TH B NORTHERN WORLD®® BRILL

Texts and Contexts of the Oldest Runic Inscriptions



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BRILL **100** NORTHERN WORLD @ E I

2. AQUINCUM (Budapest, Hungary). In the Magyar Nemzeti Múzeum, Budapest. A possibly Langobardic silver-gilt bow-fibula, one of a pair. Dated 1st h. 6th c. The pair was found in 1940 as part of a hoard near the entrance to the Roman theatre of Aquincum.



The runes read: fuparkgw]?laig : kingia

The first part is a fupark-quotation, followed by an owner-formula. The initial runes immediately follow upon the needle-holder and apparently were part of a longer inscription, which may have contained a name. The needle-holder is a later addition and the inscription may therefore have been made during the production process of the brooch. The rune, which I transliterate as g, has been read as n by Krause (1964:357), but since both strokes are about equally long, I suppose a g should be read and this produces a verb form aig, 1 or 3 sg. pres. ind. 'own', cf. Go. aih, inf. Gmc *aigan 'to own'.

kingia = kingia asf. jō-stem, (Krause 1964:357f.; Gering 1887:94: kinga "Henkelmünze von frauen als schmuck getragen". The sound value of the rune 1 apparently is **ing** here, but might as well be **ng** (Odenstedt 1990:103ff. with ref.). There is a semantic difference between kingia and kinga (Düwel 1992*:80). ON and NIc kinga means 'brooch', while NIc kingja is a sort of buckle. I suggest the runographer wanted to render kinga. '...l owns the brooch' is an owner's inscription.