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STILUS 7

ARHEOLOOGILISED
VÄLITÖÖD EESTIS
ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD
WORKS IN ESTONIA IN
1996

Koostanud ja toimetanud Ülle Tamla

EESTI ARHEOLOOGIASELTS

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Tartu Ülikooli Raamatukogu

RESCUE EXCAVATIONS ON THE II SETTLEMENT SITE OF VÄIKE -RÕSNA IN SETUMAA

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The Väike-Rõsna II settlement site is situated in Setumaa, Lobotka parish (present Põlva county, Värskas parish) on the eastern coast of the Gulf of Värskas, in the southern part of the Väike-Rõsna village, on the territory of Purika farm. The village was first mentioned in written sources in 1652. In the northern part of the village lies the Väike-Rõsna I settlement site. There, late medieval and modern pottery, remains of a medieval smithy (finds TÜ 64, 106, 190, 191; AI 6060, 6130) and a burial ground of pit graves have been discovered (Fig. 1).

The Väike-Rõsna II settlement site was discovered in 1994 by Heiki Valk and Ali Kikkas. The pottery found there belongs mostly to the Middle Ages (Valk, 1995, 456). In 1995, Arvis Kiristaja and A. Kikkas found a lot of pottery in the shallow waters of the Gulf of Värskas on the SW border of the II settlement site. These potsherds belong mostly to the end of the prehistoric period (Kiristaja, 1995, 3—4; finds AI 6061). Since the pottery was found in the water, or on the waterfront, the necessity occurred to save the preserved find material. The possibility appeared in summer 1996, when the level of the lake

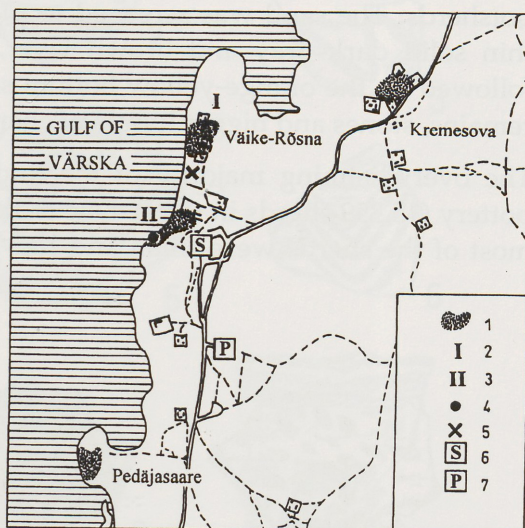


Fig. 1. Archaeological monuments in Väike-Rõsna village and its vicinity.

1 — settlement sites; 2 — I settlement site and the medieval smithy; 3 — II settlement site; 4 — location of excavations in 1996; 5 — medieval cemetery; 6 — sanatorium of Värskas; 7 — cordon of frontier guard.

was 1.5 m below average, and the area with the finds remained on the beach. The excavations were carried out with the financial support of the Setu Cultural Foundation and the Central Board of Antiquities.

Two pits were dug, with a total area of 171 sq.m. (Luik and Kiristaja, 1996). The first pit, measuring 32 sq.m., was dug in the sod covered beach ridge. Under the sod layer, soil consisted of light gritty sand, 30 cm thick. Pottery was abundant in the whole area. Neither traces of buildings, bigger stones, nor pieces of charcoal were found.

It appears that the area has been flooded repeatedly. This opinion is confirmed by the greyish flood veins in the NE profile of the pit. The cultural layer has, thus, been destroyed by water. Under the light sand layer was a dark grey and brown layer of clay and earth, ca. 20–40 cm thick, which contained neither finds nor charcoal fragments. Underneath lay the orange-yellow bottom sand. First, it was intended to proceed with the pit towards the NE, however, in the course of the excavations the plans were altered since the cultural layer was not preserved and the finds were not directly endangered under the sod layer.

The second pit, measuring 139 sq.m. was dug NW from the first pit, on a low beach that is flooded when the level of water is higher. In this pit there was a 5–7 cm thick layer of light sand which contained many potsherds. The sand was screened to pick up finds. Under the sand, a thin solid dark gray and brown layer, 2–5 cm thick, was exposed, followed by the orange-yellow bottom sand. In the second pit building remains, stones and bigger lumps of charcoal could not be found either.

