

Texts and Contexts of the Oldest Runic Inscriptions



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18. FREILAUBERSHEIM (Rheinhessen, Germany). In the Landesmuseum, Mainz. A silver-gilt bow-fibula, one of a pair, probably Frankish. Found in 1872/73 in a woman's grave in a row-grave field. Date 3rd th. 6th c. The runes are carved in two rows: above and below the needle. They read:

boso:wraetruna

þkda?ina: golidā

ᚸᚩᚫᚩ:ᚱᚱᚲᚲᚱᚱᚱᚱ ᚰᚫᚩ ᚩᚫᚩᚱᚱᚱᚱ

boso is an Alamannic or Frankish PN, nsm. *n*-stem *Boso* (cf. the Frankish duke Boso in Gregory of Tours' *Historiae Francorum*).

wraet is 3 sg. pret. ind. 'he wrote', inf. Gmc **writan* 'to write', with the spelling *ae* for older *ai*, cf. NEUDINGEN-BAAR II, SCHWANGAU and WEINGARTEN I.

runa is apf. *ō*-stem, *runā* 'the runes'. The lower row starts with some heavily abraded runes; the first is most probably a *thorn*, but the loop is nearly at the bottom of the headstaff, and another loop higher up the headstaff can be vaguely perceived. Probably by mistake a **b** was carved first, perhaps due to a confusion with the **b** of **boso** right above, and then changed into a *thorn*. It is followed by a large hook: < **k**, in order to get **þk**, cf. OS *p(i)k* 'you', pron., acc. of the 2nd. person.

da?ina is a PN, nsf. *ō*-stem, *Da?ina*. The third rune is illegible now, but earlier read as **þ**.

golidā is 3 sg. pret. ind.: '(she) greeted', inf. Gmc **gōljan*, Go *gōljan*, 'to greet'. 'Boso wrote (the) runes; Dapina greeted you'.

(See also Krause 1966:47; Ebel 1963:14, 107f.; Antonsen 1975:58).