

Summary

Fansjön, Gisen and Lyan

Three lake names in Edsbro parish

By Svante Strandberg

The author examines three lake names in Edsbro parish, Uppland: *Fansjön*, *Gisen* and *Lyan*. After discussing a number of possible interpretations of the name *Fansjön*, he is most inclined to link its first element either to a word in *fan-* referring to a fish, or to the dialect word *fan(a)*, in the sense ‘layer of dust’, ‘small plant parts’, ‘chaff’, ‘straw, grass’ etc.

An appealing alternative in the case of the lake name *Gisen* is that it is related to PrGmc **gi-* ‘to open, gape’, possibly in an expanded form **gidh-* or **gis-*. The name of another lake, *Gisesjön* in Västerlång parish, Södermanland, is taken into account in this context.

The name *Lyan* – previously given a different interpretation – can probably, according to the author, be traced to Early Modern Swedish *lodh*, *låd* ‘nap, pile’ etc., referring to an abundance of grass, reeds or other vegetation.

In all three cases, the name of the lake may be formed from an older name for the watercourse discharging into it.