Extremism and Paganism

A document to assist investigators in contextualizing and understanding the commonly appropriated elements of contemporary Paganism by Domestic and Right-Wing extremists in the UK.
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“When you see misdeeds, speak out against them, and give your enemies no peace”

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SECTION 1

Introduction

This guide is intended to assist the police service and other relevant agencies in identifying and contextualising Pagan symbolism that is commonly misappropriated and misrepresented by right-wing extremists and in the media covering their actions. The Pagan symbols and Runes contained within this document are those that are most commonly misused but are also overwhelmingly worn or displayed by law-abiding Pagans; it is not a definitive list, and many variations of the featured symbols exist.

Right-wing extremism and domestic terrorism pose a significant threat to the UK, and many active Nationalist, racist and anti-Semitic groups have adopted existing Pagan symbols to promote their ideology, perpetuating the relationship between the two and putting the Pagan community at risk of alienation and misdirected retribution.

It is important to note that the Pagan symbols and Runes contained herein are predominantly used by law-abiding Pagans in the furtherance of their faith, but that in addition to extreme right-wing groups with no affiliation to Paganism other than the use of their symbolism, there are also Pagan extreme right-wing groups who present an interpretation of Paganism that supports an agenda that is often anti-immigration, anti-LGBT, and anti-Semitic.

Therefore it is understood that someone without a Pagan background may have difficulty discerning whether an individual is a genuine law-abiding Pagan, a white supremacist bearing misappropriated Pagan symbols, or a Pagan extremist. This guide is meant to provide some direction, but is in no way definitive; for further help please contact the Police Pagan Association directly.
Of the four main branches of Paganism in the UK (Wicca, Druidism, Shamanism and Heathenism) the latter is by far the most commonly associated with extreme right-wing ideology. The adoption of Heathenry as the Pagan faith of choice for extremists is due to a fundamental misunderstanding of the Tenets of Heathenry, but also due to the adoption of various elements of Norse culture by Nationalist Germany in order to create a new national identity after World War 1; these elements were further developed by the Nationalist Socialist German Worker’s Party in the 1920’s and redefined to suit the emerging Nazi agenda.

Modern right-wing extremist Heathenry is practiced by those who have adopted these later skewed tenets, whilst law-abiding Pagans practice the unadulterated indigenous faith from which it was derived.

This section attempts to cover the main aspects of modern right-wing extremist Heathenry, namely their racial / anti-immigration agenda, and the white supremacist identity, before moving on to explain the differences between traditional Heathenry and the extremist interpretation.

Racism, Misogyny and Homophobia

Most modern right-wing extremism is usually fundamentally racist; however Pagan right-wing extremism in particular features anti-miscegenation – a stance against the mixing of different racial groups through marriage, cohabitation or procreation – very heavily in its agenda. This can be traced back to the publication of works and studies by various right-wing philosophers, authors and scientists at the time of the aforementioned national identity crisis which were subsequently adopted as political policy, and upon which many discriminative actions were justified. Many of these authors and scientists went on to hold positions of significant power and influence in Nationalist and right-wing organisations of their time.

An example of one such author was racial theorist Hans Günther who, in 1922, published *Racial Science of the German People* in which he split Europeans into 5 races: Nordic, Mediterranean, Adriatic, Alpine and East Baltic. Germans were considered of Nordic heritage and therefore superior to other races, whilst Armenians, Greeks and Jews were considered part of a lower sub-race deemed 'lesser' than, and destructive towards, the higher races (1).

As a eugenicist Günther promoted his concept of ‘biological Nationalism’, dissuading against interracial reproduction – particularly between the Nordic people and the Jewish race, who he deemed to be incompatible sexually, mentally and ethically.

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(1) *Rassenkunde des deutschen Volkes*. Gunther, Hans F.K. [1922]
Günther’s work, along with the Üntermensch concept (below) went on to form the basis of the Nazi ideology that was used to justify their Eugenics programme and government mandated sterilisation, and later the mass killing of those deemed to be members of a sub-race.

This perception that a mixing of races dilutes genetic bloodlines and poses a threat to society and cultural identity has developed over time into a modern ideology that forms the current right-wing argument against immigration, which includes allegations that immigrants are taking jobs that should be given to UK residents, are in receipt of benefits to the detriment of the social-economic status, and forcing their dietary traditions such as Halal and Kosher food preparation, and religious traditions into the perceived indigenous culture.

This has further developed into more extreme theories, including the ‘white genocide’ theory, in which mass immigration, racial integration, miscegenation and fertility rates are being used to displace, remove or diminish predominantly white populations. This theory has also led many right-wing extremists to adopt very misogynistic anti-contraception and anti-abortion beliefs, seeing white woman as having a primary (and sometimes a sole) duty to produce more Caucasian offspring. The underlying homophobia of right-wing extremism can also be linked to this theory, with neo-Nazi David Lane citing homosexuality as one of the causes of the diminishing white race in his *White Genocide Manifesto* in 1995 (1).

### White Supremacy

In 1883 philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche introduced the concept of the Übermensch in his book *Thus Spoke Zarathustra*. A later, skewed interpretation of this work became central to the concept of an Aryan master race, a central ideology of Nazism in which the Germanic people were see to hold the highest position in a theoretical racial hierarchy.

