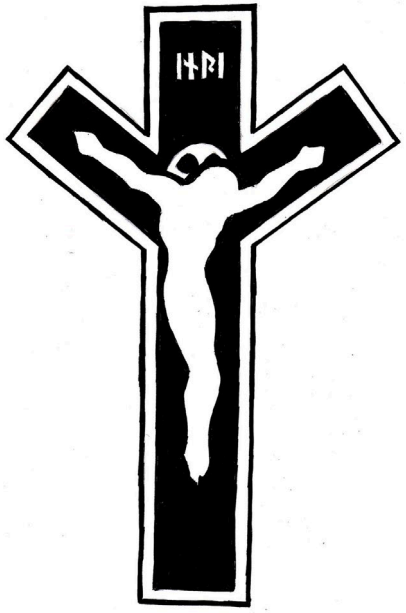
How to Rune your Good Name

or

The Art of Harsh Calligraphy



Chad McClung

Not Runes

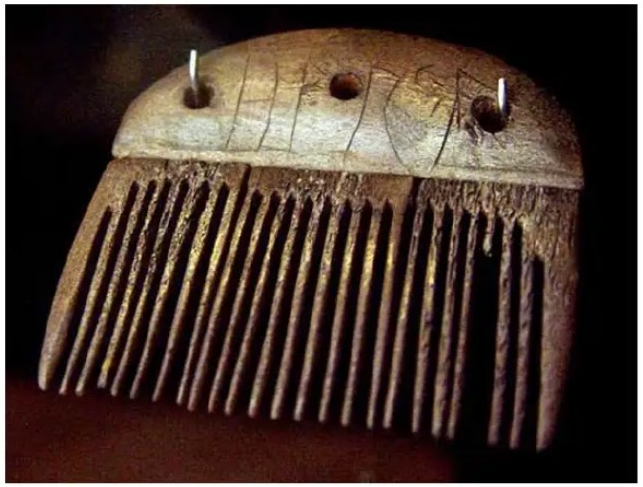
Qualifications

- The study of runes benefits from an understanding of archeology, history, ancient literature, linguistics and art.
- It helps to be Scandinavian, as most of the literature on runes is written in Scandinavian languages, or German.
- I am not credentialed in archeology, history, ancient literature, linguistics or art
- I am not Scandinavian, and my German isn't good enough to read scholarly papers.
- So, here follows information gathered from many years of reading books and papers in English, a variety of Youtube videos, and ~~arguing~~ discussing the topic with people on-line.

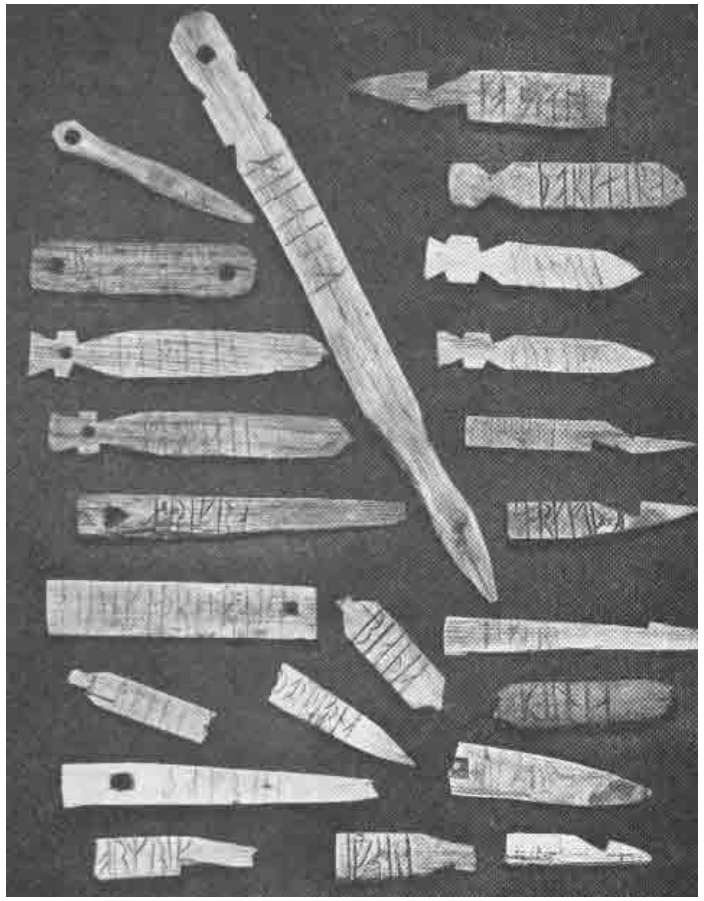
Runes

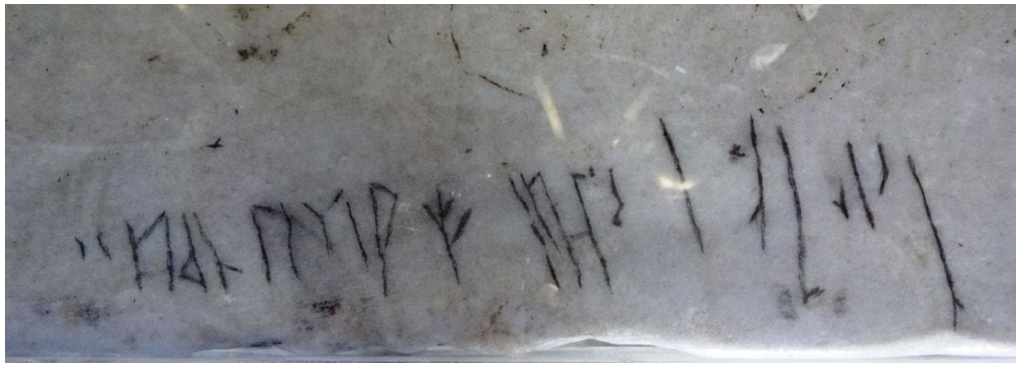
I. What are they?
II. Where did they come from?
III. What have they been used for in the past?
IV. How are they being used now?
V. How can you use them?
    A. Learning aids
    B. Create a bindrune to represent yourself or a concept
    C. Write your name or transcribe a text
    D. Other artistic options

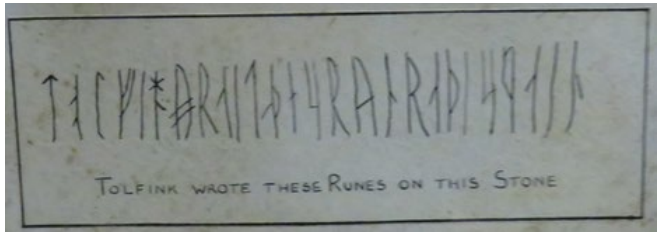
These are runes:



These are also runes:







ᚱᚢᚾᛖᛋ are symbols (simple linear shapes) representing sounds (and occasionally words). They are arranged in “alphabets” also referred to as rune rows, which have specific names, frequently based on the transcription of the first six characters of the line (futhark, futhorc, futhork) along with specific names (Elder Futhark, Anglo-Frisian Futhorc, Staveless Younger Futhark). The rune lines are frequently separated into segments called *ætts). (The æ is a ligature, not a bindrune)*

The word “rune” has been popularly thought to stem from a Proto-Germanic form *reconstructed* as *rūnō, which may be translated as 'secret, mystery; secret conversation, whisper; rune’. Some people are fond of “whisper”, as the rune shapes represent a sound without making a sound. The etymology with the most current scholarly support suspect a root meaning “dig” “make furrows”, as runes were scratched or carved rather than written or painted (although runestones frequently were also painted).

Almost everything I tell you about runes is similarly contested, or else is speculative, or incomplete or more complicated than we can examine in our limited time here. That is part of what makes runes ᚠᚢᚾ.

Runes had names

- In addition to having a shape and a sound (or sounds), most or all runes had names.
- We know some of the names because we have poems about the English runes and the Scandinavian runes, that list names. We also have a list of letter names for Gothic, which may be related to Elder Futhark names. All of this information was provided by Christian clergy.
- Usually, the name started with one of the sounds the rune was associated with (the word for this is acrophony). Otherwise, it might end with that sound, if the language did not have words starting with that sound (like ᛝ, named “Ing”, representing the sound of “ng in ring” or IPA [ŋ].) When, over time, the sounds used in a language changed, this could cause a problem with the rune names, leading to more runic fun.
- Occasionally, a rune, such as the rune transcribed as **m** (representing the sound of “m as in man” or IPA [m], which had the name “Mann” in Old English (symbol ᛗ) and “Maðr” in Old Norse (symbol ᛘ), both meaning human or person, was used to represent that word without any other runes. But this was more of a shorthand than an ideogram.
- Sometimes we don’t know what the names were, or we know a name but not what it meant. But people like to guess. This part of why runes are ᚠᚢᚾ.

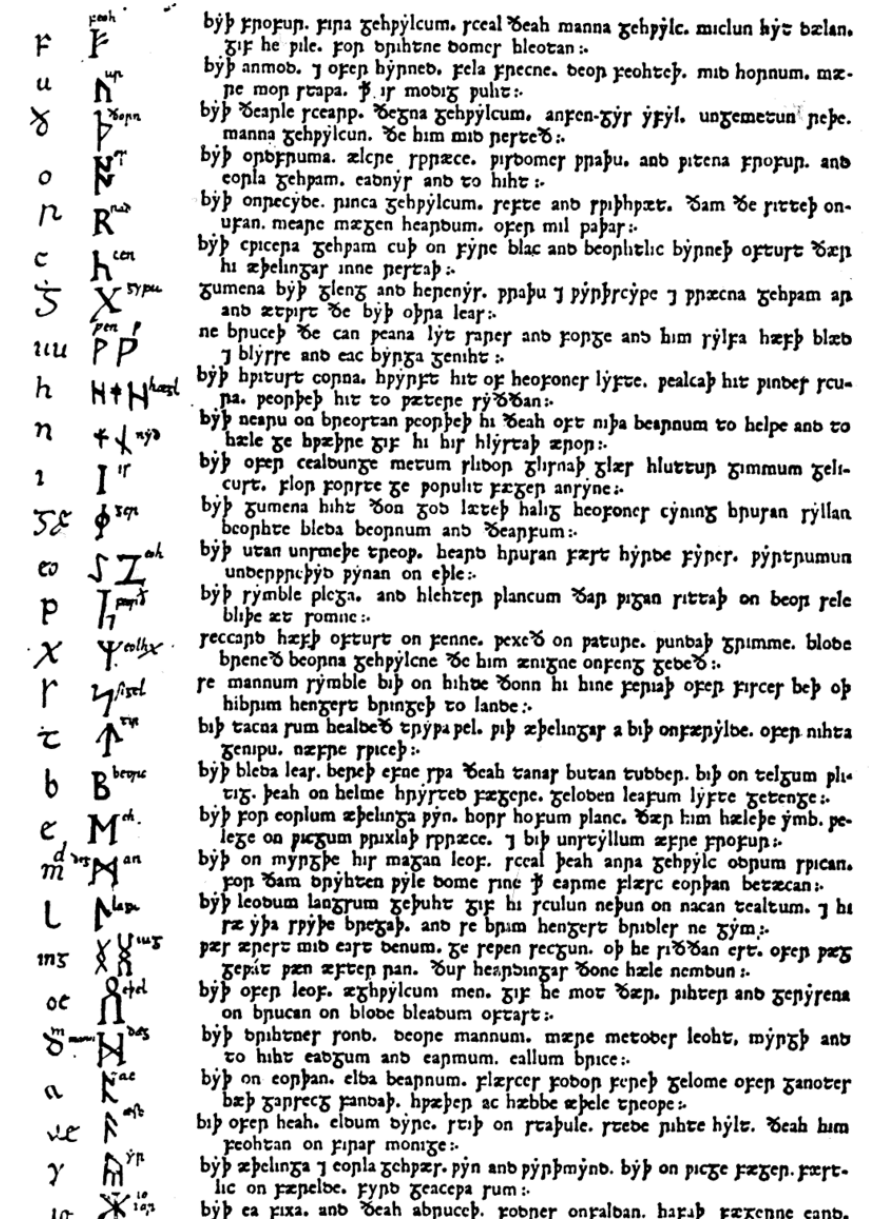
Rune Poems

The Old English rune poem is a list of riddles, to which the rune name is proposed as an answer.

	f ᚠ	u ᚢ	þ ᚦ	o/ą ᚨ	r ᚱ	c/k ᚳ	h ᚻ	n ᚾ	i ᛁ	j/a ᛃ	s ᛋ	t ᛏ	b ᛒ	m ᛗ	l ᛚ	x/ʀ ᛉ
Old English	Feoh "wealth"	Ur "aurochs"	Þorn "thorn"	Os "god"	Rad "riding"	Cen "torch"	Hægl "hail"	Nyd "need"	Is "ice"	Ger "harvest"	Sigel "sun"	Tir "glory"	Beorc "birch"	Mann "man"	Lagu "sea"	Eolhx (see *Algiz*
Norwegian	Fé "wealth"	Úr "dross"	Þurs "giant"	Óss "estuary"	Ræið "riding"	Kaun "ulcer"	Hagall "hail"	Nauð(r) "need"	Ís(s) "ice"	Ár "plenty"	Sól "sun"	Týr	Bjarkan "birch"	Maðr "man"	Lǫgr "waterfall"	Ýr "yew"
Icelandic		Úr "rain"		Óss "Odin"											Lögr "water"	

The Gothic alphabet **letter names** are recorded in a 9th-century manuscript of **Alcuin**[1] (Codex Vindobonensis 795) and were used to “reconstruct” Elder Futhark rune names.

