

TARA HILL DESIGNS



Catalogue

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CHANGES THIS YEAR

An artisan is always at the mercy of their suppliers. The same shortage of small crystals which led to the redesign of the large wands last year has now forced me to discontinue the mini-wand pendants. I considered making them with pointed tips like the full-sized wands, but decided that this just wouldn't be acceptable.



Surprisingly, apple wood has become impossible to find as well. While I have had many offers of felled apple trees from people's farms, unfortunately I don't have a sawmill or the months to wait for the wood to dry properly. So, after much deliberation I have decided to

replace it with pear wood. The pear is very closely related to the apple (some botanists believe it to be the same genus), and therefore has many of the same associations as the apple in folklore and mythology. Plus, it is a fruit tree as specified by Tacitus, for those who like their runes in fruit wood. I still have some bits and pieces of apple wood, so I will continue using it for the love talismans until it runs out completely. Check the back of this catalogue for more on the pear tree.

ABOUT THE COVER...

Carved wood bed post from the Gokstad ship. The Vikings were master wood carvers, and this horse's head is a perfect example. I reproduced this carving on the ends of the sign over my booth at the Ontario Renaissance Festival.

Visit our website at
www.tarahill.com

RUNES

While many beginners start out with mass-produced ceramic rune sets, most become dissatisfied and start looking for runes with a warmer, more personal feel. Tara Hill Designs has responded to this demand by providing the rune 'connoisseur' with the widest variety of rune patterns and materials available on the market today. And all our rune sets are handcrafted with the utmost attention to detail and historical authenticity.

RUNE SETS

Each rune set comes complete with a cloth pouch and six-page instruction book. Sets are available in the popular 24-rune *Elder (Germanic) Futhark*, as well as the 29-rune *Anglo-Saxon Futhorc* and the 16-rune *Younger Futhark*. The *Elder Futhark* runes may also be purchased at a discount in combination with our 'Raido' book. Choose from nine different woods:

- ◆ Ash
- ◆ Yew
- ◆ Red Oak
- ◆ White Oak
- ◆ Brown Oak
- ◆ Birch
- ◆ Pear (*new!*)
- ◆ Holly
- ◆ Elm

(see the back of this catalogue for more information about our selection of woods)



Runes alone: \$38.00

Runes+'Raido' book (Elder): \$45.00

RUNE GIFT SETS



Our Elder Futhark wood rune sets are available in beautifully packaged boxed gift sets, including:

- ~ a birch wood box
- ~ a cloth carrying pouch
- ~ a copy of 'Runic Journeys'
- ~ a vial of red ochre powder

Everything you need to start reading the runes!

\$54.00

OGHAM STAVES

Ogham staves were used in Ireland and the British Isles for both inscriptions and divination, and were said to have been used by the Druids themselves.



Sets are available either alone or beautifully packaged in a birch wood box, and include a cloth carrying pouch and a 28 page instruction booklet by Colleen Whittaker, which details the history and meanings of the Ogham.

With Box: \$48.00
Without Box: \$38.00

RUNE STAVES



Historical accounts of the use of runes for divination suggest that they were originally carved into sticks, or staves, of wood. These rune staves are approximately 4 inches long and are available in all of our nine woods.

\$65.00

RUNE KITS



There is nothing more magical than a tool that you have made yourself. Unfortunately, few people have access to the information and materials necessary to achieve a truly satisfying result. Our

'do-it-yourself' rune kits allow even the most unskilled woodworker to create and customize their very own set of wood runes.

Each kit comes complete with:

- ~ 26 pre-cut blank wood pieces
- ~ a cloth pouch
- ~ a vial of red ochre powder
- ~ sandpaper for finishing
- ~ a twelve-page instruction booklet with template

Available in Red Oak and Birch only.

\$25.00



RUNE CARVING TOOLS

These V-shaped 'parting' gouges from Lee Valley Tools are approximately 5 1/2" long overall and nicely honed, which makes them very easy to handle even for amateur woodworkers. Perfect for use with our do-it-yourself rune kits.

(not available for wholesale)

\$15.00

RED OCHRE POWDER



(shown 1/2 size)

Red ochre has been used since Neolithic times to symbolize the blood of life, and its traditional use as a pigment for colouring runes is well documented. Comes complete with instructions on preparation and use.

Sm. 1 dram vial - \$2.00

Lg. 2 dram vial - \$4.00

ABOUT THE ARTISAN...

