

# ARHEOLOOGILISED VÄLITÖÖD EESTIS

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD WORKS IN ESTONIA

1997

Koostanud ja toimetanud  
Ülle Tamla

Muinsuskaitseinspeksioon  
Tallinn 1997

TARTU ÜLIKOOI  
RAAMATUKOGU  
SUNDEKSEMPALAR

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Uus 18, Tallinn, EE-0001, Eesti  
Makett: Ivar Leimus

ISSN 1406-3972  
ISBN 9985-50-225-6

Trükitud AS Pakett trükikojas. T 151  
Laki 17, Tallinn

# FINDS FROM TWO ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONUMENTS— THE STONE GRAVE OF KODASEMA AND THE BURIAL GROUND OF KUHJAVERE

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At the end of 1997, finds from two archaeological monuments— the stone grave of Kodasema and the burial ground of Kuhjaveres— were brought to the Institute of History from the Central Board of Antiquities (see Kiristaja, Tvauri, Vindi, in the present collection, no 29 and 169; Fig. 1: 29, 169).

Among the finds, distorted by fire, fragments of bronze ornaments prevail. They were gathered in Harjumaa, Keila parish, on the territory of the former Hüüru estate in Kodasema village (AI 6316; Luik 1998).

## **Kodasema**

Fragment of a comb-shaped pendant (Fig. 1: 1). It was an ornament with two small horse figures facing each other in the openwork upper part. The short-toothed pendant is made of a thin bronze sheet, 0.2–0.3 cm thick, and decorated on both sides with dots and circles, and rows of notches forming zigzag lines. Formerly, about ten similar ornaments have been found in Estonia. Five of them are known from Savastvere, Kodavere parish (AI 3355: 70–74) and one from Pudivere, Põltsamaa parish (AI 4194: 5). Both complexes of stray finds consist overwhelmingly of finds from the 11<sup>th</sup>–13<sup>th</sup> centuries. Three pendants, two of them whole and one fragmented, came to light in the excavations of the stone grave of Maidla, containing mostly finds from the 11<sup>th</sup>–12<sup>th</sup> centuries (Mandel 1986, 359–360, Pl. IX: 8, 9). A few bronze comb pendants, decorated with horse figurines, have been found from Latvia, from the hill-fort of Asote and the cemetery of Laukskola. The first dates to the 12<sup>th</sup> century and the second to the second half of the same century. Both pendants probably belonged to Livonians (Шнопе 1961, 37–38, 123, Fig. 52; Голубева *et al* 1987, 256, Pl. VIII). In Finland, the only comb pendant

with horse figurines was found in the grave of Kalanti Kalmumäki, the latest finds from which are dated to the 11<sup>th</sup> century (Kivikoski 1973, 108, Fig. 789).

