

Summary

Grindstugan, Römossen and Trumslagartorp

Naming of new settlements in Rekarnebygden in the 16th and 17th centuries

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This essay explores the names of new settlements from the 16th and 17th centuries. The corpus studied consists of the names of 111 settlements, located in an area of north-west Södermanland.

The majority of the names examined are formed from name elements which, in their basic senses, denote natural features or fields. Most of these names originally referred to natural phenomena or farmland, but were subsequently transferred to newly established settlements. In certain cases, names denoting natural features seem to have been formed directly as names for new settlements, but even then there is usually a link with the local topography.

Two habitative final elements are to be found among the names studied: *-torp* and *-stuga*. The element *-torp* occurs in a third of the names, while names in *-stuga* are considerably less common. As regards the *-torp* names, it is interesting to note that only three of them have a personal name as their first element. Far more frequently, an occupational designation is found in this position. It is also common for *-torp* names to relate to natural phenomena, by means of either an appellative expression or a nature name.

The study shows that there was relatively little that was stereotypical about the naming of settlements in the 16th and 17th centuries. The names of new settlements from this period can thus be said to have more in common with the settlement names of earlier times than with those of subsequent centuries.