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2000. aasta kaevamised

**ARHEOLOOGILISED
VÄLITÖÖD
EESTIS**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL
FIELD WORKS
IN ESTONIA**

2000

Koostanud ja toimetanud
Ülle Tamla

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Cover: plaque decorated with silver from Pähklimägi in Viljandi

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RESCUE EXCAVATIONS ON THE ISLAND OF SOSNA, SETUMAA

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In 2000 the Institute of History resumed archaeological excavations of the Pedajasaare settlement site on the island of Sosna near Värskä, Põlva County. The excavations were carried out in connection with the construction of the Värskä frontier guard station and financed by the Board of Frontier Guard. The investigated area measured 800 sq. m. Most of the excavations (V–XI) were located in the southern part of the island, four smaller ones (I–IV) in the northern part (Fig. 1). The cultural layer in the investigated area was, as in the excavations of 1998–1999, mostly mixed by ploughing and only in the eastern and western parts of the island, beyond the limits of the ploughed area, it was preserved intact. The thickness of the cultural layer was on the average 0.2–0.3 m, in the eastern and western parts of the island 0.4–0.45 m. In the pits discovered, the cultural layer extended to the depth of 1 m and occasionally even more. The pits were most numerous in the excavations IX–XI and in the SW part of the excavation VI (Fig. 1).

Remains of buildings were few in the investigated area. They were more numerous in the western and eastern parts of the island, less in the central part. In the excavations VI and X rows of smaller pits came to light. These might have been post holes belonging to an outbuilding which was located there. The western part of the building remained beyond the limits of the excavation, so its length could not be determined. The building was, on the average, 2.8–3 m wide. More numerous than the remains of buildings were the bases of fire-places, built of stones on the ground or slightly sunk in the ground. Most of them were also located in the western and SW part of the island. The fire-place in the excavation V in the eastern part of the island was somewhat different from the others. Its upper part was surrounded on the western and southern sides by a narrow vein of clay, 10–12 cm wide. The area surrounded by clay (with a diameter of about 1 m) contained smaller granite stones, up to fist size, with some of them burned. The finds from this fire-place included fragments of wheel pottery and a few animal bones. Some fire-places also produced fish scales. One such fire-place came to light in the central part of the island, in excavation VI. Amongst smaller granite stones there were larger fragments of pottery and lots of fish scales. The C^{14} analysis of the charcoal sample from the fire-place of excavation VIII in the southern part of the island gave the result 725 ± 30 , with the dendro-correction 720 ± 40 years (Ta-2742; the charcoal samples and one timber sample from the Pedajasaare settlement site were analysed by Arvi Liiva and Toivo Rinne in the radiocarbon laboratory of the

