

Texts and Contexts of the Oldest Runic Inscriptions



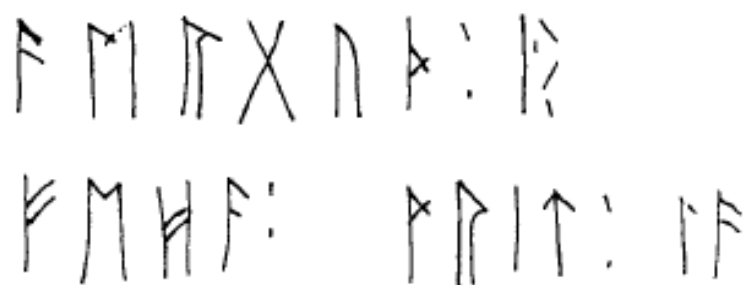
Tineke Looijenga



THE NORTHERN WORLD    BRILL

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48. WEINGARTEN I (Baden-Württemberg, Germany). In the Alamannen-Museum “Das Kornhaus”, Weingarten. A silver-gilt S-fibula. Dated mid 6th c. Found in 1955 in a girl’s grave (see Roth 1998, with drawings).



The runes read: **aerguþ: feha:writ: ia**

FMRXND: | FMHF:PRIT IF

aergu[n]þ is a PN, nsf. *jō*-stem *Aergu(n)þ*. Krause (1966:306), following Arntz and Jänichen (1957:126), suggested reading **alirguþ**, but that

cannot be right. The second rune is certainly **e**; the twigs of the hook slightly cross each other. The same graph can be noted in SCHWANGAU, **aebi** nr. 40. Note that we find in **aerguþ** also the spelling *ae* for older *ai*, as in **aebi** and in **wraet** on FREILAUBERSHEIM, nr. 18.

OHG *ai* > *ae* > *ē* before *r*, cf. OHG, OS *ēra-* in the recorded name *Ēragunth*, which is synonymous with older *Aergunth*. The first element is *aer-* < Gmc **aizō* ‘honour, mercy, gift, regard, respect, esteem’; the second element is *-gu(n)þ* ‘battle, fight’, cf. NEUDINGEN-BAAR II and EICHSTETTEN. After the division dots some lines can be distinguished, but I do not take them to be writing.

feha is a PN, nsf. *ō-* or *n-* stem *Feha*, possibly, with grammatical change, connected with OHG *faginōn* ‘to enjoy oneself’.

writ may be 3 sg. pres. ind. (without the ending *-it* in *writit*), or it is a pret. ind. but then one would expect *wraet* (in accordance with the spelling **aerguþ**). I suppose the pres. ind. is meant, ‘F. writes’, inf. Gmc **writan*.

For **ia** I have no interpretation. Curiously, CHARNAY (above, nr. 12) also has a sequence **īia**.