

Texts and Contexts of the Oldest Runic Inscriptions



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THE NORTHERN WORLD    BRILL

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44, 45. WEIMAR I, II (Thüringen, Germany). In the Museum für Vor- und Frühgeschichte Charlottenburg, Berlin. A pair of silver-gilt bow-fibulae, dated 1st h. 6th c. Found in a woman's grave. The grave field was excavated between 1895–1902 (Arntz & Zeiss 1939: 360ff.). The runes were meticulously cut by a skilled carver.

44. Brooch I. **haribrig liub leob**

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haribrig is on the footplate. It is a PN, nsf. *jō*-stem *Haribrig*, consisting of *hari-* 'army', and *-brig* = *-birg*, 'protection', cf. OETTINGEN, above, nr. 32. The brooch has three knobs left of a total of seven. On one of the knobs is **liub**; if it is a substantive, it is an *a*-stem 'love', if an adjective, it is a nsm./f./n. *a-* or *ō*-stem 'dear, beloved' (cf. **liub** in NIEDERSTOTZINGEN, nr. 29).

According to Arntz & Zeiss 1939:364ff. and Opitz 1977:46, another knob has runes reading **leob**. This inscription is very difficult to perceive now. **leob** may be a PN, nsm. *a*-stem (compare with **leubo** in SCHRETZHEIM II, nr. 37, and **leub** in ENGERS, nr. 16).

45. Brooch II. The runes read: **sigibl/ad hiba bubo**

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sigibl/ad is on the footplate. The runes are vague and abraded. The penultimate rune may be either **a** or **l** in *Sigib(a)l(d)*, a PN nsm. *a*-stem, consisting of *sigi-* 'victory', and *-bald* 'bold, quick', adj. *a*-stem. The last rune, **d**, is carved on the concave side of the bottom of the footplate and only half of the rune can be perceived: 𐌹. The brooch has five knobs left of the original seven. One of the knobs bears neatly carved runes, reading **hiba**, which may be a female PN. Kaufmann (1965:12, 14, 141) lists *Hibo*, short for *Hildibert*, a male PN. I wonder whether **hiba** might be an alternative spelling for *hīwa* 'spouse'.

Another knob has **bubo**, an abbreviated man's name, see for instance Kaufmann (1965:132), and compare with **bobo** on the brooch from BORGHAREN (the Netherlands, chapter nine, nr. 18).

46, 47. WEIMAR III, IV (Thüringen, Germany). In the same museum as the above. Nr. III is a bronze belt buckle, dated 1st h. 6th c. Found in a woman's grave, during the same excavation period as Weimar I and II.