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Tagakaas: kaelavõru fragment Harjumaalt Harmi kalmest
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ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS IN LATE PREHISTORIC – EARLY MEDIEVAL VILJANDI AND IN PILISTVERE CHURCHYARD

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In 1999, the first archaeological excavations were carried out in the cultural layer of prehistoric Viljandi. The excavations were financed by Viljandi Town Government, partly also by Bank of Sweden Tercentenary Foundation in the frameworks of the Culture Clash or Compromise – Europeanisation of the Baltic Sea Region 1100–1400 project. The excavation results are published also in Estonian (Valk 2000). The investigations took place outside the medieval town, on the high bank of the valley of Viljandi Lake, 100–150 m south of the ruins of the convent house of the Livonian Order Castle (Figs. 1 and 2), in a hummocky area



Fig. 1. Investigation area between the Castle Ruins and Valuoja Stream in Viljandi.
Joon. 1. Uurimispiirkond Lossimägede ja Valuoja oru vabel.

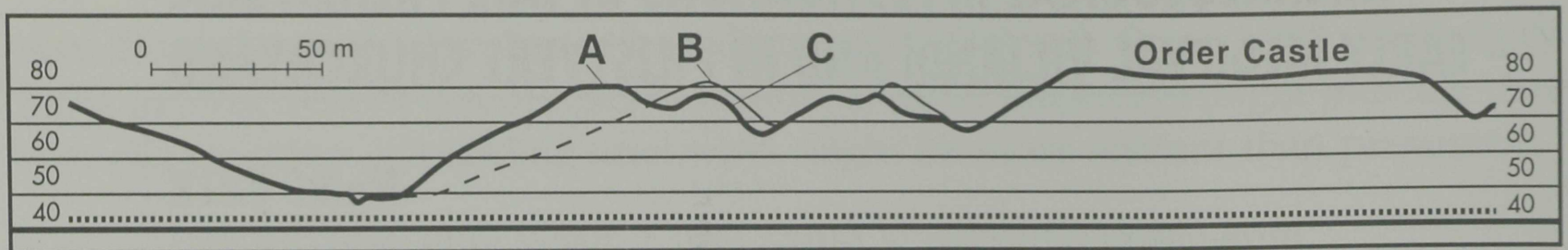


Fig. 2. Investigation area between the Castle Ruins and Valuoja Stream in Viljandi. View from the east, lake direction. – water level in the lake.

Joon. 2. Uurimispiirkond Lossimägede ja Valuoja oru vabel. Vaade idast, järve poolt. – vee-tase Viljandi järves.

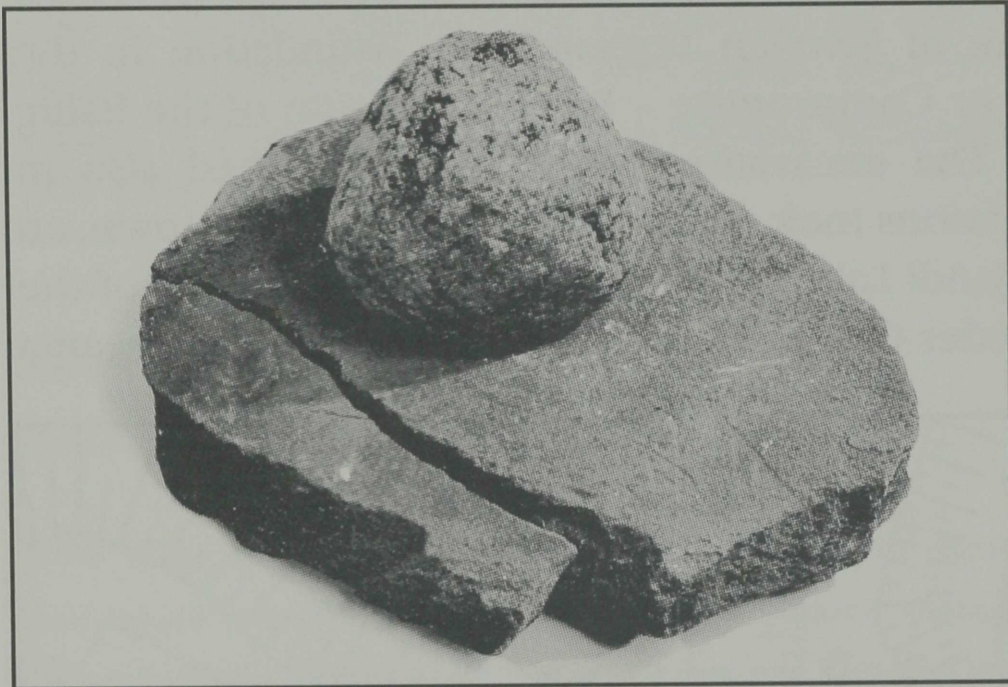


Photo 1. Grinding stone and rubbing stone from Viljandi, A-hill. (ViM 10740: 64; 10741: 275).

Foto 1. Viljabõõrumiskivi ja hõõrumisalus Viljandi suu-sahüppemäelt.

where three steep hills lie 20–30 meters apart (Figs. 1 and 2: A, B, C). The relative height of the hills from the bottom of the lake valley and the valley of the Valuoja Stream is ca. 31–35 meters. The investigation area is separated from the castle ruins by two steep valleys with a narrow ridge between them. The northernmost of the valleys served in the Middle Ages as the moat of the Order Castle.

In spring 1999, from the slopes of the hills, sherds of wheel and hand-made pottery, as well as a penannular brooch (Fig. 3: 1) and a fragment of a wide thin bracelet (Fig. 4: 1) were collected. From the two trial pits made on the southernmost of the hills (A), wheel-pottery of the final period of the Late Iron Age, a silver coin of Visby from 1145–1225, probably from the end of the period (determined by Ivar Leimus, Estonian History Museum) a grinding stone (Photo 1), some bronze spirals, still forming the shape of woven ornaments (Valk 2000, Photo 2) and animal bones were found (ViM 10740: 53–84). A trial pit was made also on a tiny hill (Fig. 1: D), located ca. 80 m to the northwest of the B-hill. From the cultural layer of ca 90 cm thickness, in addition to Late Prehistoric wheel pottery, a German crossbow bolt of the early 13th century (Valk 2000, Photo 3: 1) was found. During the spring field-walking, surface finds were collected also from the area between hills A and B. Artefacts from that area included pottery and a spiral ring with a wide shield (Fig. 3: 2).

In summer 1999, excavations were carried out on the southern and northeastern

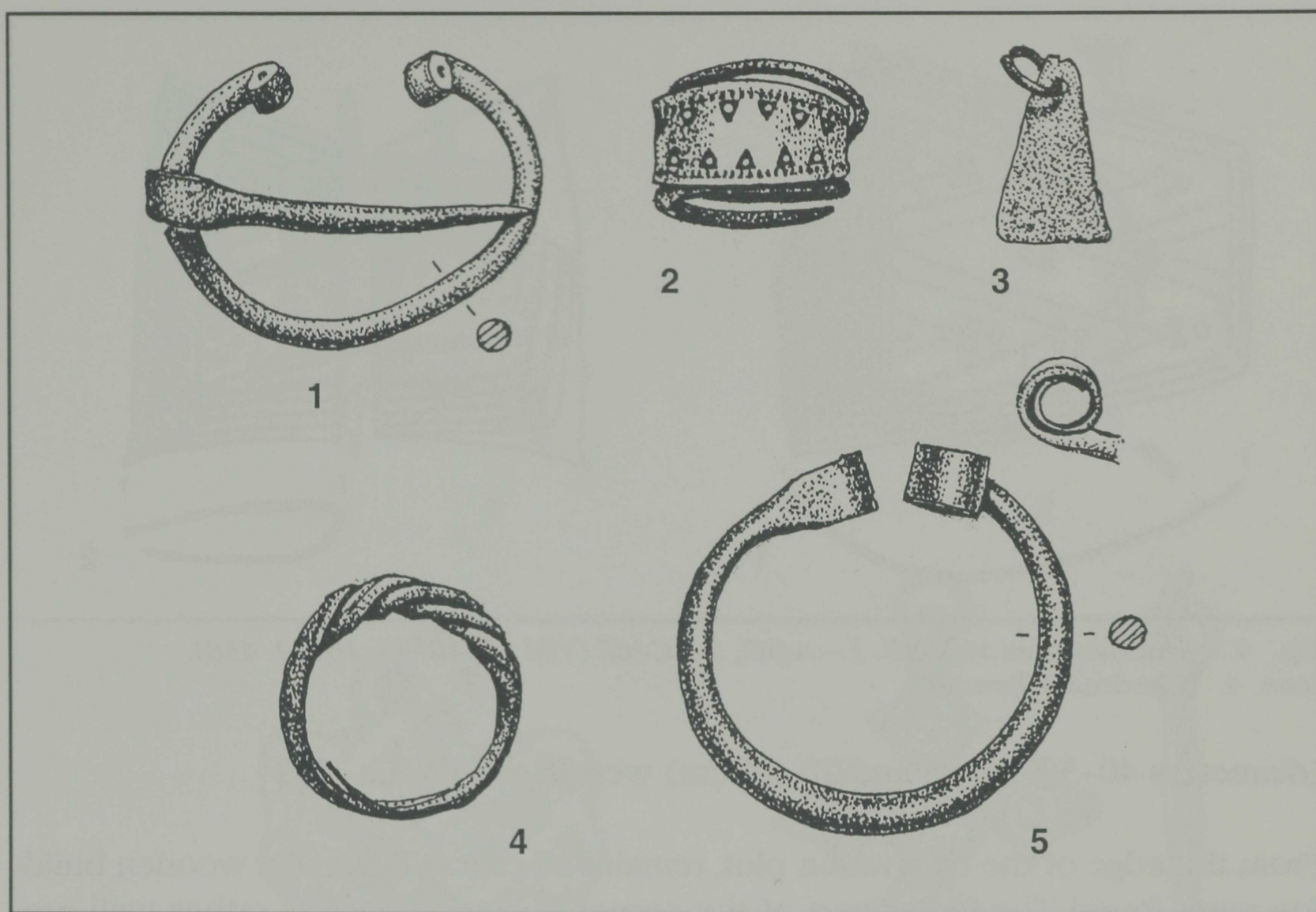


Fig. 3. Ornaments from Viljandi. 1, 5 – penannular brooches, 2, 4 – rings, 3 – pendant.
1, 5 – A-hill; 3, 4 – C-hill; 2 – area between A and C-hills
(ViM 10740: 31, 120; 10742: 878, 951; 10741: 173).

