Summary
The village name Hade
An attempt at an interpretation
By Lennart Elmevik

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. *Haðarvik) 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 OWS scand. *høðr m. (< *haður < *harpuz) 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 OWS scand. *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 OWS scand. *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 OWS cand. haðarlag, a designation for a skaldic metre mentioned by Snorri Sturluson in his Háttatal.