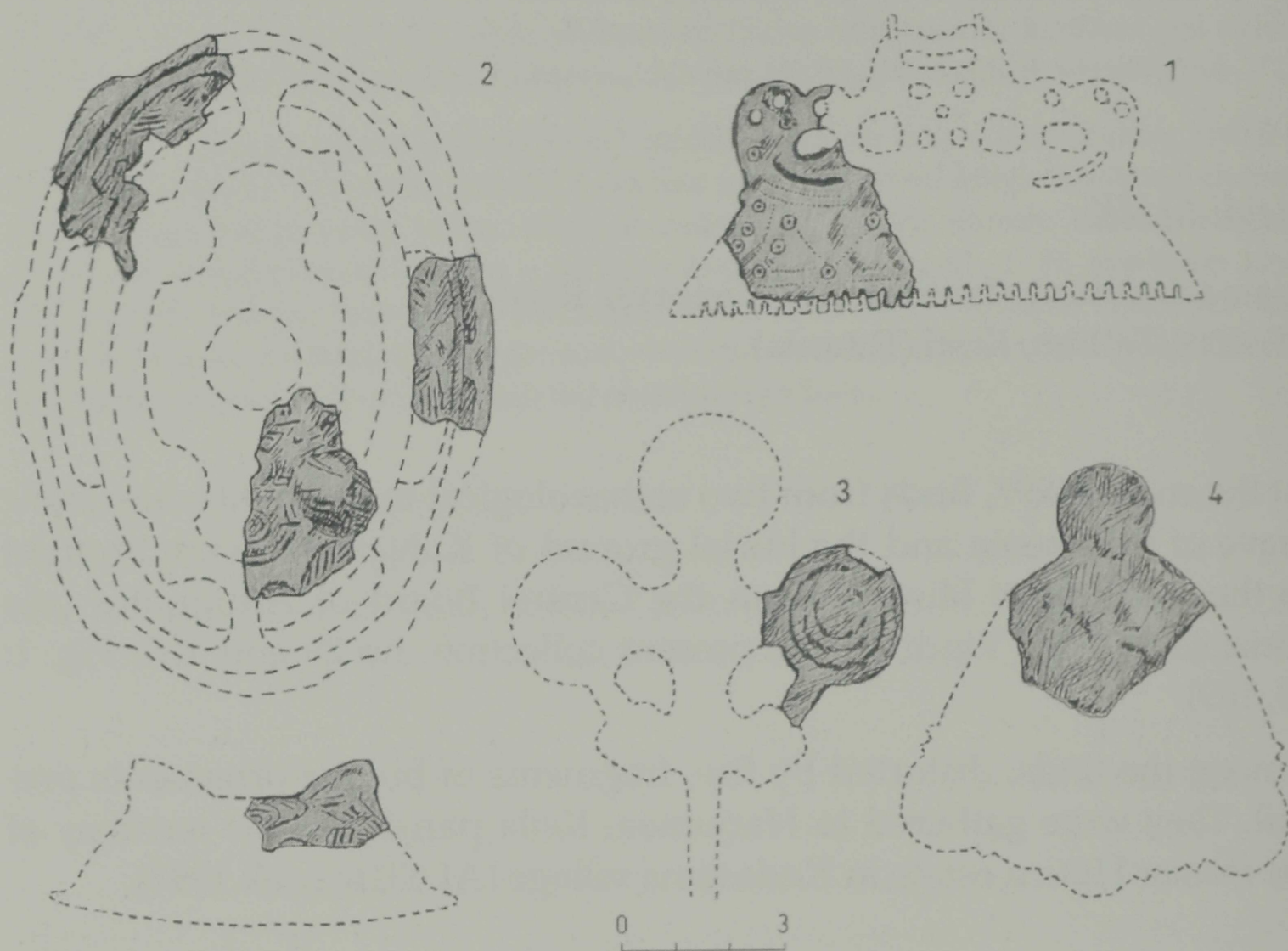


Figure 1. The Kudasema stone grave. Reconstructions of the bronze ornaments: 1– comb-shaped pendant, 2– oval, or tortoise brooch, 3– cross-headed pin, 4– chain-holder with disc-shaped extensions (AI 6316: 1–4.)

Three fragments of an oval, or tortoise, brooch (Fig. 1: 2). Probably the fragments belong to the same brooch, decorated with conical knobs and line ornaments. The biggest fragment has a catch for the pin at its back. The other two fragments come from the edge of the brooch (Fig. 1: 2). This type of ornament, widely spread in Sweden and Norway and probably originating from Scandinavia, is quite rare in Estonia. In addition to the brooch from Kudasema, at least four finds of oval brooches are known from Estonia. The brooches from Külitse (AI 1035) and the stone grave of Aseri, Viru-Nigula parish (RM 121/A5: 269) have parallels in Finland and Karelia. Two brooches, one of them from Karja parish (AI K 77: 2) and the other from an indeterminable site of discovery (AM 140: 1), belong to the types spread among Livonians (see Tallgren 1925, 709). Brooches similar to the one from Kudasema are most widely spread in Sweden. Montelius dated such brooches, belonging to the type P55, to the first half of the 11<sup>th</sup> century. Jan Petersen asserts that such ornaments were not introduced before the beginning of the 11<sup>th</sup> century.

According to Ingmar Jansson, who has discussed the oval brooches from Birka, they belong to the Late Birka period, i. e. the second half of the 9<sup>th</sup> century– last quarter of the 10<sup>th</sup> century (Jansson 1985, 87–91, 227, 229, Fig. 75–76). Brooches similar to the Kodasema one are known also from Latvia, from Livonian monuments (Nerman 1929, 133 ff. , Fig. 142–143). They have also been found from Trelleborg, Denmark (Jansson 1985, 228), Finland (Kivikoski 1973, 98, Pl. 80: 714), and from the Yaroslavl region in Russia (Фехнер 1963, Fig. 44: 4).