Joon. 3. Ehteid Viljandist. 1, 5 – hoburaudsõled, 2, 4 – sõrmused, 3 – ripats.

hills (Figs. 1 and 2:A, B). The initial diameters of the flat and formerly oval plateau of the A-hill (81.85 m above sea level) were ca. 22 meters (N-S) and 12 meters (E-W). The hill has been seriously damaged by the construction of a ski jump: the eastern part of its plateau has been removed with a bulldozer to the extent of some 10 meters and also the surface has been partly disturbed. The length of the remaining part of the plateau is 12 m. The eastern, southern and western slopes are 34–35 meters high – the first sloping to the lake valley, the two latter to the valley of the Valuoja stream. The northern slope is ca. seven meters high; it is bordered by a small plateau between the three hills. The upper 7–10 meters of the slopes are very steep (35–40°).

The first excavation plot of 13 m² was made on the northern edge of the plateau of the A-hill, on an area not disturbed by bulldozing (ViM 10741: 1–341). The excavations unearthed a settlement layer of brown sandy soil, 60–70 cm thick. At the bottom, immediately above the clayish mineral ground, an intensive cultural layer (2–3 cm) was found. Against the background of intact natural soil three postholes

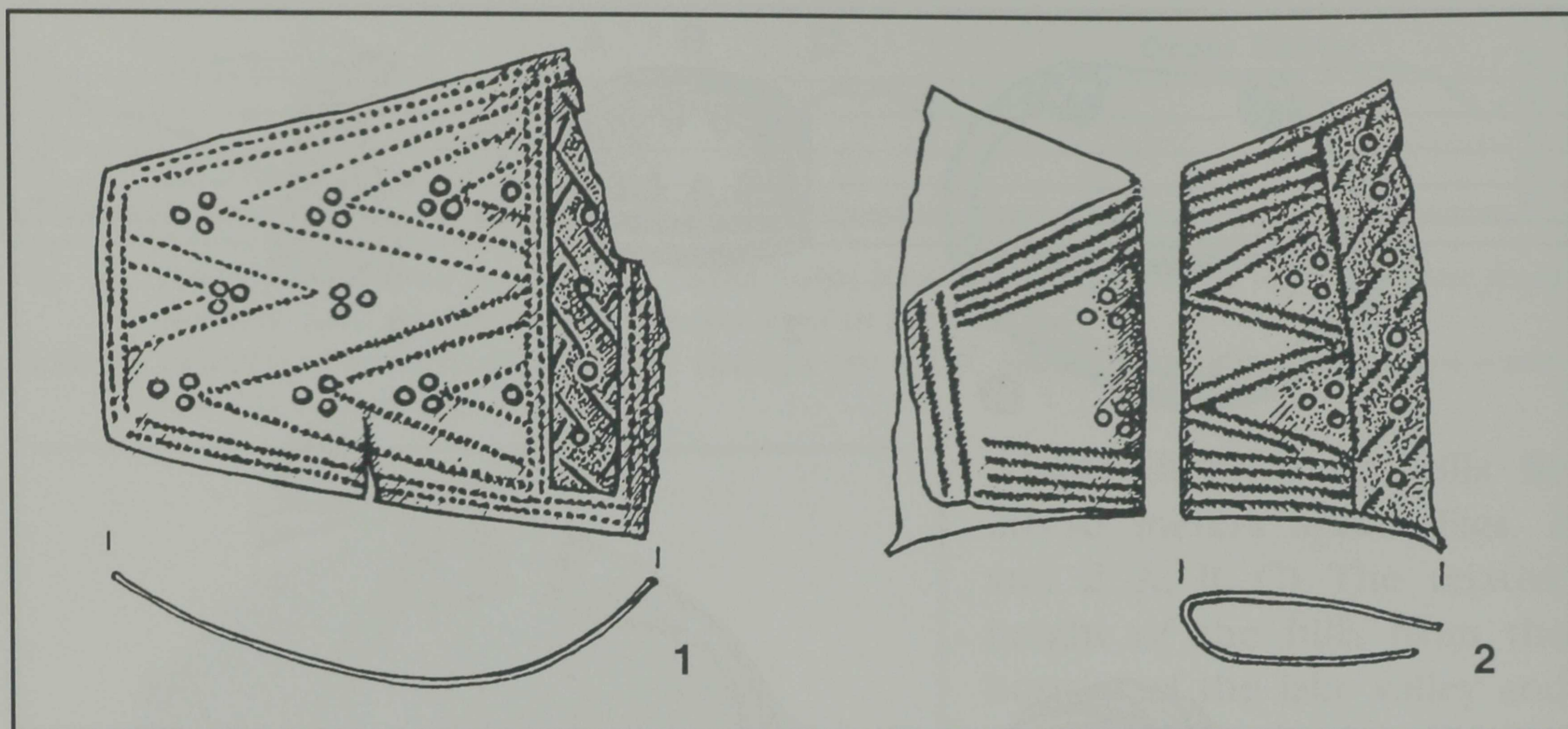


Fig. 4. Bracelets from Viljandi. 1 – A-hill, 2 – C-hill (ViM 10740: 43; 10742: 438).
Joon. 4. Käevõrud Viljandist.

(diameters 40–50, 25–28 and 20–24 cm) were discovered.

From the edge of the excavation plot, remains of charred logs of a wooden building were found. The lower part of the corner construction was rather well preserved (Photo 2; Valk 2000, Table V). The excavations unearthed 1.7 m of the bottom log from the north-western wall of the house (30 cm wide). The rectangular post-hole (19 x 19 cm), beginning at a distance of ca. 60 cm from the inner corner, provides evidence of the post construction of the entrance. The house had a floor of red clay. Immediately to the south of the southwestern wall a stone pavement was unearthed.

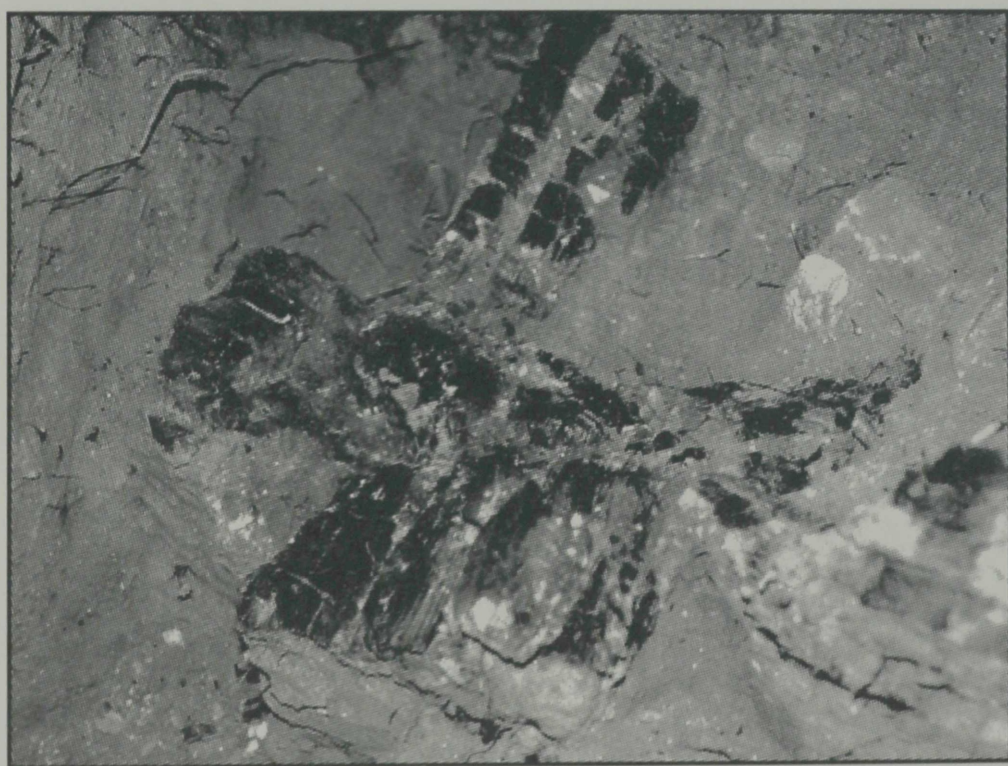


Photo 2. Charred corner of the house on A-hill.
Foto 2. Söestunud hoonenurk suusahüppemäel.

