

Texts and Contexts of the Oldest Runic Inscriptions



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26. MÜNCHEN-AUBING I (Bavaria, Germany). In the Prähistorische Staatssammlung, München. A pair of Frankish silver-gilt *Fünfknopffibeln*. Dated mid 6th c. Found in 1939 in a woman's grave in a row-grave field.

Both brooches have runes; the inscription of nr. I contains two groups: **segalo sigila**. For the inscription on the other brooch see below, MÜNCHEN-AUBING II, nr. 67.

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segalo may be a PN, nsm. *n*-stem, *Segalo*.

sigila may be interpreted in several ways; either it could be a male PN, nsm. *a*-stem *Sigila* (attested in Gregory of Tours' *Historiae Francorum*), or it is a female PN nsf. *ō*-stem. The names contain a well-known name element: OHG *sigu* 'victory' followed by an *l*-suffix, common for names.

Another interpretation of **sigila** is to take it as a word denoting the object itself: nsf./n. 'brooch', cf. OE *sigle*, *sigel* 'brooch'. The inscription of HARFORD FARM (chapter eight, nr. 4) reads: **luda gibœtæ sigilæ** 'Luda repaired the brooch'. Both *segalo* and *sigila* are related to Latin *sigillum*, since the Latin ending *-um* can be rendered

by both *-a* and *-o* in OHG. But Latin *-i-* in the initial syllable remains *-i-* in OHG. Therefore *sigila* is most likely to render Latin *sigillum*.

The text may run thus: 'Segalo—brooch'. Probably the woman was given the fibulae as a gift from her husband or her father, who was named Segalo. It would be the fourth object of the Continental Corpus (with AQUINCUM, FALLWARD and THORSBERG II) which is named in the text.