The overwhelming majority of the finds (AI 6110: 1–258) consist of pottery (15,359 sherds in total). Due to the prolonged exposure to water, most of the sherds were small and had polished surfaces. Thus, it was

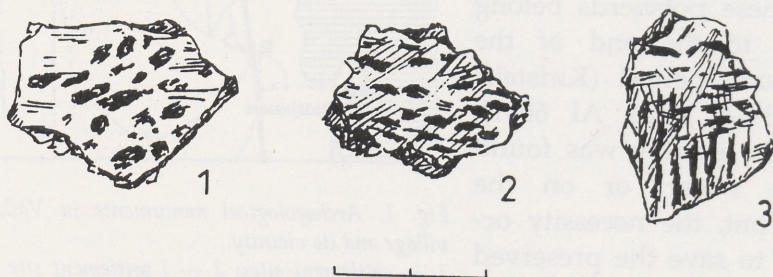


Fig. 2. Textile-impressed and striated pottery from Väike-Rõsna (AI 6110: 167, 233, 177).

not always possible to determine whether the pottery had been hand-moulded or made on a potter's wheel. Still, it appears that most of pottery had been made on a wheel. The share of hand-moulded pottery is just a little over 1.5%. Among these, textile-impressed pottery can also be found (ca. 0.5% of the total sherds; Fig. 2: 1, 2) and a couple of sherds with striated surface (Fig. 2, 3). Until now, in Setumaa, textile-impressed pottery has only been found on the Kalatsova settlement site (Валк & Пеэрс, 1994, 418, 424; Plate XXIV: 1—5).

The discovered wheel pottery is partly ornamented, ca. 15% of the sherds are decorated with a simple line ornament (Fig. 3, 1,2); wavy ornamentation is less represented (Fig. 3, 3—6). The pottery with wavy ornamentation, found from Uusvada, Võmmorski and Vasla settlement sites, Setumaa, has been dated by Heiki Valk to the 11th—13th centuries (Валк & Пеэрс, 1994, 424, Plate XXVI, 1, XXVII, 5—8; Valk, 1995, 456, Plate XXII, 1, 2, 4.). Single sherds display ornamentation of small pits, oblique lines or notches (Fig. 3, 7—9).

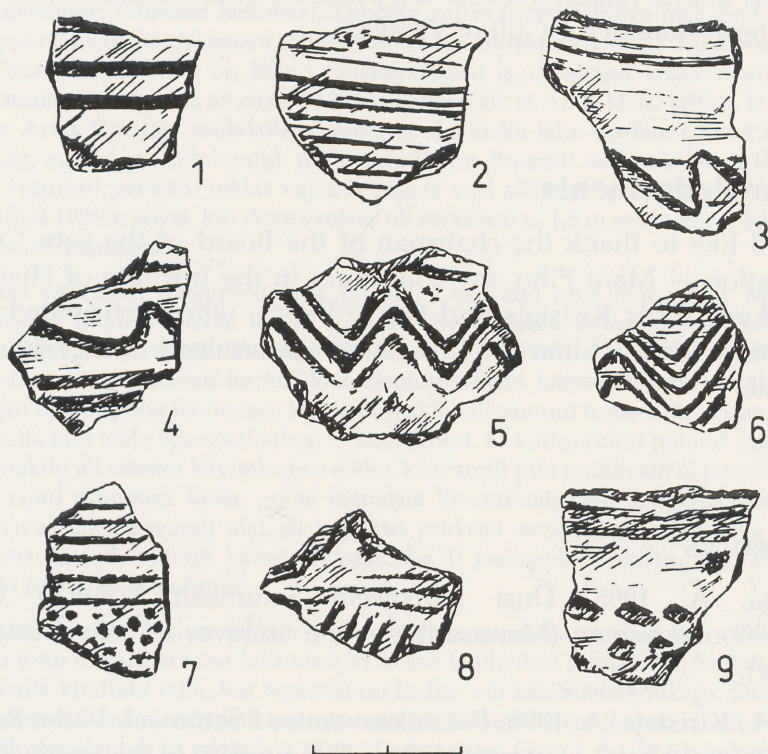


Fig. 3. Ornamented wheel pottery from Väike-Rõsna (AI 6110: 252, 225, 110, 157, 170, 143, 252, 128, 124).

Other finds were few, including two fragments of spinning—whorls (AI 6110: 106), glass beads (AI 6110: 142, 196), two fragments of polishing stones and a small bronze hook (AI 6110: 116). Fragments of clay filling and some lumps of slag were also found. A butt end of an iron axe (6110: 257) was found in the sand near the second pit. In the same pit, flint and quartz flakes occurred. This group of finds bears quite a different impression, and evidently belongs to a different time period (determined by K. Jaanits).

The bone finds were few in the excavated area. They were mostly small burned fragments of bones. Some unburned bone fragments could be earlier than the rest, according to the osteologist Liina Maldre (Maldre 1996, 1—2).