Evidently, the house had burnt down in the early 13th century, probably in 1211 or 1223 when the hill-fort of Viljandi was besieged by German crusaders (HCL XIV: 11; XXVII: 2). Such dating is indicated by a German bolt found between the charred logs inside the house (Valk 2000, Photo 3: 2). Evidently, the arrow had fallen inside the burning, roofless house or in its ruins. Also from the cultural layer, three cross-

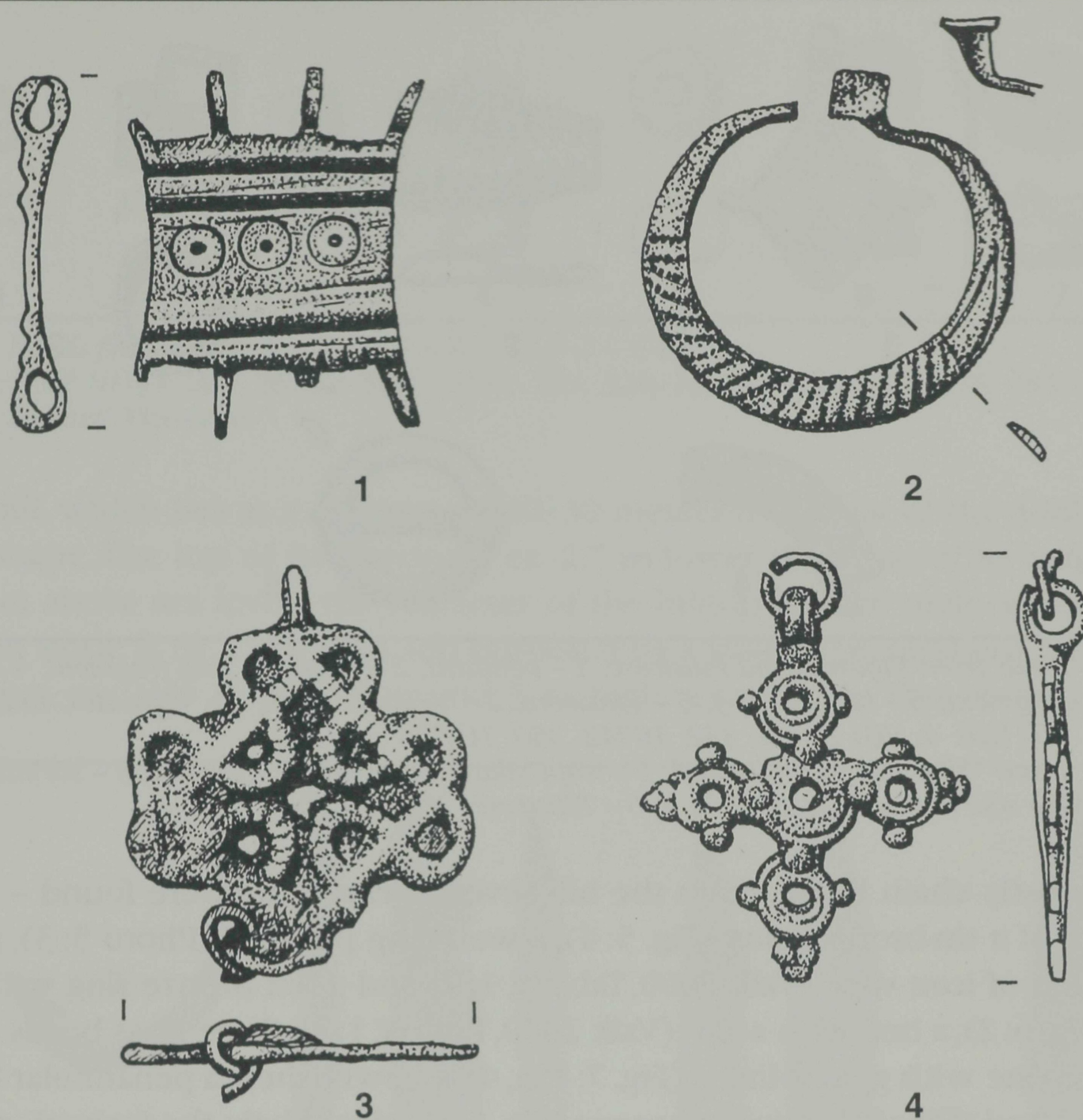


Fig. 5. Finds from Viljandi. 1 – chain holder, 2 – penannular brooch, 3, 4 – pendants.
1, 4 – A-bill; 2, 3 – C-bill (ViM 10741: 208; 10742: 457, 289; 10741: 333).

Joon. 5. Leiud Viljandist. 1 – keekandja, 2 – hoburaudsõlg, 3, 4 – ripatsid.

bow bolts, all of German origin and dating from the conquest period (Valk 2000, Photo 2: 2–5), were unearthed.

The other artefacts come from a short time span and support the dating provided by the bolts and the Visby coin. The most numerous finds were sherds of local-made wheel pottery, mainly from one workshop probably (Fig. 8). A few sherds had line or wave decoration. The finds included also a fragment of a rubbing stone of sandstone (Photo 1), two iron hooks used for hunting or fishing (found together) (Photo 3: 2, 3), a key (Photo 3: 1), a fragment of a scythe (Photo 4: 2), a needle sheath of bone (Photo 5: 8), fragments of a spinning whorl (Photo 6: 2), fragments of a knife and of a whetstone, as well as several bronze spirals and tiny bronze

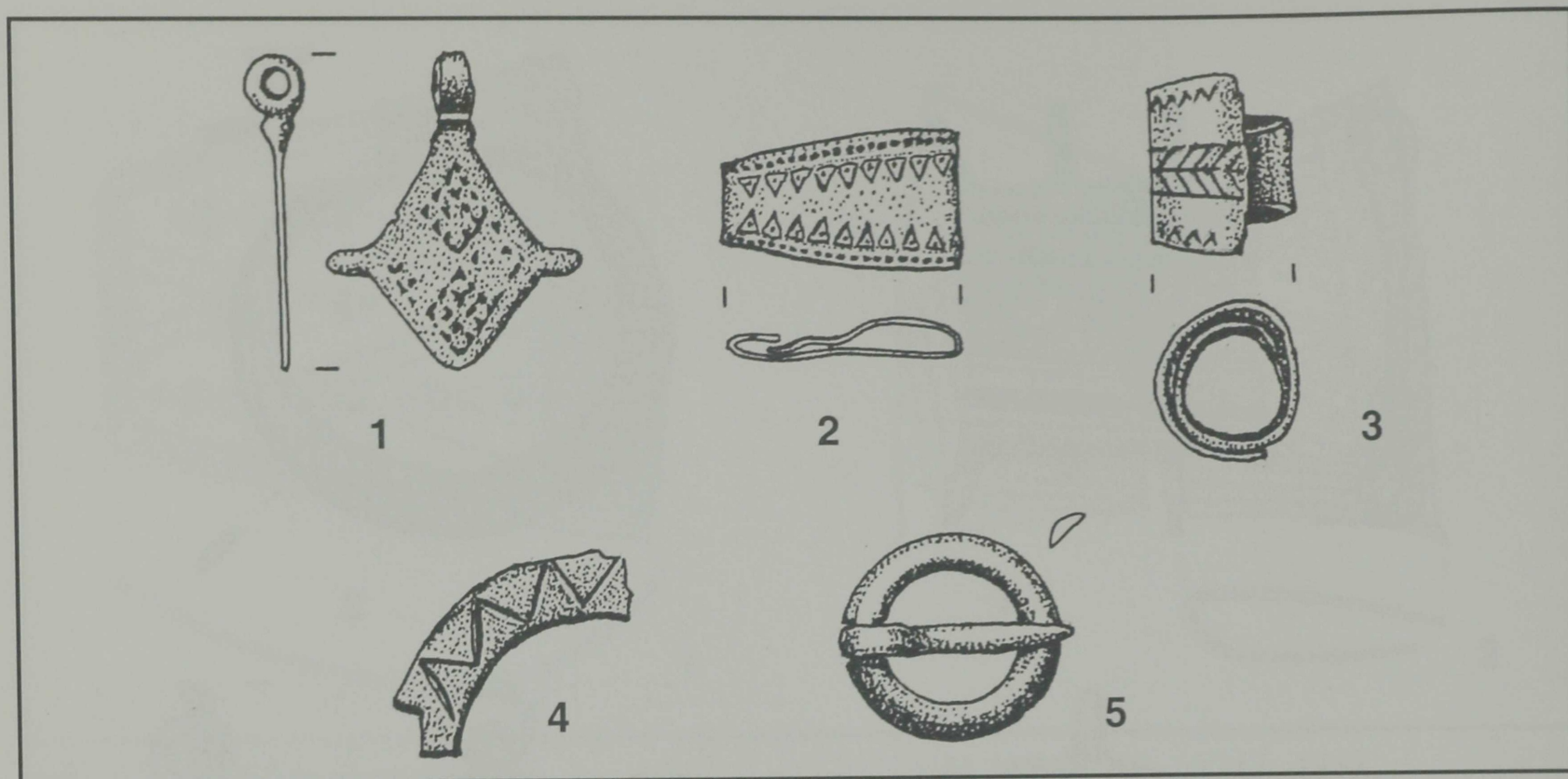


Fig. 6. Finds from Viljandi and Pilistvere. 1 – pendant, 2 – ring, 3 – ring fragment, 4 – brooch fragment, 5 – brooch. 1, 4, 5 – Pilistvere, 2 – Viljandi A-hill, 3 – Viljandi C-hill (TÜ 818: 4; ViM 10741: 332; 10742: 350; TÜ 818: 3, 2).

