## Runic Inscriptions. The Ruthwell Cross. The Franks Casket

The earliest written records of English are inscriptions on hard material made in a special alphabet known as the *RUNES* 

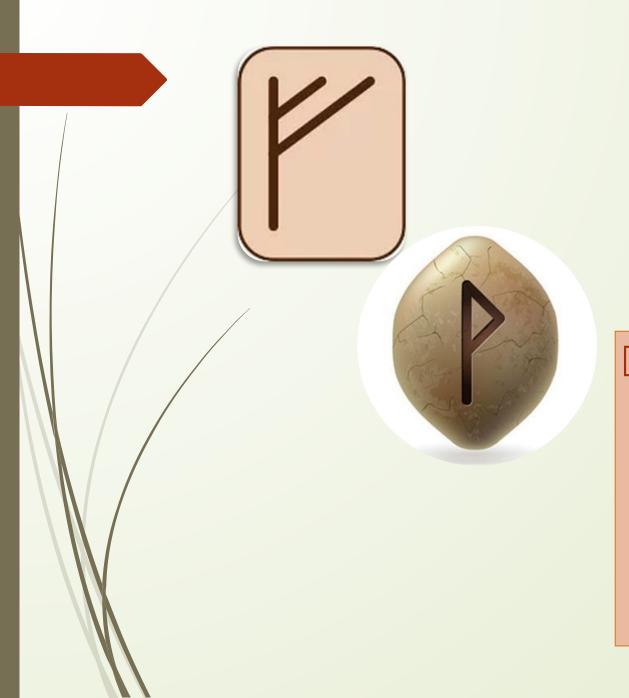


"rune"

"secret, mystery"

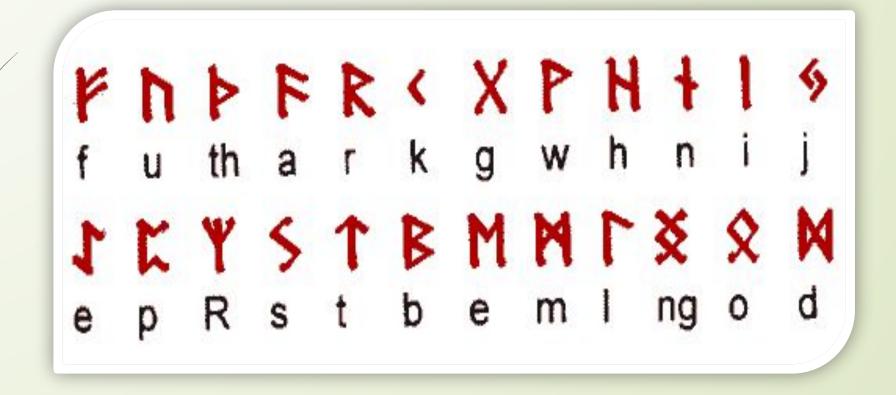


[θ] and [ð] was called "thorn" and could stand for OE **þorn** (NE *thorn*)

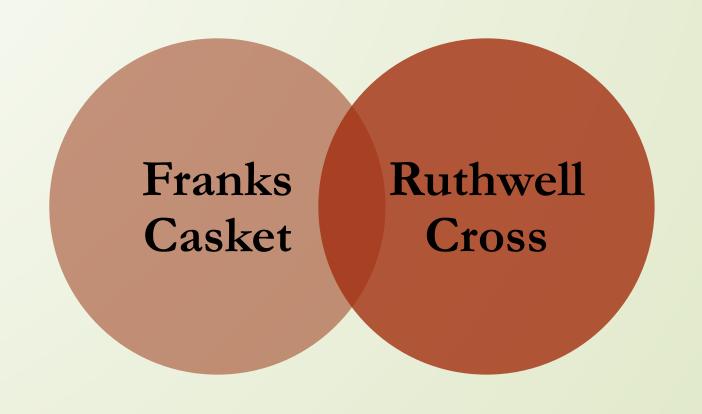


Stood for [w] and
[f] were called wynn
'joy' and feoh 'cattle'
(NE fee)

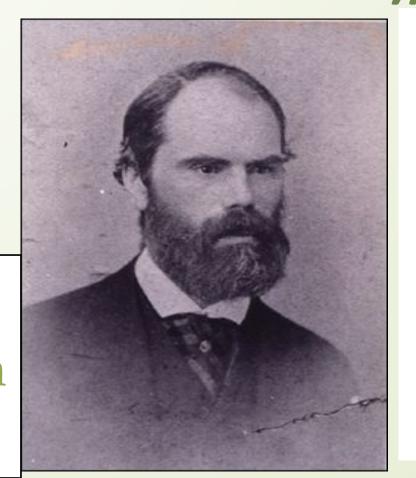
In some inscriptions the runes were found arranged in a fixed order making a sort of alphabet. After the first six letters this alphabet is called **futhark** 

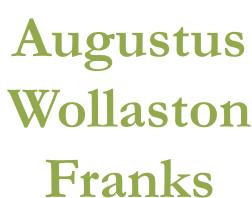


The two best known runic inscriptions in England are the earliest extant OE written records



## The Casket is a small box made of whale bone

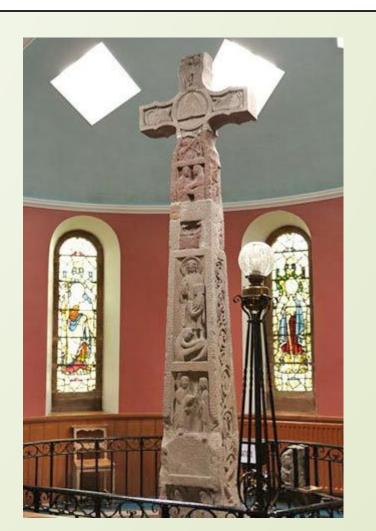






Agate ring with runic inscription (1/1).

## The Ruthwell Cross is a 15ft tall stone cross inscribed and ornamented on all sides







## Who is A.W.Franks?

