

Norse Runes and White Supremacy

During WWII, the Nazis adopted a lot of historical Norse imagery as a sign of their pride in their Aryan heritage. The most famous symbol of this is the fylfot or swastika, but the Nazis also used many runes, such as the Elder Futhark rune Sowilo (𐀓) in the SS insignia. The runes Algiz (𐀚), Othala (𐀞), and Tiwaz (𐀞) were also especially popular.

Unfortunately, this has several negative consequences for Norse reenactors, Norse pagans, and anyone else with an interest in Norse and Germanic history and culture.

One, many “historical” sources on the runes from the last sixty years are racist nonsense. (E.g., the Armanen runes.) Anyone studying the runes has to be very careful of their sources.

Two, **many neo-Nazis today use the runes to identify themselves.** This means that:

- If a Nazi sees you displaying runes, they might think you're their friend. They might want to join your group. They might want you to join their group.
- If someone the Nazis targeted (Jew, LGBT, etc) sees you displaying runes, they might be afraid of you because they might think you're a Nazi.
- If you see someone else displaying the runes, they might be a cool Norse cultural enthusiast. But they might be a Nazi.

That doesn't mean we should give up the runes to the Nazis. The swastika is a lost cause for at least another century, but the runes are not. However, it does mean that anyone wearing runes on their clothing, jewelry, tattoos, etc., needs to be careful about how they present themselves and cautious about accidentally attracting Nazis.

This booth does not sell to Nazis or white supremacists.