

aestumō

By ERIC P. HAMP, University of Chicago

Walde-Hofmann *LEW*, I 20¹) s. *aestimō*, II 658, is inclined to accept Havet's perceptive derivation from **ais-temos* as a denominative. Ernout-Meillet *DÉLL* s. v. is much more reserved and diffident. Actually, the semantics of Havet's derivation look perfectly reasonable, but the formal account requires more careful reconstruction.

If the underlying compound meant 'one who cuts the metal' then we should have a formation like *παν-τρόφος* 'who nourishes all', *έγγελσ-φόρος* 'spear-bearing', *φαεσ-φορός* *φωσ-φόρος* 'light bringing'. The source formation should then be **aies-tomos*.

This gives us a well formed, grammatical compound of a productive Indo-European type: the first element in neutral stem form (unlike the obsolete oldest *s*-stems, with zero grade), and the second an *o*-grade thematic.

¹) The Illyrian ghost *iser* may now be deleted.