Joon. 6. Leiud Viljandist ja Pilistverest. 1 – trapetsikujuline ripats, 2 – sõrmus, 3 – sõrmuse katke, 4 – sõle katke, 5 – vitssõlg. 1, 4, 5 – Pilistvere, 2, 3 – Viljandi.

rings (mostly chain links). From the hill several ornaments were found – a cross pendant of a tin-bronze alloy (Fig. 5: 4), a wolf fang pendant (Photo 5: 3), a burnt spiral ring of iron wire (Valk 2000, Table V, 1: 2) and a flat bronze ring with open ends (Fig. 6: 2), a bell with a slit (Valk 2000, Table V, 1: 3), three glass beads (green, blue and one with gold folium) (Fig. 7: 1, 3, 4), a cowry-shell, a penannular brooch (Fig. 3: 5) and a chain-holder of bronze (Fig. 5: 1). Most likely, the formation of the investigated layer started not earlier than in the mid-12th century. Apparently, before the construction, the former cultural layer had been removed, as suggested by the missing natural soil above the natural clayish sand, as well as by the finds of some sherds of coarse hand-made pottery from the slopes of the hill.

The cultural layer contained numerous bones, mostly of domesticated but also of wild animals (determined by Eha Järv and Paul Saks, Estonian Agricultural Academy). Most numerous represented species were cattle (29.2%) sheep/goat (27.2%), pig (12.7%) and hen (26.8%). In smaller numbers were also bones of horse, dog, roe, wolf, hare, beaver, rat, goose and sparrow-like small birds. The fish bones included mostly perch, cyprinids, grey trout, lavaret and pike perch while dace and roach were represented with rare finds (determined by Lembi Lõugas, Institute of history). The concentration of bones, as that of the artefact finds, was largest in front of the house entrance: evidently, the food remains had been thrown out of the door.

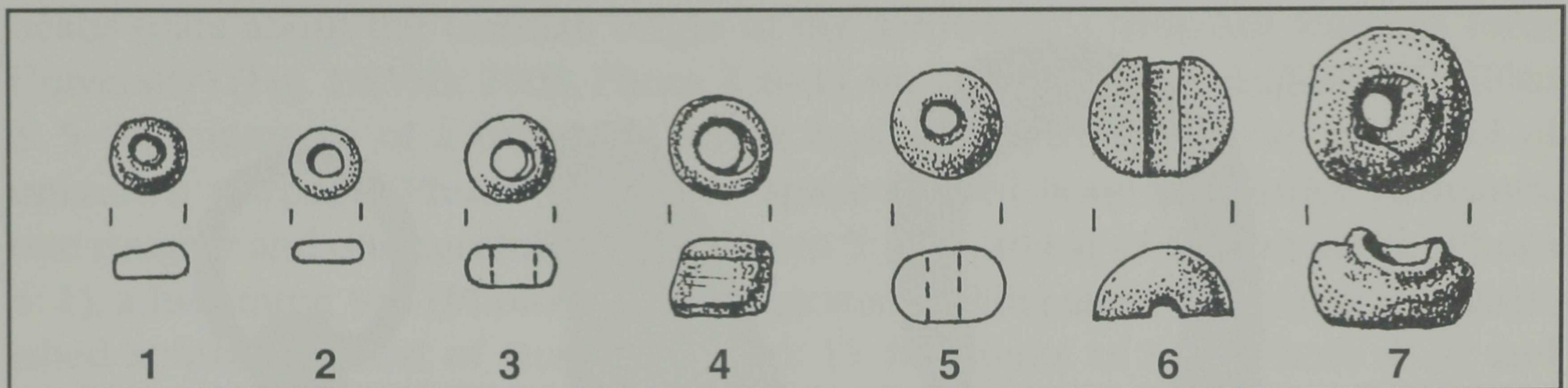


Fig. 7. Beads from Viljandi. 1, 3, 4, – A-hill; 2, 5–7 – C-hill
(ViM 10741: 289; 10742: 585; 10741: 224, 528; 10742: 166; 10744: 875, 145).
Joon. 7. Helmed Viljandist.

The C-hill, which lies at a distance of 20–30 meters northeast of the A-hill, has a round shape. The top of its plateau is ca. 2.7 m lower than that of its neighbour (79.11 m above sea level); the diameter of the hilltop is 8–10 meters. The steep northern slope is ca. 12 m high and bordered by a valley; the southern and western slopes are also steep – 5 m and 3 m high respectively. The eastern slope,

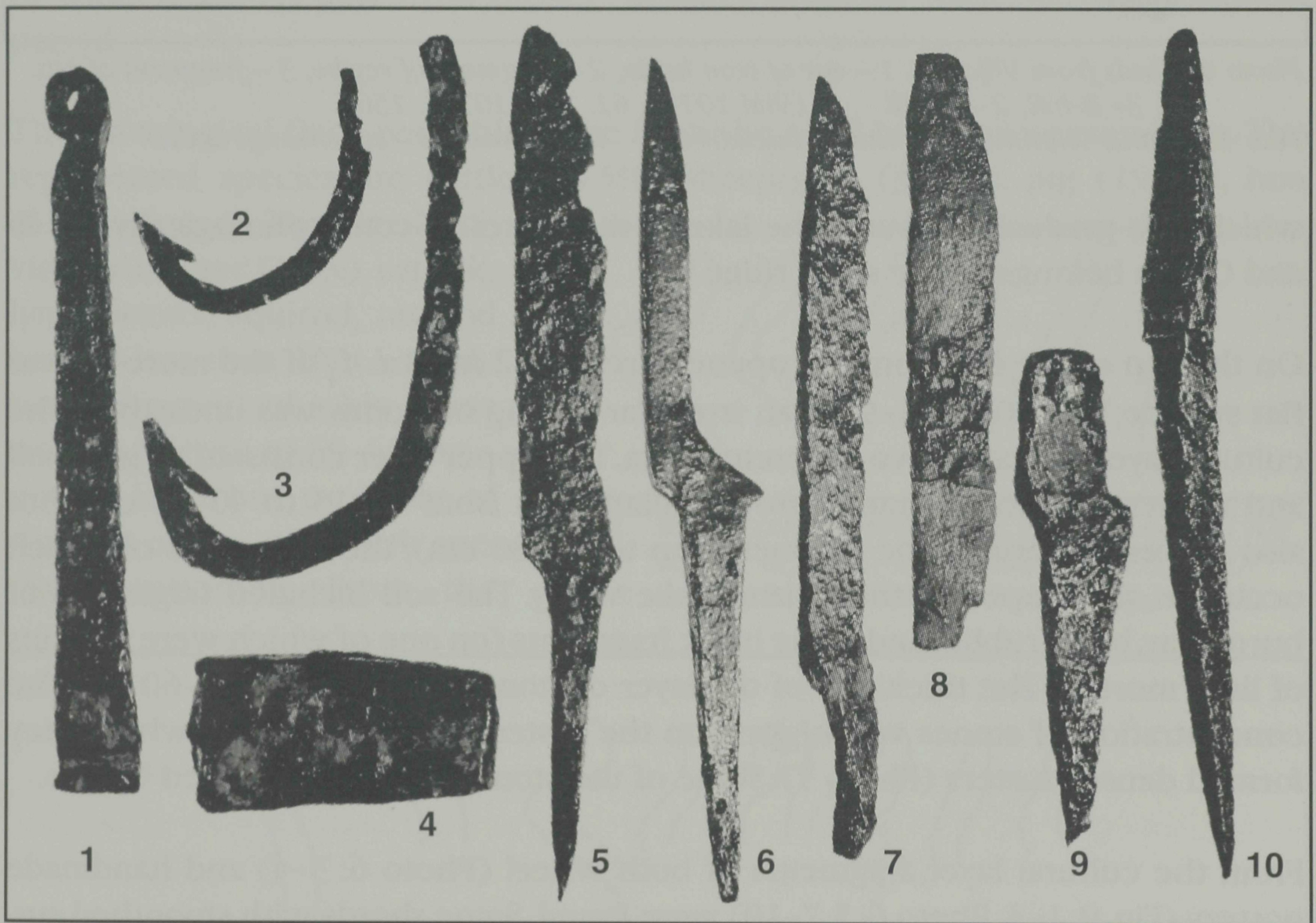


Photo 3. Finds from Viljandi. 1 – key, 2–3 – hooks, 4 – fragment of bar of raw iron, 5–10 – knives.
1–3 – A-hill, 4–10 – C-hill
(ViM 10741: 334, 128 a and b; 10742: 560, 876, 685, 606, 347, 529, 124).

