

Texts and Contexts of the Oldest Runic Inscriptions



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7, 8. BEZENYE I, II, also known as PALLERSDORF (Komitat Mosony, Hungary). In the Magyar Nemzeti Múzeum, Budapest. A pair of Langobardic silver bow-fibulae, both with runes. Dated mid 6th c. Found in 1885 in a woman's grave in a row-grave field (Arntz & Zeiss 1939:326; Opitz 1977:11).

The runes read:

7: **godahid unj?**

Xǫwifhim Ntʀ

godahid is a PN., a compound of *Goda-* (see above, nr. 3) and *-hi(l)d* < Gmc **hildjō*, dsf. *jō*-stem, ending has dropped; 'to Godahi(l)d'. The second word Krause (1966:300) tentatively reads as **unja**; the **a** is uncertain. Krause supposed **unja** to be miswritten for *wunja* n/asf. *jō*-stem, "Wonne" = 'joy'. But initial *w* is retained before vowels in OHG (Braune/Eggers § 106).

8: **?arsiboda segun**

ʀʀsibōwʀ ʀmʀnʀ

arsiboda might be preceded by a **k** in the roof form: \wedge as in PFORZEN (see below) and BREZA (see below), but is incomplete; the stroke may be an ingress sign. Krause read **karsiboda**. **arsiboda** is a PN, gsf. *ō*-stem *Arsiboda*'s. The **b** only shows one loop (Düwel 1994:234).

segun = OHG *segun*, nsm. *a*-stem, 'bless', which points to Christian influence (Düwel 1982:40). There is variation in **s**-runes: one has four strokes, one three. The inscription on both brooches may mean: 'Godahi(l)d joy, Arsiboda bless'.