

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,
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door

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9. *Midlum* (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.

Æpa

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).



⁷⁸ 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**.