

Contents

Acknowledgements	8
Foreword	9
Glossary	11
List of Figures	16
Introduction	19
1. Runology, Runelore and Language	23
Old English 'rún'	27
The 'Secret' Rune	29
Writing and Scribing	31
Graphemes and Allographs	35
A Note on Transliteration	37
2. Scope of the Enquiry	39
Active and Passive Literacy	40
A Heathen Peril?	41
3. Sources of Information	43
Inscriptions	43
Stone	44
Ceramics	47
Metal	48
Wood	54
Bone	55
Horn	56
Antler	56
Leather	57
Manuscripts	57
Pseudo-Runes	60
Descriptions in Texts	64
A Representative Sample?	66
4. The Germanic Background	69
Origins	70
The Meldorf Fibula	71
Roman, Greek, Etruscan or Alpine?	73
Shapes and Phonemes	80

How the Runes Were Won?	83
Scenario I: The Marcomannic Wars 166-180 AD	84
Scenario II: The Batavians 69-70AD	85
Scenario III: Himlingøje and the Regional Élites	86
Scenario IV: The Mithras Cult	88
Possibilities and Considerations	89
Runic Sequence	92
Runes as Script	95
Bind-Runes	99
Mirror-Runes	103
5. Phases of Runic Usage	105
Phase 0 – ‘Pre-Runic’	105
The Negau Helmet and the Alpine Scripts	105
Phase I - The Elder Fupark	107
Texts and Contexts	109
Names and Ættir	112
First Group	115
Second Group	119
Third Group	128
Gothic Runes	132
Phase II Anglo-Frisian and Bracteate Runes	136
Anglo-Frisian Developments	137
The Gallehus Runic Horn	138
The Anglo-Frisian Extension	143
Bracteates	156
Phase III - The Developing Rune-Rows	178
Scandinavia	179
Anglo-Saxon Extended Fuporc	180
Anglo-Saxon Manuscript Runes	184
The Ruthwell Cross	194
The Bewcastle Cross	195
The Franks Casket	196
The Thames Seax	196
Continental Germanic and ‘Marcomannic’ Runes	197

Phase IV - The Younger Futhork(s)	204
Danish Long-Branch Runes	207
Swedish Short-Twig Runes	211
Phase V - Staveless and Dotted Runes	214
6. Runic Usages	217
Runes and their Social Contexts	220
The 'Runemasters'	222
Erilaz, Puliz and Eorl	223
Male and Female Usage	230
Gods of Initiation	235
Heimdallr	236
Freyja, Nornir and Female Initiation	239
Runic Initiation in the Iron Age	251
A Military Code?	253
Lords, Ladies and Advisers	257
Literacy and Leadership	270
Dissemination and Conservation	271
Runes as 'Letters'	280
Runic and Roman Alternatives	282
The Futhork as Technolect	284
Runes of Legal Title	285
Runes as Ideograms	286
The Lindholm Amulet	288
Runes as Sigils	290
Secret (Cryptographic) Runes	290
The Hackness Stone	296
Ritual and Magic	296
Blessing	300
Cursing	302
Curing	306
Runic Finger Rings	309
Binding and Loosing	311
Forecasting	312
Sitting Together, Sitting Apart	313

Formulaic Texts	315
Alu	317
Auja	325
Ehwu	328
Fupark	330
Lapu	331
Laukaz	332
Lina	335
Liub	335
Medu	336
Ota	337
Salu	337
Sueus	338
Tuwatuwa	338
Uha	339
Wiju	339
7. Wóden the Runemaster	341
Wóden the Warlord	342
Wóden and Óðinn	345
Sources of Knowledge	346
Wóden and the Ós Rune	349
Hávamál	352
8. Conclusion	359
Vectors of Transmission	362
Appendix I	365
The Gothic Alphabet and the Fupark	365
Appendix II Early 'Fupark' Texts	369
Appendix III The Batavians	376
Batavian Kingship	379
Hercules Magusanus	381
Other Gods	383
Literacy	384
Civilis and the Revolt	385
A Batavian Origin for the Fupark?	387
Bibliography	389
Index	421