

Universal Multiple-Octet Coded Character Set  
 International Organization for Standardization  
 Organisation Internationale de Normalisation  
 Международная организация по стандартизации

**Doc Type: Working Group Document**

**Title: Proposal to encode additional Runic characters in the UCS**














**Source: Michael Everson and Andrew West**

**Status: Individual Contribution**

**Action: For consideration by JTC1/SC2/WG2 and UTC**

**Date: 2011-05-10**

**0. Introduction.** A number of Runic characters should be encoded to fill gaps in the UCS. Three of them are found in the writings of J. R. R. Tolkien, and five of them are found on the Anglo-Saxon Franks Casket. If this proposal is accepted, the following characters will be added to the standard (since the Franks Casket characters replace original inherited runes, those are given on the right for comparison):

	16F1	RUNIC LETTER K			
	16F2	RUNIC LETTER SH			
	16F3	RUNIC LETTER OO			
	16F4	RUNIC LETTER FRANKS CASKET OS		16A9	RUNIC LETTER OS O
	16F5	RUNIC LETTER FRANKS CASKET IS		16C1	RUNIC LETTER ISAZ IS ISS I
	16F6	RUNIC LETTER FRANKS CASKET EH		16D6	RUNIC LETTER EHWAZ EH E
	16F7	RUNIC LETTER FRANKS CASKET AC		16AA	RUNIC LETTER AC A
	16F8	RUNIC LETTER FRANKS CASKET AESC		16AB	RUNIC LETTER AESC

**1. Tolkienian extensions.** Although for *The Lord of the Rings* J. R. R. Tolkien devised and employed two writing systems, the featural Tengwar script and the runiform Cirth script, in *The Hobbit* and some of his other writings he made use of Old English runes. Owing to the importance of Tolkien as one of the major writers of the twentieth century and in particular to the scholarly attention given to his linguistic work, it is proposed here to add two character to the Runic block in order to enable his texts to be completely represented in the UCS.

The adaptation of the Runic alphabet Tolkien used for writing modern English is given here, in Latin alphabetical order (See Figure 2, 3, 4, 5).

ƿ a, Ʈ b, ƿ c, ƿ d, ƿ e, ƿ f, ƿ g, ƿ h, ƿ i/j, ƿ k, ƿ l, ƿ m, ƿ n, ƿ o, ƿ p, ƿ r,  
 ƿ s, ƿ t, ƿ u/v, ƿ w, ƿ x, ƿ y, ƿ z, ƿ ea, ƿ ee, ƿ eo, ƿ ng, ƿ oo, ƿ sh, ƿ st, ƿ th

The red characters ƿ k, ƿ sh, and ƿ oo are not encoded in the UCS; the blue characters ƿ c and ƿ s, and ƿ ee are similar to k, sh, and oo. A variety of texts written by Tolkien make use of these letters. The title-page text of *The Hobbit* reads:

ԲՄ ՈՄԵՅԻՏ ԲՐ ԲՄՐՄ ԲԿՈՒ ԵՖԿԼ ԲՃՏԻԿ ԵՄԻՋ ԲՄ ԲՄԼԲԵՐՈՒ ՄՄ Բ ԽՄՐԻ ԼՄՈՐԿՄՈՒ  
 ՄԲՈՄ ԵՈՒ ԵԻՆԵՖ ԵՖՃՃԻԿԻ ՄՄ ՈՄԵՅԻՏԵՒ ԼՄՄՈՒՄՈՒ ՄՐԵՄ ՈՒՄ ՈՄՄՄԻՐԻ ԵՈՒ  
 I R R ԴԵՄԼԻՄԿ ԲԿՈՒ ԸՈՒԵՄԻՍՄՈՒ ԵՈՒ ՃՅՐՃՄ ԲՄՄԿ ԲԿՈՒ ՈՒՍԻԿ ԻՄՈՒ  
 PE HOBBIT OR PERE AND BACK AGAIN BEIN՝ PE RECORD OF A YÆRS IOURNEY  
 MADE BY BILBO BAGGINS OF HOBBITON COMPILED FROM HIS MEMOIRS BY  
 I R R TOLKIEN AND PUBLISHED BY GÆRGE ALLEN AND UNWIN LTD

