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Nota di contenuto	Front matter -- Chapter 1 What is runology? -- Chapter 2 The oldest recorded Germanic -- Chapter 3 The earliest Germanic writing system -- Chapter 4 The graphemic system of the older runes -- Chapter 5 The fifteenth rune -- Chapter 6 Age and origin of the futhorc -- Chapter 7 Reading runic inscriptions -- Chapter 8 Dating runic inscriptions -- Chapter 9 Sacral or secular? -- Chapter 10 Runic typology -- Chapter 11 Phonological rules and paradigms -- Chapter 12 Some controversial grammatical forms -- Chapter 13 Runic syntax -- Chapter 14 "Archaicizing" inscriptions -- Chapter 15 The Weser runebones -- Chapter 16 Old English digraphic spellings -- References -- Index of inscriptions -- Index of runic words -- Index of names -- Index of subjects
Sommario/riassunto	The older runic inscriptions (ca. AD 150 - 450) represent the earliest attestation of any Germanic language. The close relationship of these inscriptions to the archaic Mediterranean writing traditions is demonstrated through the linguistic and orthographic analysis presented here. The extraordinary importance of these inscriptions for a proper understanding of the prehistory and early history of the present-day Germanic languages, including English, becomes abundantly clear once the accumulation of unfounded claims of older mythological and cultic studies is cleared away.

