

von Sibylle Ohly und Peter Schmitt (Veröffentlichungen der Kommission für Deutsche Literatur des Mittelalters der Bayerischen Akademie der Wissenschaften), Bde. 1ff., Berlin 1994ff.

Woeste, Friedrich: *Wörterbuch der westfälischen Mundart*. Im Auftrage des Westfälischen Heimatbundes neu bearb. und hrsg. von Erich Nörrenberg, Norden / Leipzig 1930 [Neudruck Wiesbaden 1966].

Zernecke, Wolf-Dietrich: *Die Siedlungs- und Flurnamen rheinhessischer Gemeinden zwischen Mainz und Worms. Ein Namenbuch* (Mainzer Studien zur Sprach- und Volksforschung 16), Stuttgart 1991.

Zink, Theodor: *Pfälzische Flurnamen*, Kaiserslautern 1923.

Summary

The Saar-Moselle Region as an Area of Lexical and Onomastic Encounter and Interference. The DFG Project ‘Northern Words’ and ‘Southern Words’

The project at hand (‘Northern words’ and ‘Southern words’. Old Word Layers in Place Names and Field Names and their Informational Value regarding the Position of the Saar-Moselle Region within West Germania) applies the methods of field name geography and analyzes toponymic material compiled at the ASFSL (Archive of Place Names and Field Names of the Saarland and Germanophone Lorraine) in Saarbrücken. As sound geography research has shown, the Saar-Moselle region is an area of encounter and interference of northern and southern linguistic phenomena. Yet it also needs to be characterized as such on the basis of word geography. This first became evident in analyses of the region’s late medieval literary language and has been confirmed by the word geographic investigation of the ASFSL inventory undertaken as part of the ‘Northern words’ and ‘Southern words’ project. To illustrate the intentions of the project, two examples are given: one of a ‘Northern word’ (a word with an older word geographic connection to Ripuarian, Low Franconian, Low German and Dutch) and one of a ‘Southern word’ (a word to be placed in an Upper German-Alemannic context). The ‘Northern word’ is *mersch* adj. ‘marshy’ or *Mersch* noun ‘marsh’, which is recorded in Old Saxon, Middle Low German, Old Frisian, Middle Dutch as well as in Old English and can be traced from the 14th century onwards in field names of the Saar-Moselle region. The ‘Southern word’ is *Reben*, whose collective plural form has come to mean ‘vineyard’ and was not only a productive element in Alemannic but has also been a name element within the toponymy of the area under investigation since the 14th century.