In Thrór’s map the following text is given in “moon letters”:

ԿՏԲԻՈՒ ԵՈՒ ԲՄ ՃՐՄՈՒ ԿՏՄԻՄ ՈՍԻՄ ԲՄ ԲՐՈԿԻ ԿԻՄԿԿ  
 ԲԻՈՒ ԲՄ ԿՄՏՏԻՃ ԿՈՒ ԲԻՒ ԲՄ ԲԲԿՏ ԲԻՃՈՒ ՄՄ ՈՈՐԻԿ  
 ՈՍՈՒ ԲԻՒ ԿՈՒՄ ՈՈՒՒ ԲՄ ԿՄՈՈՒՄ  
 STAND BY ՔE GREY STONE HWEN ՔE ՔՐՍԿ KNOCKS  
 AND THE SETTING SUN WITH THE LAST LIGHT OF DURINS  
 DAY WILL SHINE UPON THE KEYHOLE

As is the following note by Thrór:

ՄԻՈՄ ՄՃՏՈՒ ՈՒՃԻ ԲՄ ՈՈՐ ԲԿՈՒ ԲՐՃ ՄԲՈՒ ԲԻՒԼ ԲԵՐՄԵԿՏ  
 FIUE FÆT HIGH ՔE DOR AND ՔՐԸ MAY WALK ABREAST

The *Ń sh* and *Ɔ oo* characters were used in a letter from Tolkien to Mrs Ferrer; see Figure 3.

**2. Cryptogrammic Anglo-Saxon runes.** The Franks Casket (or Auzon Runic Casket) is a small and beautiful chest made out of whalebone and dating to 8th century England. It presents a number of carved historical scenes alongside of which are extensive texts in Runes. On the right side of the casket, which appears to be an illustration of Sigurðr who slayed the dragon Fáfnir, a set of “cryptogrammic” Runes are used for the vowels. The ordinary rune vowels are used on the other three sides. The text on that side of the casket reads:

ԽՃՐ ԽԿԿ ԿՃՏԼՐ ԿԻ ԽՃՐՄԵՃՐՃԼ

*her hos sitæþ on hærmbergæ*

ԽՃՐ... ՈՐՃՃԵՐ ԿՐԼ ԽՃՐՃ ՃՐՏԻ ՃՃՃ ԿՃՐԻՍ

*agl... drigip; swæ hiri erta egi sgraf*

ԿՃՐՄՄԻ ԿՃՐՃԼ ԽԻՈՒ ԿՃՃ ԴՃՐԻԼ

*særden sorgæ and sefa tornæ*

Here these “cryptogrammic” Runes are shown in red; note that *ᛞ* is the standard rune for *e*, rather than cryptogrammic *ᚷ e*. Note too *ᚦᚱ* the ligature of *ᚦ f* and *ᚱ a*, where the latter is not the cryptogrammic *ᚱ a*. These characters are analogous to the cryptogrammic letters encoded for Coptic (N2744, N). Although the Franks Casket is a single text, it is one of the most important Anglo Saxon texts, and runologists and Anglo-Saxonists need to be able to represent the text accurately, in plain text, just as Copticists can represent cryptogrammic letters in their texts. It would be wrong to consider the characters proposed here as mere “presentation forms” of the standard Runic characters; they fail the legibility test, for one thing.