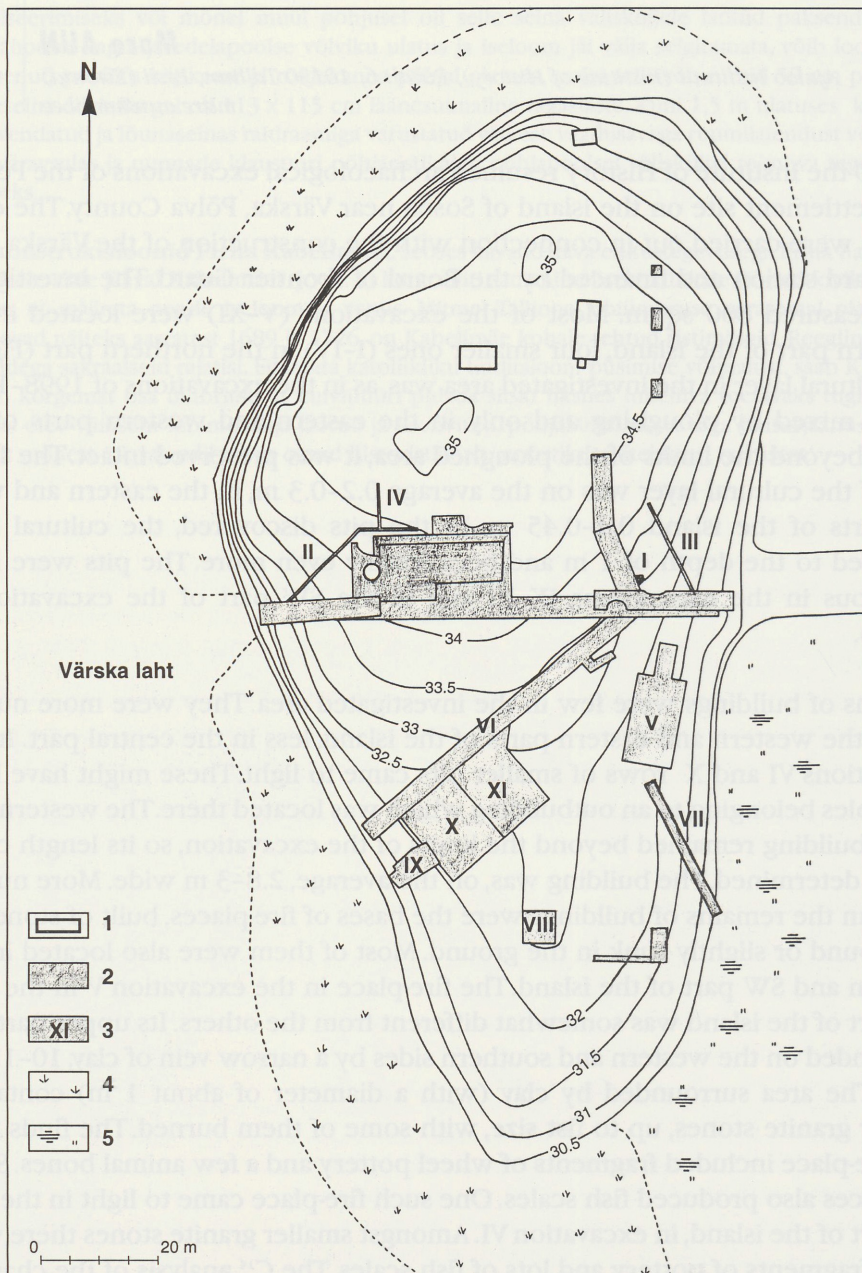


Fig. 1. General plan of the excavations of the settlement site of Pedajasaare. 1 - farm houses, 2 - excavations of 1998 and 1999, 3 - excavations of 2000, 4 - reeds, 5 - marsh.

Joon. 1. Pedajasaare asulakoha kaevandite üldplaan. 1 - taluhuoned, 2 - 1998. ja 1999. a. kaevandid, 3 - 2000. a. kaevandid, 4 - roostik, 5 - soo.

Institute of Geology of the Tartu University). Somewhat later appeared to be the sample from the fire-place in the northern part of excavation X. The C^{14} analysis gave the result 605 ± 30 , with the dendro-correction 613 ± 40 years (Ta-2739). However, the wheel pottery found from the fire-places and near them belonged mostly to the 16th–19th centuries. In the SW part of the island, clay and stone netsinkers and their fragments were found quite often from the fire-places. In the eastern part they were not so common.

In nearly all the excavations of the northern and southern parts of the island (except excavations I and III) smaller or larger pits dug into the ground came to light. Most of them were so-called *household or refuse pits*, but the purpose of some pits, mainly in excavation X, is not quite clear yet. The size of the pits varied: their diameter was 0.3–0.5 m for the smaller pits and 1.5–2 m for the larger ones. One of them on the limit between excavations X and XI even had the diameter of 3.2 m. The depth of the pits was 0.7–1 m on the average. The smaller ones were 0.3–0.5 m and the larger ones up to 1.5 m deep. The C^{14} analyses of charcoal from the SE part of excavation XI gave the result 1140 ± 40 , with dendro-correction 1110 ± 50 years (Ta-2737). The C^{14} age of the charcoal sample from the NE part of excavation X was 650 ± 30 , with dendro-correction 655 ± 40 years (Ta-2740). The latest proved to be the charcoal sample from the eastern part of excavation VIII in the southern part of the island. Its C^{14} age was only 140 ± 30 , with dendro-correction 210 ± 50 years (Ta-2741). Among the finds from the pits were numerous potsherds. The majority of animal bones and fish scales also come from the pits, with the greatest amount of animal bones in excavation XI. In some of the pits, especially in the

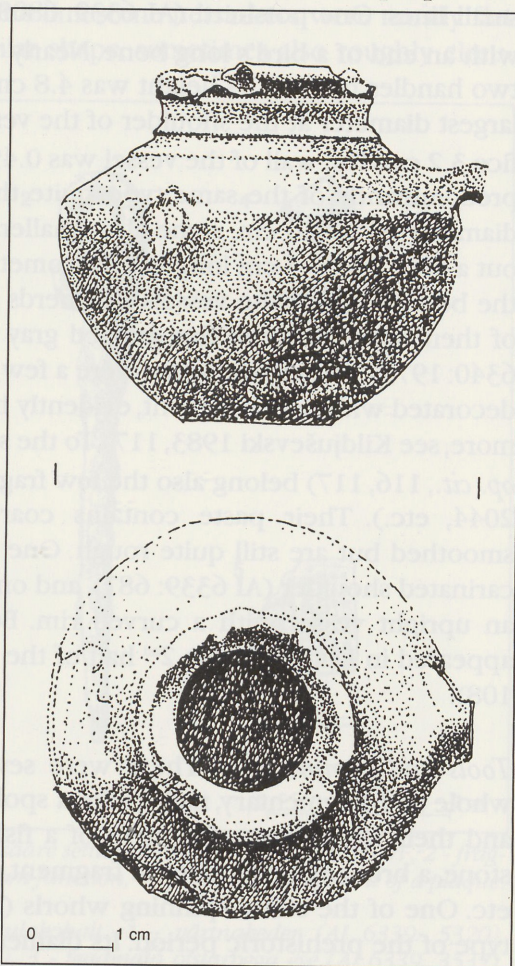


Fig. 2. The tiny clay vessel.
Joon. 2. Väike savinõu (AI 6339: 5364).

excavations in the western part of the island, less in the eastern part, several netsinkers of clay and limestone were found.