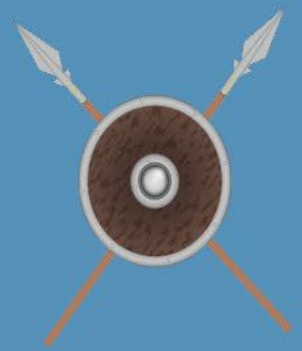
[1]Alcuin of York (Latin: Flaccus Albinus Alcuinus; c. 735 – 19 May 804) – also called Ealhwine, Alhwin, or Alchoin – was a scholar, clergyman, poet, teacher and perfector of Carolingian minuscule, from York, Northumbria. When you have that many names for a guy who is arguably the greatest of Anglo-Saxon scholars, variable rune names should not be a surprise.



Stanza xvi
of
The Havamal

An unwise man
thinks he will live forever
if only he can avoid a fight,
but old age
will give him no peace,
even if weapons do.

Ósnallr ᛉ
hyggskmunu ey lifa
ef hann við vig varask,
En elli gefr
honum engi frið,
þótt honum geirar gefi.



⁝ᚼᛁᚾᚾᛚᚱ⁝ᛘ⁝
⁝ᚺᚢᚠᛁᚴᛘᚢᚾᚢ⁝ᛅᚢ⁝ᛚᛁᚠᚾ⁝
⁝ᛅᚠ⁝ᚺᚾᚾ⁝ᚠᛁᚦ⁝ᚠᛁᚠ⁝ᚠᚾᚱᚾᛁᚴ⁝
⁝ᛅᚾ⁝ᛅᛚᛁ⁝ᚠᛅᚠᚱ⁝
⁝ᚺᚼᚾᚢᛘ⁝ᛅᚾᚠᛁ⁝ᚠᚱᛁᚦ⁝
⁝ᚦᚼᛏ⁝ᚺᚼᚾᚢᛘ⁝ᚠᛅᛁᚱᚾᚱ⁝ᚠᛅᚠᛁ⁝

When we are discussing runes they may be written about using:

shapes (ᚠ ᚢ ᚦ ᚨ ᚱ ᚲ),
transliteration (**futhark)**,
line number (rune 4, 2nd *ætt* rune 3),
phonetic representation ([g], [ɣ], [ʎ]), or
name (*Fehu, Feoh, Fé) and
even by the “meaning” of those names (wealth, person, ice).

Name	Proto-Germanic	Old English	
	*Gebō	Gyfu	Gār
	'gift'	'gift'	"spear"
Shape	Elder Futhark	Futhorc	
Unicode	ᚷ U+16B7	ᚷ U+16B7	ᛝ U+16B8
Transliteration	g	ȝ	g
Transcription	*g*	*ȝ*, *g*	*g*
IPA	[ɣ]	[g], [ɣ], [ʎ], [j]	[g]
Position in rune-row	7	7	33

We may speak about them in the same way: The rune that looks like an “F”, the **f** rune, the first rune, the [f] phoneme rune, Feoh, the “wealth or cattle” rune.

However, as the “same” rune might be in a different place in different rune lines, might represent different sounds, might have an altered shape, might have a different transliteration and might have an unknown or disputed name or name meaning, clarity may suffer. This part of why runes are ᚠᚢᚾ.

Frequent confusion arises from believing that the transliteration (ᚢ=**u**) represents the sound a rune represented at a particular time and place. Transliteration was originally used because, before the advent of computer fonts, printing rune shapes was difficult.

magi

"sh"

"g"

"y"

Transliteration

fisc flodu ahof on fergenberig
warþ gasric grorn þær he on greut giswom
hronæs ban

Translation

The fish beat up the sea(s) on to the mountainous cliff
The king of (?)terror became sad when he swam onto the grit.
Whale's bone

Runes are FUN, but a spreadsheet is not a good response to that fun:

	Proto-Germanic Name	Old English Name	OE Name Pronounced		Old Norse Name	Proto-Germanic Meaning	Old English Meaning	Old Norse Meaning	Proto-Germanic Sound	Old English Sound	Old Norse Sound	Futhark A	UCS	Proto-Germanic Transliteration	Old English Transliteration	Nordic Transliteration	Gothic Name	Gothic Meaning
ᚠ	*Fehu	Feoh	FEH-oh	/feox/	Fé	"livestock, wealth"	"livestock, wealth"	"livestock, wealth"	[f]	[f], [v]	[f], [v]	ᚠ	ᚠ	f	f	f	fe	"wealth, cattle"
ᚢ	*Ūruz/Ūrą	Ūr	OOR	/uːr/	Úr	"aurochs" / "water"	"aurochs"	"dross" / "rain"	[u(:)]	[u], [uː]	[u(:)], [y(:)], [o(:)], [w]	ᚢ	ᚢ	u	u	u	uraz	"aurochs"
ᚦ	*Þurisaz	Þorn	THORN	/θorn/, [θorʸn]	Þurs	"giant"	"thorn"	"giant"	[θ]	[θ], [ð]	[θ], [ð]	ᚦ	ᚦ	þ	þ	þ	thyth	"goodness"
ᚨ ᛋᛋ	*Ansuz	Æsc	ASH	/æʃ/	Óss	"god"	"ash"	"god"	[a(:)]	[æ], [æː]	[ɑ], [o(:)]	ᚫ	ᚫ	a	æ	a	azsa	?
ᚱ	*Raidō	Rād	RAHD	/rɑːd/	Reið	"ride, journey"	"ride, journey"	"ride, journey"	[r]	[r]	[r]	ᚱ	ᚱ	r	r	r	reda	"ride"
ᚲ ᚴᚴ	*Kauną?	Cēn	CHAIN	/ʧeːn/	Kaun	?	"torch"	"ulcer"	[k]	[k], [kʲ], [tʃ]	[k], [g]	ᚴ	ᚴ	k	c	k	chozma	"boil"?
ᚷ	*Gebō	Gyfu	YI-vuh	/ˈji.fu/, [ˈji.vu]		‘gift’	‘gift’		[ɣ]	[g], [ɣ], [j]		ᚷ	ᚷ	g	g	g	geuua	"gift"
ᚹ	*Wunjō	Wynn/Þynn	WUEN	/wynn/, [wyn]		"joy"	"joy"		[w]	[w]		ᚹ	ᚹ	w	w	w	uuinne	"joy"
ᚺ ᚻᚼ	*Hag(a)laz	Hægl	HAE-yull	/xæjl/, [hæjl]	Hagall	"hail"	"hail"	"hail"	[h]	[h], [x]	[h]	ᚺ	ᚺ	h	h	h	haal	"hail"
ᚾ ᚾ	*Naudiz	Nȳd	NYUD	/niyːd/	Nauðr	"need, hardship"	"need, hardship"	"need, hardship, constraint"	[n]	[n]	[n]	ᚾ	ᚾ	n	n	n	noicz	?
ᛁ	*Isaz	Īs	EES	/iːs/	Isa	"ice"	"ice"	"ice"	[i(:)]	[i], [iː]	[i], [iː]	ᛁ	ᛁ	i	i	i	iiz	"ice"
ᛃ ᛄᛇ	*Jēra-	Gēr	YAIR	/jeːr/ /jæɑːr/	Ár	"year, harvest"	"year, harvest"	"harvest, plenty"	[j]	[j]	[a]	ᛄ ᛅ	ᛄ	j	j	j	gaar	"year"
ᛇ	*Ē2haz / *Ē2waz	Ēoh	AY-oh’h	/eoːx/		"yew"	"yew"		[iː], [ç]?	[iː], [x], [ç]		ᛇ	ᛇ	Ï	ȝ ɨ	Ï	uuaer	"caldron"
ᛈ	*Perþō?	Peorð	PAY-orth	/peorθ/, [peorʸθ]		"pear-wood item?"	"pear-wood item?"		[p]	[p]		ᛈ	ᛈ	p	p	p	perta	?
ᛉ ᛦ	*Algiz?	Eolhx?	AY-olch?	/eolx/, [eoɬx]	Yr	"elk-sedge"(?)	elk-sedge(?)	"yew, bow"	[z]	[ks]	[ɻ], [y]	ᛉ	ᛉ	z	x	ʀ	ezec	"coin, bronze bit"
ᛋᛋᛋᛋ	*Sōwilō	Sigel	SIH-yell	/ˈsi.jel/	Sól	"Sun"	"Sun"	"Sun"	[s]	[s], [z]	[s]	ᛊ ᛋ	ᛋ	s	s	s	sugil	"sun"
ᛏ ᛏ	*Tē₂waz	Tī/Tīr	TEAR	/tiːw/ [tyːr]	Týr	"Týr"	"Týr"	"Týr"	[t]	[t]	[t] [d]	ᛏ	ᛏ	t	t	t	tyz	"god"
ᛒ ᚠ	*Berkanan	Beorc	BEH-ork	/beork/, [beorʸk]	Bjarkan	"birch"	"birch"/"poplar"?	"birch"	[β]	[b]	[b], [p]	ᛒ	ᛒ	b	b	b	bercna	"birch twig"
ᛖ	*Ehwaz	E(o)h	EH	/eox/		"horse"	"horse"		[e(:)]	[e], [eː]		ᛖ	ᛖ	e	e	e	eyz	"horse"
ᛗ ᛘᛉ	*Mannaz	Mann	MAHN	/mɑnn/, [mɑn]	Maðr	"man, human"	"man, human"	"man, human"	[m]	[m]	[m]	ᛘ	ᛘ	m	m	m	manna	"man"
ᛚ	*Laguz/*Laukaz	Lagu	LA-guh	/ˈlɑ.gu/, [ˈlɑ.ɣu]	Lögr	"lake"/"leek"	"ocean, sea"	"water, waterfall"	[l]	[l]	[l]	ᛚ	ᛚ	l	l	l	laaz	"liquid"
ᛜ ᛝ ᛞ	*Ingwaz	Ing	ING	/ɪŋ/		"Yngvi" (Freyr)	"Yngvi" (Freyr)		[ŋ]	[ŋ]		ᛝ	ᛝ	ŋ	ŋ	ŋ	enguz	"Ing"
ᛞ	*Dagaz	Dæg	DAIE	/dæj/		"day"	"day"		[ð]	[d]		ᛞ	ᛞ	d	d	d	daaz	"day"
ᛟ	*Ōþalan	Ēðel	AY-thel	/ˈeː.θel/, [ˈeː.ðel]		"heritage, estate"	"heritage, estate"		[o(:)]	[eː], [ø(:)]		ᛟ	ᛟ	o	œ	o	utal	"inheritance"?
ᚪ		Āc	AHK	/ɑːk/			"oak"			[ɑ], [ɑː]		ᚪ	ᚪ		a			
ᚫ		Ōs	OHS	/oːs/			"god, mouth"			[o], [oː]		ᚫ	ᚫ		o			
ᛠ		Ēar	AY-ahr	/æɑːr/			‘earth, grave’			[æɑ], [æːɑ]		ᛠ	ᛠ		ea͡			
ᚣ		Ȳr	UER	/yːr/			‘bow’?			[y], [yː]		ᚣ	ᚣ		y			
ᛡ		Īor	EE-or				"eel"? "beaver"?			[jo]		ᛡ	ᛡ		i͡o			
ᛣ		Calc	CHALK	/ʧæɑlk/, [ʧæɑɬk]			"chalk? chalice? sandal?"			/k/		ᛣ	ᛣ		k			
ᛤ		Calc	CHALK	/ʧæɑlk/, [ʧæɑɬk]			"chalk? chalice? sandal?"			/k/		ᛤ	ᛤ		k̄			
ᚸ		Gār	GAHR	gɑːr/			“spear”			/g/		ᚸ	ᚸ		ḡ			

