

# Texts and Contexts of the Oldest Runic Inscriptions



Tineke Looijenga



THE NORTHERN WORLD    BRILL

THE NORTHERN WORLD    BRILL

56. LAUCHHEIM II (Baden-Württemberg, Germany). A comb, with runes reading from left to right **gdag**. There is no interpretation (Duwel 1998<sup>a</sup>:16).

57. PFORZEN II (Ost-Allgäu, Bavaria, Germany). An ivory ring from a bronze ornamental disc. Found in 1996 in a woman's grave, dated to around 600. Part of the runes are on the outer side of the ring (cf. the runes on PFORZEN I, which are on the front). The inscription is quite abraded; according to Düwel (1997<sup>b</sup>:19) only **gisali** could be read. On the inside of the ring, and thus hidden from sight, is another inscription: **]ne:aodlip:urait:runa:** 'Aodlith wrote (the) runes'. This set-up reminds of the SCHRETZHEIM I inscription, which has on the bottom (out of sight) the maker's or writer's inscription, with the names of two women, who 'made': **alagupleuba: dedun**, and on the lid (in sight) the man's name: **arogisd**.

XIHFI

YM:FXWIP:NRFIT:RNIF:

**gisali** is a man's name, cf. ON *Gisli*. The part *Gīs(l)-* is well-known; the suffix *-(l)i* is common for names, cf. *Madali* in BAD EMS, nr. 4.

The initial rune **n** of the second inscription is partly damaged. The 'formulaic' part **urait:runa** 'wrote the runes' is already known of NEUDINGEN-BAAR II, nr. 28.

**aodlip** is a female PN, *Aodlinth*, with the spelling *ao* for *au*, which at first sight appears as a scribal error, since, according to Braune/Eggers, only the spellings *au* and later *ou* are found in the oldest manuscripts. However, since the other new find from LAUCHHEIM also has the same spelling in **aonofada**, this may be a dialectal feature, expressing the change from Gmc *\*au* > *ao* > *ō*, perhaps pointing to the same runographer.