Runic Riddles: Time Capsules

B.L. Freeborn © December 2022
noahsage.com

Runic riddles are riddles written in runes. Runes are alphabets that were in use in northern Europe, Britain and other northern areas. They were used for centuries but died out with the coming of Christianity.

There are a certain group of inscriptions from this period that are either difficult to interpret, very short, have unexplained symbols, use bindrunes (letters stuck together), and/ or are unusual for some reason. Here is an example from Norway (Lomen No. 2; Norges Inscrifter Med De Yngre Runer, Vol.1, Pg. 216) deemed to be a magic incantation. It is simply a riddle. The solution follows below.

ᛦ:ᛏ:ᛍ:Ⅲᛜ�Ⅲᚠᚠ

These unusual ones are where the riddles hide. Primarily they were created for amusement, in the same manner as crosswords are today. Besides providing unique puzzles for people to solve, they often contained phrases and 'secret messages' that we find strange or incomprehensible today. They are little windows into a bygone era before the cleansing of facts by 'modern' teachers, internet myths, and the Catholic church. The latter worked especially hard via genocide and threats to stamp out Paganism. Throw the Black death into the picture which killed half the population of these areas and it is not surprising that the information these riddles reveal seems .... surprising to say the least.

Sadly, the numbers of inscriptions still in existence are declining with each passing year. They were once abundant. Many now only exist in photos. The few remaining tell us something of importance.

Many preserve the concepts of Baal and Paganism. This religion can be traced back 12000 years. The remaining practitioners faced with the power of the Catholic Church found a way to preserve some hints of it in these riddles. Others tell us of extraordinary journeys. They reveal an important part of our lost knowledge.

The following articles bring a few of these riddles to you. Others are available as pdf's at the bottom of the posts. Hopefully, they are both enjoyable and educational to you.
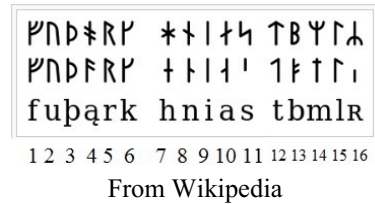
Solution:

This is called a magic formula - ISTIL form. The number of duplicated runes varies. This one uses triplicates and to match the three makes bindrunes of the six initial runes. The transliteration of the three bindrunes and duplicated runes is RT UÆ KN III SSS TTT III LLL. This is an anagram for 'stlis' in Latin which means 'quarrel' or 'cause' and/or 'tellus' meaning Earth or region. This implies a 'global difficulty.'

The three bindrunes and the triplicates suggest 3. This is equal to Th (or D) rune. Simplify and add the Th: Th   R T U Æ K N   I S T I L. As numbers this is: 3   5 12 2 4 6 8   9 11 12 9 15.

The group ISTIL has four notable values. 9,11,12 sum to 32; then 9,15 sum to 24; then 12,9,15 sum to 36; and the total is 56. All of these numbers are important. (For number meanings see below**.)

The first group containing the bindrunes has no meaningful sums except for the total with the 3 (Th) included which is 40. A square of sides 40 has 56.56 as a diagonal. This repeats the ISTIL sum. But, it does have the significant series 4 6 8 which in reverse is 864.

ᚹᚢᚦᚨᚱᚠ ᚺᚾᛁᛏᛋ ᛏᛒᚤᛚᚴ
ᚹᚢᚦᚨᚱᚠ ᚼᚼᛁᛁᛁ ᛝᚠᛏᛚᛁ
fuþąrk hnias tbmlʀ
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16
From Wikipedia

There are several elements of the riddle missing. The author and year are often stated and the number 792 is missing. This is long enough to contain both. Mongé derived the name KanutR from the first six runes. His solution is different than what is presented here. (Landsverk, Ancient..., pg. 127 - 138) However, by inspection the name Thorniut is found. (The Æ includes the sound O. Also, the I rune can be an E.) The only letter missing is an I and a K is left over. There are two I's in the last group, so this implies letter sharing. If the K shifts to the last group notice this list of small abbreviated words can be formed: KIL (kill); I TIL (I tell); I LIS (I lies); S (south); I TI LI S (I tie lie South). When taken altogether the following is suggested:

I Thorniut tell. The I tie lies South where it was killed in the global upheaval.