II. Where did they come from?

Prior to the 1st Century AD

a variety of Celtic Peoples were using alphabets derived from Greek and Etruscan alphabets:

VENETIC Este	EAST RAETIC Magrè	WEST RAETIC Bolzano-Sanzeno	CAMUNIC Sondrio	LEPONTIC Lugano	
A B ᚨ	A ᚨ ᚩ ᚪ	A ᚨ ᚩ ᚪ	ᛘ ᚩ ᚲ	ᚩ ᚲ	a
			ᚺ		b
ᚷ (=j)		ᚷ (?)	ᚷ (= g)		c/g
			ᛟ (?)		d
ᛇ	ᛇ	ᛇ	ᛇ ᛇ ᛁ	ᛇ	e
ᛏ	ᛏ	ᛏ	ᚻ		v
ᛉ (= d)	ᛉ (= d)	ᛉ ᛘ (?)	ᛘ ᛦ	ᛉ	z
ᛒ ᛞ	ᛒ ᛞ	ᛊ	H ᛋ ᛁᛁᛁ		h
ᛜ (= t)			ᚷ ᚸ ᚹ ᛜ ᛟ	ᛜ	θ
ᛁ ᛒ	ᛁ	ᛁ	ᛁ ᛇ	ᛁ	i
ᚴ	ᚴ	ᚴ	ᚴ ᚵ ᚴ	ᚴ	k
ᛇᛚ	ᛗ	ᛚ	ᛇᛚᛚ	ᛚ	l
ᛖ ᛗ	ᛗ	ᛗ	ᛖ ᛗ	ᛖ ᛗ	m
ᛋ ᛗ	ᛋ	ᛋ	ᛋᚠᛋ	ᛋ ᛗ	n
			ᚹ ᚹ ᛋ ᛟ ᛞ		o/u
ᛜ ᛜ			ᛜ	ᛜ ᛟ	o
ᛩ ᛩ	ᛩ ᛩ	ᚦ	ᚳ ᚵ ᚲ ᛩ	ᛩ	p
ᛗ ᚱ	ᛗ ᛗ	ᛗ	ᛒ ᛒ	ᛗ ᛗ	ś
ᛩ ᛞ	ᛞ ᛩ	ᛞ ᛩ ᛩ	ᛩ ᛞ	ᛞ	r
ᛊ ᛊ ᛊ	ᚷ ᛊ	ᛊ ᛊ	ᛉ ᛏ ᛉ	ᛊ ᛊ	s
ᚷ ᛏ	ᚷ ᚴ ᛇ	ᚷ	ᛏ ᛏ ᚦ ᚾ ᚾ	ᚷ	t
ᚹ ᚢ	ᚢ	ᚹ	ᚹ ᚢ ᚹ ᚳ	ᚹ	u
ᛜ (= b)	ᛩ ᛜ ᛜ	ᛩ ᛜ ᛜ	ᛜ		φ
			ᛯ ᛯ ᛞ ᛞ		ts/þþ
			ᛏ ᚳ ᛏ		þ
ᛉ (= g)	ᛉ ᛏ	ᛉ ᛏ		ᛏ	χ
ᛒ ᛋ ᛋ ᛞ ᛞ					f
	ᛏ ᛏ ᛏ ᛒ ᛒ				t'

And somebody farther north decided to copy the idea

This has become what is known as the **Elder Futhark**:

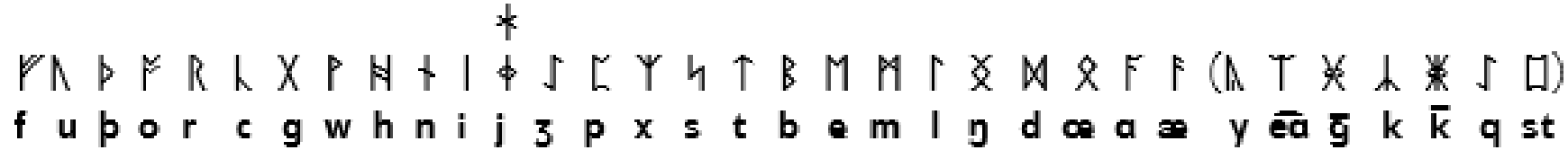
ᚠ ᚢ ᚦ ᚨ ᚱ ᚲ ᚷ ᚹ ᚺ ᚾ ᛁ ᛃ ᛇ ᛈ ᛉ ᛊ ᛏ ᛒ ᛖ ᛗ ᛚ ᛜ ᛞ ᛟ

f u þ a r k g w h n l j ï p z/ʀ s t b e m l ŋ d o

AD	100	200	300	400	500	600	700	800	900	1000	1100	1200	1300	1400	1500	1600	1700	1800	1900	2000

Elder Futhark

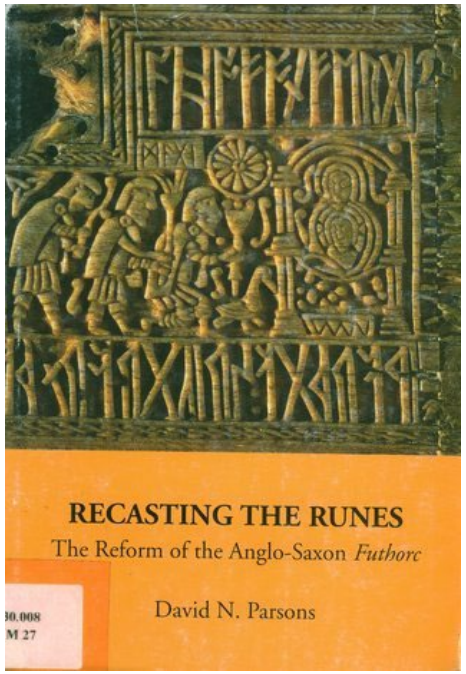
From this developed the
Anglo-Frisian Futhorc:



AD	100	200	300	400	500	600	700	800	900	1000	1100	1200	1300	1400	1500	1600	1700	1800	1900	2000

Anglo-Frisian Futhorc

Elder Futhark



And then the **Younger Futhark**

ᚠ ᚢ ᚦ ᚬ ᚱ ᚴ : ᚼ ᚾ ᛁ ᛅ ᛋ : ᛏ ᛒ ᛘ ᛚ ᛦ (ᚢᛅ ᚴ)

f u þ ą r k h n i a s t b m l ʀ y e ǥ

AD	100	200	300	400	500	600	700	800	900	1000	1100	1200	1300	1400	1500	1600	1700	1800	1900	2000

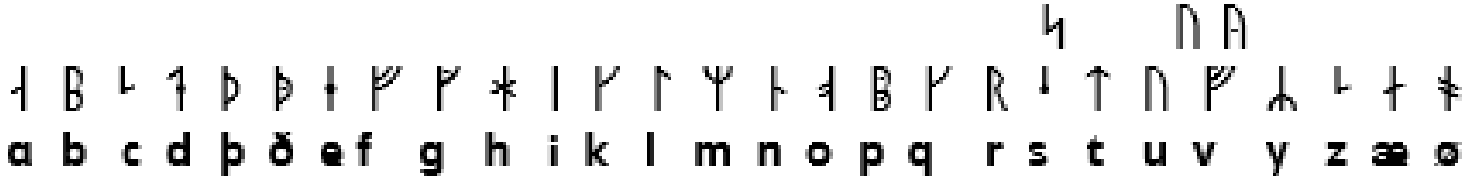
Anglo-Frisian Futhorc

Elder Futhark

Younger Futhark

Younger Futhark	ᚠ f/v	ᚢ u/v/w, y, o, ø	ᚦ þ, ð	ᚬ ą, o, æ	ᚱ r	ᚴ k, g	—	—	ᚼ/ᛅ h	ᚾ/ᚿ n	ᛁ i, e	ᛅ/ᛆ a, æ, e	—	—	ᛦ ʀ	ᛋ/ᛌ s	ᛏ/ᛐ t, d	ᛒ b, p	—	ᛘ m	ᛚ l

Followed by the **Medieval Runes** or **Futhork**



AD 100 200 300 400 500 600 700 800 900 1000 1100 1200 1300 1400 1500 1600 1700 1800 1900 2000

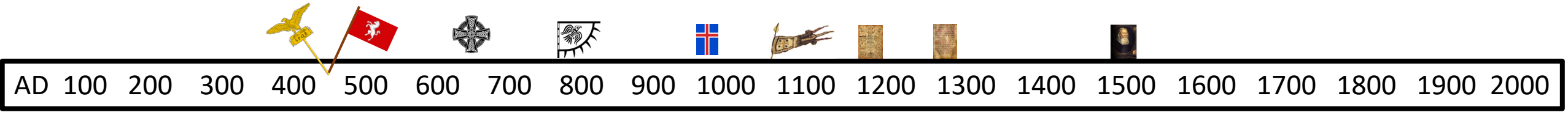
Anglo-Frisian Futhorc

Elder Futhark

Younger Futhark

Futhork

And mystic/nationalistic **Adalrunor**

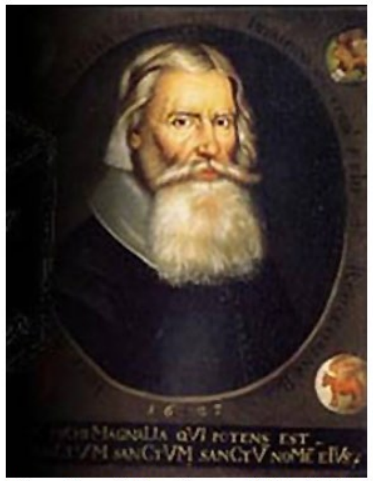


Anglo-Frisian Futhorc

Elder Futhark

Younger Futhark

Futhork

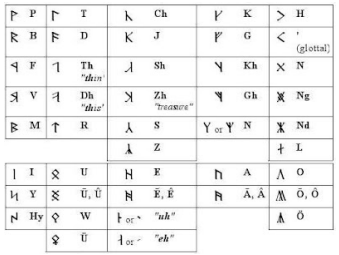


Johan Bure / John Bureus (1568-1652)

Adalrunor

In the 16th century, Johan Bure created his "adalrunor" based on the younger futhark (the elder futhark was not yet deciphered) and, to go with his Gothic Kabbalah, ascribed esoteric meanings to them similar to the Hebrew letters. Thus began a tradition leading through “New Age” fortune telling to your local Neo-Pagan tattoos.

And the Sindarin Cirth



AD 100 200 300 400 500 600 700 800 900 1000 1100 1200 1300 1400 1500 1600 1700 1800 1900 2000

Anglo-Frisian Futhorc

Elder Futhark

Younger Futhark

Not Cirth: This is Tengwar, *completely* different

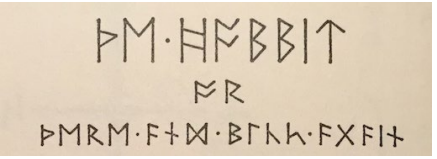
Futhork

Adalrunor

Cirth

"The Cirth ("Runes") were originally developed in by the Sindar Elves of Doriath, for writing Sindarin. The runes are traditionally attributed to the loremaster Daeron. The Sindar were slow to adopt writing, but the Dwarves who visited and traded with Doriath took readily to the runes, and spread them widely, both among Dwarves and other races. Over time, the runes were adapted for various languages. The Noldor of Eregion are credited with adding a number of characters for sounds not found in Sindarin."

