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VÄLITÖÖD
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ARCHAEOLOGICAL
FIELD WORKS
IN ESTONIA

1997

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NEW ARCHAEOLOGICAL DATA OF THE PREHISTORY OF LAKE KAHALA AREA

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Archaeological fieldwork was continued in the surroundings of Lake Kahala (Kuusalu parish, Harjumaa) in 1997 (previous investigations in the Lake Kahala area cf. Vedru 1996; Vedru 1997).

Inventories

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

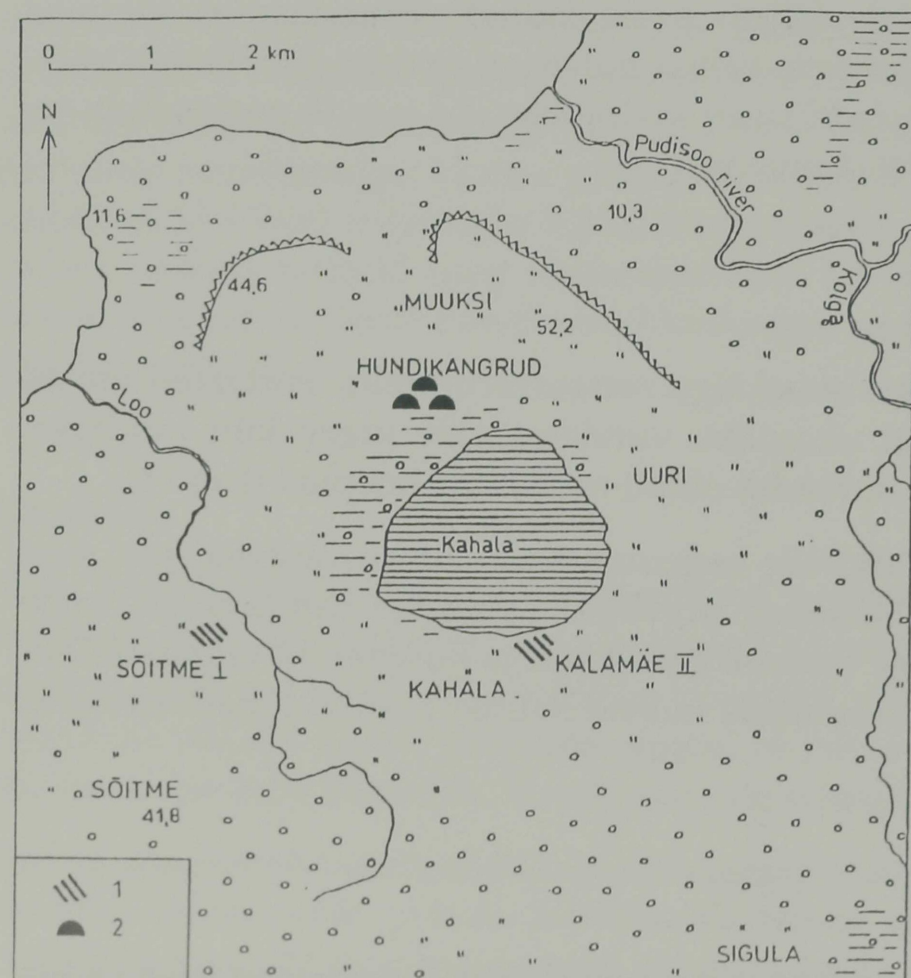


Fig. 1. Sites in the surroundings of Lake Kahala inventoried and excavated in 1997. 1 – settlement sites, 2 – graves.

A Stone Age settlement site was found on the land of Reimiku farm in Sõitme village. The settlement site is situated directly on the western side of the Sõitme village road and ca 250 metres west of the Loo river. A number of quartz pieces with traces of working and a few bigger quartz artefacts were gathered (AI 6191).

The second prehistoric settlement site was discovered in Kalamäe village in the field of Leedikõrve co-operative society (Fig. 1). This settlement site is situated ca 50 metres south of the shore of Lake Kahala

and ca 100 meters north from the old Tallinn-Narva road. Numerous potsherds belonging to the end of I-st millennium BC and the first half of the I-st millennium AD were found (AI 6192).

Archaeological excavations

The excavations of the stone-cist grave no 5 of *Hundikangrud* group (Fig. 2) were continued in 1997.

