On 2000-12-24 Olle Järnefors published on behalf of the ISORUNES Project in Sweden a proposal for ordering the Runes in the Common Tailorable Template (CTT) of ISO/IEC 14651. In my view this ordering is unsuitable for the CTT for a number of reasons.

Runic ordering in ISO/IEC 10646. The Runes are encoded at U+16A0–U+16FF, in a unified set of characters encompassing the four major traditions of Runic use: Germanic, Anglo-Frisian, Danish, and Swedish-Norwegian, and Medieval. The Runes are arranged in the code table agreed by ISO/IEC JTC1/SC2/WG2 in an order based on the traditional positions of the Runes in abecedaries, namely, the fuþark order. This order is known from hundreds of primary sources which list the Runes in sequence, often with no other text. Most scholarly texts refer to the fuþark in one way or another. Nearly all secondary texts, whether popular introductions to the Runes or New-Age esoterica, give primacy to the traditional fuþark sequence.

Runic names in ISO/IEC 10646. The names given to the Runes in the UCS may be a bit clumsy, but they are intended to serve the needs of scholars and amateurs alike; not everyone is familiar with Runic transliteration practices, and not everyone is conversant with the traditional names in Germanic, English, and Scandinavian usage. So the names concatenate those three together with the scholarly transliteration letter.

Runic and Latin. It should be noted that the ISORUNES position has always been to treat the Runes as though they were just glyph variants of the Latin script: their original proposals gave the Runes sequenced in the code table according to their Latin transliterations, and gave only the Latin transliteration equivalents as the character names. SC2/WG2 had not treated any other historical script in this way, and chose not to set a precedent with the Runes. It is suggested here that SC22/WG20 do likewise.

Fuþark ordering. On page 4 below, I print first the binary order of the Runes in the UCS (omitting the three punctuation characters), and a proposed fuþark ordering for the CTT. On page 5, the structure of this ordering is given showing primary and secondary weighting, and showing how the four traditions are reflected in their traditional order. Primacy is given to the Germanic Runes, with secondary unifications where applicable in the order Anglo-Frisian, Danish, Swedish-Norwegian, and Medieval. The Calendar Runes are decomposed into their source ligatures for ordering. The only point I consider contentious here is the possible ordering of Runic Letter Q as a variant of Runic Letter Wunjo Wynn W (despite the character’s origin in Latin Small Letter Q) and Runic Letter X as a variant of Runic Letter Sigel Long-Branch-Sol S (which it clearly is).
Latin ordering. On page 6 below, I print first the ISORUNES proposal of 2000-12-24 (which follows the same conventions for primary and secondary weighting by tradition but which is based on the order of the characters according to their Latin transliteration), and a revision of this based on the actual order of Latin characters in the CTT. On page 7, the structure of this ordering is given showing primary and secondary weighting along with the Latin transliteration characters themselves. It is important to note that for at least some of the Runes, more than one transliteration is possible. While RUNIC LETTER CWEORTH is transliterated <q> here, it is very often expanded to the digraph <cw> in English contexts. Another example is RUNIC LETTER ALGIZ EOLHX, which can be transliterated <z>, <R>, or <x>.

Note that a universally-acceptable ordering according to Latin transliteration is not really feasible. Consider the Latin tailoring required to ensure that æ, ø, and þ are ordered as used in English, Danish, Swedish, Norwegian, and Icelandic contexts.

Sample orderings. First, I give here a Runic song printed by Ole Worm in Danica Litteratura Antiquissima in 1636 from an original Norwegian manuscript subsequently lost; text normalized into Icelandic spelling by E. V. Gordon. Note the fuþark order in vertical presentation (instead of the usual linear abecedary).

Þ (fé) veldr frænda rógi; feðisk úlfr í skógi.
¢ (úr) es af illu járni; opt hleyþ hreinn á hjarni.
† (þurs) veldr kvenna kvíllu; káþ verðr fár af illu.
‡ (ósss) es flestra ferða fór, en skálp er sverða.
˚ (reið) kveða hrossum versta; Reginn sló sverðit bezta.
¶ (kaun) es beygja barna; ból gørir mann fóllvan.
¥ (hagall) es kalastr korna; Kristr skóþ heim inn forna.
† (nauð) gorir hneppa kosti; nökstan kelr í frosti.
⁄ (is) kóllum brú breiða; blindan þarf at leiða.
‡ (ár) es gumna góði; getk at ÿrr vas Fróði.
¥ (sól) es landa ljómi; lútik helgum dómi.
† (Týr) es einhendr Ása; opt verðr smíðr at blása.
§ (bjarkan)’s laufgrœnstr líma; Loki bar flærðar tíma.
Ý (maðr) es moldar auki; mikil es greip á hauki.
† (lofr)’s, es fellr ór fjalli, foss; en gull eru hnossir.
˚ (ýr) es vetgrœnstr viða; vant’s, es brennr, at svíða.

On pages 8 and 9 I present a list of Runic letternames ordered according to the two approaches. The fuþark ordering is, in my view, superior because it unifies dotted Runes with other base characters, which in fact gives a more accurate result. From the final 1996-03-13 ISORUNES proposal to WG2 (N1330):

The dotted runes do not appear to have been counted as independent runes. They only seldom appear in inscriptions representing the fuþark, and then as a rule just a few of them appear at the end.

Note that using Latin transliteration order, a name like Pórgunn, which could be written þørpþ þurkun or þørpþ þurgun, would be found in different parts of an ordered list. This could be finessed by unifying the dotted consonants with their base form, but then this rather sabotages the intended principle of following Latin transliteration.
It seems clear to me that following the traditional fubark ordering for the CTT, WG20 would be applying the same principles to Runic as are applied to other scripts. If for scholarly purposes a glossary of Runic terms were required, and Latin alphabetic order preferred, it would be far simpler to do as I have done on page 7, namely to begin each line in the glossary with the Latin transliteration itself, in which case the local Latin-tailored tables could apply. This reduces the burden on scholars, because they will be using English, Danish, Swedish, Norwegian, or Icelandic systems software which will order Latin as they prefer – and which will be provided by their software vendors as a matter of course. Requiring scholars in different countries to tailor Runic as well for local requirements (which the major software vendors are unlikely to do) will add unnecessary expense to their endeavours.
Binary order.

Fuþpark order. This is shown in expanded form on the following page.

\[
\begin{array}{cccc}
\text{Ordering the Runic script / Michael Everson Page 4}
\end{array}
\]
Fupark order. Conventions used here: Each language group’s letters are ordered traditionally with a superscript number showing the ranking; in the following hierarchy: G = Germanic, E = Anglo-Frisian, D = Danish, S = Swedish-Norwegian, I = Icelandic, M = Medieval. Dotted Runes and other variants follow next, marked here only by superscript D and V. The Calendar Runes have been ordered as ligatures.
ORDERING THE RUNIC SCRIPT

ISORUNES order as specified 2000-12-24

Latin order. This is shown in expanded form on the following page.
Latin order, based on usual transliterations and following the same order as given for Latin in the Default Tailorable Template. Note that the main problem with transliterations is that many characters have more than one transliteration according to different traditions.
Runic names in filethark order.

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