ÞM·HMBEIT·SE·PMRM·S·D·  
RM·NEM·S·S·ATRE·IS·TR·M·

ENH·EXNE·EMIX·EM·  
NEM·EN·ENES·ESXXI·G·L·S·

WORKS BY J.R.R. TOLKIEN  
The Hobbit  
Leaf by Niggle  
On Fairy Stories  
Farewell Gifts of Ham  
The Homecoming of Beorhtnoth  
The Lord of the Rings  
The Adventures of Tom Bombadil  
The Road Goes Ever On (with Donald Swann)  
Smith of Wootton Major

WORKS PUBLISHED POSTHUMOUSLY  
Sir Gawain, Pearl and Sir Orfeo  
The Father Christmas Letters  
The Silmarillion  
Lectures by J.R.R. Tolkien  
Unfinished Tales  
The Letters of J.R.R. Tolkien  
Mr Bliss  
Finn and Hengest  
The Monsters and the Critics and Other Essays  
Roverandom

THE HISTORY OF MIDDLE-EARTH BY CHRISTOPHER TOLKIEN  
I The Book of Lost Tales Part 1  
II The Book of Lost Tales Part 2  
III The Lays of Beleriand  
IV The Shaping of Middle-earth  
V The Lost Road and Other Writings  
VI The Return of the Shadow  
VII The Treason of Isengard  
VIII The War of the Ring  
IX Sauron Defeated  
X Morgoth's Ring  
XI The War of the Jewels  
XII The Peoples of Middle-earth



TOLKIEN

# The Hobbit

OR THERE AND BACK AGAIN

BY

J.R.R. TOLKIEN

ILLUSTRATED BY ALAN LEE



HarperCollins Publishers

ÞM·HMBEIT·SE·PMRM·S·D·  
RM·NEM·S·S·ATRE·IS·TR·M·

ENH·EXNE·EMIX·EM·  
NEM·EN·ENES·ESXXI·G·L·S·

Figure 2. Sample text showing Runic text on the title page of a recent edition of *The Hobbit*.

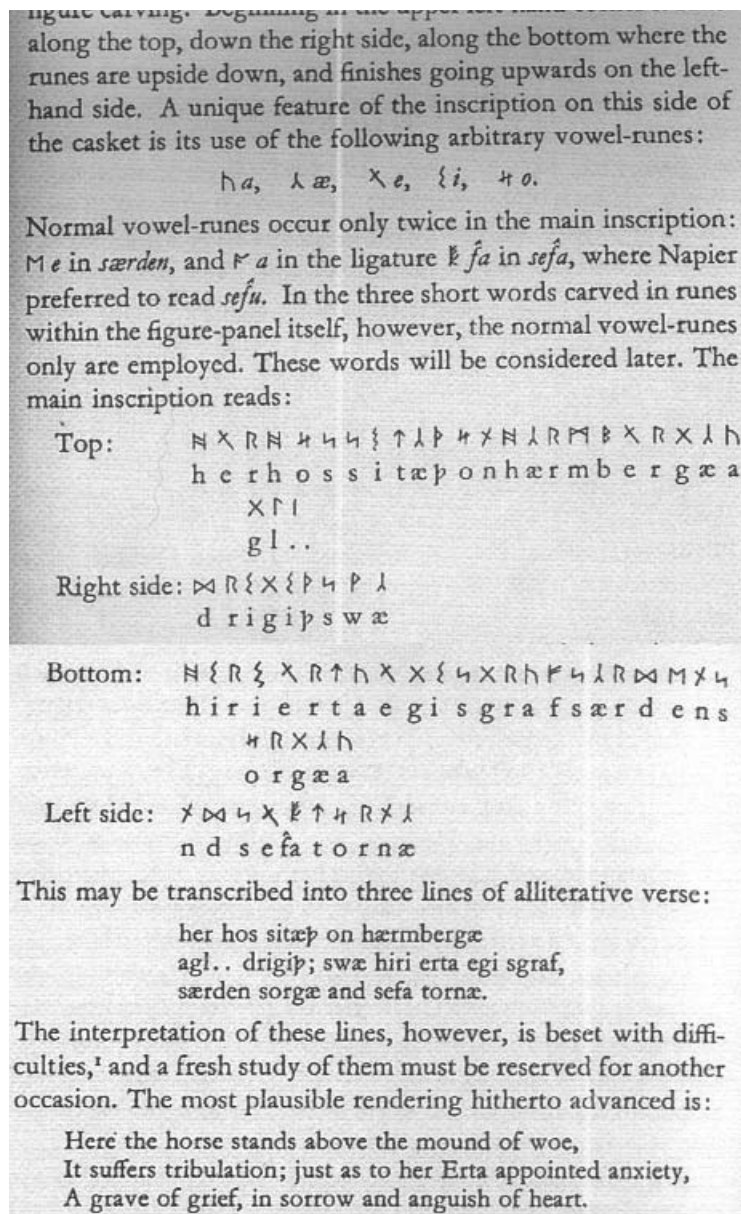
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MERTON COLLEGE OXFORD  
OXFORD Telephone: 47106

