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Gerard SPAANS (Basel)

ANCIENT GREEK LOANWORDS IN ALBANIAN: WHAT DO WE KNOW AND WHAT REMAINS TO BE DONE?

Abstract: Most of our knowledge about the Southern Balkans in Antiquity stems directly from Ancient Greek records, so our perspective on the historical situation in this area is highly Hellenistic. The ancestors of the Albanians must have lived among the Southern Balkan tribes, since their language seems to have borrowed some agricultural terminology from Ancient Greek. Studying these approximately 20-40 loanwords can yield a different perspective on the language contact scenario in question. This paper sums up the discussion of 19 suggested Ancient Greek borrowings in Albanian, and is meant as an aid and stimulus for further research into the matter.

Keywords: Ancient Greek; Albanian; Language Contact; Loanwords; Antiquity

Gerard Spaans, PhD student University of Basel Basel, Switzerland email: gerard.spaans@unibas.ch