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RESCUE EXCAVATIONS ON KAUBI VILLAGE CEMETERY AND SUPERVISION IN THE CHURCHYARDS OF KAMBJA AND NÕO

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KAUBI VILLAGE CEMETERY

Kaubi village cemetery was located in present-day Viljandi district, Halliste parish, Kulla village. According to the historic administrative division the cemetery is situated in Halliste parish, Kaubi village, in the area of the Raudsepa sandpit. This sandpit was established during the Soviet era; but it was out of use for years until the reconstruction of the Halliste-Abja road in 1998. The sandpit was taken into use and most of the sand was carried away to form the causeway before bones were noticed and the Board of Antiquities was informed. Rescue excavations were carried out by OÜ Arheoloogiateenistus Ltd. and financed by the Viljandi Board of Communications (Viljandi Teedevalitsus). During the excavations it became obvious that most of the cemetery had been destroyed and only the eastern margin of the cemetery could be investigated. The existence of a cemetery was present in local folklore, but its exact site was unknown before the discovery of bones by road reconstruction workers.

From the investigated area of 150 m², 90 wholly or partially preserved skeletons were found. The depth of graves was up to 70 cm; the dead were mainly headed towards the west, sometimes also to the north-west. At least some of the dead were buried in wooden coffins, since remnants of wood and nails from the coffins were found. Only one man was lying on his side, his legs were flexed and