A fragment of a cross-headed pin (Fig. 1: 3) belongs to a pin with connected lower terminals. Compared with other cross-headed pins, such pins are less known. Marika Mägi asserts that such ornaments were introduced already at the end of the 10<sup>th</sup> century and were still used in the 11<sup>th</sup> century. Smaller and heavier pins are considered to be earlier, larger and thinner ones of later date (see Mägi 1997, 46 ff. , Fig. 16, 17, Pl. X: 7, XII). The fragment from Kodasema belongs to a rather large and thin pin and can probably be dated to the 11<sup>th</sup> century.

Two fragments of chain-holder(s) with disc-shaped extensions (Fig. 1: 4). Analogous ornaments occur in great numbers– more than 60– in stone graves of the 11<sup>th</sup>–12<sup>th</sup> centuries on Saaremaa. In mainland monuments they are less numerous. They occur often together with triangular-headed pins of saaremaa type (Kustin 1962, 70–71, Pl. X: 8, 9; Selirand 1974, 149–150, Pl. XXX: 2, Appendix 7, XXIV: 5b). The latter were dated by Mägi to the second half of the 10<sup>th</sup> century– beginning of the 12<sup>th</sup> century (Mägi 1997, 43–44, Fig. 179).

A saw-toothed bronze plaque. These plaques are rather numerous in Estonian finds, especially in the stone graves of Saaremaa and West Estonia (Valjala Rahu, Randvere, Madi, Haimre etc. ). Plaques can be made of bronze as well as of iron. In the Baltic countries, especially in Curonian and Livonian areas, such plaques spread only in the 11<sup>th</sup> century, on Saaremaa they were used at least until the beginning of the 13<sup>th</sup> century (Kustin 1962, 78, Pl. XI: 9; Selirand 1974, 131, Pl. XIX: 1, Appendix 7, XIX: 5d).

The spherical weight with two flat opposite sides is made of iron and covered with a bronze sheet. On one of the flat sides, a circle and notches can be seen. Weights have been found from stone graves on Estonian mainland as well as on Saaremaa. In the 10<sup>th</sup>–14<sup>th</sup> centuries they occur all over North and East Europe (Kustin 1962, 92, Pl. XI: 3; Selirand 1974, 99, Appendix 7, VI: 1; Kivikoski 1973, 111–112, Pl. 93: 824; Arbman 1940, Pl. 126–127).

The fragment of a narrow cast bracelet with tapering ends has a rectangular cross-section with rounded corners. Two pieces melted to the fragment may derive from the same bracelet. As the presence of ornamentation on the bracelet cannot be established, its type cannot be determined. As a rule, narrow cast bracelets occur in Estonia in the 11<sup>th</sup>–12<sup>th</sup> centuries (Selirand 1974, 165, 167; Ligi 1993, 72–73).

The angular plaque of thin bronze sheet with a badly oxidised surface and three melted bronze fragments cannot be dated. Two brass buttons belong to a later date and are not connected with the grave.

Relying upon the find material, Kodasema grave can be dated most likely to the 11<sup>th</sup>–12<sup>th</sup> centuries.

## Kuhjaverre

Three fragments of bronze ornaments and four coins (AI 6317) were found from a destroyed burial ground in Kuhjaverre village (Viljandi-maa, Suure-Jaani parish, former Aimla estate). Most likely it is the village cemetery known under the name of Kalmelohk, located in the field of Punase farm in Kuhjaverre village, about 1.5 km from Aimla estate towards Tääksi. According to information in the archives of the Institute of History, bones have been found occasionally (see Lavi 1980).

Two fragments of round brooches (Fig. 2: 1) derive from two ornaments with pins fastened to perforated bows. Both brooches of Kuhjaverre are broken and without pins. The bigger brooch belongs to the type of round brooches with an upward bent edge, which are usually decorated by punching. The ornamentation of the Kuhjaverre specimen—semicircles, circles grouped by three, rows of notches—is typical of such brooches. Kaalu Kirme dated these brooches to the 16<sup>th</sup>–17<sup>th</sup> centuries and considered Viljandi or Tartu as possible centres of their manufacturing (Kirme 1986, 47–48, Fig. 96). The other brooch has a narrower and flatter bow. Ornamentation, except the row of notches on the edge of the brooch, cannot be traced; the brooch bears on its surface traces of plain-woven cloth. Analogous brooches have been found from South Estonian village cemeteries of the 15<sup>th</sup>–17<sup>th</sup> centuries (see e. g. Ligi & Valk 1993, 192, Pl. LXXXII: 3; Ligi 1993, 68, Pl. XLI, XLII; Valk 1986, 391, Pl. XXXI: 2–5; Valk 1991, 382, Pl. XIII: 2, 5, 7, 8; Соколовский 1990, Pl. IX: 4, 5).