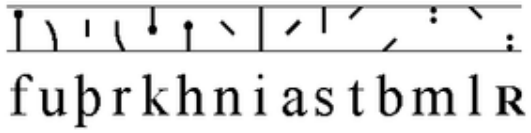
Also Not Cirth:



http://tolkienlanguagediscussion.blogspot.com/2013/01/writing-with-dwarf-runes.html

Marcomannic runes – Carolingian sophistry

Hälsinge runes (staveless runes)



Dalecarlian runes

Armanen pseudo-runes

Wiligut pseudo-runes

Abusis non tollit usum

Also Not Cirth:

Runic[1][2]

Official Unicode Consortium code chart (PDF)

	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	A	B	C	D	E	F
U+16Ax	ᚠ	ᚡ	ᚢ	ᚣ	ᚤ	ᚥ	ᚦ	ᚧ	ᚨ	ᚩ	ᚪ	ᚫ	ᚬ	ᚭ	ᚮ	ᚯ
U+16Bx	ᚰ	ᚱ	ᚲ	ᚳ	ᚴ	ᚵ	ᚶ	ᚷ	ᚸ	ᚹ	ᚺ	ᚻ	ᚼ	ᚽ	ᚾ	ᚿ
U+16Cx	ᛀ	ᛁ	ᛂ	ᛃ	ᛄ	ᛅ	ᛆ	ᛇ	ᛈ	ᛉ	ᛊ	ᛋ	ᛌ	ᛍ	ᛎ	ᛏ
U+16Dx	ᛐ	ᛑ	ᛒ	ᛓ	ᛔ	ᛕ	ᛖ	ᛗ	ᛘ	ᛙ	ᛚ	ᛛ	ᛜ	ᛝ	ᛞ	ᛟ
U+16Ex	ᛠ	ᛡ	ᛢ	ᛣ	ᛤ	ᛥ	ᛦ	ᛧ	ᛨ	ᛩ	ᛪ	᛫	᛬	᛭	ᛮ	ᛯ
U+16Fx	ᛰ	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□							

Notes

1.^ As of Unicode version 15.1

2.^ Grey areas indicate non-assigned code points

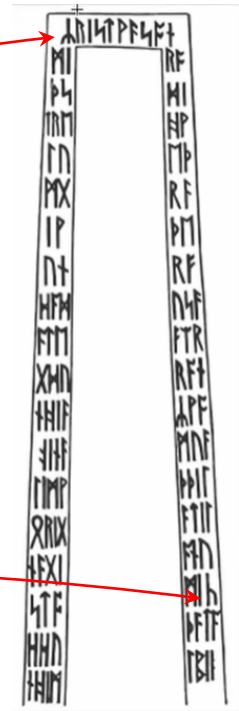
Segoe UI Historic

ᚠ ᚡ ᚢ ᚣ ᚤ ᚥ ᚦ ᚧ ᚨ ᚩ ᚪ ᚫ ᚬ ᚭ ᚮ ᚯ ᚰ ᚱ ᚲ ᚳ ᚴ ᚵ ᚶ ᚷ ᚸ ᚹ ᚺ ᚻ ᚼ ᚽ ᚾ ᚿ ᛀ ᛁ ᛂ ᛃ ᛄ ᛅ ᛆ ᛇ ᛈ ᛉ ᛊ ᛋ ᛌ ᛍ ᛎ ᛏ ᛐ ᛑ ᛒ ᛓ ᛔ ᛕ ᛖ ᛗ ᛘ ᛙ ᛚ ᛛ ᛜ ᛝ ᛞ ᛟ ᛠ ᛡ ᛢ ᛣ ᛤ ᛥ ᛦ ᛧ ᛨ ᛩ ᛪ ᛫ ᛬ ᛭ ᛮ ᛯ

Name	Proto-Germanic	Old English		Old Norse		
	*Jēra-	Gēr	Īor	Ár		
	"year, harvest"	"year, harvest"	"eel"	"harvest, plenty"		
Shape	Elder Futhark	Futhorc		Younger Futhark		
Unicode	U+16C3	U+16E1 U+16C4	U+16E1	U+16E1	U+16C5	U+16C6
Transliteration	j	j	io	A	a	a
Transcription	*j*	*j*	*io*	*a*		
IPA	[j]	[j]	[jo]	[a]		
Position in rune-row	12	12	28 or 29	10		

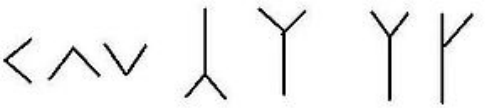
Name	Proto-Germanic	Old English	Old Norse	
	*Hag(a)laz	Hægl	Hagall	
	"hail"			
Shape	Elder Futhark	Futhorc	Younger Futhark	
Unicode	U+16BA	U+16BB	U+16BC	U+16BD
Transliteration	h			
Transcription	*h*			
IPA	[h]			
Position in rune-row	9		7	

Ruthwell Cross Inscription
"Dream of the Rood"



Elder Futhark [k]

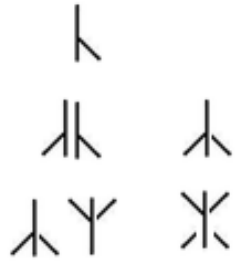
200–450 AD 450–550 AD 550–750 AD

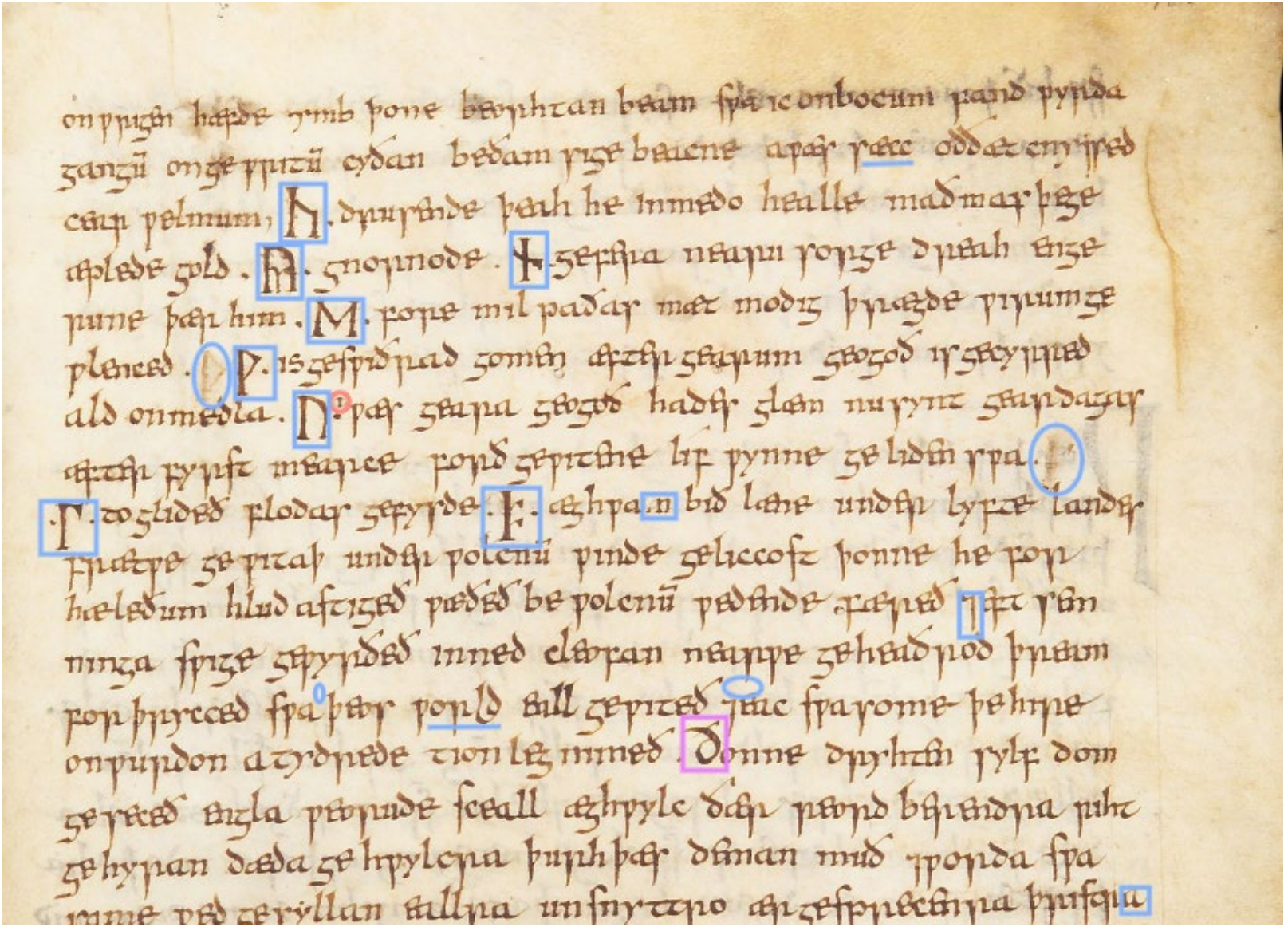


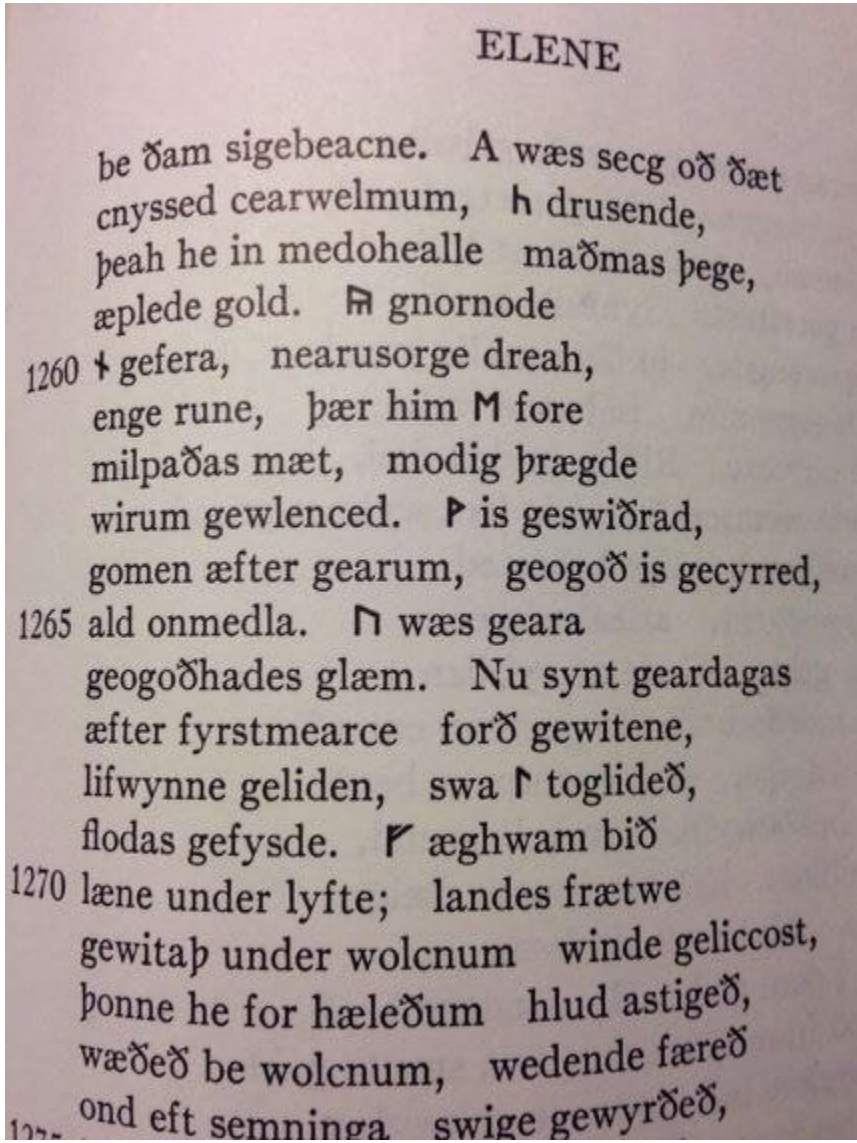
Name	Proto-Germanic	Old English	Old Norse
	*Kauną?	Cēn	Kaun
	?	"torch"	"ulcer"
Shape	Elder Futhark	Futhorc	Younger Futhark
Unicode	U+16B2	U+16B3	U+16B4
Transliteration	k	c	k
Transcription	*k*	*c*	*k*, *g*
IPA	[k]	[k], [c], [tʃ]	[k], [g]
Position in rune-row	6		

Anglo-Frisian Futhorc extra [k]

Image	UCS	Name	Name meaning	Transliteration	IPA
		calc	chalk? chalice? sandal?	k	/k/
		(unknown)	(unknown)	k̄	/k/
		cweorð	(unknown)	q	/k/? (for writing Latin?)