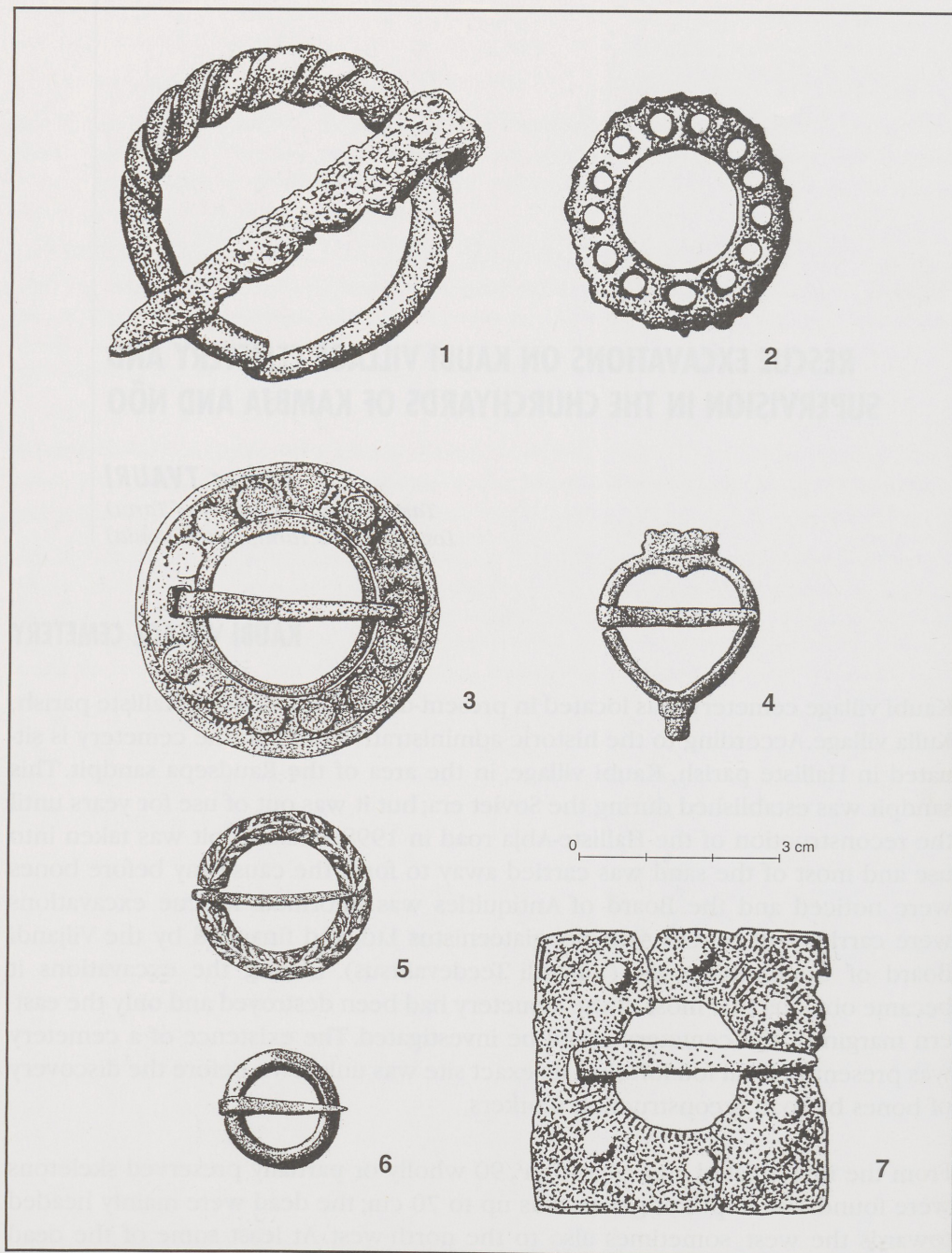


Fig. 1 1–7. Brooches from Kaubi village cemetery.
(TÜ 700: 119, 69, 57a, 59, 160, 148, 143.)

Joon. 1. Sõlgi Kaubi külakalmistult.

arms was extended. His head was directed to the east, his face was turned to the north. There were five common graves, with no more than four people per grave. Once there were two corpses laid into one coffin.

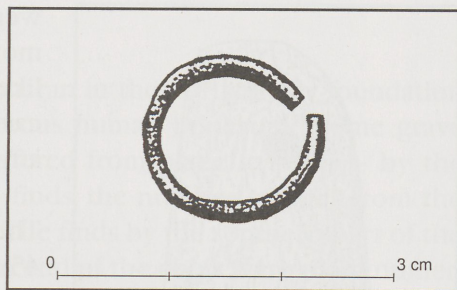


Fig. 2. Earring from Kaubi village cemetery. (TÜ 700: 83.)

Joon. 2. Kõrvarõngas Kaubi küllakalmistult.

Anthropologist Ken Kalling determined the sex and age of the buried from the skeletons. According to his estimation, the men and women buried in the cemetery were approximately of the same stature, which is quite rare. The bones had preserved badly, so in many cases it was impossible to determine the sex of the buried. By means of bones or grave goods, the sex of only 38 people could be determined: there were 24 women and 14 men. The proportion of men is smaller than expected, but many badly preserved skeletons without decorations could have been masculine. The approximate age of the buried could be determined in 55 cases. Three skeletons were younger than one year, 16 were aged 1 to 12, 10 were aged 12-20, 19 persons were 20-50 and seven

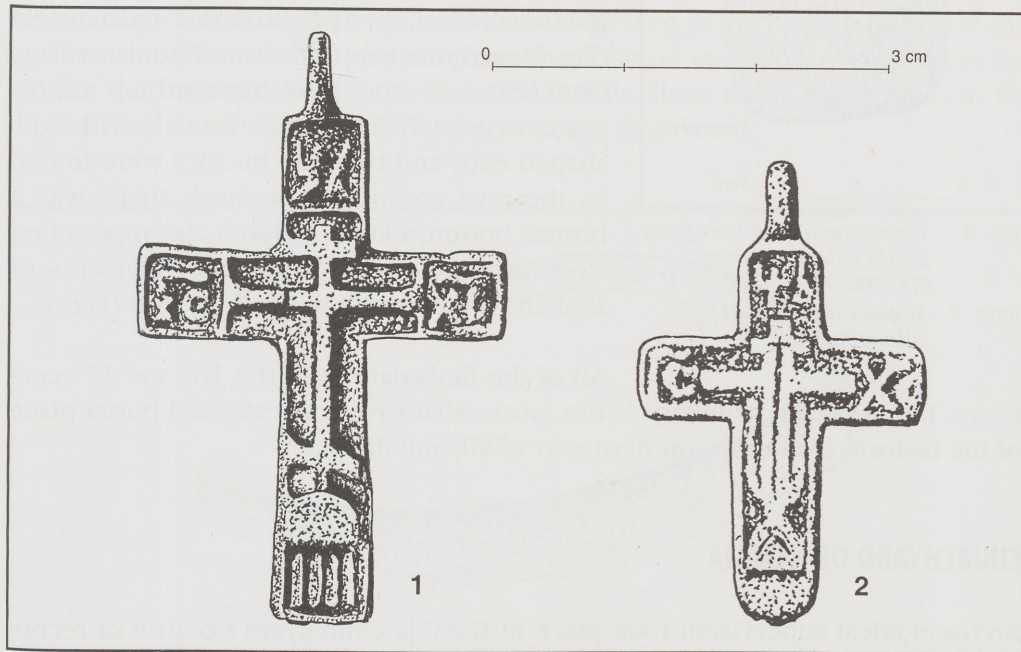


Fig. 3. Cross-shaped pendants from Kaubi village cemetery. (TÜ 700: 83.)