The Übermensch was presented by Nietzsche as a goal which humanity could set for itself in relation to enlightenment, self-awareness, morality, faith, strength and culture, but was interpreted by some as an endorsement of artificial selection and racial segregation, an allegation which Nietzsche always vehemently denied (2).

After his death in 1900, Nietzsche’s sister Elisabeth manipulated her translation of the book to accommodate the right-wing views of she and her husband, the prominent German Nationalist and anti-Semitic politician Bernhard Förster, who went on to found the right-wing German People’s League in the Reichstag.

This racialised version was later adopted by the Nazi party, going so far as to introduce their own concept of the Untermensch, a reference to perceived ‘lesser’ races – primarily Jews, but also Roma, Slavs, Poles, Serbs, and later, Russians, and directly correlating it with Günther’s work (above).

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(1) *White Genocide Manifesto*. Lane, David [1995]

(2) *Also Sprach Zarathustra: Ein Buch für Alle und Keinen*. Nietzsche, Friedrich [1883-1891]
Nietzsche was explicitly opposed to anti-Semitism and Nationalism, and severed ties with his editor and the musician Richard Wagner due to their Nationalist and anti-Semitic views. Despite this, and the fact that he expressed his disdain and anger at being associated with anti-Semitic and Nationalist ideals in many of his publications, Nietzsche is still admired by right-wing supremacists today, many who interpret his works through the scope of their own confirmation bias.

Why Paganism?

Nationalist Germany was united under the widely promoted theory of a shared Nordic heritage, giving the population a sense of identity and history (albeit an alternate and mostly fabricated one) under which they could coalesce. All aspects of Nordic heritage was seen as superior by authors such as Günther, including their indigenous faith and beliefs. This concept still exists today in the form of Nordicism, a racial separatist ideology which views the Nordic race as not only superior, but as endangered. The American Immigration Act 1924 in which the immigration of many South Eastern Europeans (especially Italians and Jews) was severely limited, was directly influenced by the book *The Passing of the Great Race*, published in 1916 by US eugenicist Madison Grant, who advocated Nordicism. This ideology remains an integral part of American Pagan right-wing extremism today.

As with many aspects of Norse culture that were adopted at the time, the associated faith and beliefs were reinterpreted and amended to compliment the Nationalist ideals of the time, this included rewritings of existing literary scriptures such as The Eddas and The Hāvamál, the appropriation, corruption and misrepresentation of Heathen imagery, and the complete reinterpretation of the Runes by Germanic Revivalist Guido Von List in his publication *Das Geheimniss der Runen* (see Section 8).

Subsequently there are extremist Pagan/Heathen groups and white supremacists that use the same symbols as law-abiding and genuine Heathen groups, but do so under their corrupted interpretations, and sometimes – to add more confusion – combine these with their intended original meanings.

The easiest way to explain this is by using the Othala Rune as an example, as it is one of the Runes most frequently misrepresented by white supremacists; by contextualising this Rune with the era and societal views in which it was created and originally used, it can then be compared to the right-wing narrative assigned to it by modern extremists.

It is worth noting that the Runes are unique in that each character has several attributes; an alphabetical value, a numerical value, a pictorial representation (Fehu, for example is based on a primitive depiction of a cattle skull), a divinatory one, an aural one (the chanting or singing of the Runes name for meditation and/or prayer), and a definitive one.;

The Othala Rune represents the letter O in the Elder Futhark (see Section 7), but it also represents the God Odin, heritage, estate, status and lineage. In ancient Norse culture an individual’s Heritage was very important in defining their social standing and role within the community. This extended as far as the familial reputation, and the skills that they bought to their community (fletcher, blacksmith, etc.). This linked in directly with their estate, which
was representative of their economic contributions and accrual of assets and prosperity over generations through hard work, which would in turn be indicative of their overall status in society. The latter – lineage – is the aspect of Othala most often espoused by white supremacists, primarily due to a fundamental misunderstanding of Norse culture and of the significance of family in relation to the aforementioned aspects of heritage, estate and status.

The Norse concept of lineage is perhaps best explained by the following Heathen poem:

My name is not my own,
It is borrowed from my ancestors,
I must return it unstained.

My honour is not my own,
It is loaned from my decedents,
I must give it to them unbroken.

My blood is not my own,
It is a gift to generations yet unborn,
I should carry it with responsibility (1).

The upholding of the reputation attached to the family name was of the utmost importance in Norse culture and remains so to contemporary Heathens; to besmirch that reputation was to insult your ancestors both present and future by your actions or inaction. Many followers of the Heathen path aspire to maintain the reputation and good name associated with their lineage by adhering to the Nine Noble Virtues of Courage, Discipline, Fidelity, Honour, Hospitality, Industriousness, Perseverance, Self-Reliance and Truth. Nowhere in the scriptures of the time to which modern day Heathens still adhere is lineage linked to race or ethnicity.

Most contemporary Heathens are very aware of the historically proven facts that the ancient Norse people travelled far and wide, and that they traded, settled in, and interbred with people from communities across the world. These facts are found in ancient documents, contemporary studies, and modern-day archaeological data. Therefore the concepts of racial segregation, miscegenation and bloodline purity as interpreted by the white supremacist movement are incompatible with ancient Norse culture and, by extension, the faith from which Heathenism originated.

