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Texts and Contexts of the Oldest Runic Inscriptions



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5. Balingen (Baden-Württemberg, Germany). In the Württembergisches Landesmuseum, Stuttgart. A gold disc-brooch with almandine-inlay. Date 3rd th. 6th c. Found in 1872 in a row-grave field. The runes run from right to left between two concentric circles and read;

a u/r zdnloamiluk

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The **k** is retrograde and has the form of a little hook, which is also found in AQUINCUM, CHARNAY and KENT. **z** has the elaborated Charnay-form, with one sidetwig missing.

The initial rune **a** is followed by an enigmatic runeform, which might be either **u** or **r**. Opitz (1977:9) suggested reading **a**[ns]**uz**, but this is conjecture I think. The sequence that follows is **dnlo** = **d**[a]**n**[i]**lo**? If so, *Danilo* may be a PN, cf. Gothic PNs like *Danus*, *Danila*. *Danilo* is nsm. *n*-stem, with diminutive -*l*- suffix.

amilu[n]k may be a patronymic, according to Krause (1966:303) and Opitz (1977:9). The root *am and its elaboration *amal (Gottschald 1982:87) may point to a connection with the East Gothic royal family of the Amalians.