ON THE CONSONANTAL VALUE OF 喻-CLASS WORDS

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Prof. Karlgren, in his famous Analytic Dictionary of Chinese and Sino-Japanese, gives ɣ-, d-, as the archaic initials of the 喻 yù class. My own research leads to the same general conclusions, but I wish to give here some additional information about a few cases which have remained so far more or less uncertain.

Karlgren, p. 91, n° 221: 遙, 恼.... “It seems likely that the whole of this group had an Arch. init. d-....; but for this there are no positive proofs” (Karlgren). A proof seems to be given by many doublets such as 恼 and 惙, which are in fact the very same word, and 惙 is read as 他雕切 t’iao (see Kuang-yün), thus still preserving an unvoiced dental initial. The phrase 滔滔者 in Lun-yü is written 悠悠者 in Chuang-tzu, while 悠 seems to be identical with 遙 yao (see 悠悠我思, in Mao-Shih 毛詩, but 遙遙我思 in Lu-Shih 魯詩).

Karlgren, p. 100, n° 257: 攸攸. Karlgren doubts whether the archaic initial was d- or z-. It must have been d-. In the biography of Tzu-hsia, the Ch’ien-Han shu quotes from the I-ching the words 其欲攸攸, and 苏林 Sou Lin reads攸 as 迪, thus with an initial d-. The idiomatic term 攸革 (in 宰辟
Tsê-pi-fu-tui) is sometimes written 甄勒 (in Yin-kui), sometimes 甄革 (in Shih ching); 甄 and 甄 still being pronounced with ancient d-.

Karlgren, pp. 104—105, 淫, and p. 81, 搖. Karlgren puts an archaic z-. I would rather think of an archaic d-; notice the modern 拖 t'o, which is very likely the same word and keeps the original dental consonant.

Karlgren, p. 94, no 232, 淵. According to Karlgren, the archaic initial was d-, but I think it was g-.

Professor Karlgren had left unexplained the conditions in which the archaic g- and d- were distributed into the 甄 class during the "ancient" period. Observation shows that the distribution is systematical and that the two archaic initials were, as a rule, still separated in the time of Lu Fa-yen, the author of the Ch'ieh-yun. The so-called 子 class (with 子羽雨云雲王韋承有遠榮為清筠) was formed from words with archaic g-, and the 甄 class, as understood in the sense of Ch'en Lan-fu 陳蘭甫 (with 余餘子夷以羊弋翼與營移悦), from words with archaic d-; the exceptions are very few. But the question arises why these two groups were assigned one house by the later native philologists (字母家) and at the same time kept apart one from another and had each maintained their own characteristics. Ch'en Lan-fu had already noticed that phenomenon; Prof. Karlgren notes it also and differentiates the two initials in Lu Fa-yen's time as j for 子 and i for 甄. This is very ingenious and attractive, but seems hard to reconcile with the following facts.

1. In most cases, the Cantonese pronounce 子-class words with an initial w-, and the older-dialects-speakers do the same; the people of the lower Yangtza-valley have j-; the Peipinese use an English-fashion i-, approaching the value of j-.