

Texts and Contexts of the Oldest Runic Inscriptions



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22. HEILBRONN-BÖCKINGEN (Baden-Württemberg, Germany). In the Museum Heilbronn. Silver belt-trimmings with a square fitting with rivets. Dated 3rd th. 6th c. Found in 1954 in a man's grave.

On the square fitting are runes, partly damaged by the perforations made for the rivets. The runes run from right to left, reading ?**karwi**.

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In my opinion the initial rune actually is a yew rune, which has retained one sidetwig; the other got lost in the perforation. Krause (1966:295ff.) and Düwel (1994b:264f.) read **l**. The second rune is a small hook, carved rather low, and is partly damaged by the same perforation that took the lower part of the preceding yew rune away.

I read **ik**, which might be taken for *ik*, 1 sg. pers. pron. 'I'. Obviously the yew rune could be and was used to denote long and short *i*, *ī*, cf. **uū** *wīu* in the NEBENSTEDT bracteate, and **siþæbæd** in LOVEDEN HILL (chapter eight, nr. 7).

arwi may be a PN, nsm., derived from **arwa*, *wa*-stem, cf. OS

aru, OE *earu* < Gmc **arwaz* 'ready for harvesting, mature, ripe'. Otherwise one may consider a connection with OHG *arbi* 'inheritance' (Gottschild 1982:173), cf. the name of the Langobardic bishop *Arbeo*.