Additionally, the concept of Heathenism as an indigenous faith to the British Isles is a misnomer. It is ironic that many of the Pagan extremists and white supremacists who declare that immigrants and asylum workers are invaders into the Country themselves claim to follow a faith that was introduced by Norse invaders and, whilst it became substantially widespread and influential across the UK for a protracted era in which there were several Viking Kings of England, Heathenism cannot claim the same indigenous basis of other branches of Paganism such as Druidism, with its roots in the native Celtic tribes of Wales and Ireland, and Wicca, with its reconstructionist roots in 1950s Britain.

(1) *My Name is not My Own.* Vincent Enlund (2006)
SECTION 3

Commonly Appropriated Pagan Runes

For the purposes of this document, the Runes which are considered most commonly appropriated are those most often seen within XRW imagery and branding, and which are predominantly linked to right-wing ideologies within the media.

It is worth noting that Pagans typically use two distinct Runic alphabets - the Elder Futhark, which was used between the 2nd and 8th centuries, and the Younger Futhark, which was used between the 8th and 12th centuries. Additionally, Nationalist and right-wing groups also use the Armenan runes, which were created by Germanic Revivalist Guido Von List in his publication *Das Geheimnis der Runen*, the meanings of which were reinterpreted specifically to compliment the Nationalist ideals of the time (1).

The Elder Futhark is the alphabet most commonly used by Heathen Pagans as it is the alphabet first developed and used by the Northwest Germanic tribes and the Northern cultures until the 8th century, when the Scandinavian territories adopted the simplified Younger Futhark, which remained in use throughout the middle ages (2).

Some Runes appear in all three alphabets (Elder, Younger and Armenan) and can therefore represent different meanings depending on the context in which it is displayed or worn.

The SIGEL Rune

The SIGEL Rune can take several forms, akin to an angular capital E or an inverted Z in the Elder Futhark, or its more common form similar to an upright lightning bolt, as seen in the Younger Futhark.

Additionally, it also goes by several names dependent on the culture referencing it; the Rune is most commonly referred to as SIGEL by most contemporary law-abiding Pagans, but can also be known by its ancient Germanic name of SÆWILŌ, or its ancient Norse name of SOL.

The Nazi party referred to this Rune as SIEG, and the Armenan alphabet names the equivalent Rune as SIG. These are the names most commonly used by the XRW.

SIGEL traditionally represents the Sun, clear vision, confidence, hope and personal goals, however the value given to the Armenan equivalent was “the power to achieve your objectives and goals”.

The Nazi party changed the name of the Rune to SIEG, the German word for ‘victory’; it was adopted by both the Schutzstaffel and the Sturmabteilung as a representation of the initials of their organisation (the infamous SS logo) and as their rallying cry.

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(1) *Das Geheimnis der Runen*, Von List, Guido [1908]
(2) *Alemannia and the North – Early Runic Contexts Apart (400-800)*. Naumann, Hans-Peter, Lanter, Franziska et al [1990]
The SIGEL Rune was also used by the Deutsches Jungvolk – the Hitler Youth, and by Oswald Moseley as a symbol for the British Union of Fascists.

### The OTHALA Rune

The OTHALA Rune is typically represented as a diamond with ‘feet’. XRW groups favour a version in which the feet are upturned at the ends, as popularised by the Volksdeutsche 7th SS Division.

Additionally, it also goes by several names dependent on the culture referencing it; the Rune is most commonly referred to as OTHALA by most contemporary law-abiding Pagans, but can also be known by its ancient Germanic name of ŌPALAN, or its old English name of ODAL.

OTHALA traditionally represents the Norse God Odin, heritage, estate, status, and lineage, however the value given to the Armenan equivalent was “the power to maintain the existing state of natural law”.

The Nazi party adopted this Rune as a representation of their aspirations to create an Aryan race through selective breeding, enforced sterilisation and eugenics.

This Rune is still commonly used by XRW groups, including the Nationalist Socialist Movement in place of the swastika in an attempt to represent themselves as a mainstream political party; the National Front also utilise the XRW version of the OTHALA Rune.

This Rune is typically used by the Völkisch movement in contemporary Paganism and is usually indicative of a right-wing ideology.

### The ALGIZ Rune

The ALGIZ Rune is typically represented as a three-pronged fork shape, or Stang.

Additionally, it also goes by several names dependent on the culture referencing it; the Rune is most commonly referred to as ALGIZ by most contemporary law-abiding Pagans, but can also be known by its old English name of EOLH, or its old Norse names of YR and ELHAZ.

ALGIZ traditionally represents livestock, divinity, the higher self, and protection. The value given to the Armenan equivalent was “the power to strive towards the divine”.

When creating the Armenan Runic alphabet, Guido Von List changed the name of this Rune to ‘MAN’ specifically to represent the aforementioned Übermensch ideology; he also added an inverted version known as YR, which was used to denote Death, was commonly used on Nazi gravestones, and is still commonly used by XRW groups today, such as National Alliance.

The upright version of the ALGIZ Rune was used as the primary symbol of the XRW group Völksfront and National Alliance.
The TÝR Rune

The TÝR Rune is typically represented as an upward pointing arrow.

