

Texts and Contexts of the Oldest Runic Inscriptions



Tineke Looijenga



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34. OSTHOFEN (Rhein Hessen, Germany). In the Landesmuseum, Mainz. A gilt bronze disc-brooch, 2nd h. 7th c. Found in 1854 in an ancient Frankish cemetery near Osthofen. The runes are cut between concentric lines. The brooch is broken, a large part is lost and the surface of what is left is badly eroded, so an indefinite number of runes are now illegible. One may perceive only: **go furadi di le+**

XX ƿNDFWl Wl M

The last rune has a little cross fastened to it. The first word may be emended to **got** or **god** 'God', or to a fem. PN like *Goda*, cf. ARLON, above, nr. 3.

fura is a preposition, 'before'.

di = *dih*, 2 sg. pers. pron. acc. 'you'; or *dir*, 2 sg. pers. pron. dative.

This is followed by **di** and **le**, which might, with some imagination, be emended to *di(ofi)le* 'devil' (cf. Opitz 1979:36), or to *Teofilus*, a personal name.