

Vikings, Pioneers, and Natives:

The Kensington Rune Stone and the
Contested History of the American Mid-West



MONDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2016 | 6:00 PM

Penn Museum, Rainey Auditorium

FREE

Dr. Henrik Williams (linguist of Scandinavian languages at the University of Uppsala) will be joined by **Dr. David Krueger** (independent historian), **Dr. Brian Daniels** (Penn Cultural Heritage Center) and **Dr. Ada Kuskowski** (Department of History) to explore the materiality, text, and cultural legacy of the Kensington Rune Stone.

Found in 1898 by a Swedish immigrant farmer in Minnesota, the stone is inscribed with a message in runic, which told of the voyage and massacre of a group of Christian Vikings who had travelled to the New World in the 14th century. For over a century, the Kensington Rune Stone and the myth it inspired has endured in the public imagination despite nearly universal rejection from the scientific community. *How have ideas about race, religion, and science play out through a single object?*