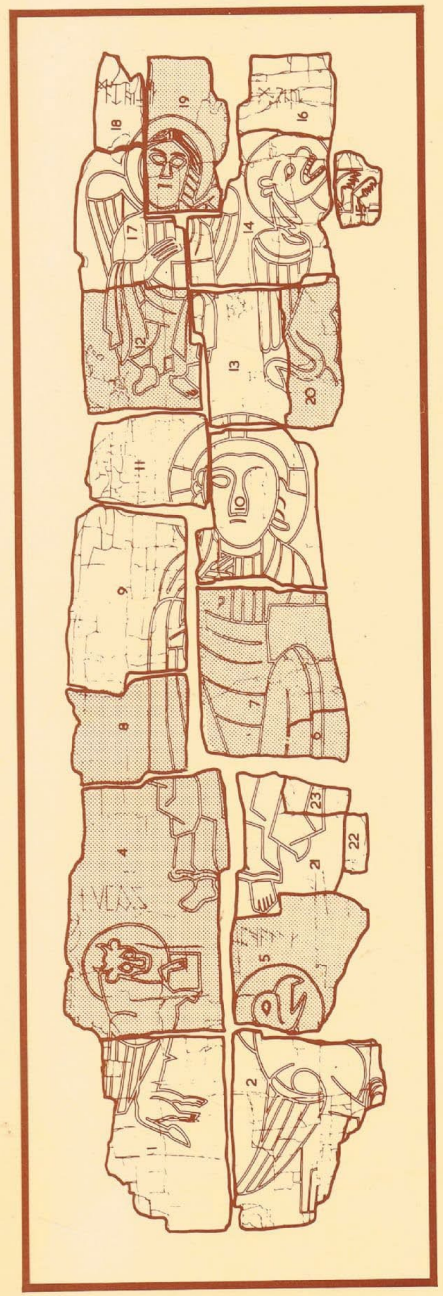


ELENE

be ðam sigebeacne. A wæs secg oð ðæt
cnyssed cearwelmum, ᚻ drusende,
þeah he in medohealle maðmas þege,
æplede gold. ᚺ gnornode
ᚾ gefera, nearusorge dreah,
enge rune, þær him ᛗ fore
milpaðas mæt, modig þrægde
wirum gewlenced. ᚹ is geswiðrad,
gomen æfter gearum, geogoð is gecyrred,
ald onmedla. ᚾ wæs geara
geogoðhades glæm. Nu synt geardagas
æfter fyrstmearce forð gewitene,
lifwynne geliden, swa ᚹ toglideð,
flodas gefysde. ᚠ æghwam bið
læne under lyfte; landes frætwe
gewitaþ under wolcnum winde geliccost,
þonne he for hæleðum hlud astigeð,
wæðeð be wolcnum, wedende færeð
ond eft semninga swige gewyrðeð,

E{pgy wrhku"qpg"qh"vy gnxg"Qnf "Gpi nkuj "r qgwu"mpqy p"d{"pco g."cpf "qpg"qh"hqwt"y j qug"y qtmku"mpqy p"vq"uwtxkxg"
vqf c{0J g"□uki pgf- "Vj g"Hcvgu"qh"vj g"Cr quvngu."Lwnkc pc."Gngpg."cpf "Ej tkuv"KK"

Runes are also found in manuscripts including Beowulf, The Husband's Message, Riddle 19, Riddle 24, Riddle 64, Riddle 75, Riddle 91, Solomon and Saturn, and Waldere A.



St. Cuthbert's Coffin

The history, technology and conservation

by

J.M. Cronyn and C.V. Horie

with an introduction by
R.J. CRAMP

Published by The Dean and Chapter Durham Cathedral

The names of Matthew, Mark and John are thus in runes, while that of Luke is in Latin letters. The Christogram is notably in runic writing, ihs xps ᛁᚺᛋ ᚷᛈᛋ, with the h double-barred in the continental style, the first attestation of that variant in England. The monogram reflects a runic variant of a partly Latinized XPS from Greek XPICTOC, with the rho rendered as runic p and the eolc rune (the old Algiz rune z) used to render chi. It is difficult to account for the mixture of scripts, or find significance in which parts are in which script, but it can be said that such mixtures are not uncommon among inscriptions of the period from northern England, including the Franks Casket and stones from Lindisfarne and Monkwearmouth.

	Proto-Germanic	Old English
Name	*$\bar{E}_2$haz / *$\bar{E}_2$waz	Ēoh
	"yew"	
	Elder Futhark	Futhorc
Shape		
Unicode	U+16C7	
Transliteration	ï	ï
Transcription	*ï*	*ï*
IPA	[iː], [ç]?	[iː], [x], [ç]
Position in rune-row	13	

	Proto-Germanic	Old English	Old Norse
Name	*Algiz?	Eolhx?	Yr
	"elk"(?)		"yew"
	Elder Futhark	Futhorc	Younger Futhark
Shape			
Unicode	U+16C9		U+16E6 U+16E7 U+16E8
Transliteration	z	x	R
Transcription	*z*	*x*	*R*
IPA	[z]	N/A[3][1]	[ɻ], [y]
Position in rune-row	15		16

	Proto-Germanic	Old English		Old Norse
Name	*Ūruz/Ūrą	Ūr	Ȳr	Úr
	"aurochs" / "water"	"aurochs"	?	"dross"/"rain"
	Elder Futhark	Futhorc		Younger Futhark
Shape				
Unicode	U+16A2	U+16A2	U+16A3	U+16A2
Transliteration	u	u	y	u
Transcription	*u*	*u*	*y*	*u*, *y*, *o*, *v* / *w*
IPA	[u(ː)]	[u(ː)]	[y(ː)]	[u(ː)], [y(ː)], [o(ː)], [w]
Position in rune-row	2	2	27	2

	Proto-Germanic	Old English	Old Norse
Name	*Mannaz	Mann	Maðr
	"man, human"		
	Elder Futhark	Futhorc	Younger Futhark
Shape			
Unicode	U+16D7		U+16D8 U+16D9
Transliteration	m		
Transcription	*m*		
IPA	[m]		
Position in rune-row	20		14

R and its predecessor **z** was only used for the nominative case ending. Old English didn't use this nominative case ending, so repurposed the ᛉ rune for representing a letter from Latin, just as the runes ᚦ and ᚹ were adopted by monks into Latin documents to represent English sounds not found in Latin.

chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://www.arild-hauge.com/PDF/13-westeremdenB-Gronningen.pdf

III. What were they used for in the past?

- Labelling (comb, herring, Johan's)
- Claiming credit (Gunnar cut these, Maria had these cut, This was made by Ragnar, etc)
- Memorialization (this stone was erected by Larry, in memory of Moe and cut by Curly) "Vigmund had this stone carved in memory of himself, the cleverest of men. May God help the soul of Vigmund, the ship captain. Vigmund and Åfrid carved this memorial while he lived."
- Prayer: "Michael, Peter, John, Andrew, Lawrence, Thomas, Olaf, Clement, Nicholas. All saints, guard me night and day, my life and soul. God see me and bless. God give us ... and Mary's gifts. Help me Clement, help me all God's saints", "May you be healthy, and in good spirits. May Þórr receive you, may Óðinn own you." "Rex Judæorum In nomine Patris Nazarenus"
- Texting: "Gyða tells you to go home", "My love, kiss me", more inappropriate things
- Magic: "be lucky Alawin" "ALU"
- Art: Franks Casket, Rune Poem, Dream of the Rood, St. Cuthbert's coffin, The Hobbit
- Cultural Assertion: Codex Regius, Adalruner
- Evangelism: Ruthwell Cross, Bewcastle Cross, Swedish runestones, Bridekirk baptismal font

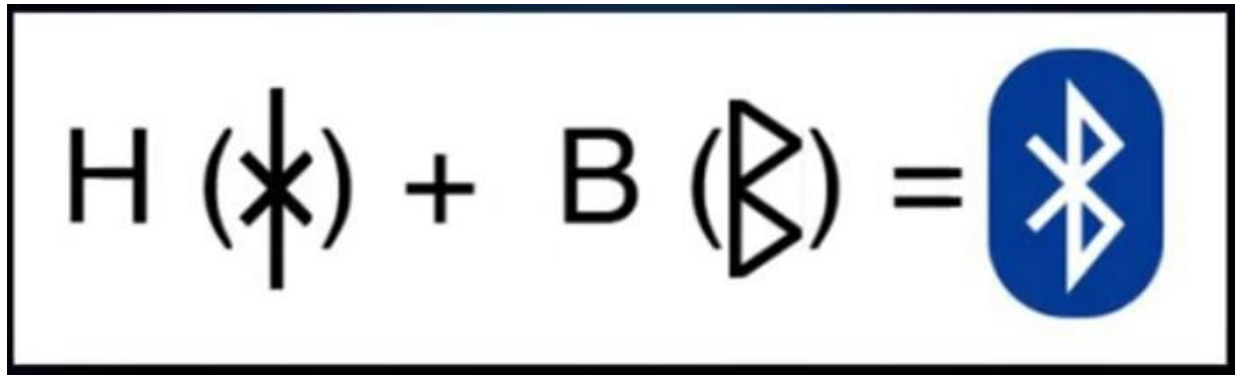
Bind Runes, more than ligatures

Type 1

The i rune plus the *ŋ* rune for “ing”

There are a number of attestations of the ᛁᛝ bind rune ᛜ or ᛞ (the "lantern rune“, similar in shape to the Anglo-Saxon gēr rune ᛄ), but its identification is disputed in most cases, since the same sign may also be a cipher rune of wynn or thurisaz.

