

A - 65707

-7

STILUS 7

ARHEOLOOGILISED  
VÄLITÖÖD EESTIS  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD  
WORKS IN ESTONIA IN  
1996

*Koostanud ja toimetanud Ülle Tamla*

---

EESTI ARHEOLOOGIASELTS

TALLINN 1997

Trükitud Eesti Teadusfondi toetusel

© 1997 Eesti Arheoloogiaselts  
Rüütli 6, Tallinn, EE-0001, Eesti

Makett: Ivar Leimus

ISBN 9985-50-175-6

Tartu Ülikooli Raamatukogu



# NEW SETTLEMENT SITES IN THE SURROUNDINGS OF LAKE KAHALA AND REVISION EXCAVATIONS OF STONE-CIST GRAVE

*Gurly VEDRU*

Ajaloo Instituut (Institute of History), Rüütli 6,  
EE-0001 Tallinn, Eesti (Estonia)

Archaeological investigations were continued in the surroundings of Lake Kahala (Kuusalu parish, Harjumaa) in 1996 (previous fieldwork in the Lake Kahala district cf. Vedru, 1996).

## Inventories

Three new prehistoric settlement sites were discovered in the vicinity of Lake Kahala during archaeological inventories (Fig. 1)

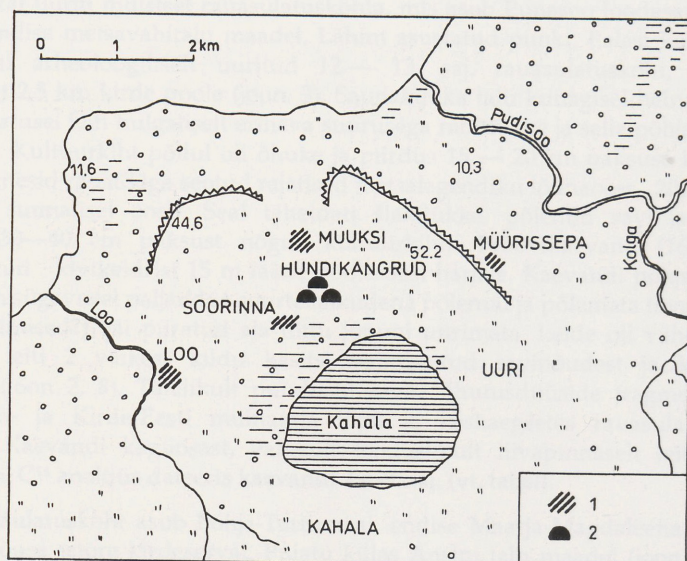


Fig. 1. Sites in the surroundings of Lake Kahala inventoried and excavated in 1996. 1 — settlement site, 2 — grave.



A Stone Age settlement site was found on the land of Sili (Müürisepa) farm in Uuri village. The settlement site is situated on a terrace directed NW—SE, with a steep bank on the NW side. A country road, leading from Uuri to Pudisoo village, over the Linnamägi ridge crosses the site, whose altitude is 24 meters above sea level. Many quartz pieces with traces of work and a few bigger quartz artefacts were picked up (AI 6158).

Another Stone Age settlement site was discovered in Soorinna village, in the field of Soorinna farm. This settlement is located ca 250 m south of the Kuusalu — Leesi road and about 1 km NW of Lake Kahala, from which it is currently separated by a mire. There are many stone-cist graves in the vicinity; the graves of *Hundikangrud* are situated ca 200 meters to the NE. Sherds of quartz, some quartz artefacts and a flint scraper were gathered from the surface of the field (AI 6159).

The prehistoric settlement site of Loo was found on the land of Rohtaia farm on the low river-terrace of the left bank of the Sõitme river. Again, the nearest antiquities are the numerous stone-cist graves and fossil field remains of Soorinna, situated ca 2.5 km to the north. A dozen handmade potsherds were found (AI 6160). With the use of an earth borer, it was ascertained that, 20—30 cm beneath the uppermost ploughing layer, there is a well preserved 5—25 cm thick black coloured cultural layer.

## Archaeological excavations

Two sites were excavated in Muuksi village in the summer of 1996: a settlement site and a stone-cist grave.

