

Heilsan!

INDO-EUROPEAN MUCH OLDER THAN PREVIOUSLY BELIEVED

A recent article in the New York Times (“Celtic Found to Have Ancient Roots,” July 1, 2003) points to a coming upheaval in our ideas about prehistory.

Though the title of the article deals with the Celtic language, the import of the study by Dr. Peter Forster of the University of Cambridge and Dr. Alfred Toth of the University of Zurich runs much deeper than this.

The standard age of the Indo-European family of language is usually given as 4000 BCE, but the new research indicates that Indo-European arrived in Europe around 8,100 BCE. Similarly, the arrival of Celtic speakers in England and Ireland was moved back from around 600 BCE to about 3,200 BCE.

If found to be true, what do these new findings tell us about the peopling of Europe and the later Indo-European invasions? For that matter, will it affect the dating of other events in the Indo-European world, such as the age of the Rig Veda? How about Indo-European religions, such as Asatru?

Expect repercussions throughout the field of Indo-European studies!

Find the whole article at:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2003/07/01/science/01CELT.html?ex=1058683069&ei=1&en=f e91ca2eb8a44ff6>