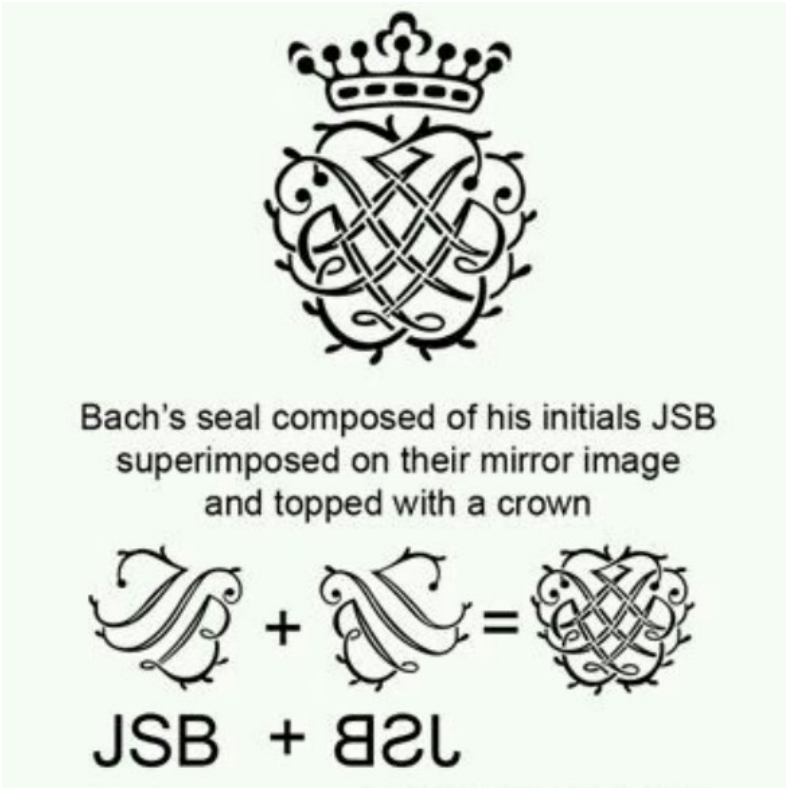
Type 2



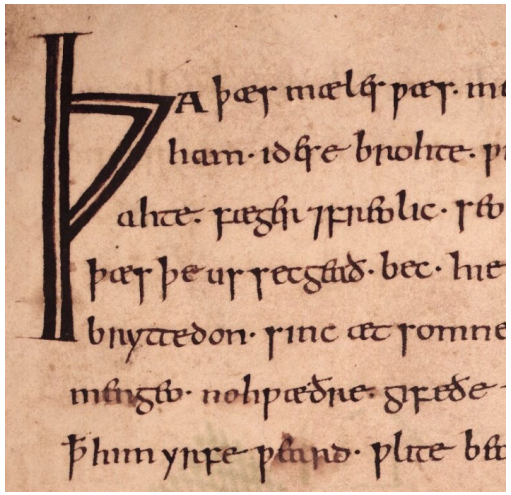
Not Bind Runes, but just as mystical

1 2 3 4

ſs ſs ſʒ ß



IV. What are they being used for now?



florn.„m ̣n ̣ ̣„a„thorn ̣ ̣„name„of„the„TH[rune„Þ ̣„[THORN„ ̣ ̣„ ̣ ̣rn[

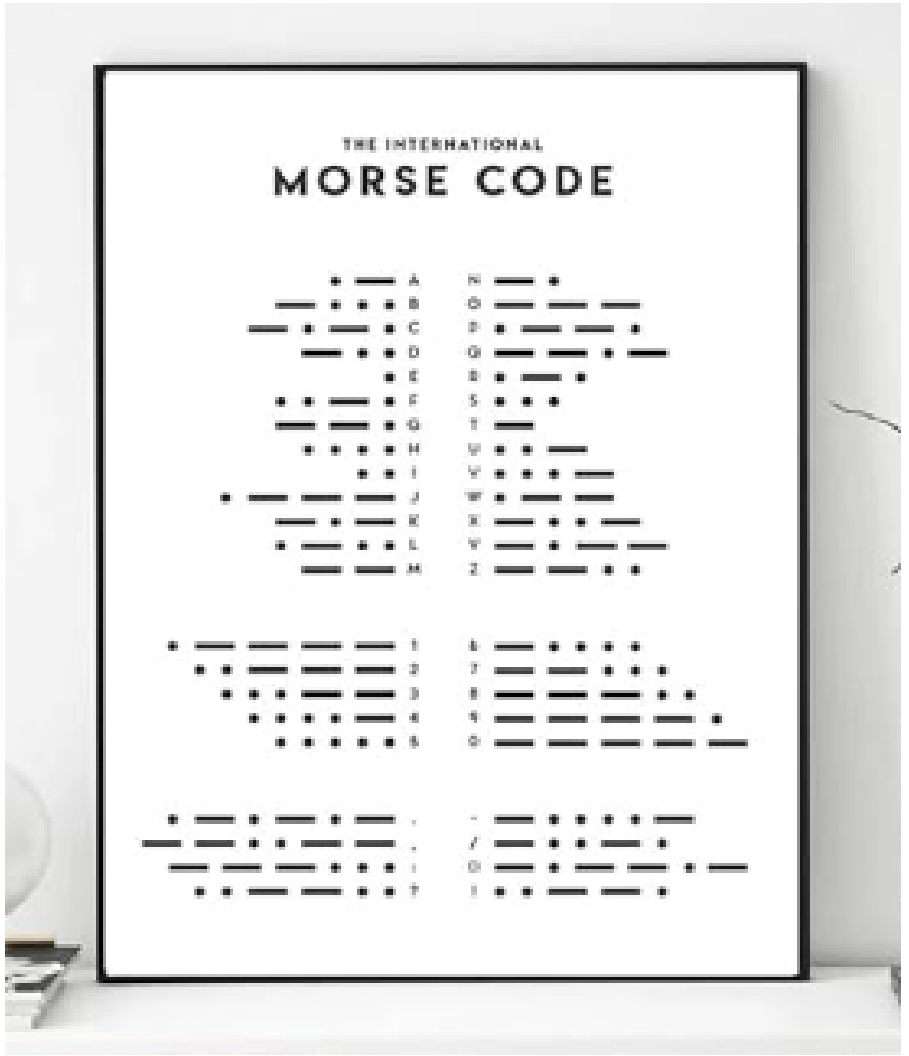
The use of the term ye to mean "the" derives from Early Modern English, in which “the” was written “þe”, employing the Old English letter thorn, ⟨þ⟩. During the Tudor period, the scribal abbreviation for þe was þ̊ or þᵉ ; here, the letter ⟨þ⟩ is combined with the letter ⟨e⟩. With the arrival of movable type printing, the substitution of ⟨y⟩ for ⟨Þ⟩ became ubiquitous, leading to the common ye as in "**Ye Olde Curiositie Shoppe.**" One major reason for this was that ⟨y⟩ existed in the blackletter types that William Caxton and his contemporaries imported from Belgium and the Netherlands, while ⟨Þ⟩ did not, resulting in (ẙ) as well as ye. The connection became less obvious after the letter thorn was discontinued in favor of the digraph ⟨th⟩. Today, ye is often incorrectly pronounced as the archaic pronoun of the same spelling.

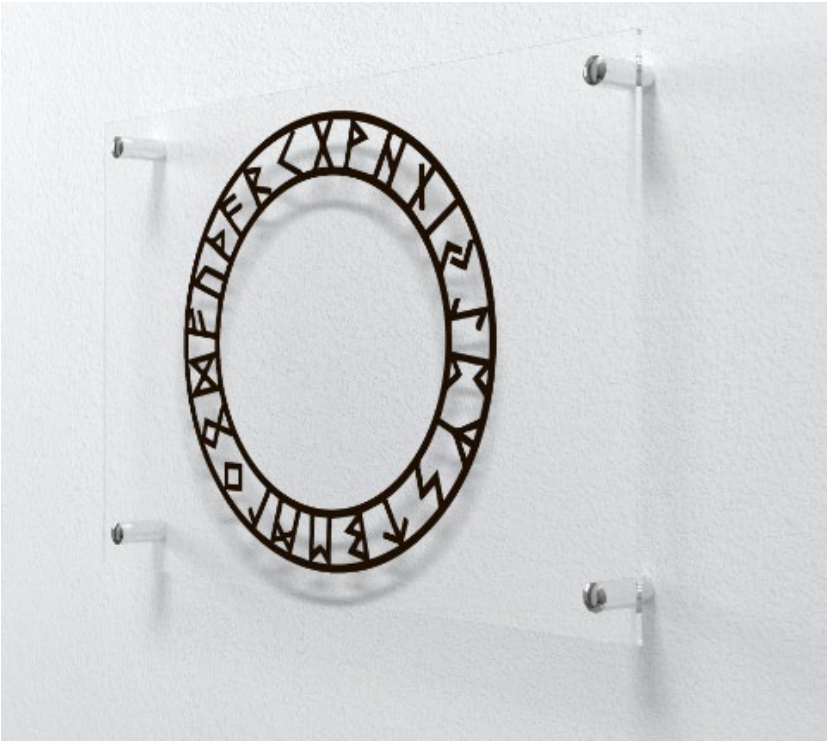
the that

As Décor:

Not Runes

Not Runes





ALRÚN
NORDIC JEWELRY

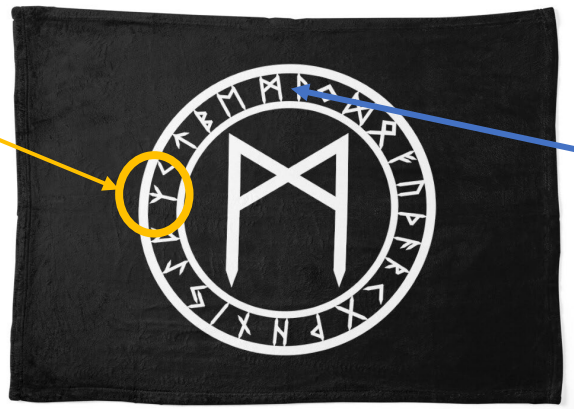
As Decoration:

"Futhark in a circle" is a common modern decorative motif

"Elk"

Elder Futhark

Younger Futhark
"Man" ?



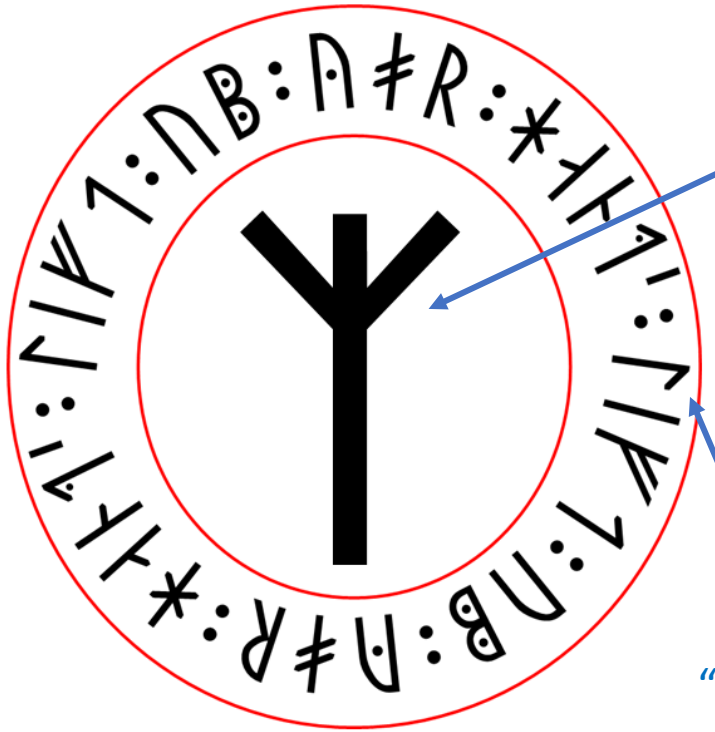
"Elk"

Elder Futhark

Elder Futhark

This is a decorative pillow

Futhork

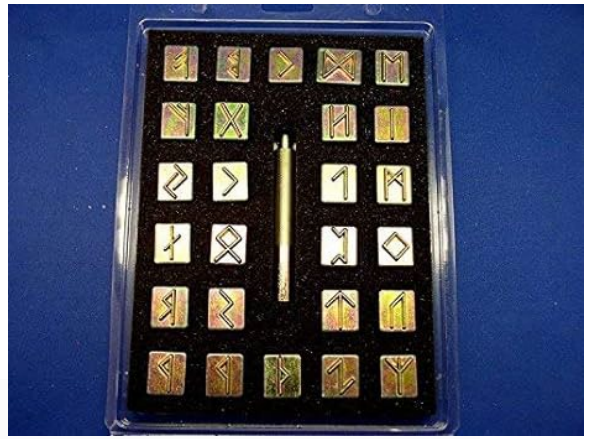


"Ideographic"

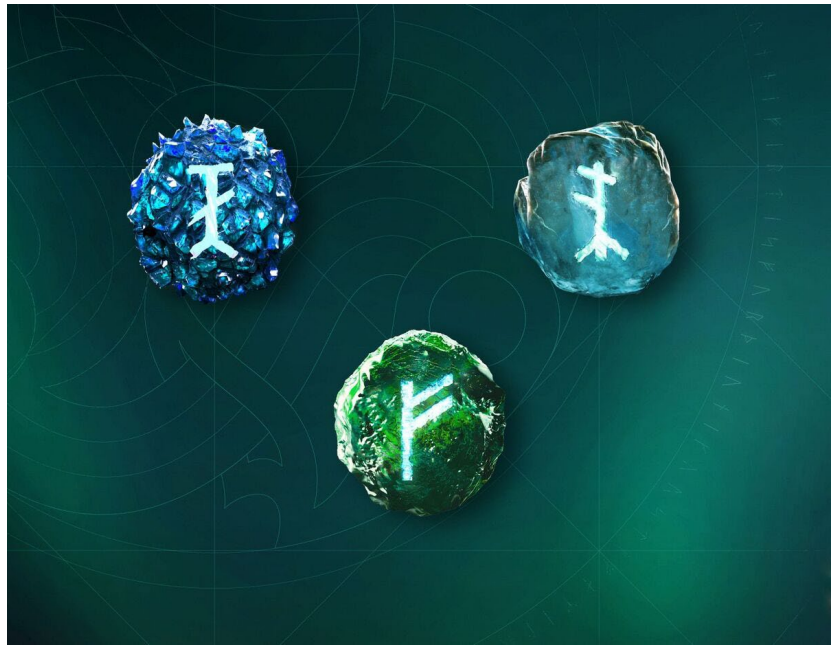
"Alphabet"