Joon. 3. Ripatsristid Kaubi küllakalmistult.

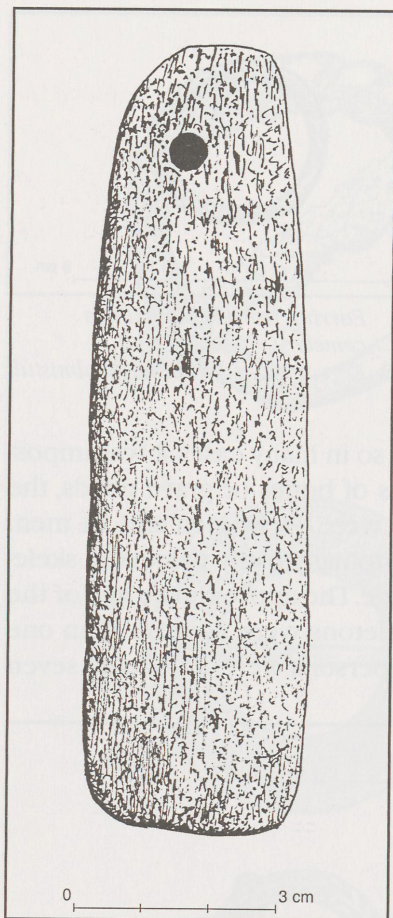


Fig. 4. Whetstone with a hole from Kaubi village cemetery. (TÜ 700:74.)

Joon. 4. Auguga luisk Kaubi külakalmistult.

were older than 50 years old. Surely there were more infants buried, but their fragile bones have likely completely decomposed. Some of the casual finds that could not be connected with any burial might belong to the infant burials.

There were 160 finds altogether. Of the buried, 45 had decorations or clothing accessories; coffin nails were also found. The most common decorations were brooches (Fig. 1); one of them were made of silver. Rings, parts of necklaces (beads, cowry-shells, and pendants), buckles and buttons were also found. Knives worn on the belt can also be considered to belong to the clothing. Among the grave goods most common were coins; one needle was also found. More interesting finds were three earrings made of bronze and silver wire; their diameter was about 1,5 cm (Fig. 2). In two cases the person wearing the ring had been female and once male. Also the two cross-shaped pendants of Russian origin (Fig. 3) are quite rare finds from Estonian village cemeteries. By the man hunched up in his grave, a penannular bronze brooch with roll-shaped ends and two iron buckles were found. In the area around his stomach there was a bronze button, a knife, a Dutch clay pipe, a fire-steel with roll-shaped ends, two fragments of flint and a whetstone with a hole in it (Fig. 4).

All of the finds date from the 16th and 17th centuries. Kaubi village cemetery is the most exhaustively investigated burial place of the historic era in the southern part of Viljandi district.

CHURCHYARD OF KAMBJA

Archaeological supervision took place in Kambja churchyard because of reconstruction works of the church. In connection with waterproofing the foundation, a 1-m-wide and 90 cm deep ditch was dug near the foundation of the 19th centu-

ry extension of the church.

The whole ditch, dug during this supervision, ran in the 19th century foundation pit, filled with reddish clay and soil. Numerous human bones and some grave goods were found. The number of finds differed from place to place – by the southern wall of the church there were no finds, the number of finds from the northern side of the church was quite small. The finds by the southern part of the eastern wall of the church and by the eastern end of the choir were more numerous.

In only one place by the eastern wall of the choir a few square metres of untouched churchyard layer was discovered; this was found in the lowest part of the excavation. A skeleton was found from this part and its upper part, until the pelvic bones, were uncovered. Its legs remained in the eastern profile of the excavation. The head of the buried lay 78 cm below the level of the socle of the church. Its head was directed towards the north-west, its hands were crossed on its chest. A bronze buckle (TÜ 709: 21) was found above backbone at the level of the chest. There were two Russian copper coins (*dengas*) below its right shoulder blade. This burial dates from the 18th century.

25 cm north from this skeleton, a skull could be seen in the eastern profile of the excavation. Within one meter south from the skeleton, two skulls were seen in the profile that might belong to undisturbed burials. Since there was no reason for broadening the ditch, these skeletons were not uncovered.

