

Texts and Contexts of the Oldest Runic Inscriptions



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16. **ENGERS** (Rheinland-Pfalz, Germany), silver-gilt bow-fibula. Found in a woman's grave in a Frankish row-grave field near Kaltenengers in 1885. Dated 3rd th. 6th c. Melted down. The runes read: **leub**



(Drawing taken from R. Henning *Die deutschen Runendenkmäler*, Strassburg 1889, fig. 19).

Two interpretations are possible: 1. It is a noun, nsn. *a*-stem 'love'. 2. It is an adjective, nsm./f./n. *a*-/*ō*-stem 'dear, beloved' (see also **NIEDERSTOTZINGEN**, below, nr. 29). According to the drawing in Henning (1889:156) the form of the **e** rune resembles the peculiar form of **e** in **BERGAKKER** (chapter nine, nr. 17). The name-element *Leub-* is typical for the Rhine region (Weisgerber 1966/67:220).