

What is The Kensington Runestone?

(I attended a lecture given by a Professor of Runic Studies from Sweden. He had doubts that the Kensington Runestone was a 14th century creation. Due to the fact “No comparable runestone has ever been found in Scandinavia”. I had to agree. This took me some time to find the logical answer. This was a significant piece of the puzzle in proving the authenticity of the Kensington Runestone.)

The answer to this question is found in the late Scandinavian Historian Birgit Sawyer’s book “***The Viking-Age Rune-Stones.***”
“They (Rune-Stones) are all in the Nordic language and with very few exceptions; they all have the same basic formula. X raised this stone or had this stone raised in memory of Y.”

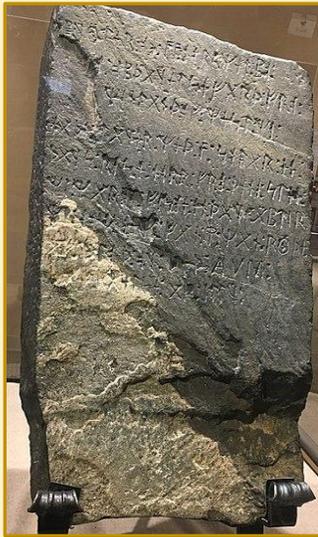


Miniature Copies of Rune-Stones from Sweden. (Photo courtesy of “The Jelling Dragon”)

On the Kensington Runestone’s inscription, there is no person’s name (**X** or **Y**). No person is memorialized or mentioned. Also, having none of the typical rune-stone design elements (see the above photo). It only has a 12-line runic text message on two sides of a rectangular stone.

Rune-stones mostly ended up being a tradition in the 1100s (several hundred years before the 1362 date on the Kensington Runestone). The Kensington Runestone does not fit the criteria or time period to be called a rune-stone. It just does not have anything in common with any rune-stone other than the runic script inscribed on stone. This is because the Kensington Runestone is not a “**Rune-Stone**,”. It is a “**Tablet**.”

Tablets can be made of stone, wood, slate, clay, metal and wax (see *photo*) and your electronic communication device is a tablet. They typically have a rectangular shape and one flat surface. They usually consist of lines of text and rarely have any design elements. Tablets convey messages, stories, letters, correspondences, legal agreements, business transactions, and the Ten Commandments. The Kensington Runestone fits the description of a tablet and should be called a **“Runic Inscribed Stone Tablet”**.



This Runic Inscribed Stone Tablet has some unique characteristics for a tablet. Such as its large size of 30” × 16” × 6” in. (76 × 41 × 15 cm) and weight of 202 pounds (92 kg). It was shaped from a large boulder with a mallet and chisel into a rectangular block with two flat inscribed surfaces. No similar tablet has ever been found in Europe because the Kensington Runestone served a unique purpose.

According to the inscription, the 1362 Expedition had just experienced the death of ten of their comrades and probably the looting of some of their precious supplies. They are alone in a hostile land, in the middle of nowhere. The possibility of never returning to their Scandinavian homeland and no one ever knowing of their fate. They wanted to convey a message to later expeditions about what happened to them.

They created this **“Runic Inscribed Stone Tablet”** that was mounted atop a cairn (*Essay: [Meant to be Seen](#)*) located on Runestone Hill. Hoping local Indians would guide future expeditions from their homeland to this tablet and its message. The 1362 Expedition was sending a 14th-century text message.

Technically the “Kensington Runestone” should be called the **“Kensington Runic Inscribed Stone Tablet.”** On second thought, that does not work very well. So let us keep calling it the **Kensington Runestone**.

What is The Kensington Runestone? Runic Inscribed Stone Tablet