



HOUSTON PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY

Presents

"Our Language Family".
by

Howard Thames, Jr.,
PhD

September 15, 2016

680th

Meeting of the Houston Philosophical Society

ABSTRACT

In the 16th century European visitors to the Indian subcontinent began to notice similarities between Indo-Iranian and European languages, and the hypothesis was born that closely related modern language families (Germanic, Italic, Slavic, Persian, etc.) must have separated in antiquity from a common ancestor which has been

named Indo-European. Questions about where the original Indo-European speakers came from, and when, have been approached using archaeological, genetic, and linguistic methods*. Currently there are two main hypotheses: (1) Kurgan (area north of Black and Caspian seas, around 3000 BC) and (2) Anatolian (Turkey, around 6000 BC). Archaeologic and genetic evidence is inconclusive, with pottery and burial methods consistent with either or both hypotheses. Linguistic studies suggest that either hypothesis might hold, based on the methodology employed, but the Kurgan hypothesis is currently favored.

*For those interested in further reading, references to books and published articles may be found online at the Houston Philosophical Society website (alternatively by request to hthames@gmail.com) as either the PDF or the Word document "Language_references".

SPEAKER'S BIO

Howard Thames, Jr., PhD



Education: BA (1963) and PhD (1970) in Chemistry, Rice University

Employment: 1970 - present Dept. of Biostatistics, M.D. Anderson Cancer Center

Honors:

Basic Research Award, M.D. Anderson Cancer Center 1993

Helen Buchanan and Stanley Joseph Seeger Research Professor, M. D. Anderson Cancer Center 1983-2005

Failla Award, Radiation Research Society 2001

Gold Medal, American Society of Therapeutic Radiation and Oncology 2001

Honorary Member European Society of Therapeutic Radiation

Presents

Oncology 1990, Polish Society of Radio-Oncology 2002, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Radioonkologie 2003, Austrian Society of Radio-oncology 2012

Second languages: French and German

Hobby: piano in chamber groups

RESERVATION & COST INFORMATION

**Cocktail Reception, Dinner & Lecture
15 September, 2016 / 6pm - 9pm
Cohen House, Rice University**

Dinner Meeting \$40 per person

**Please remember to pay your dues
\$75 per year**

**For Reservations call Dale Wilkins: (713) 839-0808
or
Reply to email: dale@amchouston.com**

PRESIDENT'S NOTE

Welcome to the first meeting of the 2016-17 Houston Philosophical Society! We're looking forward to another year of great speakers and lively conversations. A complete list of speakers and topics will be available on the HPS website. www.hps.rice.edu/calendar

Thank you.

**J. Patrick Hughes
President
Houston Philosophical Society**

Presents

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