

Summary

*Rönne å* and *Regnaren*

By Staffan Fridell

The author believes that the name of Skåne's second largest river, *Rönne å*, can be traced to a Proto-Scandinavian *\*Ragunō* f. 'river of the gods', a derivative of *rōgn* neut. pl. 'the gods', and that the name of the lake forming its source, *Ringsjön*, goes back to a form *\*RagunaR* m., derived from the river name. As a result of phonological change, the two names became homonymous, assuming the form *Rōgn*, which in turn underwent the development *Rōgn* > *Røghn* > *Ryghn*. To distinguish the names, *sio* 'lake' was epexegetically added to the lake name, resulting in *\*Ryghn sio* > *Ryngsio*. This in turn became *Ringsio* by analogy with the word *ring*, a change probably facilitated by the circumstance that the lake does in fact have a ring-like shape.

Lake *Regnaren* is in northern Östergötland. The author assumes its old name to have been *\*Ræghinn* < *\*Raginar*, derived from a counterpart of OWScand. *regin* neut. pl. 'the gods'. The parish name *Regna* is secondary to the lake name, arising via either a dative form of that name, *\*Ræghni*, or an inhabitant name *\*ræghnar* 'the people living by Lake *\*Ræghinn*'. If it is further assumed that the name *\*Ræghinn* previously referred to the whole of the *Regnaren*–*Hunn* lake system, the village name *Rejmyre* < *Ræghinmyr(a)* in the neighbouring parish of *Skedevi* can be explained as a contraction of a form *\*Ræghin[sioar]myr(a)* 'the mires by Lake *\*Ræghinn*'.