

Kensington Runestone Authentic?

The Kensington Runestone, found in Minnesota in the late 1800's, has been denounced by most mainstream scholars as a fake. However, new study suggests the stone may be authentic, after all! Clearly, anything so tied to Norse culture is of interest to those of us who follow Asatru.

In 1898, Olof Ohman, a Minnesota farmer from Sweden, reportedly found a 202-pound carved stone on his farm. It was covered with runes, telling the story of a Norse expedition that met a violent end on that location in 1362. The stone was denounced as a fraud, but the controversy has simmered for more than a century.

A book by Richard Nielsen and Scott F. Wolter, titled *The Kensington Runestone - Compelling New Evidence* claims to have proven the authenticity of Ohman's find. Wolter, who does petrographic analysis for a living, conducted a study of the Kensington stone and concluded that its degree of weathering was not consistent with the theory that it had been carved in the 1800's.

Other objections were reportedly overcome when a heretofore unknown rune variant found on the stone was discovered in inscriptions from the Swedish island of Gotland. And to top things off, the year 1362 was found to be encoded in the runic inscription, using a medieval Easter calendar.

Is all this true? I have no idea. But you might want to go to the website <http://kensingtonrunestone.com/> and order their book. While you're there, take a look at the video from the local TV station, which gives an excellent overview of the argument. You can find it at <http://tinyurl.com/eng3db>.

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