

region between Anglo-Saxons and Scots: Geoffrey W.S. Barrow (Edinburgh), one of the greatest authorities on these problems in Great Britain, dealt with the growth and structure of this border region during the Middle Ages under linguistic and political-historical aspects, as well as from the point of view of the history of settlements. One important result of all these contributions is that linear borders, if they developed at all, derived from disperse, i.e., non-linear structures.

The last group of lectures dealt intensively with the effects of political borders on the psycho-social, economic, cultural and literary domains and with the prospects for the abolition of borders. Heiko Riedel (Saarbrücken), geographer and psychologist, used sociological-empiricist methods to analyse "The spatial perception of a national border: the border region of the Saar and Lorraine". The historian Rolf Wittenbrock (Saarbrücken) described the urban development in the "Reichsland" Elsaß-Lothringen, integrated into the German Empire in 1871, a development that strikes the eye as being different in Strasbourg, Metz and also in smaller towns, because it depended on political processes and the particular course of the border, but which also had an effect on the areas beyond the border. In his lecture "Borders in literature. Methods and motives of dissimilation and assimilation", Gerhard Schmidt-Henkel (Saarbrücken) offered new sources and an approach similar in its way to that of the geographer Riedel, for perceiving borders. Not only are borders reflected in the literary works of a border region (which, artistically speaking, are not always of the highest quality), but also, and perhaps often even more clearly, in the literature of those who cross borders (such as Uwe Johnson) who put the psychic reality of the border into words and make the reader aware of it.

*(translated by Gerhard E. H. Meier)*