Foto 3. Leiud Viljandist. 1 – võti, 2–3 – raudkonksud, 4 – toorrauakangi ots, 5–10 – noad.

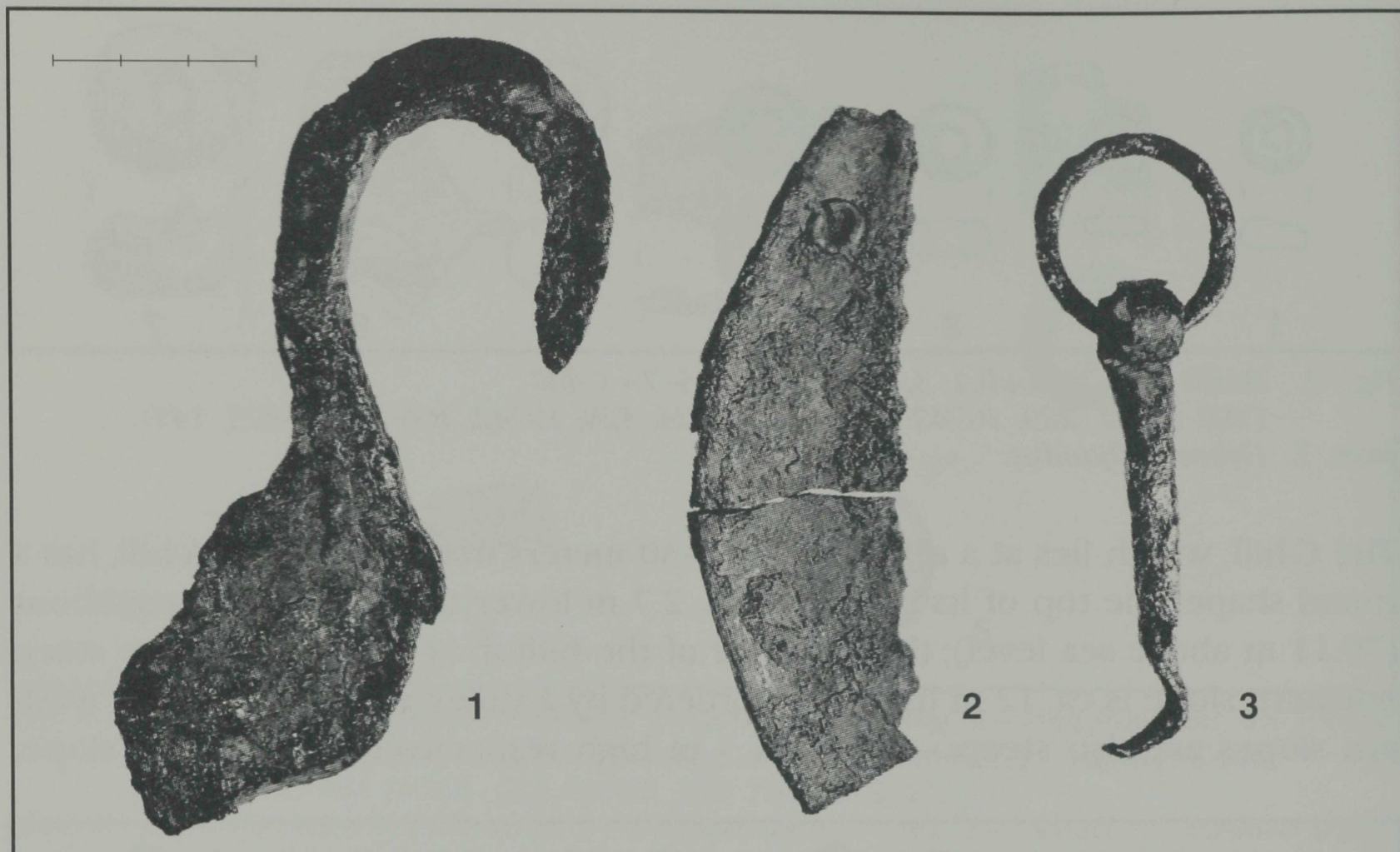


Photo 4. Finds from Viljandi. 1 – ear of iron kettle, 2 – fragment of scythe, 3 – fragment of bits.
1, 3 – B-hill, 2 – A-hill (ViM 10742: 61, 142; 10741: 156).

Foto 4. Leiud Viljandist. 1 – rauast pajakõrv, 2 – vikati katke, 3 – suitsekangi katke.

which falls gradually towards the lake, is the flattest. Geomorphologically the B- and C-hills belongs to the same ridge.

On the top of the hill from the opened area of 42 m² (ca. $\frac{2}{3}$ of the more-or-less flat surface; ViM 10742: 1-959) an irregular setting of stones was unearthed. The cultural layer included two different strata. The upper layer consisted of grey soil and numerous, mostly granite stones (diameters from 10-15 to 40-50 cm) but also pieces of spring lime (diameter up to 70-80 cm), the sediments of which occur on the slopes of the Viljandi lake valley. The soil included fragments of burnt clay, brick rubble and some brick fragments (on one of which were remains of lime mortar). The thickness of the layer of stones and soil was 40-60 cm. The concentration of stones was biggest on the eastern slope of the hill where they formed dense clusters (Photo 7). Some of the stones had been cracked by fire.

From the cultural layer, fragments of both wheel (Photo 6: 3-4) and handmade pottery (Fig. 9: 1-3; Photo 6: 5, 7-10) were found. Some sherds with smoothed surfaces (Photo 6: 5), a rim (Fig. 9: 1-3), with small holes at the edge (Photo 6: 9) and with coarse stone temper (Photo 6: 7) seem to date from the 10th-11th centuries. The artefacts from the upper stratum included eight German crossbow arrow-

heads (data about the German origin of the arrowheads from Ain Mäesalu, Tartu University) (Fig. 10; Valk 2000, Photo 3: 6–1), six knives or knife fragments (Photo 3: 5–9), fragments of a bone and antler handle (Photo 5: 6–7), an iron tool of unknown purpose (Photo 3: 10), two spade-formed bone and antler pendants, one roughly and one carefully made (Photo 5: 1–2), an ear of an iron kettle (Photo 4: 1), a humming top (Photo 5: 5), a suggested trolling-angle of bronze, an unfinished spinning whorl of stone (Photo 6: 1), fragments of bits (Photo 4: 3) and some iron rings of possibly the same origin, six nails, a crucible fragment (Photo 6: 6) and a broken bar of raw iron (Photo 3: 4). Also some small pieces of iron slag and flint were found.

The ornaments are represented by a cross pendant (Fig. 5: 3), a wolf fang pendant (Photo 5: 4), three glass and one clay beads (Fig. 7: 2, 5–7), a cowry shell, two small trapezoid pendants (Fig. 3: 3), a fragment of a wide and thin bronze bracelet (Fig. 4: 2), a fragment of an iron penannular brooch and of a rolled ring (Fig. 6: 3). A bronze penannular brooch with flat rectangular ends (Fig. 5: 2) and a ring twisted of wires (Fig. 3: 4) date from the 13th century, probably from the post-conquest period.

The osteological finds resemble those from the A-hill but are less numerous. The represented species are cattle (34.5%), sheep/goat (32.6%), pig (19.2%), hen (6.7%), dog (3.3%; nine individuals!), horse (1.3%), cat, elk, lynx, beaver, squirrel, rat and bat (all less than 1%). A thigh-bone fragment of a big horse from the depth of 50–60 cm – not of local but probably of German origin – is worth special mentioning. From the

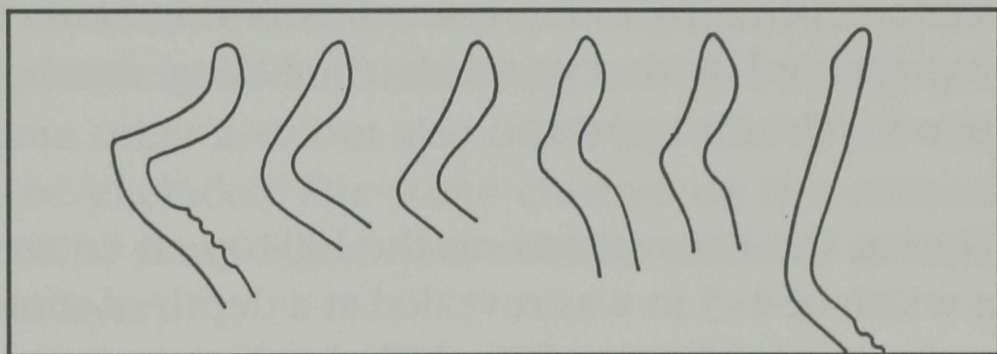


Fig. 8. Wheel pottery profiles from Viljandi A-hill (ViM 10741: 413, 472; 10740: 86, 195, 855, 694).

Joon. 8. Keraamikaprofiile Viljandi suusahüppemäelt.

