

What about...

The Peace Symbol?

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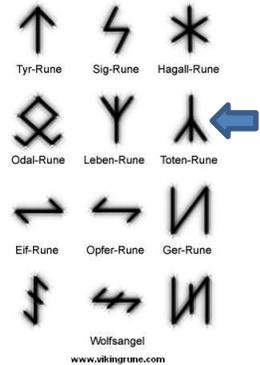
The **PEACE SYMBOL** or as it was earlier known, **Nero's cross** like many simple symbols, has meant different things at different times. The **BROKEN UPSIDE-DOWN CROSS** is linked to the notorious Roman emperor who persecuted Christians.

Centuries later, it was recognized as an old Norse Rune.



Notice its image in the lower left corner of this ancient rune stone. Its reverse image is under the nose of the serpent.

Vikings called it "Toten Rune (Death Rune)," while some Germanic people labeled it *Todesrune* (Rune of Death). After WWII, it was found on the tombstones of certain Hitler's SS troops and labeled 'The Dead Man Rune.'



The modern "Peace Symbol" was created in 1958, by British artist Gerald Holtom who drew a circle with three lines inside, intending the design to be a symbol for the Direct Action Committee Against Nuclear War (DAC). The design incorporates a circle with the lines within it representing the simplified positions of two semaphore letters (the system of using flags to send information great distances, such as from ship to ship). The letters "N" and "D" were used to represent "nuclear disarmament." (The "N" is formed by a person holding a flag in each hand and then pointing them toward the ground at a 45 degree angle. The "D" is formed by holding one flag straight down and one straight up.) Holtom finished his design on February 21, 1958 and the design was then first introduced to the public at a DAC march on April 4. The symbol quickly spread. In Britain, the symbol became the emblem for the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND), thus causing the design to become synonymous with nuclear disarmament. In 1960, the symbol migrated to the United States and began to be used as a symbol for the peace movement.

During the sixties hippies and others latched onto the symbol and it became the mark of those who protested nuclear weapons. Unfortunately it also became associated widely with those at odds with the whole concept of patriotism and with those who opposed Christian values. Thus the "Peace Symbol" became a worldwide symbol of a new age of global peace and earth-centered unity.

This symbol has become internationally recognized and is still used by peace activists today.