ÞR·AM·FR·RM·  
H·N·M·FA·J·M·N·B·M·R·  
Þ·M·Þ·I·R·N·M·Þ·  
M·Y·R·A·R·H·Þ·A·R·R·M·R·:·M·Þ·L·E·N·R·H·M·J·P·I·N·H·I·X·T·A·F·  
N·R·L·E·K·A·F·Þ·Þ·M·H·F·E·I·T·:·I·F·M·H·F·Y·F·N·R·M·D·B·A·Þ·M·  
R·M·L·P·M·H·T·:·I·Þ·H·X·Φ·M·J·M·P·H·B·M·Þ·M·B·Φ·H·H·M·B·T·F·I·T·  
F·B·M·F·X·F·I·T·:·Þ·M·J·M·J·A·B·Φ·K·P·I·N·L·E·T·F·I·T·M·F·R·M·D·  
M·T·F·I·M·M·I·Þ·Þ·F·R·M·F·N·I·F·T·F·B·E·N·T·R·N·H·M·H·F·X·D·M·Þ·M·R·  
F·Þ·Þ·F·B·M·T·H·I·T·R·M·H·K·E·M·H·M·A·F·M·F·A·M·H·L·P·I·R·I·M·H·:·I·T·  
Þ·M·M·W·X·T·I·M·M·P·H·I·M·Þ·M·X·R·Y·T·P·F·R·H·H·B·M·I·X·Þ·H·I·N·  
M·D·I·P·F·X·D·M·R·I·Þ·A·M·N·P·F·N·D·N·K·M·F·K·R·F·E·M·R·  
L·M·A·T·F·Þ·M·H·E·M·L·I·F·T·M·P·F·R·L·N·F·D·M·F·K·T·F·N·I·F·T·  
F·Þ·Þ·M·M·X·T·I·N·R·N·T·I·K·F·I·Þ·Þ·F·B·M·T·F·T·A·K·F·R·T·F·Þ·  
P·H·I·K·H·F·E·M·R·H·I·T·Þ·M·H·F·E·I·T·I·H·L·N·D·I·X·Þ·M·L·M·M·R·:·  
P·M·M·H·I·F·A·M·M·D·F·E·H·T·M·F·X·D·F·A·M·N·M·W·I·X·A·M·R·A·M·I·  
L·H·F·X·D·H·F·K·M·Þ·F·R·F·R·M·M·R·T·M·P·K·H·H·Φ·T·:  
R·M·R·E·H·I·Þ·L·M·R·M·Þ·A·J·R·R·T·M·M·L·M·F·

































































































Figure 3. Letter from J. R. R. Tolkien to Mrs Ferrer, making use of Runic Letter K (contrasting with Runic Letter Cen) and Runic Letter SH (contrasting with Runic Letter Sigel Long-Branch-Sol S) and Runic Letter OO (contrasting with Runic Letter Othalan Ethel O).



**Figure 4.** The right panel of the Franks Casket, showing the cryptogrammic runes.



**Figure 5.** Description of the text of the right panel of the Franks Casket from Ralph Warren Victor Elliott's *Runes: An introduction* (Manchester University Press, 1959; 2nd edition, 1989), giving a transcription and transliteration of the text.