Among the **finds** from the archaeological excavations of the Pedajasaare settlement site, fragments of medieval and post-medieval *wheel pottery* prevailed, wheel pottery of the Late Iron Age occurred less frequently. Prehistoric pottery was found mainly from excavations II, III, VII, IX and X in the eastern and western parts of the island, and from the SW part of excavation VI (Fig. 1). The majority of the potsherds found came from unornamented vessels. Only a few vessels had a simple decoration, often consisting of 2–5 horizontal lines, one or more wavy lines occur less frequently. Some vessels were decorated with indentations, pits or small lines. One potsherd (AI 6339: 6808) had a row of little circles impressed with an end of a bird's long bone. Nearly whole was a *tiny vessel* (Fig. 2), with its two handles broken. Its height was 4.8 cm, the diameter of the bottom 2 cm, the largest diameter at the shoulder of the vessel 5.1 cm and the diameter of the orifice 3.2 cm. The wall of the vessel was 0.45 cm thick. The *lids of vessels* have been predominantly of the same type: quite thin, with straight or curved rim, with a diameter of 28–30 cm, some also smaller. The central part of the lid was bulged out a little, the 3–4 cm long handle sometimes resembled, by its shape and make, the bottom rim of the vessels. Potsherds with glazed surface(s) were rare. Some of them were made of fine-grained gray clay and covered with green glaze (AI 6340: 1973). Among the latter were a few sherds (AI 6339: 1025; 6340: 1973, etc.) decorated with line ornament, evidently belonging to the so-called field flask (for more, see Kildjuševski 1983, 117). To the same period with the latter (Kildjuševski *op. cit.*, 116, 117) belong also the few fragments of vessels of white clay (AI 6340: 2044, etc.). Their paste contains coarse stone debris, surfaces have been smoothed but are still quite rough. One of the white clay vessels had a sharply carinated shoulder (AI 6339: 687), and one fragment (AI 6339: 6646) belonged to an upright vessel with a curved rim. Both field flasks and white clay vessels appeared in Estonia in the 2nd half of the 16th century (for more, see Tvauri 2000, 108).

Tools and commodities. There were several fragments of knives, boat clamps whole and fragmentary, nails calks, a spokeshave, stone and clay spinning whorls and their fragments, a fragment of a fishing spear, netsinkers of clay and limestone, a bronze fishing hook, a fragment of a strike-a-light, a fragment of a distaff, etc. One of the stone spinning whorls (Fig. 3: 1) belongs to the small biconical type of the prehistoric period. Its diameter was only 2.35 cm, height 1.5 cm and the diameter of the hole 0.65 cm. By its shape and size this spinning whorl was quite similar to those of pink slate schist widespread in Eastern Europe in the

10th-13th centuries (for more, see Vedru 1999, 101). From Setumaa most numerous finds of such spinning whorls come from the Irboska hillfort, from the deposits of the 13th and early 14th centuries (Artemjev 1998, 92). Thus the biconical stone spinning whorl from the Pedajasaare settlement site can also be dated to the end of the prehistoric period, at the latest. This date was also confirmed by the C¹⁴ analysis of the charcoal sample from the immediate neighbourhood of the spinning whorl, giving the result of 725±30, with the dendro-correction 720±40 years (Ta-2742). The netsinkers of clay were mostly disc-shaped, with the hole in the middle or slightly offset. Oval and spherical netsinkers were less frequent, still rarer were biconical netsinkers of clay. For the latter, analogies from Setumaa can be found from the fortress of Irboska, Setumaa, in the deposits of the 14th-15th centuries (Artemjev 1998, 77, plate 31: 6). The limestone netsinkers were mostly flat with rectangular or irregularly rectangular shape, sometimes also roughly circu-

