

Friday, March 21, 2014

## Gordan, Ingordin, and Ingordan

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I was reading *Carmina Burana* 54, a curious sort of poetical exorcism, in Helen Waddell, *Medieval Latin Lyrics* (New York: Henry Holt and Company, [1929]), pp. 198-201, and I became curious about some names of demons mentioned therein: "Gordan, Ingordin et Ingordan."

Gordin and Ingordin occur as names of elves in a 12th-13th century German manuscript (*Codex Upsaliensis C 222*, fol. 97v). See Margarete Andersson-Schmitt and Monica Hedlund, *Mittelalterliche Handschriften der Universitätsbibliothek Uppsala: Katalog über die C-Sammlung*, Bd. 3: *C 201-300* (Stockholm: Almqvist u. Wiksell International, 1990 = *Acta Bibliothecae R. Universitatis Upsaliensis* 26.3), p. 86, and Rudolf Simek, "Elves and Exorcism. Runic and Other Lead Amulets in Medieval Popular Religion," in Daniel Anlezark, ed., *Myths, Legends and Heroes: Essays on Old Norse and Old English Literature in Honour of John McKinnell* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2011), pp. 25-52 (at 31-33).

The words "khorda inkhorda khordai" appear on a lead amulet (dated between 1075 and 1300) found in the graveyard of St. Canute's Cathedral in Odense, Denmark. See Simek (op. cit.), p. 33, and Mindy MacLeod and Bernard Mees, *Runic Amulets and Magic Objects* (Woodbridge: Boydell, 2006), p. 135.

The words "gordin kordan inkorpar" appear on a 13th century wooden amulet from Bergen, Norway. See MacLeod and Mees (op. cit.), p. 136, and James E. Knirk, "Runic Inscriptions containing Latin in Norway," in Klaus Düwel, ed., *Runeninschriften als Quellen interdisziplinärer Forschung* (Berlin: de Gruyter, 1998), pp. 476-507 (at 483, 502). Macleod and Mees speculate that the words are related to chorda (string of a musical instrument), while Knirk suggests a connection with cor (heart).

The words "[g]ordan gordin ingor[dar/par?]" appear on a folded lead sheet from Lurekalven, Norway. See MacLeod and Mees (op. cit.), pp. 136-137, and Knirk (op. cit.), pp. 482-483, 505.

Several of these scholars mention *Carmina Burana* 54, so this post contains nothing new.