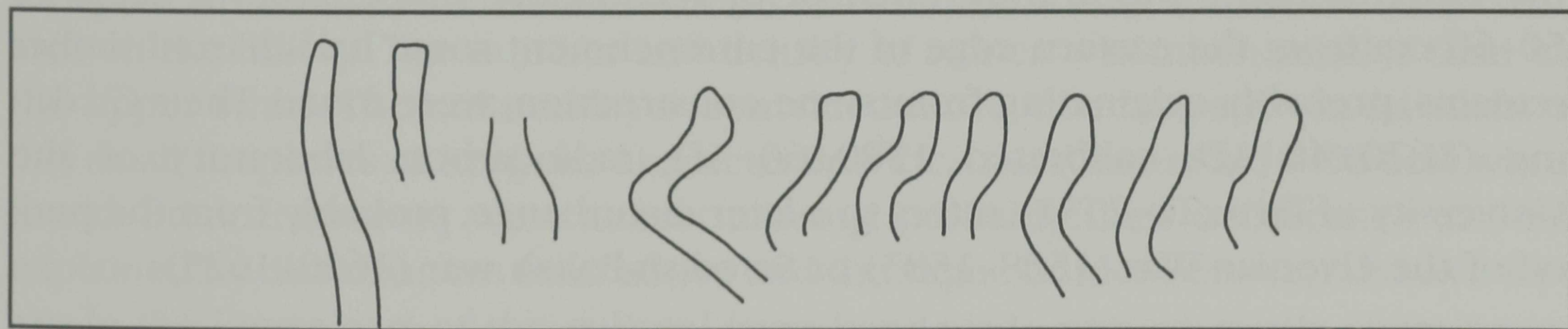


Fig. 9. Pottery profiles from Viljandi C-hill. 1–3 – hand-made pottery; 4–9 – wheel pottery (ViM 10742: 782, 432, 920, 314; 10740: 66, 105, 65, 119, 261, 193).

Joon. 9. Keraamikaprofiile Viljandi suusahüppemäe naaberküinkalt. 1–3 – kedrakeraamika, 4–9 – käsitsikeraamika.

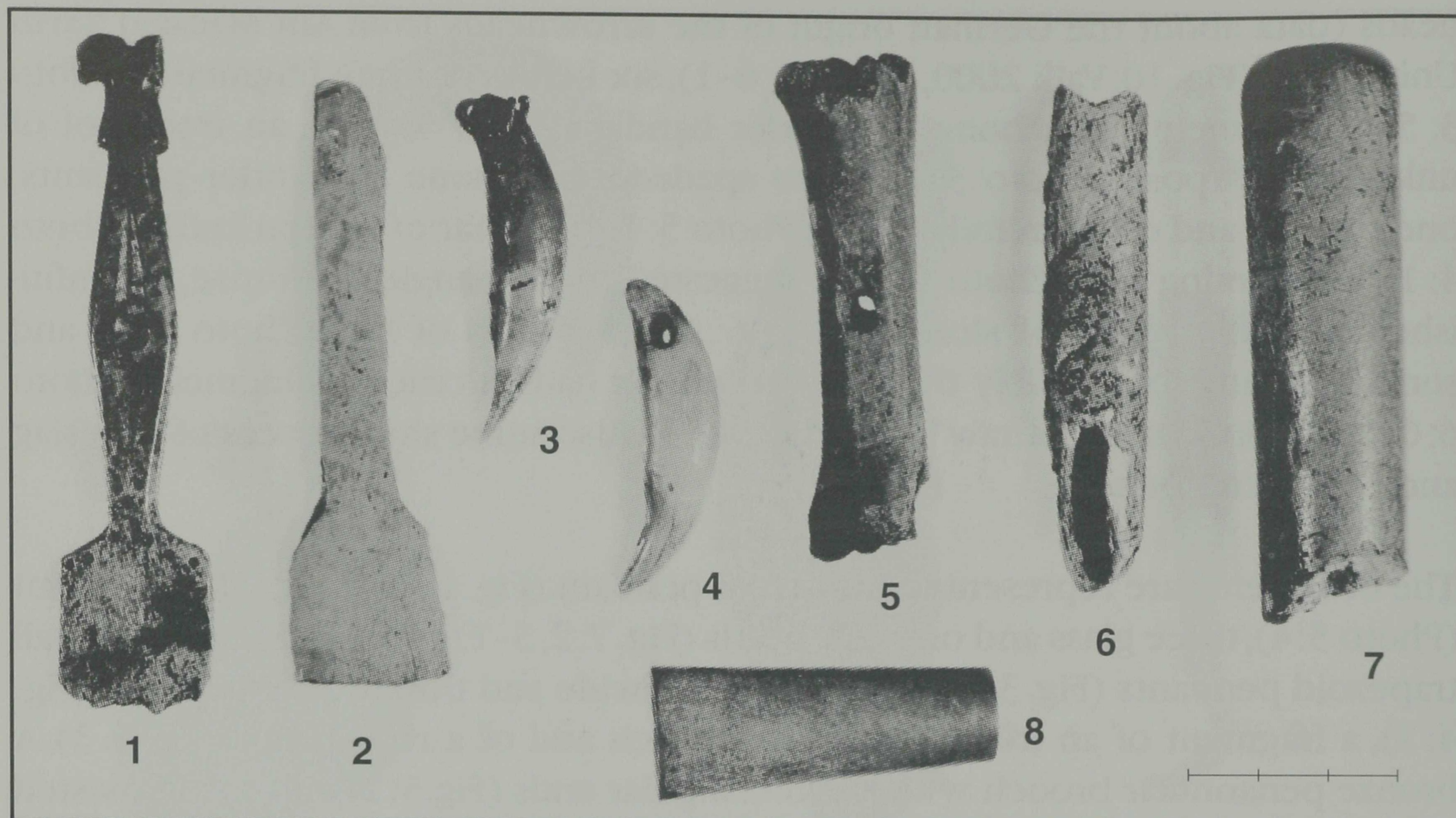


Photo 5. Finds from Viljandi. 1, 2 – antler spades; 3–4, fang pendants, 5 – humming top, 6–7 – bone and antler handles, 8 – needle sheath. 1–3, 5–7 – C-hill, 4, 8 – A-hill (ViM 10742: 390, 781, 497; 10741: 214; 10742: 268, 452, 439; 10741: 274).

Foto 5. Leiud Viljandist. 1, 2 – sarvest labidakesed, 3–4 – kihvripatsid, 5 – vurriluu, 6–7 – luust ja sarvest käepidemed, 8 – nõelakoda.

same depth also 2 tiny human skull fragments were found. The fish species are represented with cypri-nids (including roach, ide, bream and vimba bream), perch, pike and powan.

During the excavations on the hill-top an entrenchment with parallel edges and a width of 4–5 m was revealed at a depth of some 50–60 cm: the more deeply disturbed central part of the hill clearly contrasted the background of light natural clayish soil at the edges of the excavation plot. Since the excavation area did not include the northern and southern edges of the hill, it remained unclear whether the entrenchment was a wide ditch or of rectangular shape. From a depth of 50–60 cm from the eastern edge of the entrenchment some half-charred timber remains, probably originating from some construction, were found. Their C^{14} dating (1620 ± 40 AD; calibrated 1580 ± 60 AD; radiocarbon laboratory of the University of Tartu; Ta-2731). refers to a later disturbance, probably from the period of the Livonian War (1558–1583) or Swedish-Polish war (1600–1625).

The upper part of the cultural layer with the bigger stones was of a homogenous and disturbed character: finds from different periods existed at same depths. The brick fragments and the arrowheads enable dating of this part of the layer to the

