

Runes in Mythology, Ritual, Literature
The Aarhus Old Norse Mythology Conference 23rd-24th November 2023
Aarhus University
Organizers: Simon Nygaard and Pernille Hermann

Programme

Thursday 23rd November

9.00-9.30: Registration and Coffee

9.30-9.45: Opening Address (Organisers Pernille Hermann and Simon Nygaard)

Session 1: Divine Runes

9.45-10.45: Edith Marold (Kiel University, keynote speaker): Images of Óðinn in Runic Inscriptions

10.45-11.15: Krister Vasshus (University of Bergen): The Vindelev Gold Hoard: Their Runes and their Secrets

11.15-11.45: Staffan Fridell (Uppsala University): A new interpretation of the Malt inscription

11.45-12.15: Declan Taggart (University of Iceland): Healing with a Hammer: The Mechanics of Divine Intervention in the Cult of Þórr

12.15-13.15: Lunch

Session 3: Linguistic and Cognitive Approaches to Runes

13.15-14.15: *Last minute cancellation*

14.15-14.45: Angie Padilla (Independent): “Orð mér af orði” The sacrifice to obtain the knowledge of the runes: Cognitive analysis of the Rúnatal”

14.45-15.15: Frog (Helsinki Collegium for Advanced Study): Runes Are People Too: Materializing a ‘Rune’ as a Ritual Specialist

15.15-15.45: Coffee

Session 4: Outsiders’ Knowledge of Runes

15.45-16.15: Daniel Föller (Bielefeld University): “Letters for Commemoration and Incantations”: Carolingian Knowledge about Scandinavian Runes

16.15-16.45: Tonicha Mae Upham (University of Iceland): Reading Rūs Writing in Arabic and Persian: Outside Views on Runes and Language

Session 5: The Rök Inscription

16.45-17.45: *Last minute cancellation*

17.45-18.15: Bob Oscar Benjamin van Strijen (University of Oslo): “‘nüchternen’ skandinavischen Brüder” and “‘schwindligen’ Konstruktionen”: The Rök runestone debate through the lens of the Höfler-De Vries correspondence

20.00: Performance of *Völuspá* by Clare Mulley and Kjell Braaten (introduction by Henning Kure) at Stakladen (followed by reception sponsored by Centre for the Viking Age and the Middle Ages, Aarhus University)

Friday 24th November

Session 6: Medieval Runes and Runic Amulets 1: Mythology and Music

09.00-10.00: Judith Jesch (University of Nottingham, keynote speaker): 'Giant, need, god?' Mythological Allusions in Medieval Runic Inscriptions

10.00-10.30: Michael Lerche Nielsen (University of Copenhagen): "Drømde mik en drøm i nat": New Thoughts on *Codex Runicus*

10.30-11.00: Coffee

Session 7: Medieval Runes and Runic Amulets 2: Trolls, Elves, Giants and Worse

11.00-11.30: Rikke S. Olesen (University of Copenhagen): The gruesome **greþ** revisited

11.30-12.00: Karl Farrugia (University of Oslo): Runic Amulets and their European Counterparts: Revealing New Insights through a Comparative Analysis

12.00-13.00: Lunch

Session 8: Runes and Ideology

13.00-13.30: Lukas Rösli (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin): Ideology and the (mis)use of runes

13.30-14.00: Mathias Nordvig (University of Colorado, Boulder): Manifesting the Inner Aryan Through Runes: How 19th Century Racist Rune-Esotericism Helps Open the Chakras In The 21st Century New Age Market

Open discussion

15.30-16.00: Coffee

Session 9: Old and Hidden Runes

16.00-17.00: Kristel Zilmer (University of Oslo, Museum of Cultural History, keynote speaker): The Svingerud-Inscription: The World's Oldest Datable Runestone

17.00-17.30: Jasmin Higgs (University of Nottingham): Hidden texts and 'text reception' in the pre-Old English runic inscriptions.

Session 10: Runes, Landscape and State Formation

17.30-18.00: Anders Andrén (Stockholm University) Viking-Age rune stones and rights of land? Revisiting an old idea

18.00-18.30: Richard Cole (Aarhus University): Runes and the State

Session 11: Runes in Use Across Time and Border

18.00-18.30: Jesse Barber (Helsinki University): The Origins of Kettil Runes: Legends about runes in seventeenth-century Sweden

18.30-19.00: Peter Sandberg (University of Gothenburg): Constructing the Past through Runic Inscription, from Bryggen to Spirit Pond