First, the Bronze Age settlement site, discovered on the land of Kembari farm in 1995, was excavated. This settlement site is situated on a fallow field, immediately west of the Kuusalu—Leesi road, in the vicinity of the Muuksi busstop (Vedru, 1995). Systematically made test pits were used to determine the probable location and extent of the cultural layer. For that purpose, the supposed core area of the settlement site, covering 20 x 50 m, was divided into squares of 2 x 2 m. Small test pits were made in the corners of each square. In addition to the test pits, some samples were taken, with an earth borer, outside the supposed core area. Both the test pits and the samples showed that deep-ploughing, done in the period of collective farms, had totally destroyed the original cultural layer.

Revision excavations of a stone-cist grave, from the Hundikangrud group, were undertaken next. This group, consisting of some 85 stone-



cist graves, is situated in the land of Toomani farm, ca 150 meters to the south of the Kuusalu — Leesi road and about 1.5 km NNW of Lake Kahala. Grave number 5, according to the internal numeration of Hundikangrud, was chosen for excavations. This grave has already been excavated by the Baltic-German amateur-archaeologists, Arthur Spreckelsen and Adolf Friedenthal, in 1925. According to the local excavation methods, they opened only the central part of the grave, where they knew the cist was situated, and they did not pay any attention to the peripheral areas of the grave. One aim of the excavations started in 1996 was to examine how much new information could be gathered from the partly excavated grave, especially considering the relatively primitive excavation methods used in the past.

The inner construction of the grave was unusual: instead of the usual 2 meter long cist, we encountered one that was 4.4 m long (Fig. 2). According to Friedenthal, a man about 50—60 years old and a young woman of 25 were buried inside the cist (Friedenthal, 1927/1928, 48; 1931, 34).



*Fig. 2. Muuksi. Stone-cist grave no 5. Taken from SSE.*

The grave was partly covered with a turf layer of up to 7 cm thick, and some large junipers were growing in the cist. The grave had a diameter of 10.9 m in the N—S direction, 10.8 m E—W, 10.5 NE—SW and 10.9 m in the NW—SE direction. The surface of the grave was elevated above



the ground, 85 cm on the N-side and 60—70 cm on the S-side. The length of the opened cist was 4.9 m and its width varied between 80 and 120 cm. The cist was located in a NNE—SSW direction.

The surrounding pile consisted mostly of limestones of various sizes, some scattered shingle and many big granite stones, measuring 20—60 cm in diameter. Some of these stones formed rows parallel to the sides of the cist, both in the vicinity of the northern part and in the centre of the cist. Five bigger granite stones had fallen into the cist after its opening and situated on the bottom of the cist's northern part. A few big granite stones were found in the stone piles, heaped up on the surface of the grave by the Baltic-Germans. One can presume that the central cist was surrounded by large granite stones, which were placed at a distance of ca 0.5—1 m from its side walls.

Most of the stones, taken away during the opening of the cist, were thrown onto both its sides and formed ca a 0.5 m higher stone pile in the central part of the current grave heap.

To start the excavations the stone ruins outside the stone circle were cleared out and the cist was cleared of stones that had fallen inside. During the latter step, it was observed that the original course of the cist's wall was damaged, and only preserved in some small sections. The longest section (measuring ca 70 cm in length and 30—35 cm in height) lay in the middle of the cist's eastern wall. It also appeared that the stone bottom of the cist was destroyed by the original excavators — beneath the relatively small limestones there was the light brown coloured original soil.

The next step involved clearing the stone layer that had been thrown to the top of the grave heap by the Baltic-Germans. During this step, a large limestone slab (ca 70 x 50 x 5 cm), probably a cist's covering plate, was discovered in the vicinity of the southern part of the cist. No gravegoods were found. Small human and animal bones were gathered both from the cist and from the stone layers on top of the grave. A larger quantity of human bone, probably reburied by Spreckelsen and Friedenthal, were found behind the cist's southern end.

In conclusion, one may say that the above mentioned settlement sites in the vicinity of Lake Kahala discovered in recent years, have changed previous conceptions concerning the settlement pattern, its location and its density. The picture of the settlement history is supplemented in two directions: the sites discovered belong both to the Stone Age and to the final centuries of Estonia's prehistory.



