



NORNA-RAPPORTER 81

# Busetnadsnamn på *-staðir*

Rapport frå NORNAs 33. symposium på  
Utstein kloster 7.–9. mai 2004

Redigert av Inge Særheim, Per Henning Uppstad og Åse Kari Hansen Wagner

*With summaries in English*

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*Abstract*

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NORNA's 33rd symposium was organized by the University of Stavanger (former Stavanger University College) and attracted 22 participants from Denmark, the Faroe Islands, Iceland, Norway and Sweden. Twelve papers were presented, dealing with *staðir*-names in Denmark, Iceland, Norway, Sweden and the British Isles, and Norwegian surnames in *-stad*. The papers are published in this volume.

Key-words: symposium, report, place-names, settlement names, surnames, Scandinavian names, *staðir*-names, settlement history.

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# Danske *sted*-bebyggelser. En bebyggelsesgeografisk undersøgelse af to danske *sted*-bygder (Midtsjælland og Vendsyssel)

Av Peder Dam og Johnny Grandjean Gøgsig Jakobsen

## Summary

From the late nineteenth century, Danish settlement-historical studies have taken their point of departure in the place-name material. According to variations among the suffix types with regard to distribution and size of the related settlements, several attempts have been made to date and to explain the establishment of individual place-name types. Usually, however, the scholars have not reached total consensus in these questions. This is also the case of the place-name suffix *-sted* (*-stath*), but the general conclusion of Danish *sted*-studies so far seem to be, that the name type mainly relates to settlements from late Iron Age and Viking Age, where they seem to be made on the outskirts of older settlement districts on land slightly less suited for arable cultivation.

In Denmark, settlements with the place-name suffix *-sted* are found all over the country, but with concentrations in certain regions, such as northern Jutland (Vendsyssel) and the central and southern parts of Zealand (Mid-Zealand). In the present study, we have performed a comparative analysis in these two regions of *sted*-settlements versus other (supposedly) pre-Viking Age settlement types (*-lev*, *-inge*, *-løse* and *-hem*) and the younger settlement type of *-thorp*. The settlements have been compared on matters such as number of farms, vill area (total size of village land, Da.: *ejerlav*), taxation and degree of cultivation in 1682-83. In terms of parishes, the relative frequency of church villages, the parish areas and economic parish data from the late Middle Ages and the late sixteenth century have been studied for each of the mentioned place-name types.

Our studies show that Danish *sted*-settlements in general were quite big in the 1680s, both in terms of number of farms and vill area. This was especially evident on Mid-Zealand, whereas the *sted*-settlements in Vendsyssel also included several smaller villages and isolated farms. While two thirds of the Mid-Zealandic *sted*-settlements became parish centres (only matched by *-lev* and *-hem*), this was only the case with every fifth *sted*-settlement in Vendsyssel. Based on the variations in post-medieval settlement size and the church frequency, it is our conclusion that certainly on Mid-Zealand, and to some extent also in Vendsyssel, the *sted*-settlements appear to represent the oldest still extant settlement layer. In Vendsyssel, however, it also seems as if the place-name type has been active during a longer period. This interpretation is supported by an etymological analysis of the *sted*-names in the two regions.

Analyses of the late medieval and sixteenth-century data on parish demography and economy could indicate that *sted*-parishes in general were not only big, but also less densely populated than for instance *lev*-parishes, which both can be explained by less fertile land and/or a production more orientated on pastoral husbandry. This tendency is especially notable in Vendsyssel, where tithe data from the second half of the sixteenth century indicate