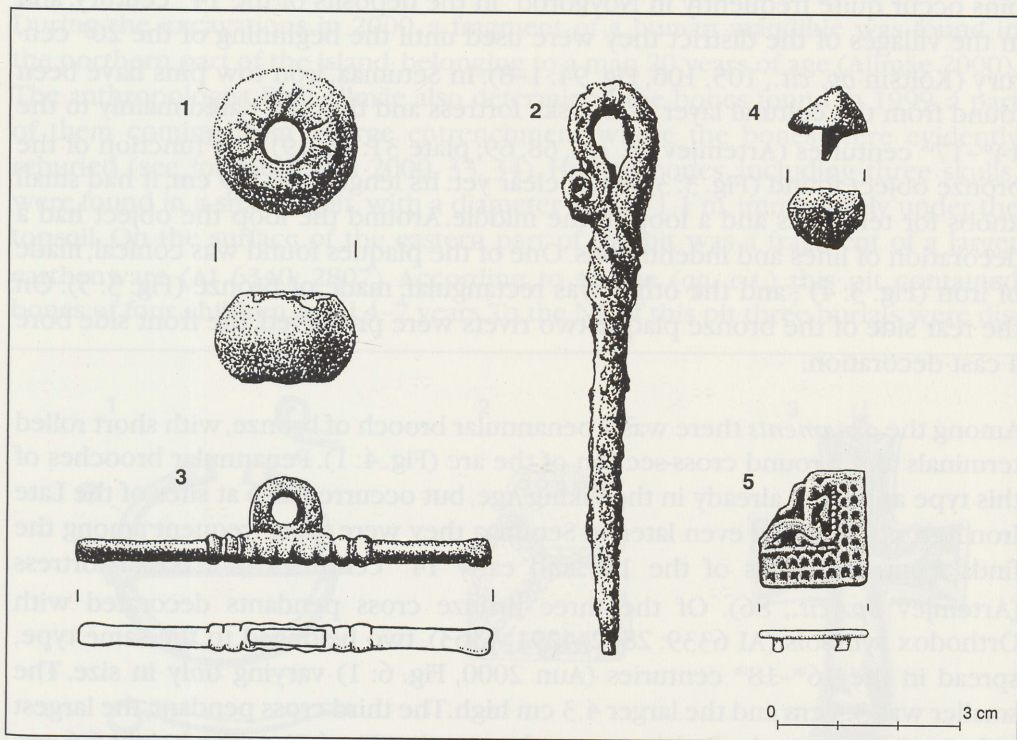


Fig. 3. Tools and commodities from the Pedajasaare settlement site. 1 - spinning whorl, 2 - fragment of a tow pin, 3 - artefact of unknown function, 4 - plaque, 5 - fragment of a plaque. 1 - stone, 2, 4 - iron, 3, 5 - bronze.

Joon. 3. Töö- ja tarbeesemeid Pedajasaare asulakobalt. 1 - värtnekeder (AI 6339: 5320), 2 - koonlavarda katke (AI 6339: 7858), 3 - teadmata otstarbega ese (AI 6339: 3537), 4 - naast (AI 6339: 3419), 5 - naastu katke (AI 6339: 3821). 1 - kivi, 2, 4 - raud, 3, 5 - pronks.

lar. The fragment of a fishing spear found (AI 6339: 7712) had a single barb. A rather similar fishing spear from the southern suburb of Tartu was found from the cultural layer of the 17th–19th centuries (Aun 1996, 452; plate XXII: 2). Another single-barbed fishing spear is known from Setumaa, from the fortress of Irboska (Artemjev *op. cit.*, plate 31: 15). The fragment of a strike-a-light (AI 6339: 4325) belongs to the type spread mostly in the 12th century (see for more Koltšin 1959, Fig. 84: 5), but they were used also later (Artemjev *op. cit.*, 28). One strike-a-light of this type was found from the fortress of Irboska (Artemjev *op. cit.*, plate 79: 12). Quite numerous were pieces of flint, used for striking light (AI 6339: 4333, 4364, 4676, 7738, etc.). The fragment of an iron tow pin found had a loop-shaped head typical of these objects, and a stem, with rectangular cross-section, twisted in the upper part (Fig. 3: 2). Tow pins, usually made of wood, sometimes of iron, were used to attach the tow to the board-shaped distaff (Manninen, 1993, 17). Iron tow pins occur quite frequently in Novgorod in the deposits of the 14th century, and in the villages of the district they were used until the beginning of the 20th century (Koltšin *op. cit.*, 105, 106, Fig. 94: 1–8). In Setumaa, iron tow pins have been found from the cultural layer of Irboska fortress and they are dated mainly to the 14th–17th centuries (Artemjev *op. cit.*, 68, 69; plate 31: 16, 19). The function of the bronze object found (Fig. 3: 3) is not clear yet. Its length was 6.9 cm; it had small knobs for terminals and a loop in the middle. Around the loop the object had a decoration of lines and indentations. One of the plaques found was conical, made of iron (Fig. 3: 4), and the other was rectangular, made of bronze (Fig. 3: 5). On the rear side of the bronze plaque two rivets were preserved, the front side bore a cast decoration.

