

Texts and Contexts of the Oldest Runic Inscriptions



Tineke Looijenga



THE NORTHERN WORLD    BRILL

THE NORTHERN WORLD    BRILL

1. AALEN (Baden-Württemberg, Germany). In the Museum für Vor- und Frühgeschichte, Frankfurt am Main. A silver neck ring with almandine-inlay, dated 1st half 5th c.; the almandines were added in the 6th c. Said to have been found in 1945 near Aalen. It has four runes: **noru** scratched onto the inner edge opposite the catch.

†ORŪ

This may be the name of the owner. **noru** < Gmc **nōruz*, nsm. *u*-stem *Noru*. Torques ornamented like the Aalen one are known from an area that stretches from Scandinavia to Rumania, with a centre around the Main. They are Celtic and classical Roman in origin, and belong to the “elbgermanisch-alamannischen Horizont der ersten Hälfte des 5. Jahrhunderts” (Wamers 1986:20f.). Such neck rings seem to be a sign of the ruling status of a prominent man (Düwel 1991:282).