RUNES AROUND THE NORTH SEA AND ON THE CONTINENT AD 150-700; TEXTS & CONTEXTS

Proefschrift

ter verkrijging van het doctoraat in de Letteren, aan de Rijksuniversiteit van Groningen op gezag van de Rector Magnificus, dr. F. van der Woude, in het openbaar te verdedigen op donderdag 27 november 1997 des namiddags om 1.15 uur

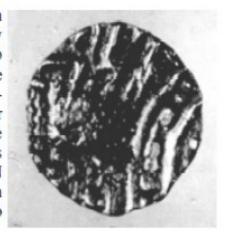
door

Jantina Helena Looijenga

Geboren op 12 juni 1948 te Groningen 9. <u>Midlum</u> (Friesland), a silver *sceat* of the Frisian, or Continental, type⁷⁸ was found at Midlum in 1988 and is now at the FM, Leeuwarden. Date ca. 750. The runic legend is æpa.

FLE

Hundreds of this type of *sceat* are known, which has been defined as "at its best, a careful copy of the English primary C type, with runic 'Æpa' or 'Epa' in front of the head" (Op den Velde et al. 1984:136). These *sceattas* may not be purely 'Frisian' in the sense of 'originating from the *terp*-area', as they are rarely found north of the Rhine, but their find distribution suggests an origin along or south of the Lower Rhine (Grierson & Blackburn 1986:508). The runes are copied along with the rest of the iconography. æpa PN nsm. *n*-stem, Æpa, based on Celtic Epo 'horse' (Kaufmann 1965:14). Probably the name of the monetarius. (See also the *sceattas* of the English Corpus, Chapter VIII).



Over 2000 sceattas were found in The Netherlands. In 1988 for instance, about 140 sceattas came to light, in what was called 'The Remmerden hoard'. These all had a runic legend, reading epa, æpa or apæ.