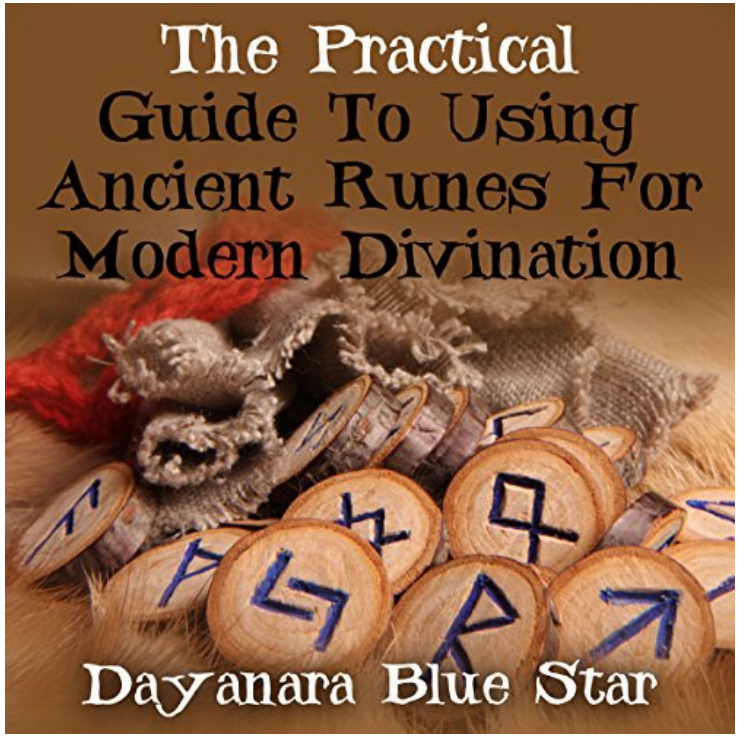
"lift up your hands"
Psalm 134:2
(tattoo idea)

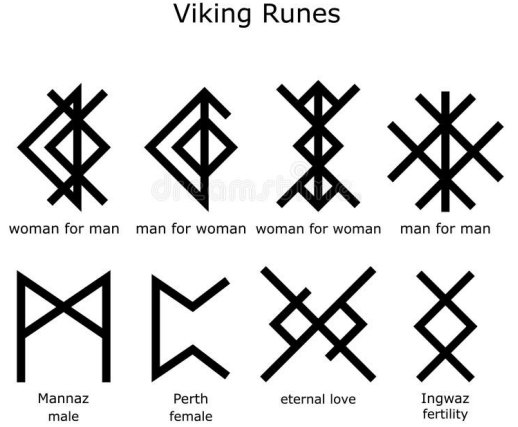
RUNES, SIGILS & MORE FOR ARTISTS



And more:




The Practical Guide To Using Ancient Runes For Modern Divination
Dayanara Blue Star


LOVE
Viking Runes
woman for man
man for woman
woman for woman
man for man
Mannaz
male
Perth
female
eternal love
Ingwaz
fertility

Oberfähnrich
Heer and Luftwaffe shoulder insignia

VIKING RUNE MEANINGS
ANSUZ-Odin, Insight, Communication, Inspiration, True Vision
NAUTHIZ-Need, Self-Reliance, Endurance, Survival
BERKANO-Birth, Fertility, Growth, New Beginnings
OTHALA-Heirlooms, Heritage Land of Birth
KENAZ-Torch, Vision, Revelation, Creativity, Technical Ability
PERTHRO-Die Cup, Mysteries, Secrets, Occult Abilities
DAGAZ-Dawn, Breakthrough, Awakening, Embarking on an Enterprise
INGWAR-Ing, Male Fertility, Gestation, Internal Growth
EHWAZ-Horse, Transportation, Change, Harmony, Teamwork, Loyalty, Trust
RAIDHO-Chariot, Travel, Journey, Evolution
FEHU-Wealth, Abundance, Luck, Energy, Foresight, Fertility, Creation
SOWILO-The Sun, Success, Goals, Realized, Honor
GEBO-Gifts, Relationships, Sacrifice, Exchanges, Contracts, Partnerships
TIWAZ-Tyr, Honor, Justice, Leadership, Authority
HAGALAZ-Hail, Wrath of Nature Uncontrolled Forces
WUNJO-Joy, Comfort, Pleasure
JERA-A year, Peace, Prosperity, Fruitful Harvest
THURISAZ-Thorn, Reactive Force, Defense, Conflict
ISA-Ice, Challenge, Frustration, Psychological Blocks
EIHWAZ-Yew Tree, Strength, Reliability, Trustworthiness
LAGUZ-Water, Power of Renewal, Dreams, Fantasies
ALGIZ-The Elk, Protection, Sheild, Ward Off Evil
MANNAZ-Mankind, The Self, Friends, Enemies, Social Order
URUZ-A wild Ox, Physical Strength, Speed, Untamed Potential
Yoeons

This tattoo is Psalm 144:1 “Praise be to the LORD my Rock, who trains my hands for war, my fingers for battle. ” from the Old Icelandic salmanir transcribed in Younger Futhark Long Branch runes.

Lofaður sé Drottinn, bjarg mitt,
sem æfir hendur mínar til bardaga,
ingur mína til orustu.
https://www.snerpa.is/net/biblia/salmar.htm

This Biblical citation is quite popular on T-shirts:

Oslo, Norway

In Snohomish County

Hail guest, I ask not what thou art;
If friend, I greet thee, hand and heart;
If stranger, such no longer be;
If foe, my love shall conquer thee'.

In Sunday school classroom in King County.

Luke 10:18 And he said to them, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven

V. How can **you** use runes?

- Labelling (Although I have used them to mark my HEMA stuff and a friend uses a bindrune on his pottery)
- Claiming credit
- Memorialization
- Prayer
- Texting
- Magic
- Art: A continuing tradition in both graphic and language arts
- Cultural Assertion: These symbols do not belong to Nazis or skinheads
- Evangelism: Via fun, scholarship and participation in popular culture

1 Corinthians 9:21 To those not having the law I became like one not having the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law), so as to win those not having the law

King Harald "Bluetooth" Gormsson (Old Norse: Haraldr Blátǫnn Gormsson; Danish: Harald Blåtand Gormsen, died c. 985/86) The Latinized name as given in the medieval Danish chronicles is Haraldus Gormonis filius (Harald, Gorm's son). The given name Haraldr (also Haralldr) is the equivalent of Old English Hereweald, Old High German Heriwald, from hari "army" and wald- "rule". On the Jelling stone it is runed as ᚼᚾᚱᚾᛚᛏᚱ ᛁ ᚴᚢᚾᚢᚴᛦ but other approaches are quite possible.

How can you write your own name in runes?

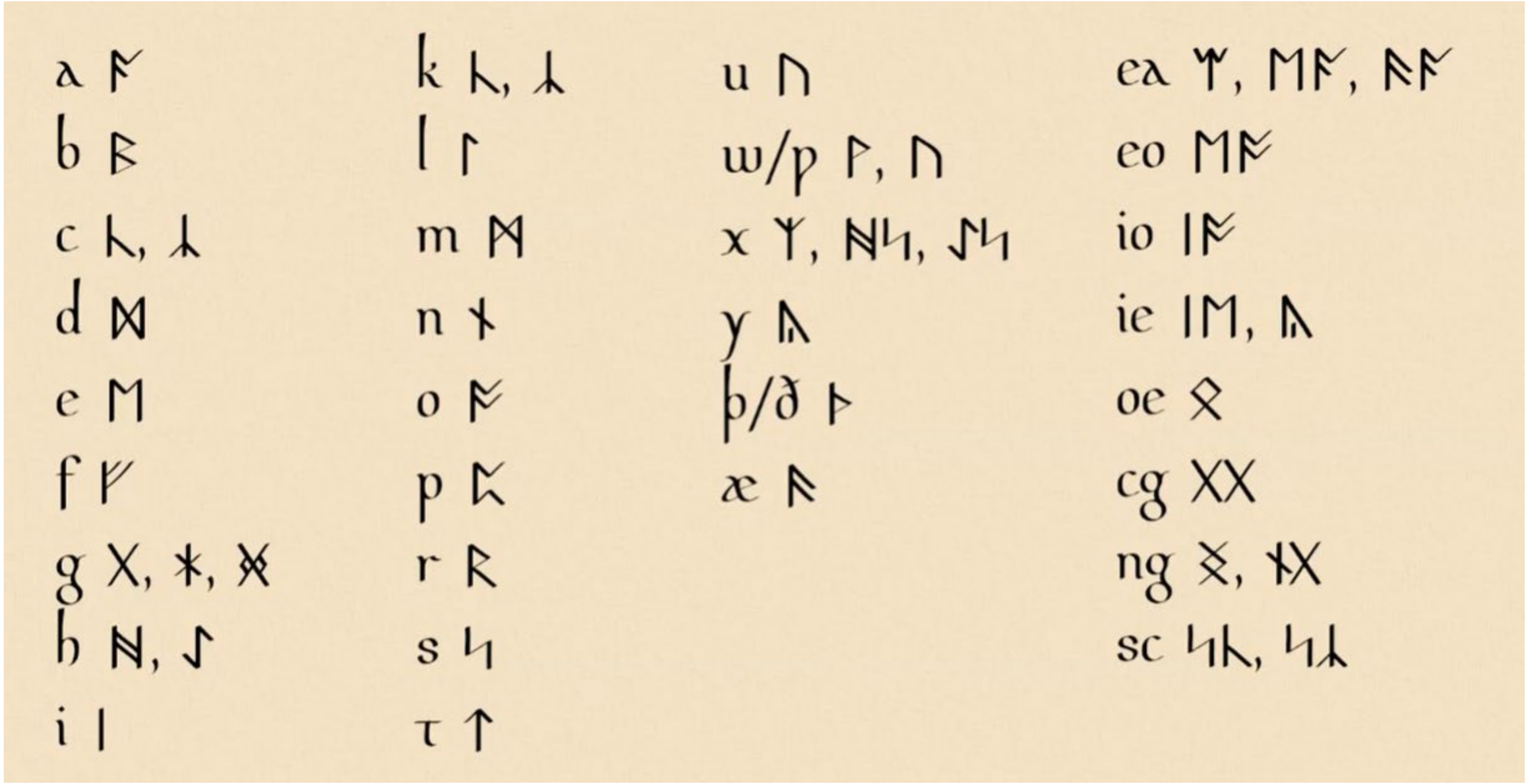
- Pick a rune line to use. You might consider:
  - Do you want to represent the sounds of your name, as you pronounce it, as closely as possible?
  - Is there a time period and language you want to match? Are there runes you like the look of?
  - Are there runes you “just like”?
- Decide how you want to “spell” your name
  - Orthography appropriate to a historical use of runes will frequently be different from how it is currently written

Do you want to represent the sounds of your name as you pronounce it as closely as possible?

- If your name happens to be Æthelflað or Sigurð, you are ready to go!
- Most of us have names which, if not originally English, have been “Anglicized” and even “Americanized”
- None of these ancient rune lines have letters that are associated with all of the sounds used by American English speakers, so you may want to consider using a rune line that contains more symbols associated with the sounds you usually use in your name
- There is no rune that represents the ə sound, so you might consider representing the vowels in your name as if every syllable is tresses.