Additionally, it also goes by several names dependent on the culture referencing it; the Rune is most commonly referred to as TÝR by most contemporary law-abiding Pagans, but can also be known by its ancient Germanic name of TIWAZ, or its old English name of TIR.

TÝR traditionally represents the Norse God of the same name, as well as justice, honour and sacrifice, and as such is favoured by Pagans involved in legal matters and those who are employed in law enforcement or the military. The value given to the Armenian equivalent was “the power to succeed if right is on your side”.

The Nazi party adopted this Rune as the badge of the Reichsführerschulen, the training schools of the Sturmabteilung.

This Rune is still commonly used by XRW groups, including the neo-Pagan organisation Thule-Seminar, a Nationalist, anti-Zionist, white supremacist group with branches throughout Europe including the UK.

The TÝR Rune was one of the numerous neo-Nazi and fascist symbols used by the Christchurch mosque shooter Brenton Harrison Tarrant alongside the Black Sun (see Section 5a), the Othala Rune, and the Kolovrat swastika, [1]

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# Commonly Appropriated Pagan Runes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rune</th>
<th>Also Known As</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SIGEL</td>
<td>Sæwelō</td>
<td>Represents the letter S in the Elder Futhark. It also represents the Sun, clear vision, confidence, hope, and personal goals. Not commonly worn alone by genuine Pagans due to its association with the Nazis and the British Union of Fascists, but may be combined with other Runes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OTHALA</td>
<td>Odal</td>
<td>Represents the letter O in the Elder Futhark. It also represents the God Odin, heritage, estate, status, and lineage. Genuine Pagans will usually use the version of the rune without upturned ‘feet’ preferred by extremists.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ALGIZ</td>
<td>Elhaz</td>
<td>Represents the letter Z in the Elder Futhark. It also represents the livestock, divinity, the higher self, and protection. Genuine Pagans will usually wear this for protection, either as an item of jewellery or a tattoo.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TIWAZ</td>
<td>Týr</td>
<td>Represents the letter T in the Elder Futhark. It also represents the God Týr, justice, honour, and sacrifice. This rune is popular with Pagans involved in legal matters, and those who are employed in law enforcement or the military.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SECTION 4

Commonly Appropriated Pagan Symbols

For the purposes of this document, the symbols which are considered most commonly appropriated are those most often seen within XRW imagery and branding, and which are predominantly linked to right wing ideologies within the media.

It is worth remembering that these symbols are worn primarily by law-abiding Pagans, and are not in themselves indicative of right-wing affiliations or ideologies; the context in which they are displayed (such as in conjunction with right-wing clothing brands – see Section 6) or at right-wing events needs to be considered to ensure a non-discriminatory approach.

The Valknut

The Valknut is a symbol comprising of three interlinked triangles; it exists as both a tricursal design (three individual albeit interlinked triangles) also known as Borromean, and a unicursal design (one continuous line creating three interlinked triangles) akin to a trefoil knot, or a triqueta.

Versions of the Valknut have been found on the 9th century Snoldelev Stone, the 7th century Tängelgårda stone, and many others. It also features heavily in the burial monument of 6th Century King Ravenna of Theodoric, and on cremation urns from Anglo-Saxon cemeteries in East Anglia (1).

The Valknut is also referred to as ‘Hrungnir’s heart’ from the Skáldskaparmál in which the heart of the Jötunn (giant) Hrungnir is described thus: “Hrungnir had a heart that was famous. It was made of hard stone with three sharp-pointed corners” (2).

The word ‘Valknut’ translates as the ‘slain warriors knot’ and is often seen as a sign of an individual’s bravery and willingness to stand up and - if necessary - die for their honourable values or to protect others; as a result it is favoured by contemporary Pagans serving in the armed and emergency services.

The Valknut was initially considered under the German Strafgesetzbuch criminal code Section 86a as a potential symbol of unconstitutional organisations, however it was not deemed generally objectionable and therefore, like many other Heathen symbols, the Valknut is still misused by XRW groups to represent their heritage (3).

(1) Gods and Myths of Northern Europe. Davidson, H.R. Ellis [1990]
(2) The Prose Edda (translation). Byock, Jesse [2006]
(3) Symbole und Zeichen der Rechtsextremisten. Bundesamt für Verfassungsschutz [2013]
The Sun Cross

A Sun Cross is the term for a symbol consisting of an equilateral cross inside a circle when considered as a solar symbol, confusingly, the same symbol is used to represent the Earth by contemporary astronomers. The word cross is derived from the ancient Norse name for this symbol: kros.

The design is frequently found in the symbolism of prehistoric cultures, particularly during the Neolithic to Bronze Age periods of European prehistory. The symbol’s ubiquity and apparent importance in prehistoric religion has given rise to its use by several cultures; the symbol can be found on the ancient Celtic Gundestrup cauldron associated with the thunder God Taranis, on a sun God altar in Lypiatt, Gloucestershire, and on the 9th century Snoldelev Runestone in Denmark, where the symbol is used to represent the God Odin. As a result contemporary Heathens continue to use it as a representation of Odin; Wiccans and neo-Pagans sometimes use this symbol to represent the four quarters of the year.

The Norweigian fascist party Nasjonal Samling used the Sun Cross as their official symbol from 1933 to 1945 and incorporated Nordic symbolism into their imagery to represent the inclusion of Norse Paganism in their extreme right-wing ideology (1).