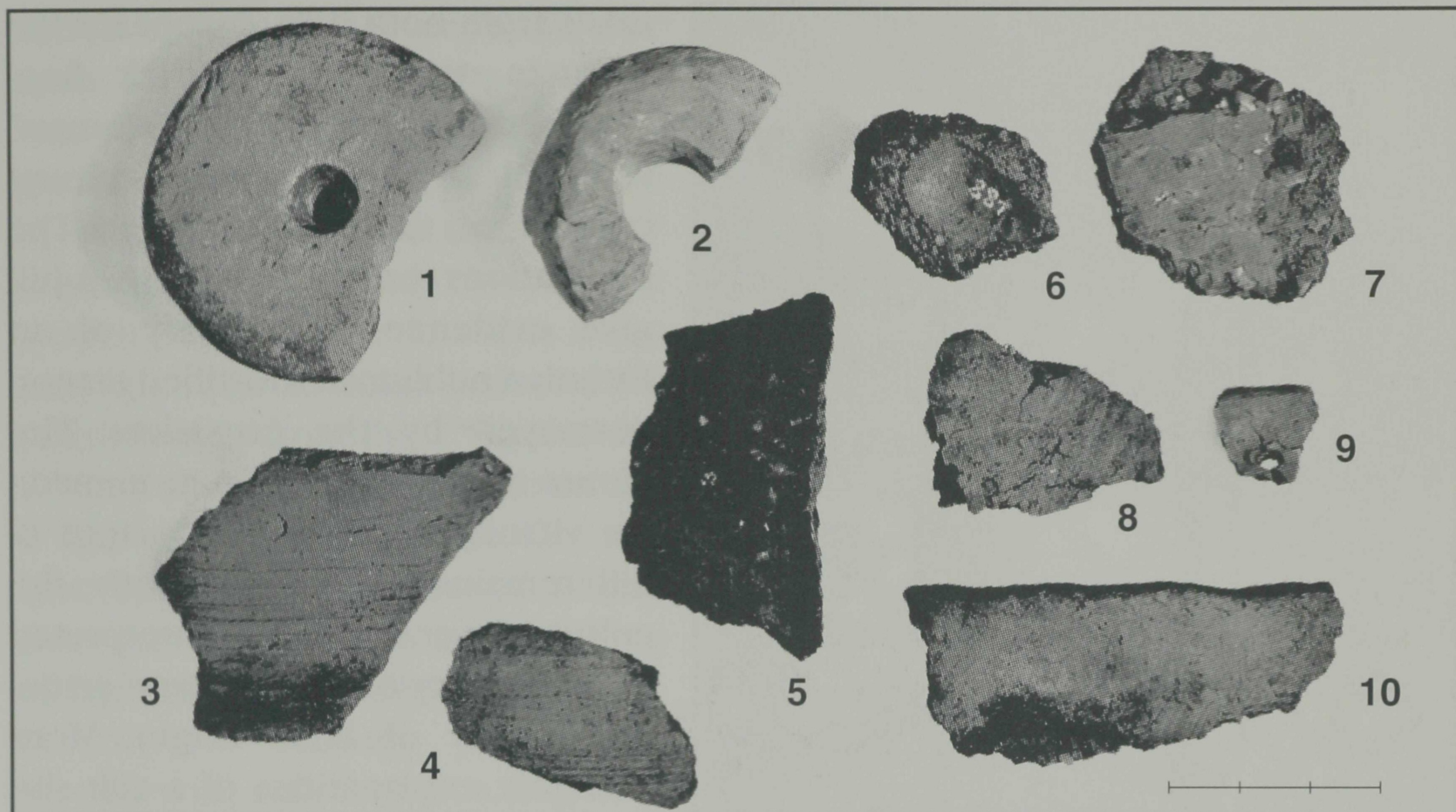


Photo 6. Finds from Viljandi. 1, 2 – spinning-whirls, 3–4 – wheel pottery, 5, 7–10 – hand-made pottery, 6 – crucible fragment. 1, 3–10 – C-hill; 2 – A-hill

(ViM 10742: 959; 10741: 337; 10742: 320, 788, 919, 881, 924, 928, 717, 432).

Foto 6. Leiud Viljandist. 1, 2 – värtakadrad, 3–5, 7–10 – savinõukillud, 6 – tiigli katke.

time of German presence (i.e. after 1215). Probably, the soil originates from the cultural layer of a Late Iron Age settlement and has been brought to the hill together with the stones from some other area but also the formation of the cultural layer on the hilltop cannot be excluded. The stone clusters on the eastern slope suggest the former presence of some fallen construction made of stones, timber and soil (disturbed cultural layer).

Since the excavations did not reach the bottom of the cultural layer, the nature of its lower part remained unclear. This layer which included smaller stones (diameter up to 10–20 cm), often more strongly burnt, existed only within the deepened area on the hilltop. The number and density of stones was much smaller than in the upper strata. The cultural layer contained more charcoal, and on its surface 3–4 small fireplaces of irregular character and location (diameter 50–70 cm) were found. Brick fragments were almost missing: probably their occurrence can be explained by disturbances from above and the vague border between the two layers. In the lower part of the cultural layer hand-made pottery, partly characteristic of the Viking Age, predominated.

The excavations opened a new page in the prehistory and early history of Viljandi – the most important centre in the late prehistoric South Estonian Sakala district.

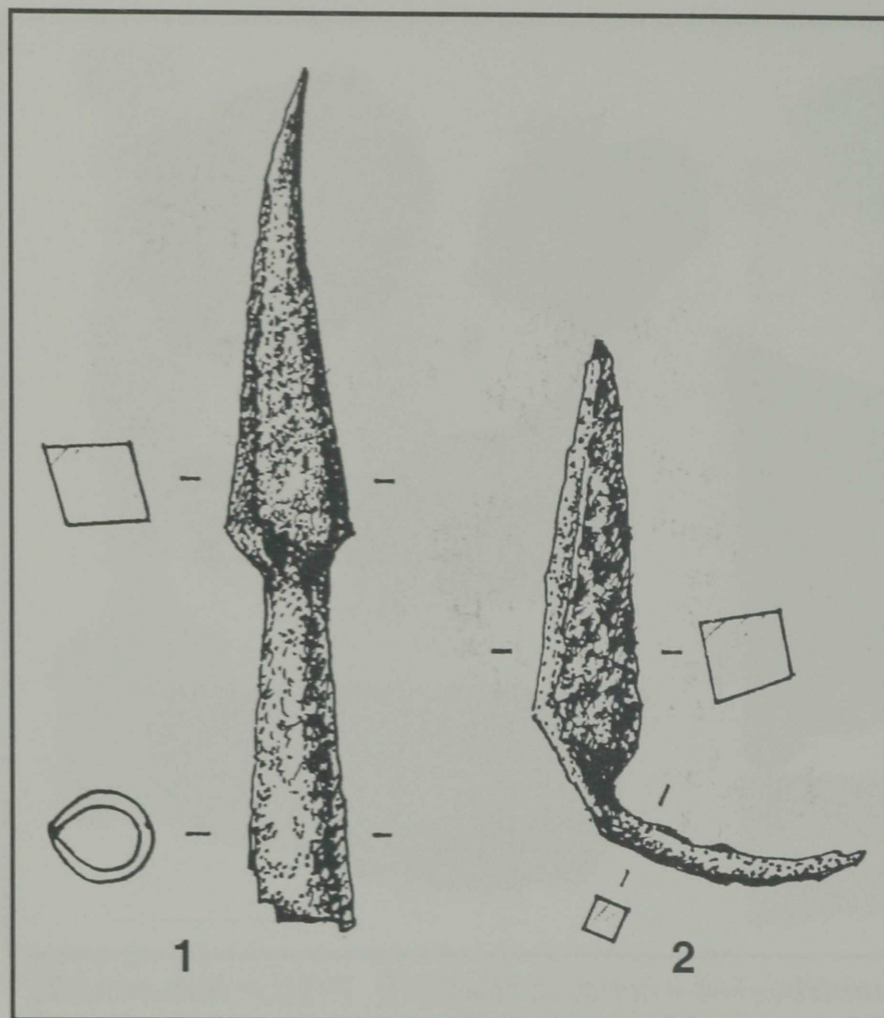


Fig. 10. Crossbow arrowheads from Viljandi (ViM 10742: 445, 457).

Joon. 10. Ammunooleotsad Viljandist.

Finds from both hills, except for the German arrow-heads, brick fragments and bone of a "German" horse, clearly belong to the cultural context of the Late Iron Age. The excavations on the southern A-hill give evidence most likely of an Estonian nobleman's fortified manor, destroyed by the crusaders. The nature of the activities in its immediate vicinity on the north-eastern B-hill remains unclear. Evidently, the cultural layer cannot be interpreted as a cemetery or an "ordinary" settlement layer of local origin. More probably, explanations of a cult site or besieging constructions against the Estonian hill-fort from 1223 can be considered. The hypothesis that the three hills are remains of the Estonian hill-fort of the early 13th

century (Tvauri 1999) seems less likely. However, the only thing that can be firmly stated is the occurrence of activities of "prehistoric" character in the early period of German presence in the immediate vicinity of the newly founded Order Castle, as well as of earlier, probably Late Viking Age activities. The interpretation of the excavation results is hindered by the fact that neither the edges of the B-hill, nor the bottom of the area opened there have been studied yet. The investigations will be continued in the summer of 2000.

In Viljandi in 1999, also the cultural layer of the prehistoric settlement was discovered. The settlement-place lies ca. 400–500 m south of the A-hill – at a distance of 550–650 m from the Order Castle, the probable location of a Late Prehistoric Estonian hill-fort. The cultural layer lies on the slope of the lake valley. The finds, mostly potsherds (ViM 10744: 1–33), indicate a preliminary dating from the Late Viking Age until the 13th century.

Investigations were carried out also in the churchyard of Pilistvere (Northern Viljandimaa). Rescue work consisted of sieving the soil that originated from a cable trench (10 x 0,8 x 0,8–0,9 m) which was unfortunately dug in the churchyard, east of the choir in 1998. From the soil, scattered bones of at least 11 adult

and juvenile burials were found (the finds: TÕ 818: 1-52). From the bottom of the ditch, two west-oriented graves – a man and an infant, dated by small brooches into the 17th-18th centuries, were found. One similar brooch (Fig. 6: 5) was found as a surface find. The 16 coins included six Swedish ones from the 2nd half of the 17th and seven Russian ones from the 1st half of the 18th centuries. The earliest coins are a pence of Tallinn from the 1470's-1480's and a shilling of Riga from 1562-1581. In addition, a 16th-17th century penannular brooch with rolled ends, a fragment of a 13th-14th century round brooch (Fig. 6: 4), a rhomboid-shaped cross pendant of the 14th-16th centuries (Fig. 6: 1), two yellow glass beads, numerous coffin nails and some fragments of wheel pottery were found. The earliest finds are two bronze spirals and a trapezoid pendant of the 12th-13th centuries. These artefacts may come from disturbed graves, but also connections with the Late Iron Age settlement in the immediate vicinity of the churchyard cannot be excluded. The same explanation may apply to the potsherds. The sieved soil included also pieces of weakly cremated human bones, referring to cremation burials. It remains unclear whether the latter come from the Medieval churchyard or a former, pre-Christian cemetery.