This is a typical Baalist statement including the name of the author but the number 792 is still missing so the solution is incomplete. If Thorniut is converted to numbers as given (without the I) one finds: 3 4 5 8 2 12. Now the following sums are noted: 3,4 sums to 7; then 4,5 sums to 9; then 3,4,5,8 sums to 20 so that we now have 7920.

The year would complete the picture. Some indication of the year and three other numbers is sought: the Golden Number (GN), the Day Letter (DL) and the Line #. These numbers are used to find dates on the Perpetual Easter Table (attached at end). A complete discussion of this is found in any of Landsverk's books listed below.

The letters as bindrunes were anagrammed for a reason so returning to those runes/numbers we have: 5 12 2 4 6 8. These can somewhat change order since there is no way to tell which rune of the bindrune should go first ie. 12 5 4 2 8 6 etc. Note the 1224 looks like a year and in fact, Line # 4 in the attached chart begins with that year. The 4 is present in the series. But year 1224 has GN 9 which is not present in this group. Since 3 is prominently noted by the triplicates, if taken to mean GN 3 then on this 4th line year 1237 is indicated. It has day letter 4. The sum of this series of numbers is 37 confirming the date.

Other dates for similar reasons can be found. But after much searching 1237 seemed to have the most in its favor. Mongé dated this to 3 March 1199 using just the 3's. There is good reason to accept his date except that all versions of Istil riddles repeating 3 times would then imply the same date. The reader is free to search for other plausible dates.

**I Thorniut tell in the year 1237. The I tie lies South
where it was killed in the global upheaval.**

Similar Articles by this Author

** For numeric background see: **Freeborn, B.L., *Validating North American Runic Inscriptions*, noahsage.com, November 2022.

Freeborn, B.L., *Deciphering the Spirit Pond, Nomans Land and Narragansett Runic Inscriptions*, noahsage.com, November 2022.

Freeborn, B.L., *The Nomans Land - Leif Eriksson Inscription*, noahsage.com, December 2022. (An excerpt from the above.)

Freeborn, B.L., *Et in Arcadia Ego - OUOSVAVV DM - Deciphered*, noahsage.com, December 2022.

Freeborn, B.L., *Kensington Stone's Secret Lairs*, noahsage.com, February 2023.

Freeborn, B.L., *Lifting the Veil of Time off the Rökstone of Sweden*, noahsage.com, April 2023.

Freeborn, B.L., *The Runic Riddles: Younger Futhork*, noahsage.com, December 2022.

Freeborn, B.L., *The Narragansett Inscription: A Translation with its Date of Dedication, Author and Inscriber*, noahsage.com, October 2022.

Freeborn, B.L., *The Newport Tower: Finding the Date of Dedication, its Designer and Builder*, noahsage.com, October 2022.

Freeborn, B.L., *The Vinland Map - Encoded Riddle*, noahsage.com, February 2023.

Freeborn, B.L., *Ancient Riddles to Test Our Wits: The Secret Chamber*, noahsage.com, January 2016. (Two parts: post and page)

Book References

Landsverk, O.G., *Runic Records of the Norsemen in America*, Erik J. Friis, Publisher, Rushford, MN, 1974.

Landsverk, O.G., *Ancient Norse Messages*, Norseman Press, Glendale, California, 1969.

Mongé, Alf & O.G. Landsverk, *Norse Medieval Cryptography in Runic Carvings*, Norseman Press, Glendale, California, 1967.

Syversen, Earl, *Norse Runic Inscriptions: with their Long-forgotten Cryptography*, The Vine Hill Press, Sebastopol, California, 1979.

Derogatory article by Aslak Liestol of Alf Mongé's work:
http://collections.mnhs.org/MNHistoryMagazine/articles/41/v41i01p034-042.pdf and....
Landsverk responded to these comments in Ancient Norse Messages pg. 126-129; and often in Runic Records of the Norsemen ...

The following two tables are copied from Mongé pages 221 and 224.