The Sun Cross is also referred to as the Bogar Cross by the 1936 Bulgarian neo-Nazi group known as BNR (Bulgarian National Spirit), who used a black Sun Cross on a red background as their flag. Members of this group were colloquially referred to as ‘Ratniks’. Whilst this group aligned itself with the Bulgrian Orthodox Church, their Nationalist, racist and anti-Semitic ideology caused the church to distance themselves from any association with the BNR (2).

Mjölnir

Mjölnir is the name of the hammer belonging to Thor, the Norse God of thunder and agriculture. Although most famous for its use as a weapon, Mjölnir plays a vital role in traditional and contemporary Heathen religious practices and rituals (3). Its use in formal ceremonies to bless marriages, births, and funerals is described in several chapters of the Prose Edda (4).

Modern Heathens emphasize the role of Mjölnir in their religious rituals and doctrine, and it is commonly worn as a necklace to symbolise their faith (5). While Norse in origin, modern usage is not limited to Nordic Pagans and has been utilized in Dutch Pagan marriages, American Pagan rituals, as well as being the symbolic representation for all of Germanic Heathenry (6).

Historians and archaeologists opine that the swastika symbol was originally derived from a

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(1) Fascism and ideology: Italy, Britain, and Norway. Garau, Salvatore [2015]
(2) A History of Fascism 1914-45. Payne, Stanley [2001]
(3) The Viking Spirit. McCoy, Daniel [2016]
(4) The Prose Edda (translation). Sturluson, Snorri [2016]
(6) Celebrating Life and Death: Rites of Passage beyond Dutch Contemporary Paganism. Minkjan, Hanneke [2012]
simplified depiction of Mjölnir; as a primary God Thor was often depicted alongside swastika motifs which were representative of luck, prosperity, power and protection in much the same way as Mjölnir itself. An ancient Icelandic grimoire known as the Galdrabók, contains a drawn image of a swastika alongside text describing it as “Thor’s hammer” (1).

The Mjölnir was adopted in 2013 as the permitted headstone symbol for Heathens and Norse Pagans serving in the US armed forces (2).

Whilst the Mjölnir is very commonly worn by many law-abiding Pagans, it is perhaps also the most commonly worn or displayed appropriated symbol worn by Pagan extremists and other XRW individuals, who routinely embellish it with additional right-wing imagery such as Nazi swastikas, or extremist words or acronyms written in Runes.

Ægishjálmr

This symbol is another featured in the Galdrabók, in which it is described as being used as a symbol of power worn between the brows, inspiring awe and fear in the enemies of the bearer – hence its other name of the Helm of Awe.

It is also referred to in the Fáfnismál, one of the poems in the Poetic Edda (3), in which the dragon Fáfnir attributes his apparent invincibility to the Helm of Awe. In the 13th century Icelandic poem the Völsung Saga (4), Sigurd is described as stealing the Ægishjálmr from Fáfnir’s hoard; this story served as inspiration for classical composer Richard Wagner and author J. R. R. Tolkien.

Due to its primary use in the Norse mystical soothsaying art of Seiðr there is very little additional information regarding the Ægishjálmr, due to usage or possession of the symbol being grounds for prosecution during the period of conversion to Christianity, however the symbol is still widely used by law-abiding Pagans today, especially Heathens with an interest in the more spiritual elements of their faith.

The Ægishjálmr is often confused with the much later Vegvísir - also known as the Runic Compass - which was featured in the Galdrastafir Huld Manuscripts, compiled in 1860 by Geir Vigfússon (see Section 9).

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(2) Available Emblems of Belief for Placement on Government Headstones and Markers. US Dept. of Veterans Affairs [2013]
(3) The Poetic Edda (translation). Sturluson, Snorri [2015]
## Commonly Appropriated Pagan Symbols

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Symbol</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>VALKNUT</strong></td>
<td>The Valknut is often referred to as the Warrior’s rune, and is often found on ancient burial and memorial stones. It is popular with Pagans employed in law enforcement or the military. There are Borromean and Unicursal variants of the Valknut.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SUN CROSS</strong></td>
<td>This symbol dates back to the Neolithic age, and represents the Sun. The symbol also appears as variations within Celtic mythology, with the arms protruding from the circle. Extremists often use the ‘broken’ version of this symbol as a variant of the swastika.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>MJÖLNIR</strong></td>
<td>A representation of the God Thor’s hammer, often worn as an amulet on a necklace. The Mjölnir is used in formal Heathen ceremonies to bless births, deaths and marriages.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ÆGISJÁLMR</strong></td>
<td>Ægishjálmr is a symbol of protection, but also one of spiritual and mental strength to overcome one’s fear. It also guards a person against abusing their own power. This symbol is often confused with the much later Vegvísir, or runic compass.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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SECTION 5

XRW Symbols

The symbols included in this section are those almost exclusively used by XRW groups in their imagery and branding, and which are predominantly linked to their right wing ideologies.

However, due to the surreptitious nature of XRW Pagan groups there may be occasions in which a law-abiding Pagan may wear or exhibit these symbols because they are either unaware of their XRW meaning, or because they have become a member of an XRW group without recognising or understanding their underlying ideologies.

