

Summary

The village name *Hade*

An attempt at an interpretation

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The name *Hade*, previously uninterpreted, refers to a village on an inlet of Hedesundafjärden in Gästrikland. It is documented only once in Old Swedish, in an original letter from 1424, where it is recorded as (ii) *hadhe*. The author primarily links the name to two Norwegian toponyms, the farm name *Haviken* (ONorw. **Haðarvík*) in Østfold county and the island name ONorw. *Høð* (now *Hareidlandet*) in Sunnmøre in western Norway. He assumes – thereby modifying a proposal from 1953 by Vilhelm Kiil – that there was a word OWScand. **høðr* m. (< **haðuR* < **hapuz*) with the basic meaning of ‘something squeezed, narrow’ and, among its specialised senses, that of ‘navigable narrow waterway’ or the like. The topography of the sites permits an interpretation of the names in question on that basis. The author shows that there is topographical evidence to suggest that the Swedish name *Hade* contains a fossilised dative singular form of a counterpart of OWScand. **høðr*. This interpretation presupposes that, as happened to several masculine *u*-stems in the Swedish-speaking area, **haðuR* had shifted early on to the *a*-stem declension. The author considers it entirely possible that two Norwegian *-vin* names, *Håde* and *Hådi* in Oppland county (and perhaps also *Håden* in Nord-Trøndelag county), are compounded with OWScand. **høðr* in a sense deriving from the one he assumes, i.e. ‘something squeezed, narrow’. In his view, the genitive singular form of **høðr* with that meaning may possibly also be present in OWScand. *haðarlag*, a designation for a skaldic metre mentioned by Snorri Sturluson in his *Háttatal*.