Photo 7. Stones in the south-eastern part of C-hill (30 cm from the ground level).

Foto 7. Kivistik suusahüpemäe naaberküinka kaugosas (sügavus maapinnast 30 cm).

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ARHEOLOOGILISED UURINGUD VILJANDIS JA PILISTVERE KIRIKAIAS

Heiki VALK

Arheoloogilised uurimistööd toimusid Viljandi ordulinnuse ja Valuoja oru vahelisel alal, suusahüppemäe naabruses ning 20–30 m kirdesse ja loodesse jäävate küngaste piirkonnas. (joon. 1 ja 2: A, B, C), Uuringuteks andsid põhjust küngaste lagedelt, nõlvadelt ja ümbrusest pinnaleidudena kogutud hilis-muinsaeagsed savinõukillud. Leiti ka hoburaudsõlg (joon. 3: 1), spiraalsõrmus, käevõru (joon. 4: 1) ja oletatav kannuse katke. Suusahüppemäele (joon. 1: A) tehtud kahest prooviaugust ilmnes, et tegemist on 60–70 cm paksuse, osaliselt segatud kultuurkihiga. Liivasest pinnasest leiti loomaluid ja kedrakeraamikat, 1145.–1225. a. Visby hõbepenn, viljahõõrumiskivi (foto 1) ning pronksspiraale. Suusahüppemäest 80 m loodes olevale künkale (joonis 1: D) tehtud 90 cm sügavusest prooviaugust leiti 13. saj. algusest pärinev sakslaste nooleots ning savinõukilde. Tegemist näib olevat mujalt toodud kultuurkihiga.

1999. a suvel rajati kaevandid suusahüppemäele ja sellest 20–30 m kirdes olevale naaberkünkale (joonis 1: A ja B). Suusahüppemäe algselt 22 m pikkune ja 12 m laiune platoo oli järvepoolses otsas 10 m ulatuses hävitatud. Künka põhjaserva tehtud 13 m² kaevandis satuti tules hävinud ristpalkhoone nurgale (foto 2). “Koerakaelana” raiutud nurgast u. 60 cm kaugusel algas hoone lävekoht, kus aluspalgisse oli raiutud ukseposti auk. Hoone on hävinud 13. saj. alguses: maja sisemusest leiti sakslaste nooleots. Kultuurkiht oli silmapaistvalt leiurohke. Lisaks mainitule leiti veel 3 saksa nooleotsa, hoburaudsõlg (joon. 3: 5), keekandja (joon. 5: 1), hundikihvast ripats (foto 5: 3), ristripats (joon. 5: 4), 3 helmest (joon. 7: 1, 3, 4), kaurikarp, üksikuid pronksspiraale ja -rõngakesi, suur piluga kuljus, laieneva keskosaga laiaksastatud sõrmus (joon. 6: 2), rauast spiraalsõrmus, luust nõelakoda (foto 5: 8), suruluku võti (foto 3: 1), 2 raudkonksu (foto 3: 2, 3), liivakivist kausjas hõõrumisalus (foto 1) ning vikati ots (foto 4: 2). Kultuurkiht sisaldas rohkesti kodu- ja vähem metsloomaluid, samuti kedrakeraamikat (joon. 8). Leiukompleks pärineb lühikesest ajast – 12. sajandi teisest poolest 13. sajandi algusest. Ilmselt on varasem kultuurkiht mäelt eemaldatud: sellest andsid tunnistust loodusliku alusmulla puudumine saviliiva peal, samuti nõlvadelt korjatud käsitsi tehtud savinõude tükid.

Suusahüppemäest 30 m kirdes olevale, ligi 8–10 m läbimõõduga kumera pealispinnaga künkale (joon. 2: C) tehtud 42 m² kaevandis paljandus ebahühtlane 40–60 cm paksune kivivare. See koosnes peamiselt 10–40 cm läbimõõduga raudkividest, kuid sisaldas ka Viljandi järve orunõlvadelt pärinevaid allikalubja känkraid, moreenseid lubjakive, põlenud savitükikesi ning tellisepuru. Kivivare oli tihedaim künka idaosas. Samast 50–60 cm sügavuselt leitud, osalt söestunud palgi- või laua-jäänused (C¹⁴ dateering: 1620±40 AD; kalibreerituna 1580±60 AD) viitavad mingile Liivi või Rootsi – Poola sõja aegsele segamisele ja tõenäoliselt ka samast ajast pärit puurajatisele. Kultuurkihi ülaosast saadud leiud pärinevad 11.–13. sajandist. Tumedast mullast leiti loomaluid ja nii kedral (foto 6: 3–4) kui ka käsitsi (foto 6: 5, 7–10) tehtud savinõude kilde, sh. üksikuid viikingiajale omaseid nivendiga (joon. 9: 1–3), silutud pinnaga (foto 6: 5), servades olevate augukestega (foto 6: 9) ja jämedat kivipur-

du sisaldavate nõude tükke (foto 6: 7). Saadi ka 4 helmest (joon. 7: 2, 5–7), kaurikarp, lameda käevõru tükk (joon. 4: 2), ažuurne ristripats (joon. 5: 3), poolik rauast hoburaudsõlg, luust ja sarvest labidakesed (foto 5: 1–2), 6 nuga ja noakatket (foto 3: 5–9), rullikeeratud sõrmus (joon. 6: 3), toorraua kang (foto 3: 4) ja sulatustiigli katke (foto 6: 6) ning veidi šlaki- ja tulekivitükikesi. Õhukeste nelinurksete otsaplaatidega hoburaudsõlg (joon. 5: 2) ning mitmest traadist sõrmus (joon. 3: 4) pärinevad nähtavasti 13. saj. algupoole vallutusjärgsest ajast. Ka tellisepuru ning 8 kivivarest leitud ammunooletsa näitavad, et kultuurikihi ülaosa on moodustunud 13. sajandil, sakslaste Viljandis viibimise ajal (pärast 1215. a). Sama lubab arvata kivide alt 50 cm sügavuselt leitud suure, mitteko-halikku tõugu hobuse reieluu. Horisontaalse stratigraafia puudumine viitab mujalt teisaldate kultuurikihi või pinnase tugevale segatusele.

Maapinnast umbes 50–60 cm sügavusel ilmnes, et künka keskosas paikneb sügavam, nähtavasti sirgete servadega sissekaeve. Kui künka ida- ja lääneservas paljandus sellel sügavusel kaevamisel looduslik saviliiv, siis keskosas jätkus tume, kive sisaldav muld. Ka hakkas kultuurikihi iseloom u 50–60 cm sügavusel erinema kõrgemal paiknevast: kive esines vähem, need olid väiksemad ja tugevamini põlenud. Märkatavalt suurenes käsitsi valmistatud keraamika osakaal ja vähenes tellisepuru hulk. Kaevandi edelaosas paljandus 4–5 väiksemat tuleaset. Kaevamised katkestati süvendis paikneva kultuurikihi uurimise algusjärgus või kahe ladestuse vahelises üleminekutsoonis.

Kui suusahüppemäe leiud viitavad seal asunud hilis-muinasaegele hoonestusele ja intensiivsele, muistses vabadusvõitluses katkenud elutegevusele, siis naaberkünka funktsioon ja seal olnud rajatise iseloom jääb seni ebaselgeks. Ilmselt pole tegemist kalme ega kohapeal moodustunud asulakihi. Võimalikeks seletuseks jäävad kultusekoht ja muinaslinnuse vastu suunatud 13. sajandi alguse piiramisrajatised. Hüpotees, et kolme künka piirkonnas asus Viljandi muinaslinnus (Tvauri 1999), on vähe tõenäoline. Uurimistööd mõlema kaevandi alal jätkuvad 2000. aastal.

1999. a suvel avastati ka Viljandi muinasasulakoht. See asub ordulinnuse varemetest 550–650 m kagus järveoru nõlval, Huntaugu mäe all, Männimäe ja Lossimägede vahelisel rohumaal. Vooluvete poolt tehtud kraavi profiilidest korjatud keraamika põhjal pärineb intensiivselt must, rohkelt põlenud kive sisaldav kultuurikiht muinasaja lõpusajanditest.

1999. a toimusid päästekaevamised Pilistvere kirikaia. Kaablikraavist väljatõstetud segatud pinnase läbisõelumisel leiti 16 münti, mis pärinevad peamiselt 17.–18. sajandist. Saadi ka rombjas ristripats (joon. 6: 1), 2 helmest, hoburaudsõlg, 13.–14. sajandi rõngassõle katke ja 3 väikest 17.–18. sajandi vitssõlge (joon. 6: 3, 4). Vanimateks, 12. või 13. sajandi leidudeks on 2 pronksspiraali ja väike trapet-sikujuline ripats (foto 8: 5). Kaevamistel leiti veel nõrgalt, mustaks või hallikaks põlenud inimlu-utükke, mis viitavad põletusmatustele.