The archaeological inventories in the Lake Kahala area will be continued in the following years. The excavation of the stone-cist grave will continue in 1997.

## References

Friedenthal, A. 1927/1928. Ein Gräberfeld der Bronzezeit in Estland. — Beiträge zur Kunde Estlands, Band XIII, Heft 1—5, 47—50.

Friedenthal, A. 1931. Ein Beitrag zur vorgeschichtlichen Anthropologie Estlands. — Zeitschrift für Ethnologie, 1—39.

Vedru, G. 1996. Inventories in the surroundings of Lake Kahala and archaeological excavations on the fossil field remains at Soorinna and Muuksi. — Proc. Estonian Acad. Sci. Humanities and Social Sciences, 45, 4, 434—436.

## UUED ASULAKOHAD KAHALA JÄRVE ÜMBRUSES JA KIVIKIRSTKALME REVISJONKAEVAMISED HUNDIKANGRUTEL

### Gurly VEDRU

1996. aastal jätkusid arheoloogilised uurimised Kahala järve ümbruskonnas. Muististe inspekteerimisel avastati kolm uut asulakohta: Uuri ja Soorinna kuuluvad mesoliitikumi ning Loo muinasaja lõpusajanditesse (joon. 1).

Arheoloogilised kaevamised toimusid Muuksi külas, kus uuriti asulakohta ja kivikirstkalmet. Esmalt kaevati Kembari talu maal paiknevat pronksiaegset asulakohta. Kultuurikihi olemasolu ja ulatuse kindlakstegemiseks kasutati süstemaatilise šurfimise meetodit. Selleks jagati asula oletatav tuumikala 2x2 m suurusteks ruutudeks, mille igasse nurka tehti väikesemõõtmeline prooviauk. Lisaks võeti mullapuuriga proove ka väljastpoolt asula oletatavat tuumikala. Nii šurfid kui proovid näitasid, et kolhoosiaegne sügavküund oli omaaegse kultuurikihi täielikult hävitanud ning edasine kaevamine osutus mõttetuks.

Revisjonkaevamisi alustati Toomani talu maal Hundikangrute-nimelises, umbes 85 kalmest koosnevas muististerühmas. Kaevamisteks valiti välja kalme nr. 5, mida 1925. aastal olid kaevanud baltisaksa amatöör-arheoloogid A. Spreckelsen ja A. Friedenthal (joon. 2). Vastavalt tolleaegsele kohalikule kaevamismetoodikale uurisid nad vaid kalme keskset osa, kus teati asuvat kirst. Kalme perifeerne ala jäi nende poolt täielikult uurimata. Revisjonkaevamiste üheks eesmärgiks ongi välja selgitada, kas üksnes osaliselt kaevatud kalmest on võimalik saada muistise kohta täiendavat infot.

Kalme nr. 5 sisekonstruktsioon oli ebatüüpiline: keskse kirstu pikkus oli algselt umbes 4.4 m tavalise 2 m asemel. Selles oli kaks matust: 50—60-aastane mees ja 25-aastane naine.

Kalmekuhjatis koosnes valdavalt erineva suurusega paekividest, esines ka mõningaid suuremaid raudkive. Viimaste paiknemisest võis järeldada, et keskne kirst oli algselt piiratud suurte raudkividega.

Suurem osa kirstu avamisel eemaldatud kividest oli loobitud kalme keskossa kirstu kõrvale. Need kivid moodustasid nüüd kalme pinnast ca 50 cm kõrgema kivikihi. Kirstu lõunapoolses osas tuli päevavalgele suur paekiviplaat, mis tõenäoliselt oli üks kirstu omaaegsetest katteplaatidest.

Esemelisi leide kaevamistel ei saadud. Nii kirstust kui ka kalme pealispinnalt leiti väiksemaid inim- ja loomaluid. Suurem kogus inimluid tuli päevavalgele kirstu lõunapoolse otsa tagant. Ilmselt oli siin tegemist baltisakslaste poolt tagasimaetud inimluudega.