

Frosta härad and 'Dapra härad'

By Lennart Elmevik

Summary

The name *Frosta härad*, ODa. *Frostahæraþ*, refers to a *härad*, or district, of central Skåne. A rival name for this area in Old Danish times was *Daprahæraþ*, although by the early Middle Ages that name had fallen into disuse. How these two names are to be interpreted is a matter of some debate. One assumption has been that they contain the genitive forms of personal names, in the first case of the man's name ODa. *Frosti*, in the second of a male byname ODa. **Dapri* 'the sorrowful, melancholy one'. The author of this essay, for his part, suggests that both names contain the genitives of plural inhabitant designations, ODa. **frōstar* and **daprar*, respectively, formed in turn from old names for settlement areas: ODa. **Frōst(a)* and **Dapra*. **Frōst(a)* is assumed to be a nominalization of an adjective OWScand. **fróstr*, ODa. **frōstær*, formed with the suffix *-st*, and etymologically related to and with the same or largely the same meaning as OWScand. *fróðr* and Sw. *frodig* 'fruitful, fertile'. **Dapra*, it is suggested, can be traced back to an *-r* derivative of the root found in words such as Sw. and Norw. dial. *dap(e)* 'small body of water, pool' etc.

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