

Orkney Runes

two typefaces by Feòrag Nicbhrìde

The “Orkney Runes” package contains two Runic typefaces inspired by the Viking graffiti inside the Maes Howe Chambered tomb on the Orkney Mainland. The graffiti itself has a familiar ring to it, being the sort of comment you would expect to find scrawled in a modern public convenience. The lettering itself is from the Younger Futhark, but a mixture of long-branch and short-twig forms. **Maeshowe** is the neat version of the lettering. **Orkahaug** is a much rougher version of the same lettering, designed to look as if it has been scratched into stone. ‘Orkahaug’ is the Viking name for Maes Howe.

The character set is rather limited. The alphabetic slots contain runes found in Maes Howe. There is also a full Runic character set in the appropriate Unicode slots. This is a light reworking of one of my first (1997) efforts, mostly to put it into modern formats.

This archive contains the OTF version of the fonts, which can be used on Classic MacOS, MacOS X, Linux and Windows. It includes the following files:

- **About Orkney Runes OTF.pdf** - this file.
- **Maeshowe f** and **Orkahaug f** - folders, each containing:
- **Maeshowe.otf** or **Orkahaug.otf**- the font files. In MacOS X, double click on these to see a preview. Click on the “Install Font” button to install. For earlier versions of Mac OS, this file should go in the ‘Fonts’ folder in the System Folder.
- **OFL.txt** - the Open Font License text.
- **FONTLOG.txt** - detailed information about this font.
- **OFL-FAQ.txt** - frequently asked questions about the SIL Open Font License

A TrueType flavoured OpenType version is also available.

Licence and Notes

This typeface is licensed under the SIL Open Font License. A copy of this licence is included in the package, along with some explanatory material.

While the font is free for you to use and adapt, with very few conditions attached, if you do use it and enjoy it, a small donation would be appreciated. Any money so received will be ring-fenced for spending on font software, books etc. Copies of anything on which it’s used would be nice, too.

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