

Hinshyttan I Husby socken och sjön Rällingen. En felläsning med konsekvenser s. 107–110

Summary

Hinshyttan in Husby parish and Lake Rällingen

A misreading with consequences

*By Leif Olofsson*

In Husby parish in southern Dalarna there is a village by the name of *Hinshyttan*, first mentioned in 1519 (*paa hijnse hytto*). In this article it is argued, with reference to Harry Ståhl, that the first element of this name is a German man's name *Hinze*, attested for example in the neighbouring parish of Skedvi in 1370 as the name of an important copper miner and smelter. Ståhl drew attention to – but also questioned – the possibility of deriving the village name from an older name for the nearby lake, Rällingen. This was because, on a series of 17th-century maps, all of them produced by Olof Schallroth, the name of the lake appears to be written as *Hyyn lacus*, *Hÿn* or *Hyyn Siön*. The present author has studied these maps in detail and found that, on the earliest of them, the lake name was written *Rällingen*, as the lake is known to this day, and that on later maps it had no name. However, because the village name *Hyenshyttan* was written unclearly and was partly worn away owing to folds in the map, later copiers of the map interpreted the first element of this name as a lake name. On the last map in the series we can read *H ... hyttan* (the intervening letters rendered illegible by wear and tear) and the lake name *Rällen*, another form of *Rällingen*. The conclusion, then, is that the village name *Hinshyttan* should not be linked to a supposed earlier name for the lake, which has always been called *Rällingen* – a name that is interpreted as ‘the lake with *rällor* (Arctic charr)’.