

Buttle och Rute s. 19–21

Summary

Buttle and Rute

By Lennart Elmevik

Buttle and *Rute* are the names of parishes on the Swedish island of Gotland in the Baltic Sea. They are examples of plural place-names, having the forms *Butlar* and *Rutar*, respectively, in Old Gutnish times. Neither name has previously been interpreted. According to the author, *Buttle* contains either an Old Gutnish form **būtul* m., derived with the suffix *-ul* from a Gotland word corresponding to and with the same meaning as a word *but* ‘clod of earth’, known from several mainland Swedish dialects; or an OGutn. **buttul* m., derived with the same suffix from Gotland dialect *butt(e)* m. ‘small bush’, ‘small (cut-down) spruce or pine’, and with the same meaning as that word. With the support of evidence from Gotland and Norwegian dialects, *Rute* is interpreted as containing a word OGutn. **rūt* neut. ‘strong wind, gale’, which in the place-name has the concretised sense of ‘place or area where there are strong winds, that is windswept’, originally referring to a part of the parish that was exposed to easterly winds from the sea.