

Summary

The *härad* name *Frökind*

By Lennart Elmevik

How the Västergötland *härad* (district) name *Frökind*, OSw. *Frøkin(d)shæradh*, is to be interpreted has been the subject of quite lively discussion. It has usually been assumed to contain the place-name element *kind*, known from Västergötland, Östergötland and Småland, an element generally, and no doubt correctly, regarded as identical to OWScand. *kind* f. ‘family, kin’. The genitive form in *-s*, rather than the expected *-a(r)*, could then be understood as having arisen by analogy with other Västergötland place-names with an original *-s* genitive. Any interpretation of *Frökind* also needs to take into account the village and parish name *Kinneved* in the *härad* in question, first recorded as *Kindiwi* in an original letter from 1382. A suggestion that this name, whose final element is OSw. *vi* (*ve*, *væ*) ‘sacred place, cult site’, has as its first element the genitive singular of OSw. **kind* ‘family, kin’ is unsatisfactory on phonological grounds. The author subscribes, rather, to a suggestion by Jöran Sahlgren that OSw. *Frøkin(d)shæradh* does not contain **kind*, but a synonym **kindi* neut. formed from it, and that this **kindi* also forms the first element of *Kinneved*. A form **Frøkindishæradh* no doubt developed early on into *Frøkindshæradh*. The element *Frø-*, in which the author sees the adjective *frö* ‘fruitful, lush, fertile’ known from Swedish dialects, OSw. *frør* (attested in the compound *ofrør*), was not in his view part of the name from the outset, but is a later addition. **Frøkindishæradh* was originally, he suggests, the name of only the fertile part of present-day Frökinds *härad*.