



Det Havske Statinstitut

# ICHHS

International Conference  
on Havlandic Studies

## 2012 International Conference on Havlandic Studies

*Introduction to Havlandic Etymology – H. Hole*  
*Speaker Notes (English)*

### Case Study - *Torman* (Attack)

**HAVSKE:** Det 1939 *offentormaning* ond wearr on Suomi fra Sovjetunionen var an storfail. Mere dan 160.000 Sovjet *tormanerer* vær dræbt.

**ENGELSK:** The 1939 *invasion* (lit. “open military assault/invasion”) and war on Finland started by the Soviet Union was a massive failure. More than 160,000 Soviet *soldiers* were killed.

### Etymology of *Torman*



Pre-1430: *Artorcnihht* (n. “great /chivalric knight”, from *Arthur* [likely King Arthur] + Old English *cnihht* i.e. “knight”)

~1430-1600: *Artormann* (n. “heroic or brave man”, from *-mann* suffix denoting “someone related to”)

~1600-1730: *tormanlic* (adj. “brave, warrior-like, combative, deadly”, from *-lic* suffix denoting “-like”)

~1730-1900: *torman* (v. “attack, assault, challenge” or n. “soldier, assailant, thug”)

~1900+: *torman* (v. “to attack or invade”) → *tormaner* (n. “professional soldier”), *tormaning* (n. “military assault, invasion” or p. pr. of *torman*)

### Analysis

- *Artorcnihht* likely began as a literary term in Anglophone Old Havlandic (AOH) → We see an example of usage in *Book of Hans*, manuscript XX. However, the suffix *-cnihht* (and its associated word) quickly fell out of usage, and the more common suffix *-mann* was used when it transitioned to oral usage (see: *scipmann*, *jarlmann*, *lagrmann*).
- *Artor* becomes wedded to *mann* and falls out of usage as an individual word or prefix (See “ruth” and “ruthless”). Last known independent example of “*Artor*” is “*artorlic kongen*” in *Historia Havland* (1450s), which appears to be a neologism.
- Final *-n* is dropped after Kalmar period and *artormann* becomes primarily an adjective, gaining suffix *-lic* (See *caldlic* or *woodlic*). In the process the first syllable “*ar*” is shortened (AR-tor-mann-lic → ar-TORman-lic) and then lost.

- During *Talereform* of 1730s-60s *-lic* and similar suffixes are scrapped for Danish suffixes. *Torman* is now a noun and verb (similar to how someone can go “soldiering”). Scholars usually stop defining *torman* as an AOH term now and it enters general Havlandic usage in this period. It also gains a strong association with soldiers → In this period the word *kongenstorman* is coined, “The king’s soldier”, also perjorative appellation “the king’s enforcer/thug” or “royal sympathiser”, and thus another name for taxman.
- The usage of *torman* as a verb meaning “military assault” gains preeminence post 1900 and usage as a noun declines. *Havske Posten* (The Havlandic Post) uses “*hemmligtormaning*” (secret/hidden + *tormaning*) to describe the 1916 surprise attack of British tanks in World War 1. The official term for Havlandic soldier in the Havlandic republican military is “*havsketormaner*” (solidified in the Constitution of Havland), replacing “*havskesoldat*” used in the Havlandic Royal Army.