Jennifer Smith has been involved with the Neo-Pagan and New Age communities since 1982. Her fascination with the Norse runes and her dissatisfaction with sets currently on the market led her to start creating her own quality wood sets in 1988. Jennifer lives in Milton, Ontario, and has been exhibiting at the Ontario Renaissance Festival there since its inception in 1996.

BOOKS

RAIDO: THE RUNIC JOURNEY



Author Jennifer Smith explores the hidden meanings of the runes through myth and magical insight. **'RAIDO'** represents a unique approach to the runes by using their sequence as a metaphor for the spiritual odyssey. The journeyer experiences the

lessons of each rune in turn, and discovers the depth of wisdom of the old Norse myths along the way. This 100 page, cerlox-bound volume is available alone, or as part of a set with our handcrafted wood runes.

\$10.00

RUNIC JOURNEYS DAILY MEDITATIONS ON THE NORSE RUNES

A companion volume to "**Raido**", this pocket-sized booklet serves as a reference guide, a workbook, a journal, and a series of daily meditations that can help you along your own runic journey. The 60 page booklet includes keywords, imagery, related myths, divinatory meanings, and space for notes for *each rune* of the Elder futhark. It also includes chapters on historical background, meditation exercises, and divinatory and magical techniques.

\$3.00



GAMES



Tafl is based on *hnefatafl*, an ancient Viking siege game which dates back to the 5th century A.D. It was once the most popular

board game in Northern Europe. Combining elements of both othello and chess, *Tafl* is challenging, and yet fun and easy to learn. Each game set includes a 9" square wood game board, 25 carved pieces, a cloth carrying pouch, and an 8 page instruction booklet.

\$45.00

VALHALLA

Valhalla is a game of both chance and strategy, in which the players overcome physical obstacles, attacks by their opponents and the whims of the Gods in order to reach a joyous afterlife in Odin's hall - Valhalla. The game is loosely based on *Senet*, which originated in ancient Egypt and was adopted by the Greeks and Romans, and is said to have made its way north into medieval Scandinavia.

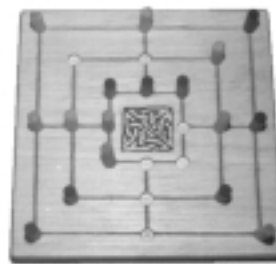
The game set includes a 12½" x 5½" carved board, 12 ship playing pieces, 4 'fate casting sticks', a pouch to hold the game pieces, and complete instructions.



\$38.00

Three-In-One Medieval Game Board

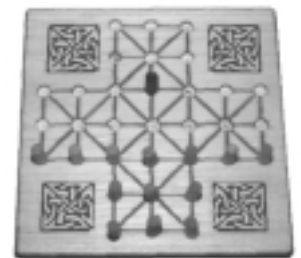
Perfect for players young and old, this double-sided game board includes pieces and instructions for three of the most popular games in medieval Europe...



Nine Man's Morris is one of the world's oldest and most popular board games. Versions have been found from England to Egypt to India. Like a complex version of naughts and crosses, the

game is simple to learn and fun to play.

Fox and Geese is a Medieval favourite in which the fox is pitted against 13 geese. Probably originating in Viking Age Scandinavia, this two-player version is a classic game of strategy.



Sailor's Solitaire may be played on the same board. Perfect for long voyages (or car rides!).

Game set includes a 5½ inch square double-sided carved board, 32 peg pieces, and complete instructions for all three games.

\$25.00

TALISMANS

WOOD TALISMAN PENDANTS

Each of these beautiful pendants is made from a different wood, chosen for its unique magical energy. They are inscribed with combinations of runes designed to aid in various magical purposes. Each one comes with a 24" leather thong (26½" for Style B), and an explanation of the meanings of the runes used.

Pendants are available in three styles and seven different runic combinations.

\$12.00



Style 'A'
Bindrune



Style 'B'
Horizontal
Runescript



Style 'C'
Vertical
Runescript

	Style 'A'	Styles 'B', 'C'
Success (<i>white oak</i>)	☯	F S O P
Love (<i>apple</i>)	☯	F X O
Protection (<i>red oak</i>)	☯	T Y M Y T
Healing (<i>birch</i>)	☯	Y T B S
Psychic Ability (<i>yew</i>)	☯	T C F <
Balance (<i>brown oak</i>)	☯	T O M S F
Wisdom (<i>ash</i>)	☯	T < F

SINGLE RUNE PENDANTS

We are now offering wood pendants with your choice of *any* of the 24 Elder futhark runes, carved on your choice of *any* of our nine woods (or you can leave that up to us). Each pendant includes a 24" leather thong with clasp, and a tag showing the meaning of the rune. Some of the more popular runes are:





