

A GEOGRAPHY OF WORDS IN SUDETEN GERMAN AND GERMANIC FOLKLORE

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This study attempts, on the basis of a number of concepts, to progress from a Sudeten German to a Germanic geography of folklore words.

In examining the terms *Stadel*, *Scheune* and *Scheuer*, one has to be concerned with: reviewing the interrelationship of three great word spheres (the South German *Stadel*, the East Middle German and Eastern Low German *Scheune*, and the West German *Scheuer*); following the eastward radiation in the period of the German migration to the East; including the old linguistic islands; attempting to determine the origin of the settlers; evaluating the cultural-historical content of German loanwords in the neighbouring Slavic languages (especially the Czech use of *stodola* for *Scheune*); and observing the assimilation of words in the various East German regions. The link between East German, on the one hand, and Bavarian, East Franconian and Thuringian, on the other, can be established. In Alemannic, *Stadel* was replaced by *Scheuer*. Hessian and Middle Rhenish settlers introduced the word *Scheune* into Silesia, Zips and Transylvania. An older form of *Scheune* known in Bavarian (*skugina*) was assimilated into Slovenian, but later replaced by *Stadel*. All three of the above words can be traced back to Germanic and, in part, Indo-European. The way in which they spread affords insight into the age of the Great Migrations, or *Völkerwanderung*.

Concerning the terms for the „mare“ of popular belief going back to the Indo-European age, three words came to the foreground in the Sudeten area, in Silesia and in East Franconia; of these only *Mahr* has relatives in Celtic and Slavic. This universal Germanic word was once also known in Bavarian, but was supplanted by *Drude*, a term for a female demon which, according to popular belief engendered the nightmare. In the Middle German area, *Alp* — presumably originally the term for a ghost of the dead — came to refer to the demon which gives rise to the nightmare, while in the North, the old meaning was preserved; as a word meaning „elf“ it was again assimilated from the 18th century on. *Mahr* was taken by West Middle German settlers to Old Silesian linguistic islands, to Zips and to Transylvania; here too a mixture with *Alp* can be noticed. The North German *Mahr* preserved its connection with Scandinavia and England. The southern part of the Sudeten lands used *Drude* and the northern *Alp*. Such other expressions as *Schrat* and *Schratz* are treated only briefly.