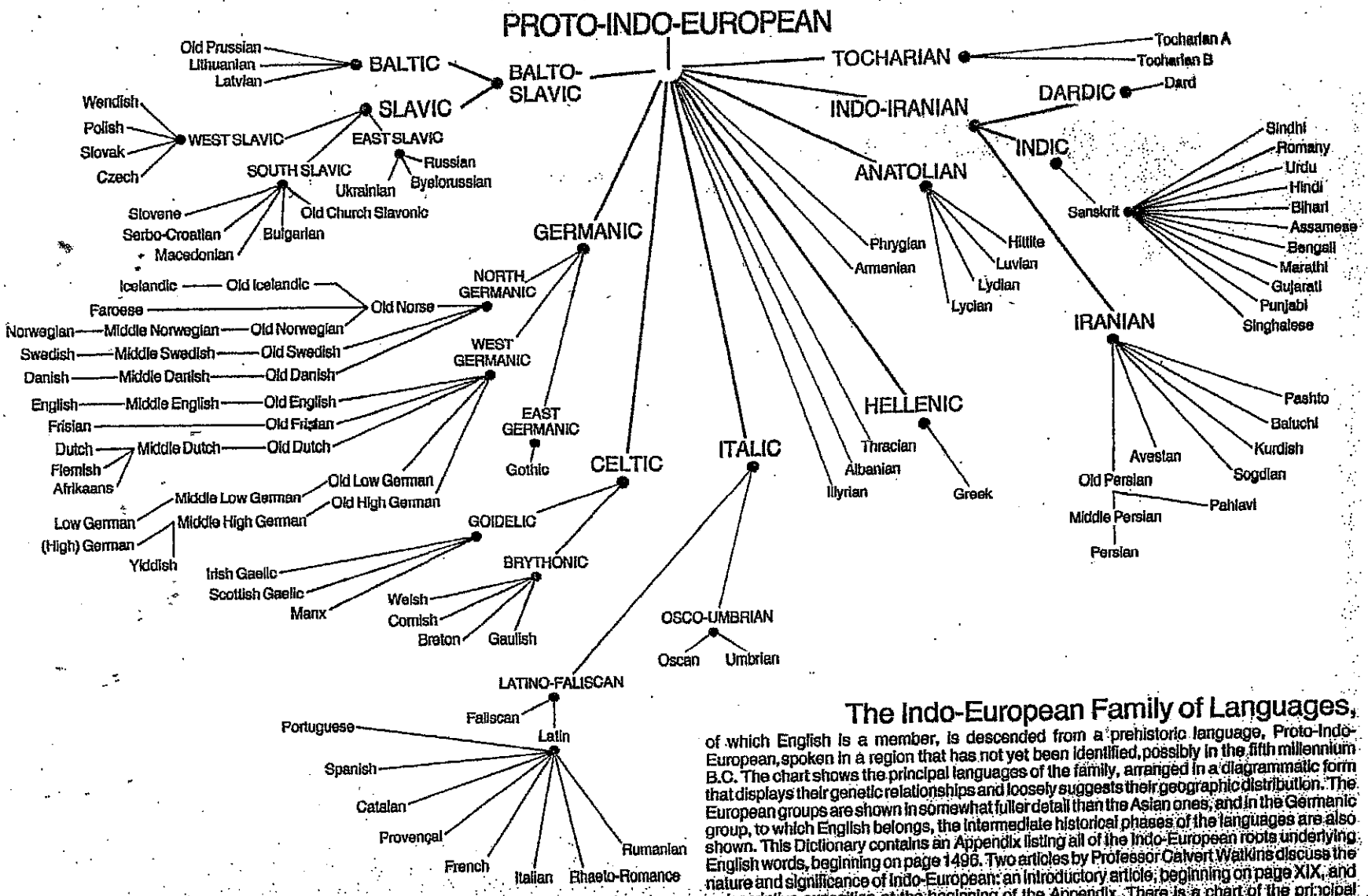

The Indo-European Family of Languages,

of which English is a member, is descended from a prehistoric language, Proto-Indo-European, spoken in a region that has not yet been identified, possibly in the fifth millennium B.C. The chart shows the principal languages of the family, arranged in a diagrammatic form that displays their genetic relationships and loosely suggests their geographic distribution. The European groups are shown in somewhat fuller detail than the Asian ones, and in the Germanic group, to which English belongs, the intermediate historical phases of the languages are also shown. This Dictionary contains an Appendix listing all of the Indo-European roots underlying English words, beginning on page 1496. Two articles by Professor Calvert Watkins discuss the nature and significance of Indo-European: an introductory article, beginning on page XIX, and a descriptive exposition at the beginning of the Appendix. There is a chart of the principal Indo-European sound correspondences opposite this page.