

Texts and Contexts of the Oldest Runic Inscriptions



Tineke Looijenga



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41. STEINDORF (Bavaria, Germany). In the *Prähistorische Staatssammlung*, München. An iron sax, dated 2nd h. 6th c. (Düwel 1994^b:271). Found in 1929 in a man's grave as the only grave gift. The sax is badly corroded; parts of the runes and of the ornamentation are gone. The runes were carved in double lines and probably nielloed with silver inlay. The opening sign is a kind of triangle. The initial rune **h** and the following **u** form a bindrune; the third rune could be **i**, the fourth an **s**. Two strokes follow. One is **i**, the next has been damaged by corrosion and cannot be reconstructed. The last runes can be deciphered as **a**, **l** and **d**. Tentatively I read: **huisi?ald**

This may denote *Huiswald*, a name that reminds one of a Bavarian

noble family: the *Huosi*, who are mentioned in the *Lex Baiuvariorum*. The second part of the name may be *-wald*, inf. *waldan* 'to rule'. Düwel (1994^b:271, with ref.) has another interpretation.