	16A	16B	16C	16D	16E	16F
0	 16A0	 16B0	 16C0	 16D0	 16E0	 16F0
1	 16A1	 16B1	 16C1	 16D1	 16E1	 16F1
2	 16A2	 16B2	 16C2	 16D2	 16E2	 16F2
3	 16A3	 16B3	 16C3	 16D3	 16E3	 16F3
4	 16A4	 16B4	 16C4	 16D4	 16E4	 16F4
5	 16A5	 16B5	 16C5	 16D5	 16E5	 16F5
6	 16A6	 16B6	 16C6	 16D6	 16E6	 16F6
7	 16A7	 16B7	 16C7	 16D7	 16E7	 16F7
8	 16A8	 16B8	 16C8	 16D8	 16E8	 16F8
9	 16A9	 16B9	 16C9	 16D9	 16E9	
A	 16AA	 16BA	 16CA	 16DA	 16EA	
B	 16AB	 16BB	 16CB	 16DB	 16EB	
C	 16AC	 16BC	 16CC	 16DC	 16EC	
D	 16AD	 16BD	 16CD	 16DD	 16ED	
E	 16AE	 16BE	 16CE	 16DE	 16EE	
F	 16AF	 16BF	 16CF	 16DF	 16EF	

## Letters

16A0	ƿ	RUNIC LETTER FEHU FEOH FE F
16A1	ƿ	RUNIC LETTER V
16A2	ᚢ	RUNIC LETTER URUZ UR U
16A3	ᚦ	RUNIC LETTER YR
16A4	ᚧ	RUNIC LETTER Y
16A5	ᚨ	RUNIC LETTER W
16A6	ᚩ	RUNIC LETTER THURISAZ THURS THORN → 00FE ƿ latin small letter thorn
16A7	ᚪ	RUNIC LETTER ETH
16A8	ᚫ	RUNIC LETTER ANSUZ A
16A9	ᚬ	RUNIC LETTER OS O
16AA	ᚭ	RUNIC LETTER AC A
16AB	ᚮ	RUNIC LETTER AESC
16AC	ᚯ	RUNIC LETTER LONG-BRANCH-OSS O
16AD	ᚰ	RUNIC LETTER SHORT-TWIG-OSS O
16AE	ᚱ	RUNIC LETTER O
16AF	ᚲ	RUNIC LETTER OE
16B0	ᚳ	RUNIC LETTER ON
16B1	ᚴ	RUNIC LETTER RAIDO RAD REID R
16B2	ᚵ	RUNIC LETTER KAUNA
16B3	ᚶ	RUNIC LETTER CEN
16B4	ᚷ	RUNIC LETTER KAUN K
16B5	ᚸ	RUNIC LETTER G
16B6	ᚹ	RUNIC LETTER ENG
16B7	ᚺ	RUNIC LETTER GEBU GYFU G
16B8	ᚻ	RUNIC LETTER GAR
16B9	ᚼ	RUNIC LETTER WUNJO WYNN W → 01BF ƿ latin letter wynn
16BA	ᚾ	RUNIC LETTER HAGLAZ H
16BB	ᚿ	RUNIC LETTER HAEGH H
16BC	ᛀ	RUNIC LETTER LONG-BRANCH-HAGALL H
16BD	ᛁ	RUNIC LETTER SHORT-TWIG-HAGALL H
16BE	ᛂ	RUNIC LETTER NAUDIZ NYD NAUD N
16BF	ᛃ	RUNIC LETTER SHORT-TWIG-NAUD N
16C0	ᛄ	RUNIC LETTER DOTTED-N
16C1	ᛅ	RUNIC LETTER ISAZ IS ISS I
16C2	ᛆ	RUNIC LETTER E
16C3	ᛇ	RUNIC LETTER JERAN J
16C4	ᛈ	RUNIC LETTER GER
16C5	ᛉ	RUNIC LETTER LONG-BRANCH-AR AE
16C6	ᛊ	RUNIC LETTER SHORT-TWIG-AR A
16C7	ᛋ	RUNIC LETTER IWAZ EOH
16C8	ᛌ	RUNIC LETTER PERTHO PEORTH P
16C9	ᛍ	RUNIC LETTER ALGIZ EOLHX
16CA	ᛎ	RUNIC LETTER SOWILO S
16CB	ᛏ	RUNIC LETTER SIGEL LONG-BRANCH-SOL S
16CC	ᛐ	RUNIC LETTER SHORT-TWIG-SOL S
16CD	ᛑ	RUNIC LETTER C
16CE	ᛒ	RUNIC LETTER Z
16CF	ᛓ	RUNIC LETTER TIWAZ TIR TYR T
16D0	ᛔ	RUNIC LETTER SHORT-TWIG-TYR T
16D1	ᛕ	RUNIC LETTER D
16D2	ᛖ	RUNIC LETTER BERKANAN BEORC BJARKAN B
16D3	ᛗ	RUNIC LETTER SHORT-TWIG-BJARKAN B
16D4	ᛘ	RUNIC LETTER DOTTED-P
16D5	ᛙ	RUNIC LETTER OPEN-P
16D6	ᛚ	RUNIC LETTER EHWAZ EH E
16D7	ᛛ	RUNIC LETTER MANNAZ MAN M
16D8	ᛜ	RUNIC LETTER LONG-BRANCH-MADR M
16D9	ᛝ	RUNIC LETTER SHORT-TWIG-MADR M
16DA	ᛞ	RUNIC LETTER LAUKAZ LAGU LOGR L
16DB	ᛟ	RUNIC LETTER DOTTED-L
16DC	ᛠ	RUNIC LETTER INGWAZ
16DD	ᛡ	RUNIC LETTER ING
16DE	ᛢ	RUNIC LETTER DAGAZ DAEG D