Due to the self-defining nature of contemporary Paganism those new to the faith or experimenting with Paganism may adopt symbols used by XRW Pagan groups posing as centrist and non-extremist in order to attract members. The Police Pagan Association partakes in an extensive community education initiatives to prevent incidental usage of such symbols.

Black Sun

In 1933, Heinrich Himmler acquired Wewelsburg, a castle near Paderborn, Germany. Himmler intended to make the structure into a centre for the SS, and between 1936 and 1942, Himmler ordered the building expanded and rebuilt for ceremonial purposes.

The Black Sun symbol, comprising of twelve circular Sig Runes was built in to the floor of the structure's north tower. The intended significance of the image remains unknown, but the artist may have found inspiration from the decoration on early German medieval discs called Zierscheibe (1).

The symbol is still used in neo-Nazi and occult circles, and is frequently use by white nationalist groups such as Vanguard America during the Unite the Right rally in Charlottesville (2). Additionally, the Azov Battalion uses the symbol in an official capacity as an emblem element, along with the Wolfsangel (3).

Brenton Harrison Tarrant, the suspected shooter in the Christchurch mosque shootings in 2019, posted images on Twitter of firearms which had neo-Nazi and white nationalist symbols, including the Black Sun engraved on them. These firearms are believed to have been used in the shooting. Tarrant also used the symbol on the cover of his manifesto.

(2) Who are the White Nationalist Groups that Demonstrated in Charlottesville. Park, Andrea [2018]
(3) Preparing for War with Ukraine’s Fascist Defenders of Freedom. Luhn, Alec [2014]
**Broken Sun**

The Broken Sun is simply a corrupted version of the Sun Cross (see Section 4), amended to represent a stylised Swastika that can be passed off as a genuine Pagan symbol (1). It was used by the German Faith Movement and the 5th SS Panzer Division, and is still used by the Thule Society, Blood & Honour, and other XRW groups today.

**Wolfs Hook**

The Wolfs Hook is a Rune style symbol that looks like the EHWAZ Rune with a line through it; it is used both vertically and horizontally by XRW groups. The name is derived from a stylised depiction of an ancient wolf trap comprising of a crampon and angled baited hook, and therefore this symbol is also known as WOLFSANGEL or WOLFSANKER.

The symbol had traditionally been used in medieval Germany as a sign of liberty and independence by peasants who revolted against the oppression of the German princes and their private armies (the ‘wolves’) in the 15th century. The symbol gained popularity in pre-war Germany due to the 1910 novel *The Werewolf* in which it was used by the main protagonist as a resistance fighter in the Thirty Years War (2). The novel was favoured by the Nazis who named Operation Werwolf – a plan to create a resistance force against the advancing Allies into Germany – after the book.

The Wolfs Hook was the original symbol of the Nazi Party, and as such it was used by several German SS infantry divisions; for this reason public exhibition of the symbol is prohibited in Germany, however there are exceptions in relation to historic familial heraldry.

The symbol is still used by several XRW groups, including Aryan Nations and Azov Battalion, and there is a current neo-Nazi collective who utilise the Werewolf terminology as an allusion to their ideals. These groups see themselves as the aforementioned resistance fighters of Operation Werwolf, preserving Nazi ideologies, and utilising social media and other formats to surreptitiously recruit others into XRW groups. Current operation werewolf groups manifest on social media as promoting masculine ideals through body building, boxing and survival camps, whilst promoting an agenda of heritage, tradition and racial purity.

**Swastika**

The most well-known of the XRW symbols, and synonymous with the Nazi Party. This ancient symbol is used by many cultures, and is still an important religious symbol in Hinduism, Jainism, Buddhism and others.

The use of the Nazi swastika is prohibited in Germany, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and in numerous US states.

---

(1) *An alt-right Makeover Shrouds the Swastikas*. Kovaleski, Serge et al [2016]
(2) *Der Wehrwolf*. Hermann Löns (1910)
### XRW Symbols

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Symbol</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **BLACK SUN**           | [the Wewelsburg symbol]  
This symbol was specifically created by occultists working in the Nazi party for Heinrich Himmler. It comprises of 12 radial Sig runes representing a mystical source of energy that renewed the Aryan race. Still used today by the XRW groups including Vanguard America, Unite the Right, and the Azov Battalion. |
| **BROKEN SUN**          | This symbol is a corrupted version of the Sun Cross above, broken so as to incorporate a stylised swastika into its design. Still used today by the XRW groups including the Thule Society and Stormfront.                                      |
| **WOLFS HOOK**          | Although bearing similarity to the Eihwaz rune, this is actually a simplified representation of an ancient wolf trap. This symbol was widely used by the Nazi SS, and public usage is illegal in Germany if used in connection with XRW ideology. Still used by the Azov Battalion, the Social-National Party of Ukraine. |
| **SWASTIKA**            | The swastika was a symbol used extensively by ancient Eurasian and Indian cultures prior to being appropriated by the Nazi party. This symbol was also used by Norse tribes in the Iron Age, and was known as the Fylfot rune; examples can be found on the Sutton Hoo burial goods and the Snoldelev stone. |
SECTION 6

XRW Brands

The clothing brands included in this section are those that are aimed at or specifically created for the XRW market and almost exclusively used by XRW individuals and groups. It is worth noting that sales of these brands are not in any way restricted or monitored and therefore these brands may on occasion be worn by people unaware of their XRW connotations.

