

Texts and Contexts of the Oldest Runic Inscriptions



Tineke Looijenga



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33. OETTINGEN (Bavaria, Germany). In the Bayerisches Landesamt für Denkmalpflege Schwaben, Augsburg. A silver disc-brooch, one of a pair, dated 2nd h. 6th c. Found in 1975 in a woman's grave. The runes read: **auijabrg** or **auisabrg**

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The first rune is a damaged **a** with only the two sidetwigs visible; part of the headstaff is missing. The fourth rune may represent **s** or **j**. Compared with the form of the **j** rune in CHARNAY and with other **s** runes of the Continental inscriptions, the transcription **j** is most plausible. One may consider the two halves of the archaic rune form for **j** ℓ to have been drawn as one rune. **auijab[i]rg** is a PN, nsf. *Auijab(i)rg*, consisting of *Awiĵa-* or *Auiĵa-* and *-birg*. For the first part of the name cf. *Awa*, NORDENDORF I, nr. 30. The second part *-birg* is nsf. *jō*-stem, 'protection, guard'.

If **auija** should be equated with **auja** on bracteates, it may mean 'hail, good luck': cf. **gibu auja** on RAUM KØGE (chapter six, nr. 32). The sequence **auwija** is recorded on the VIMOSE buckle (chapter five, nr. 10). See also Betz (1979:241–245; Düwel (1991:280).