16DF	ᛣ	RUNIC LETTER OTHALAN ETHEL O
16E0	ᛤ	RUNIC LETTER EAR
16E1	ᛥ	RUNIC LETTER IOR
16E2	ᛦ	RUNIC LETTER CWEORTH
16E3	ᛧ	RUNIC LETTER CALC
16E4	ᛨ	RUNIC LETTER CEALC
16E5	ᛩ	RUNIC LETTER STAN
16E6	ᛪ	RUNIC LETTER LONG-BRANCH-YR
16E7	᛫	RUNIC LETTER SHORT-TWIG-YR
16E8	᛬	RUNIC LETTER ICELANDIC-YR
16E9	᛭	RUNIC LETTER Q
16EA	ᛮ	RUNIC LETTER X

## Punctuation

16EB	•	RUNIC SINGLE PUNCTUATION
16EC	:	RUNIC MULTIPLE PUNCTUATION
16ED	*	RUNIC CROSS PUNCTUATION

## Golden number runes

16EE	†	RUNIC ARLAUG SYMBOL • golden number 17
16EF	‡	RUNIC TVIMADUR SYMBOL • golden number 18
16F0	⊕	RUNIC BELGTHOR SYMBOL • golden number 19

## Tolkienian extensions

16F1	᛫	RUNIC LETTER K
16F2	ᛮ	RUNIC LETTER SH
16F3	ᛯ	RUNIC LETTER OO

## Cryptogrammic letters

16F4	ᛰ	RUNIC LETTER FRANKS CASKET OS
16F5	ᛱ	RUNIC LETTER FRANKS CASKET IS
16F6	ᛲ	RUNIC LETTER FRANKS CASKET EH
16F7	ᛳ	RUNIC LETTER FRANKS CASKET AC
16F8	ᛴ	RUNIC LETTER FRANKS CASKET AESC



## A. Administrative

1. Title

**Proposal to encode additional Runic characters in the UCS.**

2. Requester's name

**Michael Everson and Andrew West**

3. Requester type (Member body/Liaison/Individual contribution)

**Individual contribution.**

4. Submission date

**2011-05-10**

5. Requester's reference (if applicable)

6. Choose one of the following:

6a. This is a complete proposal

**Yes.**

6b. More information will be provided later

**No.**

## B. Technical – General

1. Choose one of the following:

1a. This proposal is for a new script (set of characters)