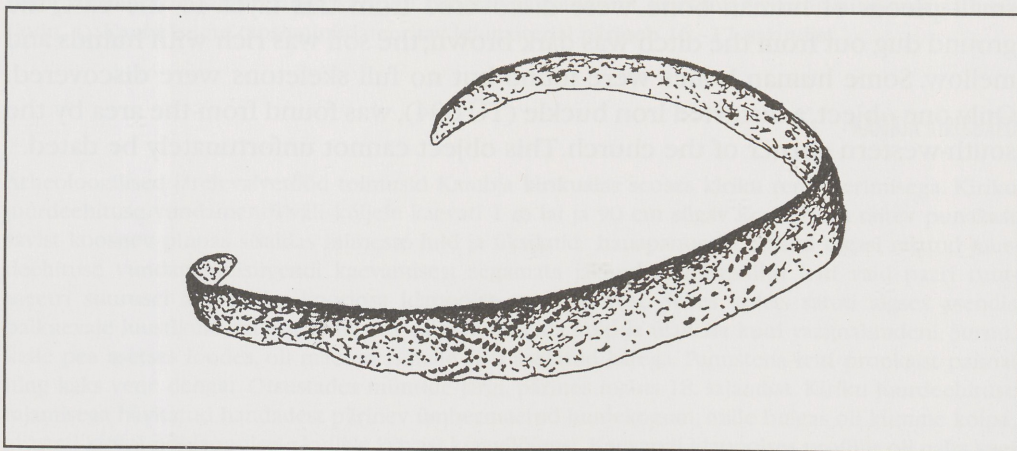


Fig. 5. Armring from Kambja churchyard. (TÜ 709: 31.)

Joon. 5. Käevõru Kambja kirikuaiaist.

On the northern side of the church, under the easternmost window of the extension, a set of bones was found. These seem to have been uncovered during construction of the extension and then buried here. Ten whole skulls were uncovered in addition to many other bones. The set of bones continued below the bottom of the ditch.

Altogether 32 objects were found. The earliest of them were a bronze bracelet (Fig. 5), a fragment of a bronze spiral used as a decoration for the clothing and a coin issued in Visby, dating from 1340–1400. The coin has a hole in it and seems to have been used as a pendant. These findings show that the churchyard of Kambja was used as a burial ground as early as in the 13th century.

THE CHURCHYARD OF NÕO

In order to install a telephone into the church, a ditch for telephone cable was dug through the churchyard under protection. The ditch was 40–50 cm deep and 30 cm wide. It began on the eastern side of the church, from the centre of the wall of the vestry, and it ran to the east by the wall. The ditch continued in this direction to the outer wall of the churchyard and passed underneath the wall. After that, the ditch turned to the south, continuing by the wall until the road.

The ditch did not reach the layer of burials in the churchyard. The ground dug out by the side of the church consisted of construction debris that had fallen to the ground – there were pieces of roof-tiles, mortar, bricks and plaster. Only a few small pieces of human bone were discovered from this layer. To the east, the ground dug out from the ditch was dark brown, the soil was rich with humus and mellow. Some human bones were found but no full skeletons were discovered. Only one object, a distorted iron buckle (TÜ 694), was found from the area by the south-western corner of the church. This object cannot unfortunately be dated.

PÄÄSTEAEVAMISED KAUBI KÜLAKALMISTUL JA JÄRELEVALVETÖÖD KAMBJA NING NÕO KIRIKUAIAS

Andres TVAURI

KAUBI KÜLAKALMISTU

Kaubi külakalme asus Viljandi maakonnas, Halliste vallas, Kulla külas, Raudsepa liivakarjääri alal. Päästekaevamistega selgitati, et valdav osa kalmistust oli liivavõtuga hävitatud. Uurimistööd sai 1998. aastal teha veel üksnes kalmistu idaservas, u. 150 m² suurusel alal. Seal leiti 90 terviklikult või osaliselt säilinud luustikku. Surnud olid maetud kuni 70 cm sügavustesse haudadesse, pea läänes, mõnel juhul ka loodes. Erandlik oli matus, kus mees oli asetatud hauda külili, jalad konksus, üks käsi ette sirutatud. Surnu pea asus idas, nägu põhja suunas. Ühishaudu täheldati viiel juhul. Kõige rohkem oli ühekorraga maetud neli inimest. Ühel juhul oli kaks surnut sängitatud samas kirstus.

Antropoloog Ken Kallingu määrangu järgi on Kaubi külakalmesse maetud mehed ja naised olnud enam-vähem ühepikkused. Seda võib pidada harvaesinevaks nähtuseks. Kolmekümne kaheksast täpsemini määratud luustikust olid 24 naised ja 14 mehed. Maetute ligikaudne vanus õnnestus määrata 55 juhul: kuni ühe aasta vanuseid oli kolm, 1–12 aastaseid kuusteist, 12–20 aastaseid kümme, 20–50 aastaseid üheksateist ja üle 50 aastaseid seitse. Võib vaid oletada, et imikuid pidi olema maetute hulgas oluliselt rohkem, kuid nende luid polnud säilinud. Pole välistatud, et osa juhuleide, mida ei saanud seostada konkreetsete matustega, kuulusidki imikuhaudade juurde.