Grave constructions and burials

Altogether four stone-cists, surrounded by an exterior stone circle were discovered in the grave (Fig. 2). All cists had the same NNE-SSW orientation and were erected in a similar fashion. The irregular stone circle was built of limestones only. Elongated or square-shaped stones of the circle's wall (measuring ca 45 x 23 x 4 cm) were bigger than the other stones of the grave and had quite straight outer sides. A group of up-

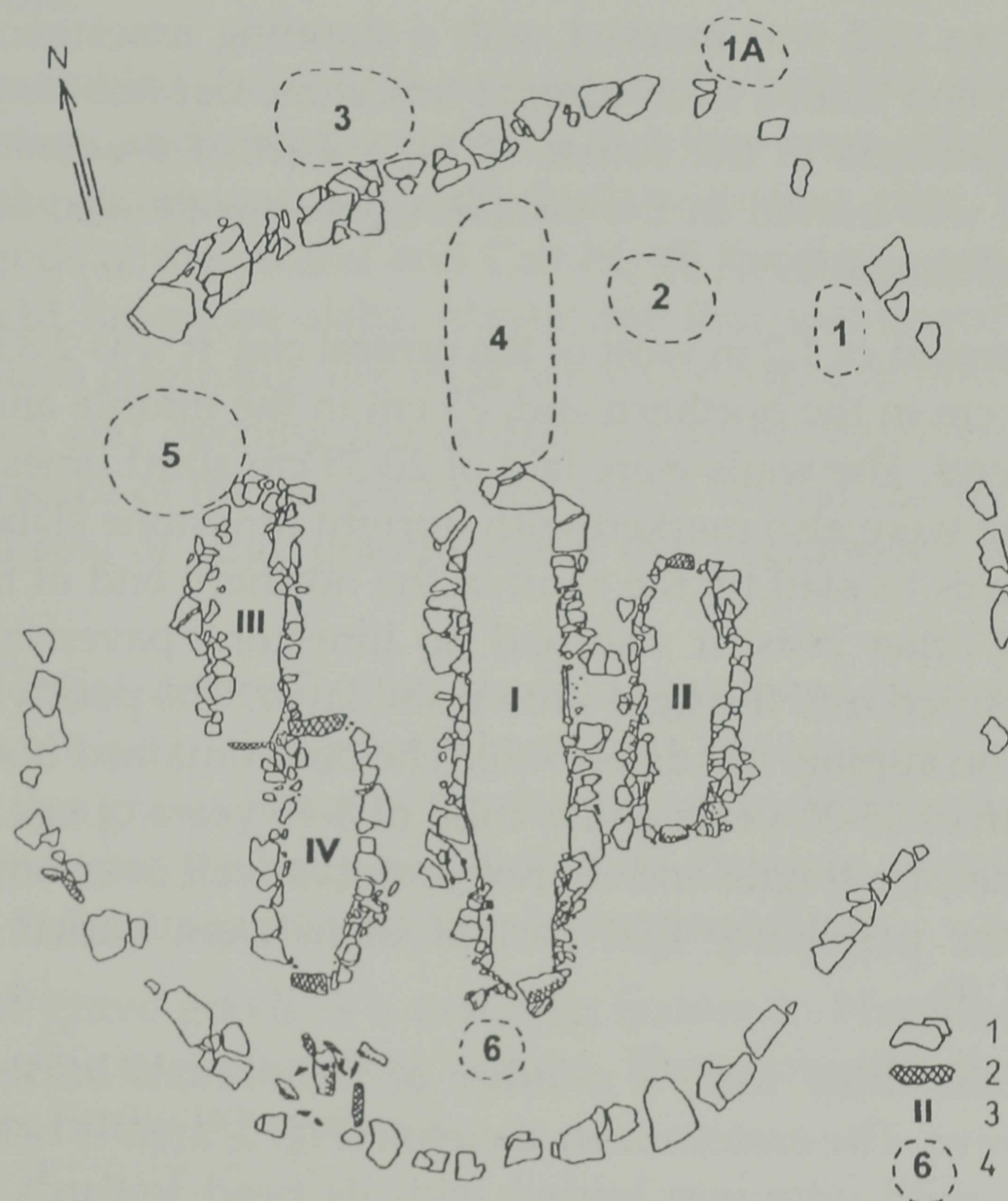


Fig. 2. Excavations on the stone-cist grave no 5 of *Hundikangrud* group in 1997.

right limestone slabs were located in the south-western part of the stone-circle. The soil between the slabs was enriched with charcoal and contained few fragments of bone.

The human bones of the grave were determined by anthropologist Jonathan Kalman (1997).

Cist II lay ca 0.8 m east of the central cist and was covered with three large limestone slabs. The cist was 2.4 m long, its width was 35 cm in the northern and southern ends and 1.0 m in the middle. The cist's walls were erected of limestones and both ends were marked with large standing limestone slabs. The biggest slab and a skull was in the northern end of the cist. The skeleton was buried supine into the natural bottom layer of soil. According to paleoanthropological determination, the skeleton belonged to a young man aged about 20-25 years. This cist also contained dog's teeth by the side of the left knee of the skeleton - the only registered grave good in this grave.

