RUNES AROUND THE NORTH SEA AND ON THE CONTINENT AD 150-700; TEXTS & CONTEXTS

Proefschrift

ter verkrijging van het doctoraat in de Letteren, aan de Rijksuniversiteit van Groningen op gezag van de Rector Magnificus, dr. F. van der Woude, in het openbaar te verdedigen op donderdag 27 november 1997 des namiddags om 1.15 uur

door

Jantina Helena Looijenga

Geboren op 12 juni 1948 te Groningen 10. <u>Rasquert</u> (Groningen), whalebone swordhandle, found in 1955. Seen at the Hoogelandster Museum, Warffum. Date late 8th c. The handle may have been part of a symbolic sword (Looijenga & Van Es 1991), as is probably also the <u>Arum</u> wooden sword. Both sides of the handle may have been inscribed. On one side what signs there were are erased. The runes on the other side are rather difficult to read; the whalebone surface has weathered badly. I propose to read ekumæditoka.

MINMEMITELE





The sequence may be divided thus: ek u[n]mædit oka.

ek 1 sg. pers. pron. 'I'. u|n|mædit, adj., part. pret. of *mædan, cf. OE mæded 'mad'; OE *mædan < Gmc *maiðjan- 'to make mad'. mædit shows i-mutation preceded by mo nophthongization; -t instead of -d may reflect devoicing at the word's end. oka PN nsm. n-stem, Oka; OE Oca, 'mind, intelligence' (Kaufmann 1965:198,249ff.). Gijsseling (1980:18) reads eku|n|mæditoka too, but interprets otherwise: ek u(n)mædi(d) tok a 'I, the not mutulated one, took this sword'. My interpretation: 'I, Oka, not (made) mad', might have been Oka's device. (Cf. for instance with Gârdlösa ek unwodz of the Danish Corpus, Chapter V).