PERPETUAL EASTER TABLE

Dominical Letters: ⇒ (top)		7				2				4				6				1				3				5			
Letters: ⇒ (bottom)		6	5	4	3	1	7	6	5	3	2	1	7	5	4	3	2	7	6	5	4	2	1	7	6	4	3	2	1
1)	1140	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
2)	1168	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
3)	1196	19	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
4)	1224	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
5)	1252	18	19	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
6)	1280	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
7)	1308	17	18	19	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	1	2	3	4	5	6
8)	1336	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
9)	1364	16	17	18	19	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	1	2	3	4	5
10)	1392	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
11)	1420	15	16	17	18	19	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	1	2	3	4
12)	916	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
13)	944	14	15	16	17	18	19	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	1	2	3
14)	972	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
15)	1000	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	1	2
16)	1028	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
17)	1056	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	1
18)	1084	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
19)	1112	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19

In the Julian versions of Luni-solar perpetual calendars and Easter tables, The Demonical (Sunday) Letters (DL)are normally represented by the first seven letters in the alphabet. In this table, however, the DL's (top lines) for any and all years are indicted by the equivalent numbers 1 to 7 inclusive, i.e. 1 = the FIRST of the seven DL's; 2 = the second, etc. (Double numbers are for Leap Years: Top number for January and February only, bottom numbers for March to December inclusive.)

The Golden Numbers (GN) (within the rectangle), which in Latin calendars are usually represented by Roman numerals, and in Runic calendars by Runic and/or other symbols, are shown as numbers from 1 to 19 inclusive. Each line in the rectangle shows the GN for twenty-eight years, beginning with the year shown at left of the line, hence AD 1140 (line 1) has assigned to it GN - 1, and DL - 7/6; AD 1141 has GN - 2, and DL - 5, etc. The table repeats itself in 532 years."

Further comments:

•This table from Mongé's book begins in year 916 and ends in year 1447. Since it repeats every 532 years it is possible to renumber the table to run from 1447 forward.
•The information contained in the table was carried on a Primstav which is the equivalent of a slide rule for calculating such dates.

Number of Days to December 24

Day#	JAN K	FEB K	MAR K	APR K	MAY K	JUN K	JUL K	AUG K	SEP K	OCT K	NOV K	DEC K
1..	357	326	298	267	237	206	176	145	114	84	53	23
2..	356	325	297	266	236	205	175	144	113	83	52	22
3..	355	324	296	265	235	204	174	143	112	82	51	21
4..	354	323	295	264	234	203	173	142	111	81	50	20
5..	353	322	294	263	233	202	172	141	110	80	49	19
6..	352	321	293	262	232	201	171	140	109	79	48	18
7..	351	320	292	261	231	200	170	139	108	78	47	17
8..	350	319	291	260	230	199	169	138	107	77	46	16
9..	349	318	290	259	229	198	168	137	106	76	45	15
10..	348	317	289	258	228	197	167	136	105	75	44	14
11..	347	316	288	257	227	196	166	135	104	74	43	13
12..	346	315	287	256	226	195	165	134	103	73	42	12
13..	345	314	286	255	225	194	164	133	102	72	41	11
14..	344	313	285	254	224	193	163	132	101	71	40	10
15..	343	312	284	253	223	192	162	131	100	70	39	9
16..	342	311	283	252	222	191	161	130	99	69	38	8
17..	341	310	282	251	221	190	160	129	98	68	37	7
18..	340	309	281	250	220	189	159	128	97	67	36	6
19..	339	308	280	249	219	188	158	127	96	66	35	5
20..	338	307	279	248	218	187	157	126	95	65	34	4
21..	337	306	278	247	217	186	156	125	94	64	33	3
22..	336	305	277	246	216	185	155	124	93	63	32	2
23..	335	304	276	245	215	184	154	123	92	62	31	1
24..	334	303	275	244	214	183	153	122	91	61	30	0
25..	333	302	274	243	213	182	152	121	90	60	29 New Year	364
26..	332	301	273	242	212	181	151	120	89	59	28	363
27..	331	299	272	241	211	180	150	119	88	58	27	362
28..	330	299	271	240	210	179	149	118	87	57	26	361
29..	329	-	270	239	209	178	148	117	86	56	25	360
30..	328	-	269	238	208	177	147	116	85	55	24	359
31..	327	-	268	-	207	-	146	115	-	54	-	358

NOTE: This table shows the number of full days remaining in the medieval Norse calendar year which ended on December 24. When the cryptographic KEY (Column K above) is applied, the true date of the inscription is shown on the left (Column D). For example: KEY - 231. The true date is May 7.

Table after Mongé page 224.