As the result of the rescue excavations, it appears that in the excavated area of the Väike-Rõsna II settlement site, the cultural layer has not been preserved. The find material consists mostly of pottery, belonging to the end of prehistoric period and the Middle Ages. The hand-moulded pottery, including striated and textile-impressed pottery, but also the flint and quartz flakes, indicate the presence of an earlier settlement on the eastern shore of the Gulf of Värska.

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PÄASTEKAEVAMISED SETUMAAL, VÄIKE-RÕSNA II MUINASASULAKOHAL

Heidi LUIK

Päästekaevamised toimusid Setumaal, Lobotka vallas (praegu Põlva maakond, Värska vald) Värska lahe idakaldal asuva Väike-Rõsna küla lõunaosas (joon.1). Küla põhjaosast, Väike-Rõsna I asulakohalt on leitud hiliskeskaegset ja uusaegset keraamikat. Väike-Rõsna II muistse asulakoha avastasid 1994.a. Heiki Valk ja Ali Kikkas. 1995.a. leidsid A. Kikkas ja Arvis Kiristaja asulakohast edela pool Värska lahe madalast veest rohkesti keraamikat, millest enamik kuulub muinasaja lõppu. Suurem osa leide saadi veest või vahetult veepiirilt, seetõttu tekkis vajadus päästa veel säilinud leiumaterjali. Võimalus selleks tekkis 1996.a. suvel, kui järve veetase oli tavalisest u. 1,5 m madalam ja leidudega ala oli jäänud liivarannale.

Rajati kaks kaevandit, kogupindalaga 171 m². I kaevand asus rannavallil. Mättakihi aluses heledas sõmeras liivas leidis rohkesti savinõukilde. Mingeid jälgi hoonetest, samuti suuremaid kive ega sõetükke ei leidunud. Tundub, et see ala on korduvalt üleujutatud, millele viitavad ka hallikad üleujutusviirud kaevandi kirdeprofiilis, ning kultuurkiht on vee poolt hävitatud. Heleda liivakihi all asunud tume halli-pruunisegune savika mulla kiht leide ega sõetükikesi ei sisaldanud. Et kultuurkihti polnud säilinud ja leiud mättakihi all otseses hävimisohus ei ole, kaevandit piki rannavalli ei laiendatud. II kaevand rajati esimesest loode poole madalale liivarannale, mis kõrgema veetaseme korral on vee all. Kaevandi alal oli tegemist rohkesti savinõukilde sisaldava heleda liivaga, mis sõeluti leidude kättesaamiseks. Ka II kaevandis ehitiste jälgi, kive ega suuremaid sõetükke ei leidunud.

Kaevamistel saadud leiumaterjalist moodustab enamiku keraamika. Pikaajalise veesoleku tõttu on suurem osa kildudest väikesed ja lihvitud pindadega. Seetõttu ei ole alati võimalik kindlaks teha, kas tegemist on kedra- või käsitsikeraamikaga. Siiski võib öelda, et suurema osa moodustab kedrakeraamika. Käsitsikeraamikat on ainult veidi üle 1,5%. Sealhulgas leidub ka tekstiil- ja riibitud keraamikat (joon.2, 1—3). Kedrakeraamika on osalt ornamendatud. Lihtsa joonornamendiga on ilustatud u. 15% savinõukildudest (joon.3, 1, 2), vähem esineb laineornamenti (joon.3, 3—6). Setumaalt varem leitud laineornamendiga keraamika on dateeritud 11.—13. sajandisse. Üksikud killud on kaunistatud väikestest lohukestest, kaldjoontest või täketest ornamendiga (joon.3, 7—9). Muud leiumaterjali saadi väga vähe. Mainida võib savist värtnakedra katkendeid, paari

klaasmassist helmest, kahte lihvimiskivi katkendit ja pronksist konksu või haaki. Leiti ka savitihendite katkendeid ja mõned šlakitükid. II kaevandi lähedalt rannaliivast saadi raudkirve kannaosas. II kaevandi alal esines tulekivi- ja kvartsikilde. Nende puhul on tegemist võrdlemisi eriiilmelise ja eriaegse materjaliga. Luid leidis kaevatud alal vähe, enamikus oli tegemist väikeste põlenud luufragmentidega. Mõned põletamata luutükid võivad olla ülejäänud luumaterjalist varasemad.

Päästekaevamiste tulemusena selgus, et Väike-Rõsna II muinasasulakoha läbikaevatud alal ei ole kultuurkiht säilinud. Saadud leiumaterjalist moodustab põhiosa muinasaja lõppu ja varakeskaega kuuluv keraamika. Leitud käsitsikeraamika, sealhulgas riibitud ja tekstiilkeraamika, ning tulekivi- ja kvartsikillud viitavad ka varasema asustuse olemasolule Värskla lahe idakaldal.