**No.**

Proposed name of script

1b. The proposal is for addition of character(s) to an existing block

**Yes.**

1c. Name of the existing block

**Runic.**

2. Number of characters in proposal

**8**

3. Proposed category (A-Contemporary; B.1-Specialized (small collection); B.2-Specialized (large collection); C-Major extinct; D-Attested extinct; E-Minor extinct; F-Archaic Hieroglyphic or Ideographic; G-Obscure or questionable usage symbols)

**Category B.1.**

4. Is a repertoire including character names provided?

**Yes.**

4a. If YES, are the names in accordance with the "character naming guidelines"

**Yes.**

4b. Are the character shapes attached in a legible form suitable for review?

**Yes.**

5. Fonts related:

5a. Who will provide the appropriate computerized font to the Project Editor of 10646 for publishing the standard?

**Michael Everson.**

5b. Identify the party granting a license for use of the font by the editors (include address, e-mail, ftp-site, etc.):

**Michael Everson, Fontographer.**

6. References:

6a. Are references (to other character sets, dictionaries, descriptive texts etc.) provided?

**No.**

6b. Are published examples of use (such as samples from newspapers, magazines, or other sources) of proposed characters attached?

**Yes.**

7. Special encoding issue: Does the proposal address other aspects of character data processing (if applicable) such as input, presentation, sorting, searching, indexing, transliteration etc. (if yes please enclose information)?

**Yes. Unicode character properties above.**

8. Additional Information: Submitters are invited to provide any additional information about Properties of the proposed Character(s) or Script that will assist in correct understanding of and correct linguistic processing of the proposed character(s) or script.

**See above.**

## C. Technical - Justification

1. Has this proposal for addition of character(s) been submitted before? If YES explain

**No.**

2. Has contact been made to members of the user community (for example: National Body, user groups of the script or characters, other experts, etc.)?

**Yes. The proposers are users of the Runic script.**

2a. If YES, available relevant documents

3. Information on the user community for the proposed characters (for example: size, demographics, information technology use, or publishing use) is included?

**Runologists, Anglo-Saxonists, Tolkienists.**

4a. The context of use for the proposed characters (type of use; common or rare)

**Relatively rare.**

4b. Reference

5a. Are the proposed characters in current use by the user community?

**Yes.**

5b. If YES, where?

**In texts dealing with the Franks Casket and the linguistic works of J. R. R. Tolkien.**

6. After giving due considerations to the principles in the P&P document must the proposed characters be entirely in the BMP?

**Yes.**

6a. If YES, is a rationale provided?

**Yes.**

6b. If YES, reference

**Contemporary use and accordance with the Roadmap.**

7. Should the proposed characters be kept together in a contiguous range (rather than being scattered)?

**Yes.**

8a. Can any of the proposed characters be considered a presentation form of an existing character or character sequence?

**No.**

8b. If YES, is a rationale for its inclusion provided?

8c. If YES, reference

9a. Can any of the proposed characters be encoded using a composed character sequence of either existing characters or other proposed characters?

**No.**

9b. If YES, is a rationale for its inclusion provided?

9c. If YES, reference

10a. Can any of the proposed character(s) be considered to be similar (in appearance or function) to an existing character?

**No.**

10b. If YES, is a rationale for its inclusion provided?

10c. If YES, reference

11a. Does the proposal include use of combining characters and/or use of composite sequences?

**Yes.**

11b. If YES, is a rationale for such use provided?

**No.**

11c. If YES, reference

11d. Is a list of composite sequences and their corresponding glyph images (graphic symbols) provided?

**No.**

11e. If YES, reference

12a. Does the proposal contain characters with any special properties such as control function or similar semantics?

**No.**

12b. If YES, describe in detail (include attachment if necessary)

13a. Does the proposal contain any Ideographic compatibility character(s)?

**No.**

13b. If YES, is the equivalent corresponding unified ideographic character(s) identified?