Among the *ornaments* there was a penannular brooch of bronze, with short rolled terminals and a round cross-section of the arc (Fig. 4: 1). Penannular brooches of this type appeared already in the Viking Age, but occurred also at sites of the Late Iron Age, occasionally even later. In Setumaa they were most frequent among the finds from the layers of the 12th and early 14th centuries of Irboska fortress (Artemjev *op. cit.*, 86). Of the three bronze cross pendants decorated with Orthodox symbols (AI 6339: 2872, 4291, 4363), two belonged to the same type, spread in the 16th–18th centuries (Aun 2000, Fig. 6: 1) varying only in size. The smaller was 3.4 cm and the larger 4.3 cm high. The third cross pendant, the largest hitherto found from the Pedajasaare settlement site (Fig. 4: 3), with a height 6.6 cm, differed from the others not only by size, but also by decoration and the small loops in the middle of the top and bottom edges. A small open finger-ring with closely meeting straight ends (AI 6339: 3460), with a diameter 1.9 cm, was made of a bronze band 0.25 cm wide and 0.1 cm thick. Since only two fragments were preserved of the middle part of a wider (3.4 cm) bronze bracelet (Fig. 4: 2), it is

difficult to identify the type of the bracelet. The bronze sheet was only 0.1 cm thick. In the middle and at the edges of the bracelet was a stamped decoration consisting of a row of small circles encircled by dashed lines.

Besides the flint used for striking fire, several other flint pieces were found from the Pedajasaare settlement site (AI 6339: 3945, 8132, 8133, 8246, etc.). These, lacking wear indicating fire-striking, might belong to the Stone Age. A fragment of a stone artefact with a lozenge cross-section, made of local rock (AI 6340: 2159) was also found. This may come from the butt end of a sharp-butted stone axe of the Neolithic period. According to Arvis Kiristaja, only two fragments of sharp-butted stone axe is hitherto known from Setumaa; one was found from the village of Vedernika (Kiristaja 2000, 50, map 1) and another from the fortress of Irboska (MZI 235: Izb - 79/292).

During the excavations in 2000, a fragment of a human mandible was found in the northern part of the island, belonging to a man 20 years of age (Allmäe 2000). The anthropologist Raili Allmäe also determined the bones found in 1999, a part of them coming from a large entrenchment where the bones were evidently reburied (see for more Aun 2000, 33, 34). Human bones, including three skulls, were found in a shallow pit, with a diameter of 0.8–1.1 m, immediately under the topsoil. On the surface of the eastern part of the pit was a fragment of a larger earthenware (AI 6340: 2807). According to Allmäe (*op. cit.*) this pit contained bones of four children, aged 4–7 years. To the NE of this pit three burials were dis-

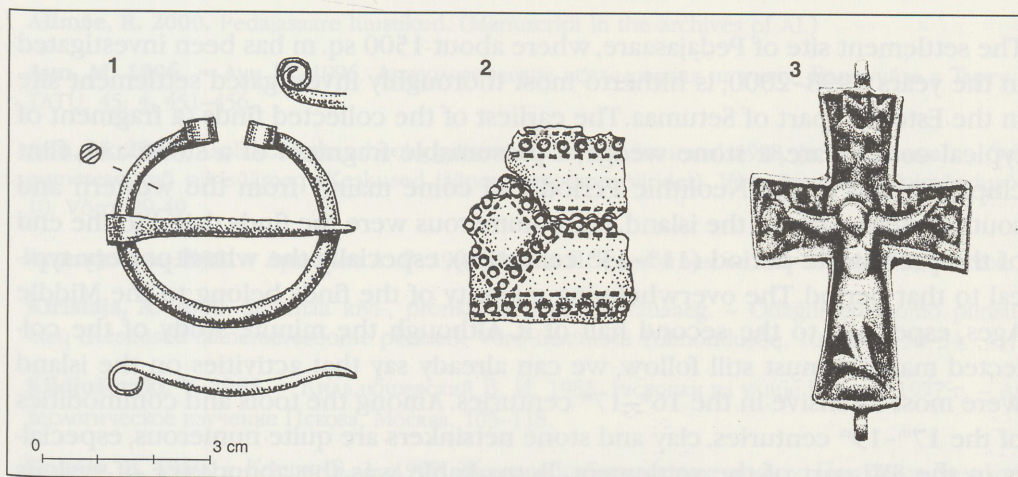


Fig. 4. Bronze ornaments from the settlement site of Pedajasaare. 1 - penannular brooch, 2 - fragment of a bracelet, 3 - cross pendant.

Joon. 4. Pronksehteid Pedajasaare asulakohalt. 1 - hoburaudsõlg (AI 6339: 6081), 2 - käevõru katke (AI 6339: 8042), 3 - ristripats (AI 6339: 4291).

covered in their original places, and the burials seemed to continue eastwards. All the excavated burials were buried in wooden coffins, heads westwards according to the Christian custom. No grave goods were found. One of the burials belonged to a tall woman (162–163 cm), 25–35 years of age, another belonged to a man about 159 cm tall, aged 30–40 years, and the third to a woman (?) aged 25–35.

