

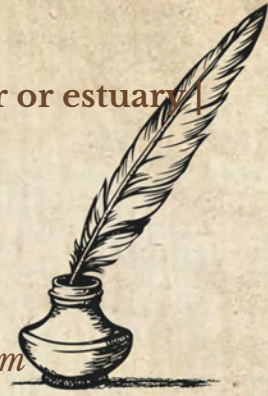
Viking Rune

Lesson {4} Ansuz

Ansuz (A) | prosperity | “mouth” | mouth of a river or estuary |

The Volga River estuary that empties into the Caspian Sea.

ǀ (the mouth) is the beginning of all speech,
a support to wisdom and a comfort to the wise,
and a prosperity and trust to every earl. ~ *Anglo Saxon Rune Poem*



[4] [a] Elder Futhark | Ansuz (A) | “god” proto-Germanic | ǀ “prosperity” or “mouth”

[4] [b] Old English or Anglo-Saxon | “god” | “oak” | “ash” | ǀ (The mouth) is the beginning of all speech, a support to wisdom and a comfort to the wise, and a prosperity and trust to every earl.

[4] [c] also listed as Anglo-Saxon Rune [25] ǀ “oak”
ǀ *(the oak) is fodder for flesh on earth for the sons of men. It frequently ferries over the gannet’s bath.*

[4] [d] also listed as Anglo-Saxon Rune [26] ǀ “ash”
ǀ *(the ash) is very tall, dear to men, stout in its trunk, its hilt is rightfully fixed, although it fights against many men.*

[4] [e] [f] Younger Futhark or Old Norse | “god”
Where they (Odin) was worshipped as a god or as the primary god.

[e] ǀ Geats

[f] ǀ Valhalla

Estuary is the way of most journeys; but a scabbard is of swords.

~ *Old Norwegian Rune Poem*

In ancient times, travelers needed to cross the Volga River estuary (heading East) in order to get to the Gold Pool located along the northeastern shores of the Caspian Sea.

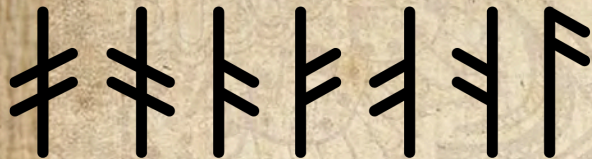
LESSON FOUR

ANSUZ

UNICODE

𐌺 U+16A8 𐌻 U+16A9 𐌼 U+16AA 𐌽 U+16AB
 𐌾 U+16AC 𐌿 U+16AD

Variation of the Rune in Younger Futhark



Signs (or fence) posts indicating a path through the Volga River estuary (usually heading east, to or from the Gold Pool and beyond). Fences were made of oak and/or ash and placed by a local watch as a means of communication regarding the Gold Pool, whether it was “open” or “closed,” as well as indicating a way through the estuary.

- 𐌺 Oak - “open”
- 𐌻 Ash - “closed”
- 𐌼 Geats - “closed to Geats”
- 𐌽 Valhalla - ???
- 𐌾 “prosperity” or “mouth”

Homework Assignment

Look up the Volga River Estuary on as detailed a map as possible. See if you can figure out the way through the estuary going from West to East using the Variations of the Rune in Younger Futhark. Start by reading the variations from left to right. Hint: A compass and a GPS will help for precise location and directions.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ansuz_\(rune\)#](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ansuz_(rune)#)

Questions

The Volga River

The word “volga” means “wetness” or “moisture” in the Slavic language. The Volga River Delta or estuary has a length of about 160 kilometers (99 miles) and includes as many as 500 channels and smaller rivers. The largest estuary in Europe, it is the only place in Russia where pelicans, flamingos and lotuses may be found. The Volga freezes for most of its length for three months each year.



Volga River

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Volga>

One of the Seven Natural Wonders of Europe

<https://sevensnaturalwonders.org/europe/volga-river/>

Q: What dangers might have been present in ancient times for people crossing the estuary that these directions might have helped them avoid?

Guards

Bandits/Robbers

Accidents in the estuary

Getting lost

Translation Practice

Notes for the Instructor