Cist III was situated ca 1.7 m west from the central cist. This cist was 2.1 m long, its width was 50 cm in the northern and southern ends and 45 cm in its middle part. Its walls were also made of horizontal limestones and its southern end was marked with a standing limestone slab. The cist's northern end lacked such upright limestone but one may presume that it was destroyed in the course of time. Part of a woman of more than 45 years was buried in the cist. Her bones were also found from areas 3 and 5 (Kalman 1997, 3).

Cist IV was located ca 1.2 m west of the central cist. It was 2.3 m long, its width was 45 cm in the northern end, 73 cm in the middle and 50 cm in the southern end. The walls were laid of 20-35 cm sized limestones. The ends of the cist were also marked with upright limestone slabs. The biggest of them was located by the skull in the northern end of the cist. As in the case of other cists, it also had no limestone pavement, the deceased were buried into the light brown soil layer. The poorly preserved skeletons lay on supine, hands on side. The cist contained bones of two persons: a man of 25-35 years and a child of 8-10 years of age. Although childrens' bones are fragile and do not preserve well over time, one can not exclude the possibility that part of them were buried elsewhere (Kalman 1997, 3).

Besides the cists there were a number of individuals buried into the heap of the grave. The easternmost skeleton (Fig. 2, area 1) belonged to a 2-3 years old child who was buried with its head towards the north. Most of its bones were placed into a small pit and were covered with

middle-sized limestones. Some of the missing bones were found outside the stone circle, from area 1a (Kalman 1997, 3). The next group of human bones (Fig. 2, area 2) contained a 3-4 year old child, and a 12-13 year adolescent bones (Kalman 1997, 3). Ca one metre west of them a third burial was found (Fig. 2, area 4). This body was also buried on the stones, disorderly lying bones were found from an area measuring ca 1 x 2 metres. The skeleton belonged to a 20-24 years old woman who was probably buried into area 3 outside the stone-circle initially (Kalman 1997, 4). A few metres WNW of the central cist, a larger amount of scattered human bones came to light (Fig. 2, area 5). Besides the bones of the woman buried into Cist III, bones of at least two individuals were found. Some of them belonged to a 12-13 years old adolescent, maybe to the one whose bones had been found from area 2. Also a 7 years old child was buried into the same area (Kalman 1997, 4). Near the southern end of the central cist (Fig. 2, area 6), some bones of a 3-5 year old child were found. Their belonging to one of the children in areas 1 or 2 has been suggested (Kalman 1997, 4).

Conclusions

All cists resembled the central cist both in the building technique and in the orientation, and one may suppose that they were erected in the same time, i.e. the grave was originally built with four cists. Except for the northern ends of the central and Cist III, all the cist's ends were marked with upright limestone slabs. Maybe the first mentioned cist had two standing slabs originally, but these were destroyed in the course of burials to area 5 and opening the central cist by the baltic-german in 1925. The importance of the people buried in the central cist was emphasised by an oval row of large granite stones that surrounded the cist (Vedru 1997, 65).

Anthropological determination showed that there were a minimum of 11 persons buried to the grave. The custom of secondary burials is quite evident in this grave. Some of the dead were buried in one place at first and reburied after the body had defleshed. In some cases the first burial was made to the area outside the exterior stone circle.

The lack of grave goods is a common feature in Hundikangrud group and can not be used as dating criteria. Three samples of charcoal were gathered for future ¹⁴C analyses.

These revision excavations showed that a lot of new information can be gathered from a partly excavated grave.

The archaeological investigations in the Lake Kahala area will be continued in 1998.

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UUSI ANDMEID KAHALA JÄRVE ÜMBRUSKONNA MUINASAJAST

Gurly VEDRU

1997. aastal jätkusid arheoloogilised uurimised Kahala järve ümbruskonnas. Muististe inspekteerimisel avastati kaks uut asulakohta: Sõitme I kuulub mesoliitikumi ning Kalamäe II I a.t. lõppu e.m.a. ning I a.t. algusesse m.a.j. (joon. 1).

Jätkusid Hundikangrute-nimelises rühmas asuva kivikirstkalme nr. 5 arheoloogilised kaevamised. Selgus, et lisaks kesksele kirstule oli kalmes veel kolm kirstu, mis oma suunalt ning ehituslaadilt olid sellega täiesti sarnased (joon. 2). Kõikide kirstude seinad olid horisontaalselt laotud paekividest, kividega sillutatud kirstupõhi puudus, s.t. surnud olid maetud looduslikule põhjarähale. Peale keskse kirstu ning III kirstu põhjaotsade olid kõikide kirstude otstes suured püstised paeplaadid.

Luid määranud J.Kalmani andmetel oli kalmesse maetud vähemalt 11 inimest. Lisaks kirstudele oli maetud ka kalmekuhjatisse. Mitmel juhul on luude leiukohtade põhjal oletatud sekundaarset matmist. Ainsaks panuseks oli III kirstus olnud üksik koerahammas.