

# **Photo-Library of the Characters of the Kensington Rune Stone Inscription**

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## **Introduction**

On December 11 thru 13, 2002, a digital photo-library of the all 287 characters that comprises the entire inscription on the Kensington Rune Stone. At least two photos were taken of each character at different angles of light at magnification ranging from 3.75 to 64 times. These images were generated to gain a better understanding of the physical characteristics of the inscription as well as provide a detailed data base that can be used in the future for research, educational and security purposes.

## **Method**

The photographs were generated using an Olympus SZH binocular zoom stereo-microscope with a SPOT Real Time air-cooled, charge coupled device (CCD), color digital photographic system by Diagnostic Instruments Inc. Illumination was produced using a dual, fiber-optic light source. Images were taken at both high angle (approximately 75 degrees to the surface) and low angle (approximately 15 degrees to the surface) light. The images were formatted using Adobe Photoshop 5.0 software.

## **Organization of Images**

The characters (C) were divided into runes or letters (L), numbers (N) and word dividers or word separators (WS). Each character, as well as each letter, number and word separator are numbered chronologically as they occur in the inscription. The inscription and numbering system begins in the upper left corner of the face side of the stone and reads left to right and down. The inscription continues onto the split side of the stone, again at the upper left corner reading left to right and down. There are a total of 210 individual runes or letters, 12 individual numbers (7 whole numbers) and 66 word dividers or separators.

The library is separated into the twelve folders that correspond to the (12) lines of the inscription. Inside each line folder are separate folders for each word or number in that particular line. Within each word and number folder are images of the individual characters they are comprised of. There is one additional folder labeled Odd Runes, that contains images of the Holand "H" and unusual characters that have some unique characteristic such as an extra punch.

## **Remarks**

This photo-library of images was generated for the Runestone Museum in Alexandria, Minnesota by Scott F. Wolter of American Petrographic Services Inc. Written permission to use any of these images must be obtained through the Runestone Museum.