Likewise the human bones, the animal and fish bones were also poorly preserved and rather few in number. The household or refuse pits, as well as the fire-places and their vicinity contained slightly more animal and fish bones. In 2000, most of the animal bones were found from the excavation XI. These bones were, according to Liina Maldre, characteristic of refuse (Maldre 2000). Most numerous were cattle bones, while pig bones were less in numbers and the bones of goat or sheep still rarer. Two horse bones were also found. One more horse bone came to light in excavation V. Among fish bones, Lembi Lõugas determined the vertebrae of pike and bream and the scales of perch, pike and bream (Lõugas 2000).

In the SW part of excavation VII, wooden remains came to light in the sand under a smaller pit. According to Sirje Hiie they were pine roots. The C^{14} analysis of the sample from them gave the result 825 ± 30 , with dendro-correction 814 ± 40 years (Ta-2738).

SUMMARY

The settlement site of Pedajasaare, where about 1500 sq. m has been investigated in the years 1998–2000, is hitherto most thoroughly investigated settlement site in the Estonian part of Setumaa. The earliest of the collected finds (a fragment of typical comb ware, a stone wedge, a presumable fragment of a stone axe, flint chips) belong to the Neolithic Period and come mainly from the western and south-eastern parts of the island. More numerous were the finds dated to the end of the prehistoric period (11th–13th centuries), especially the wheel pottery typical to that period. The overwhelming majority of the finds belong to the Middle Ages, especially to the second half of it. Although the minute study of the collected material must still follow, we can already say that activities on the island were most intensive in the 16th–17th centuries. Among the tools and commodities of the 17th–19th centuries, clay and stone netsinkers are quite numerous, especially in the SW part of the settlement. Remarkable was the abundance of various pendants, especially those with Orthodox symbols, among the ornaments of the 16th–18th centuries. The information conveyed by oral tradition (about the *tsässon* – small chapel, and stone crosses in the NW part of the island) about a cemetery

once having been on the island of Sosna was confirmed by the burials that came to light in the central part of the island. The preserved remains of coffins and the absence of grave goods indicate that the burials cannot be dated earlier than to the 18th-19th centuries. In the neighbourhood some human bones were reburied, which had apparently been found elsewhere. It was not possible to establish whether the bones were brought from some other place or found on the island and reburied on a new site. In the later times the area of the burials was under tillage. Some human bones from destroyed burials have also been found from the western and one even from the northern part of the island.

The settlement site of Pedajasaare on the eastern shore of Värška, located in an area of great interest from the point of view of the ancient history of Setumaa, produced archaeological material remarkably more varied than is usually common for the settlements.

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PÄÄSTEKAEVAMISED SOSNA SAAREL SETUMAAL

Mare AUN

2000. aastal jätkas Ajaloo Instituut seoses Värskla piirivalvekordoni ehitustöödega arheoloogilisi päästekaevamisi Pedajasaare asulakohal Värskla lähedal asuval Sosna saarel. Piirivalveameti finantseerimisel uuriti läbi u. 800 m² ala. Suuremad kaevandid (V–XI) paiknesid saare lõunaosas ja neli väiksemat (I–IV) põhjaosas (joon. 1). Kultuurikiht oli uuritud alal, nagu 1998.–1999. a. kaevanditeski, enamasti läbi küntud, puutumatusena oli see säilinud vaid saare lääne- ja idaosas. Kultuurikihi paksus oli keskmiselt 0,2–0,3 cm, saare lääne- ja idaosas 0,4–0,45 cm. Sügavamale, kuni 1 m ja kohati enamgi, ulatus kultuurikiht maasse kaevatud lohkedes, mida esines arvukamalt kaevandites IX–XI ning VI kaevandi edelaosas (joon. 1).

Ehitusjäänuseid avastati vähe ja neid tuli nähtavale eelkõige saare lääne- ja idaosas, vähem keskosas. Eraldi märgitagu lääneosast leitud väiksemate lohkede ridu, mis võisid olla postiaugud mingist *majapidamishoonest*, mille laius võis olla 2,8–3 m. Rohkem leiti kividest laotud maapealseid või veidi maasse süvendatud madalas lohus paiknevaid *leesemeid*. Needki paiknesid enamasti saare lääne- ja edelaosas. Teistest erines V kaevandist nähtavale tulnud leeseme, mille ülaosa piiras lääne ja lõuna poolt kitsas, keskmiselt 10–12 cm laiune saviviirg. Mõne leeseme läheduses, vahel ka otse nende peal, leiti pesadena kalasoomuseid. Üks kalasoomustega leeseme oli saare keskosas, VI kaevandis. Saare lõunaosas, VIII kaevandis väljapuhastatud leesemelt võetud söe analüüs andis C¹⁴ vanuseks 725±30 ja dendrokorrigeeritult 720±40 aastat (Ta-2742). Mõnevõrra nooremaks osutus X kaevandi põhjaosast leitud leesemelt võetud süsi, mille vanuseks oli 605±30 ja dendrokorrigeeritult 613±40 aastat (Ta-2739). Valdavalt saadi leesemetelt ja nende lähedusest siiski hilisemat, 16.–19. sajandist pärit kedrakeraamikat.