- ☯ = 'cattle' (wealth)
- ☯ = 'Odin' (wisdom)
- ☯ = 'riding' (travel)
- ☯ = 'gift' (love)
- ☯ = 'glory' (success)
- ☯ = 'year' (growth)
- ☯ = 'yew' (magic)
- ☯ = 'elk' (protection)
- ☯ = 'sun' (prosperity)
- ☯ = 'Tyr' (strength)
- ☯ = 'birch' (health)
- ☯ = 'land' (property)



\$10.00

WANDS

These intricately carved wands are made from maple wood, and are designed to harmonize and focus natural energies towards magical purposes. Each wand is carved with the entire runic alphabet (a traditional means of harnessing the powers of all of the runes), along with the word 'Yggdrasil', representing the Norse World Tree. They are then stained with red ochre to create a truly magical tool.

-  7" Spiral - \$27.00
-  7" Knot - \$27.00
-  11" Spiral - \$35.00
-  11" Knot - \$35.00

ABOUT OUR WOODS...

ASH (*Fraxinus spp.*)

A strong, straight-grained wood; sometimes has 'olive' streaks or stripes in the grain. The Ash was referred to in the Eddas as the species of Yggdrasil - the 'World-Tree'. The first man, named Ask, was created from an ash log.

BIRCH (*Betula spp.*)

A lovely pale, fine-grained wood. Long associated with fertility and healing magic, birch twigs were used to bestow fertility on cattle and newlyweds. Birch was associated with Thor, probably in recognition of his role as an agricultural and fertility deity.

ELM (*Ulmus spp.*)

A fibrous, tan-coloured wood with a slight sheen. The elm is often associated with Mother and Earth Goddesses, and was said to be the abode of faeries. In Norse myth, the first woman (Embla) was created from an elm log.

HOLLY (*Hex aquifolium*)

A beautiful creamy white wood with an almost invisible grain; looks very much like ivory. Holly is associated with the death and rebirth symbolism of winter in both Pagan and Christian lore.

OAK (*Quercus spp.*)

The oak has been considered sacred by just about every culture that has encountered the tree, but it was held in particular esteem by the Norse and Celts because of its size, longevity, and nutritious acorns. The different varieties will lend their own special 'flavour' to the magic and the reading. White oak is medium brown and quite dense; red oak has a slight reddish hue; brown oak is a deep walnut colour.

PEAR (*Pyrus spp.*)

A dense, fine-grained, rosy-coloured wood. The pear tree is mentioned in literature and folklore connected with love and temptation, and Constantius (5th cen.) tells of a pear tree which was honored by the Northmen. The 'fruit-bearing tree' referred to by Tacitus in his description of Norse runic divination is assumed to have been the apple, but may have been the pear.

YEW (*Taxus baccata*)

A beautifully smooth, gold-coloured wood with a wavy grain. Long associated with magic, death, rebirth, and the runes, the yew may be the oldest-lived tree in the world. There are some convincing arguments for it being the original 'World-tree' of Scandinavian mythology.

RETAIL ORDERING INFORMATION

CURRENCY

Prices are in *Canadian dollars for Canadian customers*, and in *US dollars for U.S. and Overseas orders*. The difference is worked into the shipping costs.

METHODS OF PAYMENT

- ~ **VISA** (we do not accept Mastercard or other cards at this time)
- ~ **Money Order** (U.S. customers, please make sure you get an *International Money Order*)
- ~ **Cheque** (please allow an extra week for the cheque to clear)
- ~ **PayPal** (please email us for further details)

All orders must be pre-paid. Please make your cheque or money order payable to Tara Hill Designs.

SHIPPING & HANDLING

We offer two main shipping options:

- ~ **Parcel Post**: Shipping time 1-2 weeks within North America, longer overseas.
- ~ **XPresspost**: Shipping time 4-6 business days to U.S., 2-4 to Canada. Not available for overseas.

	U.S.	Ontario	Other Canadian Provinces	Overseas
Parcel Post	5.00	8.00	11.00	9.00
XPresspost	16.00	9.00	13.00	N/A

Please note that shipping times are from when the order is *sent*, not necessarily from when you place your order. If an item is out of stock or you are paying by cheque, your order will take longer. If you need your order by a specific date, please note this on the order form and we will try to ensure that it gets to you on time, but please note that we do NOT generally offer next-day or two-day shipping.

Because of the variables involved in cross-border shipping, we *cannot* guarantee delivery time on parcels shipped outside of Canada.

