

# Texts and Contexts of the Oldest Runic Inscriptions



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9. BOPFINGEN (Baden-Württemberg, Germany). In the Württembergisches Landesmuseum, Stuttgart. A gold disc-brooch with runes. Dated end 6th c. Found in a woman's grave.

The runes read: **mauo**



This may be taken either as *mauō* or *mawō*, in the latter case **u** is used for *w*. In OHG manuscript orthography the use of *u*, *uu* for *w* is common, but apparently the same goes for runic orthography, cf. **urait** for *wrait*, see below, nrs. 28 and 57. The bracteates of NEBENSTEDT and RAUM KØGE (chapter six, nrs. 29, 32), for instance, show also **u** for *w*.

*Mawō* is dsf. *ō*-stem, 'for the girl', cf. OHG *\*mau(w)a*, cf. Go. *mawi* f. 'girl'. A brooch is a typical woman's adornment, often received at a young age. When reading **mauo** it could be an Alamannic or Frankish man's name, *Mauo*, nsm. *n*-stem.