Suurem osa maasse kaevatud lohkedest olid *majapidamis-* või *jäätmeaugud*, mõne lohu (eriti nende, mis leiti X kaevandist) otstarve ei ole päris selge. Lohkedest võetud söe analüüs andis ühel juhul (XI kaevandi kaguosast) C¹⁴ vanuseks 1140±40 ja dendrokorrigeeritult 1110±50 aastat (Ta-2737). X kaevandi kirdeosas olnud lohust võetud söeproov oli 650±30 ja dendrokorrigeeritult 655±40 aastat vana (Ta-2740). Kõige nooremaks osutus analüüsides saare lõunaosast, VIII kaevandi idaosas avastatud lohust saadud süsi, mille C¹⁴ vanuseks oli 140±30 ja dendrokorrigeeritult 210±50 aastat (Ta-2741). Lohkedest leiti rohkesti savinõukilde, aga ka savist ja paekivist võrguraskusi; samast pärines ka enamik toiduks tarvitatud loomadest järele jäänud luid ja kalade soomuseid.

Pedajasaare asulakoha arheoloogilistel kaevamistel kogutud **leidude** hulgas olid ülekaalus hilis-keskaegsed ja vara-uusaegsed *kedrakeraamika killud*, väiksem osa savinõutükke pärines hilis-raua-

aja kedranõudest. Muinasaegset kedrakeraamikat leiti peamiselt saare ida- ja lääneosa kaevanditest. Enamik kogutud savinõukildudest pärineb ornamenteerimata pottidest. Vaid väheste nõude õlaosas oli lihtne muster, mis enamasti moodustus 2–5 horisontaaljoone, harvemini ühest või mitmest lainelise joone vööndist. Üks pisike savinõu (joon. 2) leiti peaaegu tervena, murdunud olid vaid selle kaks sangakest. Savinõude üsna õhukesed kaaned olid enamasti ühte tüüpi: keskosas veidi kummis ja 3–4 cm kõrguse käepidemega, mis oma kujult ja teostuselt meenutas mõne nõu põhja ümber olevat ranti või alast. Väga vähe oli glasuuritud savinõukilde. Nende hulgas olnud peeneteralisest hallist savist vormitud ning rohelise glasuuriga ja joonornamendiga kaunistatud fragmendid pärinevad nähtavasti 16.–17. sajandil kasutusel olnud välipudelitest. Samasse aega kuuluvad ka valgest savist vormitud nõude killud.

Töö- ja tarberiistade hulgas oli nugade katkeid, nii terveid kui ka murdunud paadiklambreid, naelu, jäänaelu, liimeister, kivist ja savist värtnaketri, ahingu katke, savist ja paekivist võrguraskusi, üks ümmargusest pronkstraadist õngekonks, katkine tulusraud, koonlavarras jm. Üks kivist värtnakeder (joon. 3: 1) kuulus juba muinasaajal levinud väikeste kaksikkooniliste ketraade tüüpi, mida Setumaalt oli senini kõige enam leitud Irboska linnuse 13.–14. sajandi alguse kultuurkihist. Savist võrguraskused olid enamasti kettakujulised, vähem oli ovaalseid ja kerakujulisi ning peaaegu kaksikkoonilise kujuga savist võrguraskusi. Viimastele on Setumaalt teada vaseid Irboska kindluse 14.–15. sajandi kultuurkihist. Paekivist võrguraskused olid enamasti lapikud, neljakandilise või ebakorrapäraselt neljakandilise kujuga, mõnikord ka ebakorrapäraselt ümara kujuga. Leitud tulusraua katke esindab peamiselt 12. sajandil levinud tüüpi, kuid need olid kasutusel veel hiljemgi. Rauast koonlavarras, mille tipuosa on murdunud, on neile esemetele iseloomuliku aasakujulise pea ning ülaosas tordeeritud neljakandilise varrega (joon. 3: 2). Setumaalt on rauast koonlavardaid varem leitud Irboska kindluse 14.–17. sajandi kultuurkihist. Ühe pronkseseme (joon. 3: 3) otstarvet ei õnnestunud veel kindlaks määrata. Naastudest oli üks rauast, kooniline (joon. 3: 4) ja teine pronksist, neljakandiline (joon. 3: 5).

