

AN EXAMINATION OF THE „RÜCKUMLAUT“ IN THE SUDETEN GERMAN DIALECTS

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In the introduction the author explains that the variety of German dialects in Bohemia and Moravia-Silesia can be traced back to medieval settlement in which various German tribes took part that for centuries preserved their linguistic peculiarities. He then defines the concept of „Rückumlaut“, coined by J. Grimm and

retained to the present day even though the term is misleading. The material used for this study was taken from the collection compiled for the *Sudetendeutsches Wörterbuch*. The present, preterit, and past participle of 50 verbs, drawn from 530 lists of questions, are examined. The individual verbs are listed with their special forms, followed by numbers indicating *Rückumlaut* areas and frequency. A general overview indicates that verbs with *Rückumlaut* forms occur frequently in northern Bohemia and Sudeten Silesia, but that the number of examples increases from the Erzgebirge to the Riesengebirge, where their incidence is the highest.