These brands often contain Pagan and Heathen imagery and are included in this document to assist in contextualising the usage, wearing or displaying of other Pagan imagery by XRW individuals, and differentiate between a law-abiding Pagan and an individual with XRW tendencies.

Most of these brands are sold predominantly online or through right-wing networks, and some mimic other well-known brand names or logos that allows for easy identification by likeminded individuals but are not always immediately identifiable as XRW by others. The national Socialist Movement and Stormfront both facilitate the sale of XRW branded clothing through chat rooms and other social media links.

Some brands, such as Thor Steinar, have been labelled by Germany’s Domestic Intelligence Agency Bundesamt für Verfassungsschutz as an identifying mark for right-wing extremists. Wearing Thor Steiner clothing is banned in German state parliaments, as well as at many sports events.

A list of suppliers is included in the reference list at the end of this document (see Section 10).
## XRW Brands

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Brand</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>THOR STEINAR</strong></td>
<td>This clothing brand uses a logo comprising of combined Sig and Tyr runes. The company had to alter their logo after it was banned in several countries. The brand remains well connected to the far-right scene and is very popular among neo-Nazis.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CONSDAPLE</strong></td>
<td>This clothing brand is popular among racists and neo-Nazis as it contains the initials of the National Socialist Party of Germany (NSDAP). Their older logo resembled the logo of the clothing brand LONSDALE, which explicitly objects to any far-right or racist ideology.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>MASTERRACE</strong></td>
<td>An XRW clothing brand that primarily features known brand logos that are amended to convey a neo-Nazi message. Examples include the ADIDAS logo amended to represent the Nazi salute over the word ADOLF, and The North Face logo adjusted to read as The North Race.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>HATECRIME</strong></td>
<td>A US-neo-Nazi clothing brand sold in Europe. A hate crime is defined as “a criminal offence committed against a person, property or society, which is motivated, fully or partly, by race, religion, disability, sexual orientation or ethnicity/national origin.”</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### XRW Brands [continued]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Brand</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>WERWOLF</strong></td>
<td>German neo-Nazi clothing brand that incorporates the Tyr rune into their logo. This company openly offers neo-Nazi branded items for sale, as well as clothing for XRW bands such as Screwdriver and ZetaZeroAlfa.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>WALHALL</strong></td>
<td>Walhall is the German spelling of Valhalla. Racists and neo-Nazis use this brand to show their hate for the Abrahamic religions. Favoured by members of the Operation Werewolf XRW group.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>BELOYAR</strong></td>
<td>A clothing brand used by various neo-Nazi networks mainly in Eastern Europe that features Nazi symbolism in their designs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SVASTONE</strong></td>
<td>The Ukrainian neo-Nazi sportswear brand that employs variations of the swastika in its logos and produces clothes with far-right insignia for football fans. It is distributed in the neo-Nazi networks mainly in Eastern Europe.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brand</td>
<td>Description</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>WHITE REX</strong></td>
<td>The Russian neo-Nazi sportswear brand reaches wider audience through supporting sporting events to promote far-right ideologies. White Rex previously released a design comprising of an “88” print styled as falling bombs. Note the use of the Black Sun in their logo.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>OTADŽBINA</strong></td>
<td>A Serbian clothing brand employs neo-Nazi imagery and is distributed through the far-right networks. The brand is popular among some football fans in Serbia and Russia.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>WIKING WEAR</strong></td>
<td>Clothing brand affiliated with international neo-Nazi network Misanthropic Division.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ZETAZEROALFA</strong></td>
<td>Official music band of the Italian neo-fascist political organization CasaPound. It is connected to XRW groups in several European countries.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SECTION 7

Futhark Alphabets

This section is a quick reference guide to the Elder and Younger Futhark Runic alphabets referred to in Section 3.

As with most ancient alphabets and writing systems there are varying cultural interpretations of the Runes, however the definitions contained herein are those that are accepted by historians and the agreed transliterations as written in the historic source scripts and texts from which they were derived.

The name given to each Rune in the table below is the most commonly used in the current English language but each Rune also has a Proto-Germanic, Old English and ancient Norse name to which they may also be referred.

The current English/Latin alphabetical equivalent is also included to assist in direct transliteration as many XRW individuals will include right-wing terminology on garments, jewellery and tattoos in Runic form; it is worth considering that some examples may be written in other languages such as German, Polish or Icelandic and may require translation once transliterated from their Runic presentation.

A simplified version of the intended and assigned definitions for each Rune is also included for reference; these definition are those as written in the original historic texts such as the Eddas and the Hávamál, and used by contemporary Pagans, but again other definitions exist, and the list is not definitive.