Ehete hulgas oli üks pronksist ümara ristilõikega kaare ja lühikeste rullotstega hoburaudsõlg (joon. 4: 1). Setumaalt on seda tüüpi hoburaudsõlgi kõige rohkem leitud Irboska linnuselt 12. sajandisse ja 14. sajandi algusesse dateeritud kihist. Kolmest õigeusu sümbolikaiga kaunistatud pronksist ristripatsist kuulusid kaks 16.–18. sajandil levinud tüüpi. Kõige suurem ristripats (joon. 4: 3) erineb nendest peale mõõtmete veel ka risti üla- ja alaserva keskel olevate aasakeste ning ornamendi poolest. Väike, 1,9 cm läbimõõduga sõrmus on valmistatud kitsast paeljast pronksiribast, mille laius on 0,25 cm ja paksus 0,1 cm. Laiema (3,4 cm) pronkskäevõru keskosast oli säilinud kaks katket (joon. 4: 2).

Lisaks tulelöömiseks kasutatud tulekivitükkidele leiti kilde, millel puudusid tulelöömisest tekkinud kulumisjäljed ja mis võiksid kuuluda kiviaega. Leiti ka üks kohalikust kivimist valmistatud rombiline ristilõikega kivieseme katke, mis võib pärineda noorema kiviaja teravakannalise kivikirve kan-naosast.

2000. a. kaevamiste ajal saare põhjaosast leitud inimese lõualuu fragment kuulub antropoloog Raili Allmäe määran-gul u. 20-aastasele mehele. 1999. aastal saare keskosas nähtavale tulnud suuremasse sissekaevesse oli ümber maetud nelja, 4–7-aastase lapse luud. Sellest lohist 5–6 m kirdes oli aga kolm matust, mis asetsesid oma algsel kohal. Kõik nad olid maetud ilma panusteta, ristiisu kombe kohaselt peaga lääne poole ja kõigi kolme juurest leiti ka kõdunenud kirstujäänuseid. Allmäe määran-gul oli üks maetutest arvatavalt 25–35-aastane naine pikkusega 162–163 cm, teine 30–40-aastane mees pikkusega 159 cm ning kolmas naine (?) vanuses 25–35 aastat.

Looma- ja kalaluud olid üsna halvasti säilinud ja neid saadi suhteliselt vähe. Mõnevõrra rohkem oli

looma- ja kalaluid vaid majapidamis- või jäätmeaukudes ning leasemete alal ja nende läheduses. Liina Maldre määrangul oli luumaterjali hulgas kõige arvukamalt veiseluid, mõnevõrra vähem sea-, veel vähem aga kitse- või lambaluid ning kolm hobuseluid. Kalaluudest määras Lembi Lõugas latika ja haugi selgrootülid ning ahvena, haugi ja latika soomused.

Pedajasaare asulakoht, kus kolme (1998–2000) aasta jooksul kaevati läbi u. 1500 m², on senini arheoloogiliselt kõige põhjalikumalt uuritud asulakoht Eesti poolele jäävas Setumaa osas. Kaevamistelt kogutud leidudest kõige varasemad – tüüpilise kammkeraamika kild, kivitalb, arvatava kivi kirve katke, tulekivikillud – kuuluvad nooremasse kiviaega. Märksa rohkem leide, peamiselt sellele perioodile iseloomulikke kedrakeraamikat, saadi aga muinasaja lõpust (11.–13. saj.). Arvukalt oli keskaega (13.–16. saj) ja eriti selle teise poolde kuuluvaid leide. Esialgsel andmetel võib öelda, et kõige intensiivsem elutegevus oli Sosna saarel nähtavasti 16.–17. sajandil. 16.–18. sajandi ehete hulgas äratav tähelepanu mitmesuguste ripatsite (eriti õigeusu sümboolikaga ristripatsite) rohkus. Hilisemate, 17.–19. sajandist pärit töö- ja tarbeesemete seas oli üsna palju kivist ja savist võrguraskuseid, mida leiti kõige enam saare edelaosas. Rahvapärimestes sisalduv teave tsässoni ja saare loodeosas olnud kivistide ning selle kohta, et Sosna saarele on kunagi maetud, leidis kinnitust arheoloogilistel kaevamistel saare keskosas nähtavale tulnud matuste näol. Säilinud kirstujäänused ja panuste puudumine näivad viitavat asjaolule, et need matused ei ole varasemad 18.–19. sajandist. Hiljem on matuseala kasutatud põllumaana. Lõhutud matustest pärinevaid üksikuid inimluid leiti veel saare lääne- ja ühel juhul ka põhjaosast.

Setumaa varasema ajaloo seisukohalt üsna leiduderohkes piirkonnas Värskla lahe idakaldal paikneva Pedajasaare asulakoha kaevamistel kogutud materjal osutus asulakohtadele iseloomulikust tavapärasest leiumaterjalist märksa mitmekülgsemaks.