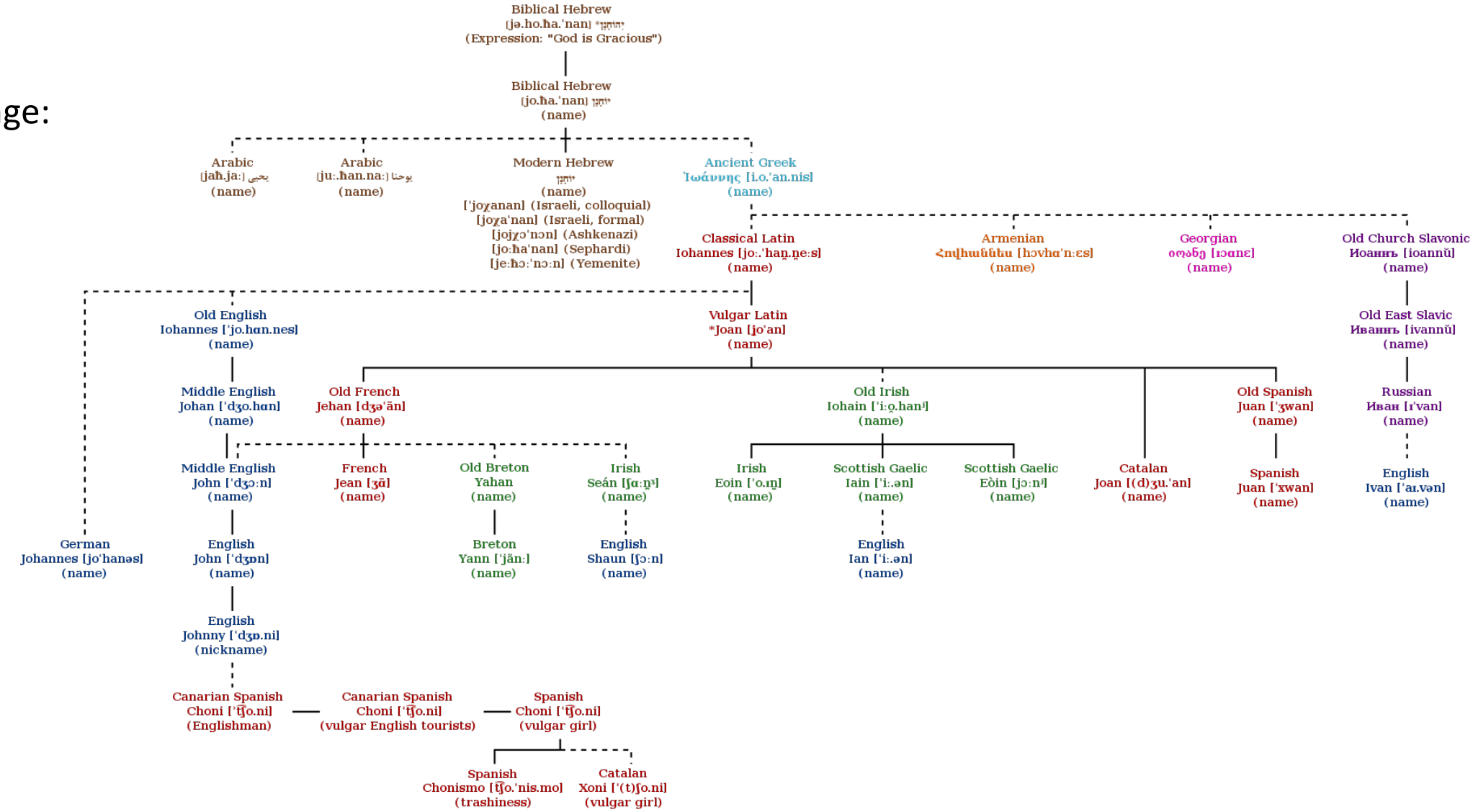
- Alternatively, you can create a bindrune from selected letters of your name.

An Anglo-Frisian Futhorc “alphabet”



Is there a time period and language you want to match?

- Names change:



- Orthography issues arise: double letters were not generally written in Old Norse, and nasalized consonants were frequently omitted.

Are there runes you like the look of?

Early inscriptions (c. 50–750) Elder Futhark (Proto-Norse, Proto-Germanic, Gothic, Alemannic, Old High German)

f u þ a r k g w h n i j ï p z/ʀ s t b e m l ŋ d o

Anglo-Saxon and Frisian inscriptions (c. 500–1000) Futhorc (Old English, Old Frisian)

f u þ o r c g w h n i j ʒ p x s t b e m l ŋ d œ a æ y io ēa ḡ k k̄ q st

Viking-Age Norse inscriptions (c. 750–1100) Younger Futhark/Futhąrk (Old Norse)

A. **Long-branch** (Danish)

f u þ ą r k h n i a s t b m l ʀ y e ḡ

B. **Short-twig** (Norwegian-Swedish)

f u þ ą r k h n i a s t b m l ʀ y ḡ

4. *Later medieval Nordic inscriptions (c. 1100–1500) Futhork (Norse Dialects/Middle English)*

A. **Sweden and Denmark**

f u þ ą r k h n i a s t b m l ʀ v y ø g e æ c d p

B. **Norway**

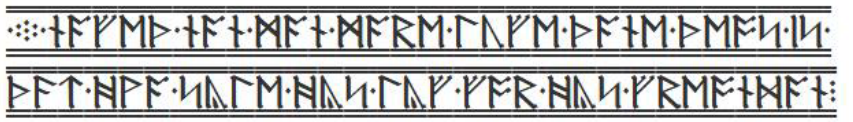
f u þ ą r k h n i a s t b m l y ø q g c æ e d p

C. **Isle of Man/Jæren**

f u þ ą r k h n i a s t b m l ʀ y ḡ

5. *Later medieval manuscript rune Futhork (Latin/Swedish/Danish/Norwegian/Icelandic/German)*

a b c d þ ð e f g h i k l m n o p q r s t u v y z æ ø



John 15:13 “Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends” in Old English (Northumbrian Dialect) is “Nafeð nan man mare lufe þanne þeos is þæt hwa sylle hys lyf for hys freondan.”
http://textusreceptusbibles.com/Wessex/43/15

How I runed my own good name:

Chad, from Old English Ċædda, probably from Early Old Welsh *cad* (“battle”); name of a seventh-century Anglo-Saxon saint, revived in the 20th century.

McClung, earlier McLung, from Scottish Gaelic Mac Luinge, Luinge being the genitive of Gaelic *long* (“ship”) and thus “son of the ship”.

So, how do I spell that for transcription as runes?

Sigillum Decaniet CapituliE cclesiæ Sanctæ Mariæ et Sancti Cedda, Lychfeldiæ, adcausas
"The seal of the Dean and Chapter of the Church of St. Mary and St. Chad, Lichfield, for causes [in the ecclesiastical court]."

Perhaps more significant are the Old English hypocoristic names of British origin. First and foremost is the Brittonic element **Catu-* ‚battle'. We have already met this element in the name of the poet *Caedmon* and the West Saxon king Cædwalla and it also occurs in the names *Cædbæd* in the genealogy of the kings of Lindsey (Stenton 1970 [1927], p. 129). The root **Catu-* gives rise to the Bedan *Cedd* and *Ceadda* (Beda, Eccl. Hist. [Colgrave/Mynors 1969], III, 22, etc.) and *Caedda*, *Cidda* in the early-eighth-century Calendar of St. Willibrord (Arngart 1943–1944, p. 130; see also van Els 1972, p. 131 f.; Jackson 1953, p. 554). Cedd was bishop of Essex (London) from ?c. 653 until ?26 October 664, while his brother Ceadda (Caedda, St Chad) was his successor as abbot of Lastingham and then successively bishop of the Northumbrians (at York, from 664 to 669) and of the Mercians (from 669 to 672), establishing the Mercian see at Lichfield (see Beda, Eccl. Hist. [Colgrave/Mynors 1969], III, 22, 23, 28; IV, 3; V, 19; Fryde/Greenway/Porter etc. 1986, p. 218 f., 224). There is no reason to suppose that the brothers Cedd and Ceadda were anything other than representatives of the Anglo-Saxon aristocracy. *Cedd* and *Caedda* (= *Ċædda*) are fully anglicized forms with palatalization of the initial consonant and hypocoristic consonantal gemination of [d]. *Ċedda* forms the first element of the Gloucestershire place-name *Chedworth* ([æt] *Ceddan ryde* 862 [copy,

SEAL OF THE DEAN AND CHAPTER OF LICHFIELD.

Hypocoristic consonantal gemination

https://www.google.com/books/edition/Kulturelle_Integration_und_Personennamen/chd-DwAAQBAJ?hl=en&gbpv=1&dq=%C4%8B%C3%A6dda&pg=PT301&printsec=frontcover&bshm=rimc/1

Options, options, options

Chad
ċad
ċeadda
ċedda
ċeodda
ċæodda
ċæd

McClung
MacLung
Mac Luinge

Representing “c”?

Representing “ng”?

Old English form of “son of the ship” would be Scip Mann, the original of the modern name Shipman:

The equivalent meaning of Chad in Old Norse could be represented by the name Gunnar, while the meaning “son of the ship” could be represented as Byrðingson:

Thames	Vienna	Cod. Otho B X (10th century)	Ruthwell
o	o	o	o
c	c	c	c
é	‘ih’	‘eo’	[ç]
x	x	x	
b	b	b	b
ŋ	m	m	m
d	l	l	l
l	ŋ	ŋ	ŋ
m	d	œ	œ
œ	œ	d	d
a	a	a	a
æ	æ	æ	æ
y	éa	y	y
éa	y	to	éa
		éa	k^{I}
		q	k^{II}
		k	g^{II}
		st	
		g^{II}	

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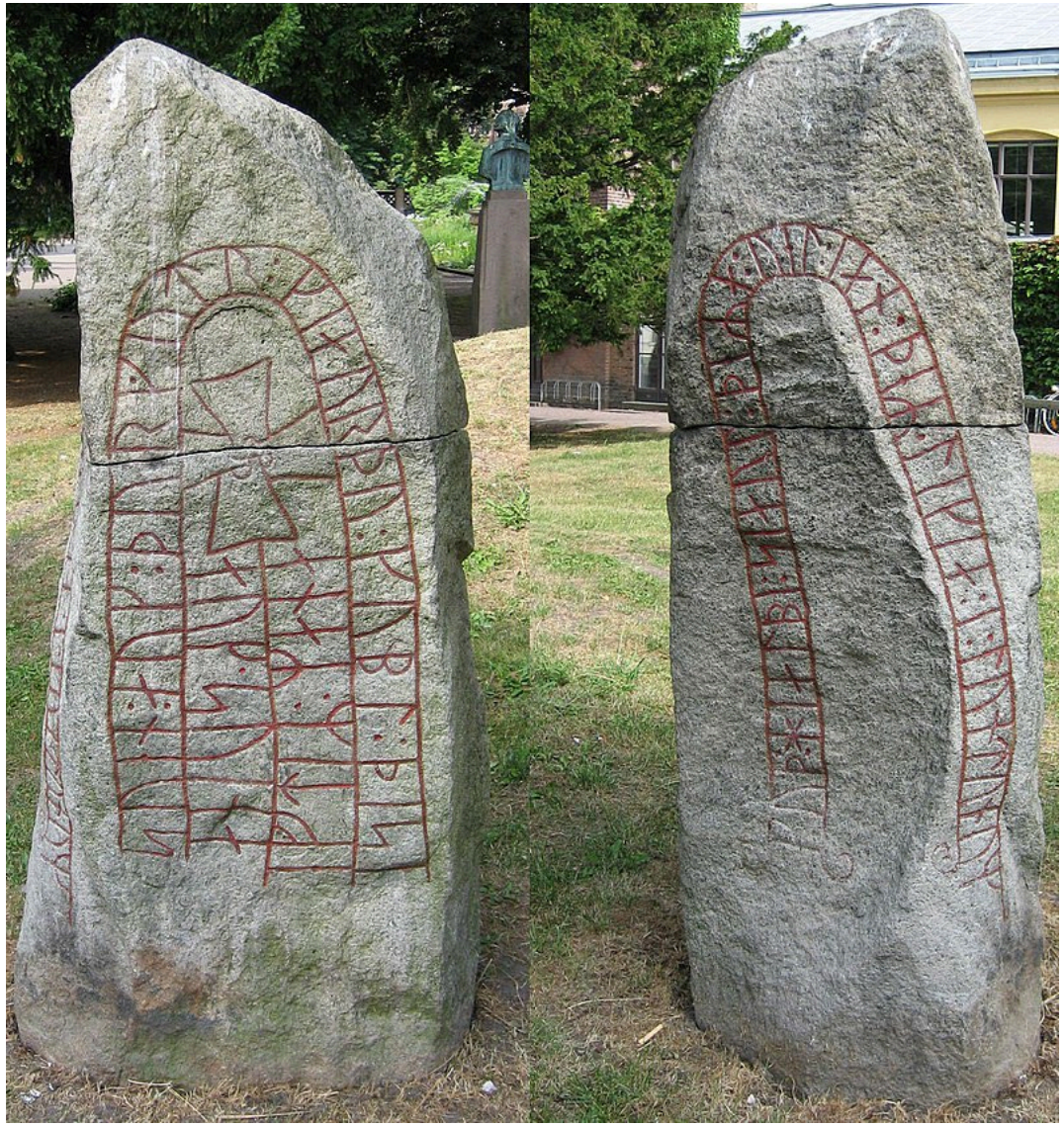
  - https://www.purposegames.com/game/younger-futhark-runic-alphabet-game

Rune your own name:

- Blank Flashcards
- Pens and markers
- Handout with sample rune lines
- Rune converter program