

**Phonetic notation in the Finnish translation
of Urbanus Rhegius's 16th century book**

The Westh Codex was written between 1545 and 1549, and it can be considered the oldest hand-written record of Finnish literacy. Agricola is known as the father of literary Finnish language and this codex is dated even earlier than his works. It contains various prayers and texts of the holy mass and also the only surviving Finnish translation of a longer text. The present paper studies the latter, which is Urbanus Rhegius's soul healing handbook. Given that Finnish phonetic notation was not yet uniform at the time of the translation, the translators had to rely on the already existing source texts, their studies and their mother tongue. For this reason, the spelling of the text differs considerably from present-day Finnish texts. Furthermore, the circumstances of the text's creation also influenced the spelling, because the copyists came from different geographical and educational backgrounds and applied various kinds of notations.

Keywords: Rhegius, Riegel, Westh, manual, handbook, codex, Finnish, notation, spelling

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