The leaden pendant (Fig. 2: 2) is decorated with an eight-petal flower in the middle and a zigzag line on the edge. A similar leaden pendant was found from the Makita village cemetery of the 13<sup>th</sup>–17<sup>th</sup> centuries (Ligi & Valk 1993, 191, 195, Pl. LXXIX: 9; Валк 1988, 364). Flower motif occurs

also on some pendants from Novgorod, dated to the 13<sup>th</sup>–14<sup>th</sup> centuries (Седова 1981, 41, Fig. 14: 9, 12).

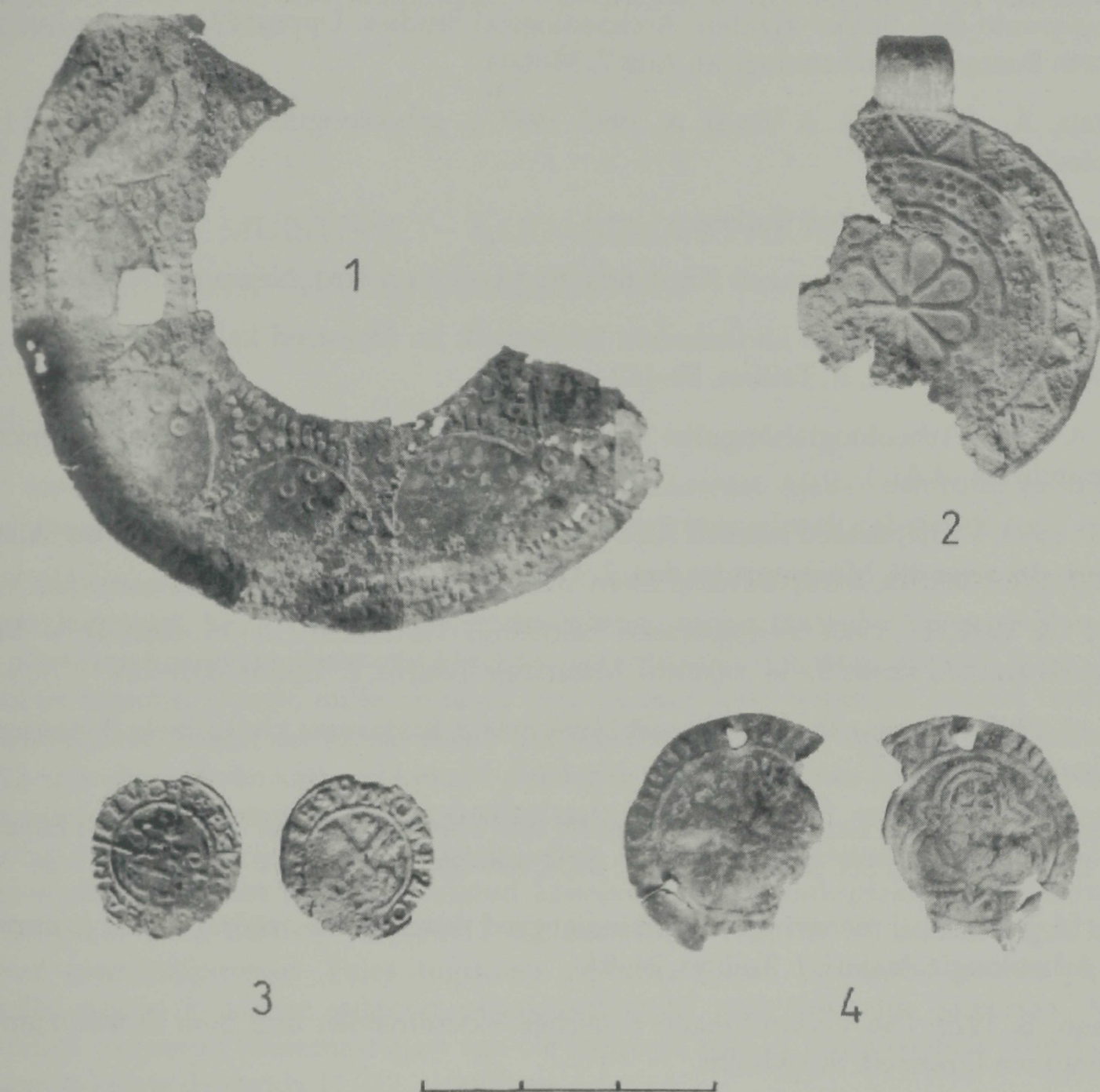


Fig. 2. Finds from the Kuhjavere burial ground: 1– round brooch, 2– pendant, 3– 4– coins (AI 6317: 1,3,5,7).

