

Sagån

Summary

Sagån

By Lennart Elmevik

Sagån is the name of a roughly 70-kilometre-long river forming much of the boundary between the Swedish provinces of Uppland and Västmanland. The river is recorded in Old Swedish times as the *Sæva*, a name formed from the adjective OSw. *sæver* ‘quiet, calm’, referring to the quiet course of the river. The form *Sagån*, first known from the 17th century, is said to have arisen from the compound *Sævu a* ‘Säva river’. The author finds this explanation unsatisfactory, and argues that in Old Swedish times the river had at least one other name, **Sagha*. Formed from the verb OWScand. *saga*, OSw. *sagha* ‘to saw’, this name refers to the erosive power of the river, describing a river that has ‘sawn’ (cut) its way down into the clay plain it flows across for the whole of its course. There is thus topographical support for the interpretation suggested.

In the article, the author also touches on the interpretation of *Möjbro*, the name of the site of a well-known Proto-Scandinavian rune stone.