and generous with helpful information; and the house of Benjamins is a model of encouragement.

The initial typing of an awkward and much-corrected manuscript has been nobly done by Nola Bowden and Irene Pickford. The Universities of Birmingham and Manchester allowed me study leave at crucial stages of research. Finally, I am grateful to the Mont Follick Trust for financial assistance towards the production of the final copy of the whole work.

Warts and all, here it is.

Manchester.
December 1983

NEC