The four coins, two of silver and two of copper, belong to the 16<sup>th</sup>–17<sup>th</sup> centuries. The earlier of the silver coins is a Brüggeni (1535–1549) shilling of the Livonian Order, coined in Riga in 1539, and the later one (Fig. 2: 4), a shilling of Swedish Erik XIV (1560–1568), coined in Tallinn in 1562. The big strongly oxidised copper coin is a Swedish ¼ öre from the 17<sup>th</sup> century. The smaller, thin copper coin is probably a jeton of Nuremberg from the 16<sup>th</sup> century, which has been used as a pendant (Fig. 2: 4). (The coins were attributed by the numismatist of the Institute of History Mauri Kiudsoo).

Relying upon the find material, the Kuhjavere burial ground was in use mainly in the 16<sup>th</sup>–17<sup>th</sup> centuries.

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## LEIUD KAHELT MUISTISELT– KODASEMA KIVIKALMELT JA KUHJAVERE MAA–ALUSELT KALMISTULT

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1997. aasta lõpul toodi Riigi muinsuskaitseinspeksioonist Ajaloo Instituuti juhuleiud kahelt muistiselt– Kodasema kivikalmelt ja Kuhjaveri maa–aluselt kalmistult.

Tules deformeerunud leiud, millest enamiku moodustavad pronksehtete fragmendid, korjati Harjumaal, Keila kihelkonnas, endise Hüüru mõisa maal, Kodasema külas asuvalt põletusmatustega kivikalmelt (AI 6316). Kammikujulise ripatsi katkendi (joon. 1: 1) puhul on tegemist ehtega, mille ažuurses ülaosas asub kaks teineteise suunas vaatavat hobusekujukest. Eestist on varem leitud kümme konn–sõlest (joon. 1: 2) on kaunis–tatud joonornamendiga. Rootsis on sarnased sõled dateeritud 10. või 11. sajandisse. Katkendid ristpeaga rinnanõelast (joon. 1: 3), kettakujuliste laienditega keekandja(te)st (joon. 1: 4), saehambulise naastust ja kitsast valatud käevõrust ning pronksplekiga kaetud rauast kaaluvihht kuuluvad Eestis peamiselt 11.–12. sajandil ja osalt ka 13. sajandi algul laialt levinud esemetüüpidesse. Tules tugevasti deformeerunud õhukesest pronks–plekist nurgelist naastu ja kolme sulanud pronksikatkendit pole võimalik dateerida. Kaks vasknööpi pärinevad hilisemast ajast ega ole kalmega seotud. Leiutamaterjali põhjal võib Kodasema kalme dateerida 11.–12. sajandisse.

Viljandimaal, Suure–Jaani kihelkonnas, endise Aimla mõisa maal, Kuhjaveri külas asunud maa–aluse kalmistu alalt leiti kolm pronksehte katkendit ja neli münti (AI 6317). Kaks läbistatud kaarele kinnituva nõelaga rõngassõlge on katkised ja nõelteta. Suurem sõlg (joon. 2: 1) kuulub üleskeeratud servaga puntsitehnikas kaunistatud rõngassõlgede hulka, mis on dateeritud 16.–17. sajandisse. Teine sõlg on kitsama kaarega ja lamedam. Analoogeteid sõlgi on leitud Lõuna–Eesti 15.–17. sajandi külakalmistutelt. Tinaripats (joon. 2: 2) on kaunistatud kaheksaharulise õiemotiiviga ja servas siksakjoonega. Neli münti, millest kaks on hõbedast ja kaks vasest, kuuluvad 16.–17. sajandisse (joon. 2: 3–4). Leiutamaterjali põhjal maeti Kuhjaveri kalmistule arvatavalt 16.–17. sajandil.