For ease of reference the Younger Futhark equivalent is included in the right hand column where applicable.
### Futhark Alphabets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>rune</th>
<th>letter</th>
<th>meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ANSUZ</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>Of the Æsir (Gods)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BERKANA</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>Birch, Sanctuary, Birth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KENAZ</td>
<td>C, K or Q</td>
<td>Torch, Knowledge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAGAZ</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>Day, Enlightenment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EHWAZ</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>Horse, Trust</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FEHU</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>Wealth, Cattle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEBÖ</td>
<td>G</td>
<td>Gift, Sacrifice, Marriage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HAGALAZ</td>
<td>H</td>
<td>Hail, Change</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ÞSA</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>Ice, Stillness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JÉRA</td>
<td>J or Y</td>
<td>Harvest, Year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAGUZ</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>Water, Lake</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MANNAZ</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>Man, Awareness</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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### Section 7a

**Futhark Alphabets [continued]**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>rune</th>
<th>name</th>
<th>meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NAUTHIZ</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>Need, Constraint</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OTHALA</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>Heritage, Estate, Status, Lineage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PEORTH</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>Unknown, unresolved secrets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RAIDŌ</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>Ride, Journey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SÆWELŌ</td>
<td>S</td>
<td>Sun, Confidence, Hope</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TĪWAZ</td>
<td>T</td>
<td>The God Týr, Justice, Honour, Sacrifice.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ÚRUZ</td>
<td>U</td>
<td>Aurochs, Endurance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WUNJŌ</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>Joy, Harmony, Perfection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ALGIZ</td>
<td>X or Z</td>
<td>Livestock, Divinity, Higher Self, Protection.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TURISAZ</td>
<td>TH</td>
<td>The God Thor, Strength, Resistance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EIHWAZ</td>
<td>El or AE</td>
<td>Mystery, Divine Energy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INGÚZ</td>
<td>NG</td>
<td>The God Yngvi, Seed, Growth</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Armenan Runic Alphabet

This section is a quick reference guide to the Armenian Runic alphabets referred to in Section 3. This alphabet was created by Germanic Revivalist Guido Von List in his publication *Das Geheimnis der Runen* and accommodated the German Nationalist agenda of the time.

Von List assigned specific meanings to each Rune that varied greatly from their Futhark counterparts, and allowed for the Armenian alphabet to be adopted as the Runic alphabet of choice by the Nazi Party.

The current English/Latin alphabetical equivalent is also included to assist in direct transliteration as many XRW individuals will include right-wing terminology on garments, jewellery and tattoos in Runic form; it is worth considering that some examples may be written in other languages such as German, Polish or Icelandic and may require translation once transliterated from their Runic presentation.
### Armenian Runic Alphabet

<p>| | | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>FA</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>“Generate your luck and you will have it”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>UR</td>
<td>U</td>
<td>“Know yourself, then you will know all”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>THURS</td>
<td>TH</td>
<td>“Preserve your ego”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>OS</td>
<td>A or O</td>
<td>“Your spiritual force makes you free”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>RIT</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>“I am my right, this rod right is indestructible, therefore, I am myself indestructible”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>KA</td>
<td>K</td>
<td>“Your blood, your highest possession”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>HAG</td>
<td>H</td>
<td>“Harbour the All in yourself, and you will control the All”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NOT</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>“Use your fate, do not strive against it”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>IS</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>“Win power over yourself and you will have power over everything in the spiritual and physical worlds that strive against you”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>AR</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>“Respect the primal fire”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>SIG</td>
<td>S</td>
<td>“The creative spirit must conquer”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>TYR</td>
<td>T</td>
<td>“Fear not death - it cannot kill you”</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### SECTION 8a

**Armenian Runic Alphabet [continued]**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Runic Alphabet</th>
<th>Letter</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BAR</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>“Thy life strands in the hand of God, trust it in you”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAF</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>“First learn to steer, then dare the sea-journey”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAN</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>“Be a man”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YR</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>“Think about the end”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EH</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>“Marriage is the raw-root of the Aryans”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GIBOR</td>
<td>G</td>
<td>“Man, be one with God”</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### SECTION 9

**Vegvísir**

Also known as the Runic Compass, the Vegvísir is referred to in the Huld Manuscript, and allegedly allows the wearer to navigate rough weather. Commonly confused with the much earlier Ægishjálmr, but still commonly worn by contemporary Pagans.
SECTION 10

References

These references are included as an investigatory resource, and are accurate at the time of publication. Please be aware that these sites may flag up as containing right-wing or extremist content, and are accessed for lawful policing purposes only.

XRW Pagan Groups

Asatru Folk Assembly: http://www.runestone.org/
The Odinic Rite: https://odinic-rite.org/main/
Odinia UK: http://freyjahof.blogspot.com/
Thule Seminar: http://www.thule-seminar.org/
GRECE: https://www.facebook.com/groups/177109013527/
Volksfront: https://www.facebook.com/Volksfront-International-341500862530306/
Wulfshéafda Péodscipe: http://wulfesheafda.blogspot.com/
Aryan Hyperborean Heritage: http://knowthyself.forumotion.net/

XRW Clothing

Thor Steinar clothing: https://www.thorsteinar.de/en/
Consdaple clothing: https://ostfront-versand.de/Consdaple:::27.html
Hatecrime Streetwear: http://www.hcstreetwear.net/shop/
Werewolf Wear: https://www.werewolfwear.com/
Walhall Athletik: https://walhall-athletik.de/
Beloyar: https://beloyar.net/
Svastone: https://svastone.com/
White Rex: https://white-rex.net/
Otadžbina: http://otadzbina.rs/?lang=en
Wiking Wear: https://wikingwear.eu/
ZetaZeroAlfa: http://zetazeroalfa.org/
# SECTION 11

## Document Control

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