

# Texts and Contexts of the Oldest Runic Inscriptions



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14. DONZDORF (Baden-Württemberg, Germany). In the Württembergisches Landesmuseum, Stuttgart. A pair of Scandinavian silver bow-fibulae, in all likelihood imported from Jutland. Dated 1st h. 6th c. Found in 1964 in a rich woman's grave in a row-grave field.

One of the brooches bears runes, reading **eho**

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Runes and decoration are carved in zig-zag technique, otherwise known from ØVRE STABU (Norway), MELDORF (Schleswig-Holstein) and NÆSBJERG (Denmark). The **h** rune is single-barred, which may point to a Scandinavian runographer. According to Düwel (1994<sup>b</sup>:237, 265) this is an instance of the very rare makers' inscriptions in the German corpus (the others are, according to Düwel, WURLINGEN and SCHRETZHEIM III). Also ARLON has a maker's inscription (see above, nr. 3).

The **eho** inscription is part of the overall ornamentation on the back of the brooch. **eho** may be a Scandinavian female PN, nsf. *ō*-stem *Ehō*. Otherwise it could be a male PN, nsm. *n*-stem *Eho*, in that case a West Gmc man's name (cf. the names ending in *-o* in the Danish Corpus, chapter five, nrs. 2, 4, 8, 11, 15, 17, 23, 25, 27, 34). The **h** may represent [x] or [ç].

Germanic PNs with an element 'horse' are quite rare, according to Stanley (1990:61), but there are the mythological brothers *Hengest* and *Horsa*: 'Stallion' and 'Horse', and the moneyer's name on hundreds of *sceattas*: **epa** or **æpa**, which is a PN, nsm. *n*-stem, *Epa*, *Æpa*, based on Celtic *Epo* 'horse' (Kaufmann 1965:14). Wulf (1994:32) is of the opinion that horse designations as element in PNs are quite common (and not only in Germanic). Also **æhæ** in HANTUM (chapter nine, nr. 15), **(e)he** in ÅSUM (chapter six, nr. 3) and **ehwu** in TIRUP HEIDE (chapter six, nr. 43) belong to this name category (given that they are names). For more information and other interpretations, see Jänichen (1967:234), Düwel & Roth (1977:410), and Peterson (1994<sup>b</sup>:144f.).