

F, U, Th, A, R, C, G, W,
 H, N, I, J, E?, P, S, Z,
 T, B, Ē, M, L, Ng, O, D.

The characters used for F, Th, A, R, T, H, B, M, S, E might come from several of the classical alphabets; those for U, C, G, W, J, L, Ng, Ō, are certainly Hellenic rather than Latin, corresponding with the Greek O, Γ, X, Y, early I, Δ, Π (as in Gothic), Ω. The character for D is DD placed back to back, and other compounds were added later.

The names of these letters, as in our own children's alphabets and other old alphabets, were taken from some object with like initial. T was the god Tew, N was nail, H hail, I ice, while (as in Irish) B was birch, Th thorn (earlier perhaps, Thurse or giant), Y yew.

The use of these runes in the North differed little from that of the same alphabet in England during the sixth, seventh, and eighth centuries. Bracteates imitative of Roman or Greek medals or coins, memorial stones, implements and ornaments would be engraved or scratched with these letters. The possession of the knowledge of writing had little effect upon the people of either country till their old alphabet was superseded by the general West-European Roman alphabet, which, as we shall see, came into the north with Christianity, and soon proved in Iceland and Denmark, as it had in Ireland, England, and Germany, a new factor in civilisation.