Summary
The village and parish name Öttum in Västergötland
By Svante Strandberg

Öttum is the name of a village and parish in Västergötland. Its final element derives from -hem ‘farm; district’. The village is situated on the Slipån (Lannaån), a tributary of the river Lidan. The present author suggests that the first element of Öttum could very possibly contain a now lost name for the Slipån–Lannaån, used in prehistoric times. He discusses various conceivable starting points for such a river name: (1) Words such as OWS scand. ōtti m. ‘fear’ and Goth. ogan, ohta ‘to fear’. (2) Words like Sw. otta, OWS scand. ótta f. ‘dawn’ and OE üht(a) m. ‘half-light; early morning’. (3) Words such as Sw. öka, Goth. aukan ‘increase’ and OWS scand. aukr m., OE éaca m. ‘growth’.

The Slipån–Lannaån originates in Lake Rösjön, which is surrounded by large areas of bogland and which in the past could cause severe flooding. The author is inclined to assume that the first element of Öttum contains a river name, OSw. *Øtt(a) f., meaning either ‘the river with an increase (in water), the swelling one’ etc. or ‘the river coming from the lake with a name in *Øtt-’.