Kaubi külakalme kaevamistel saadi 160 esemeleidu. Ehteid ja/või riietuse juurde kuulunud esemeid täheldati 45 matuse juures. Tavalisemaks olid sõled (joon. 1), nende hulgas ka üks hõbedast valmistatud ehe. Veel leiti sõrmuseid, kaelakeedena kantud helmeid, kaurikarpe, ripatseid ja ripatsmünste, samuti pandlaid, nõöpe ning riidehaak. Rõivastuse juurde kuulusid vööil kantud noad. Mitmel juhul oli surnule kaasa pandud münste. Ühe matuse juurest leiti õmblusnõel. Huvitavamateks leidudeks olid kahe naise- ja ühe mehematuse juures avastatud pronks- ja hõbetraadist kõrvarõngad (joon. 2). Haruldasemate leidudena Eesti külakalmetest tuleb mainida veel kahte vene päritoluga ristripatsit (joon. 3). Kāgaras maetud mehe hauapanusteks olid rullotstega pronksist hoburaudsõlg ning kaks raudpannalt, pronksnõõp, nuga, savipiip, rullotstega tulusraud, kaks tulekivikildu ning auguga luisk (joon. 4). Kaubi kalme täpsemini dateeritav leiumaterjal pärineb 16.–17. sajandist.

KAMBJA KIRIKUAE

Arheoloogilised järelvalvetööd toimusid Kambja kirikuaias seoses kiriku renoveerimisega. Kiriku juurdeehituse vundamendi välisküljele kaevati 1 m lai ja 90 cm sügav kraav, mida täitev punakast savist koosnev pinnas sisaldas inimeste luid ja üksikuid hauapanuseid. Sajand tagasi rajatud juurdeehituse vundamendisüvendi kaevamisest segamata jäänud kalmistukihti leiti vaid paari ruutmeetri suurusel alal kiriku kooriosa idapoolse seina juurest. Selles kohas satuti algses asendis paiknevale luustikule, millest õnnestus välja puhastada kolp ja ülakeha kuni vaagnaluudeni. Surnu, kelle pea asetses loodes, oli maetud rinnale risti asetatud kätega. Panustena leiti pronksist pannal ning kaks vene dengat. Otsustades müntide järgi, pärines matus 18. sajandist. Kiriku juurdeehituse rajamisega hävitatud haudadest pärinev ümbermaetud luudekogum, mille hulgas oli kümme kolpa, avastati kiriku põhjapoolsele küljele jäävast kraavilõigust. Kaevandi idapoolses profiilis oli näha veel mitut kolpa, kuid need kuulusid lõhkumata matustele.

Kaevamistel leiti ühtekokku kolmkümmend kaks eset. Neist vanemad on pronksist käevõru (joon. 5), pronksspiraali katkend ja aastatel 1340–1400 Visbys vermitud münt, mida on kasutatud ripatsina. Leiud näitavad, et Kambja kirikuaeda on hakatud matmiseks kasutama juba 13. sajandil.

NÕO KIRIKUAED

Nõo kiriku juurde kaevati 40–50 cm sügav ja kuni 30 cm laiune kaablikraav läbi kaitsealuse kiriku-aia. Kraav algas kiriku idaküljelt, käärkambri idaseina keskkohast ja siirdudes piki kiriku seina idasihis. Sealt edasi kulges kraav kuni kirikuaia müürini. Minnes müüri alt läbi, suundus kraav lõunasse nii, et ta kulges piki müüri välisäärt kuni maanteeeni. Kraavi sügavus ei ulatunud Nõo kirikuaia matusekihini. Käärkambri seinast kuni kiriku kirdenurgani koosnes läbikaevatud pinnas hilisest ehitusprahist. Sellest kraavilõigust leiti vaid üksikuid väiksemaid inimluude tükke. Ülejäänud kraavi-osas koosnes pinnas tumepruunist huumusrikkast mullast ja sisaldas rohkesti luid. Ühtegi tervet luustikku ei leitud. Kaevamistel saadi vaid üks ese. See, deformeerunud raudpannal, mida pole võimalik dateerida, leiti kiriku kagunurga piirkonnast.