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ARHEOLOOGILISED VÄLITÖÖD EESTIS

ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELDWORK IN ESTONIA

2001

Koostanud ja toimetanud
Ülle Tamla

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Esi- ja tagakaas: 2001. aastal Haapsalust leitud ahjukahlid. 16. saj. esimene pool.
Cover and back cover: Stove-tiles found from Haapsalu in 2001. The first half of the 16th century.

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TARTU ÜLIKOOLI
RAAMATUKOGU
SUNDEKSEMPLAR

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EXCAVATIONS OF THE DESTROYED GRAVE AT HARMI

Ülle TAMLA

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In spring 2001 the Department of Collections of the Institute of History carried out archaeological excavations in Kose parish (South Harjumaa), on the Harmi gravesite, destroyed by land improvement and tillage. An area of 60 m² was excavated and 200 m² of the surroundings of the excavation were checked with metal detector. The work was financed by the National Heritage Board.

The grave of Harmi is located in the higher part of the field about 300 m east of the former manor house of Uue-Harmi, now housing the Harmi School. The absolute altitude of the site is 72 m above sea level. When soil is damp, the darker burial layer can be observed in two places: a semicircular belt, about 10 m wide, about 80 m WSW of the heap of stones piled up in the course of land improvement, and a patch with the diameter of ca. 15 m, about 30–40 m NNW of the same heap. In 1999 Arne Kivistik, the history teacher of the Harmi School, collected the first stray finds from these dark patches. The finds suggested a grave with cremation burials dating from the Late Iron Age (Tamla & Kivistik 2000, 102 ff., Fig. 1).

Considering the large number of prehistoric artefacts recovered from the gravesite of Harmi (in spring 2001 the finds brought to the Institute of History numbered ca. 500), hope appeared to find intact burial layer preserved below the topsoil. The decisive reason to apply for the finances for the investigations from the National Heritage Board, was the fact that several times unlicensed persons had been seen in the same field with a metal detector. So the excavations in Harmi were also a salvage operation to prevent antiquities from falling into the hands of traffickers.

The site of the excavation was chosen on the basis of the intensity of the cultural layer and the density of the occurrence of stray finds. The excavation measuring 10 x 10 m was located 90 m WSW of the western edge of the stone heap. The excavation established that the cultural layer was 35–40 cm thick. The upper part, 30–35 cm thick, was mixed by ploughing and contained burnt bone fragments and lots of melted bronze fragments. The topsoil also contained many potsherds, nearly 90 % of which come from handmoulded pottery. Most likely the few fragments of wheel pottery (AI 6386: 181; including some glazed fragments of stoneware) are not associated with the grave. It looks more likely that they were brought here later, when the grave was already abandoned and the area was used as a field, probably with manure from the cattle-sheds of the neighbouring estate.

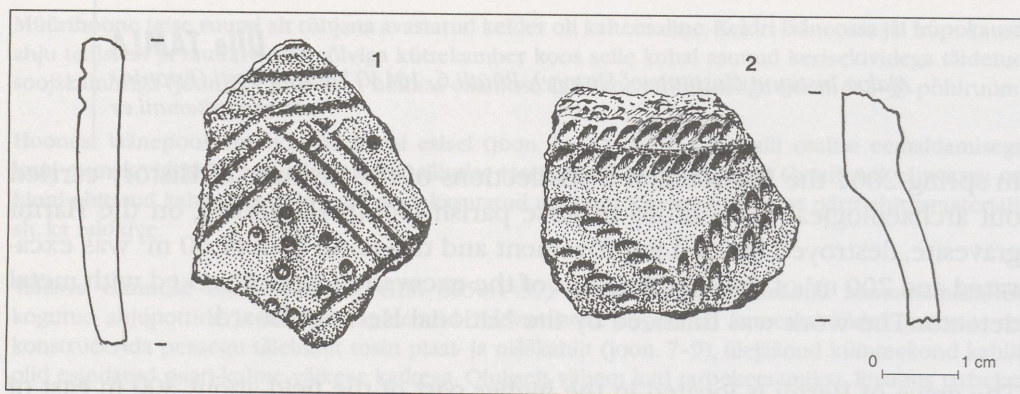


Fig. 1. Ornamented pottery from Harmi. 1 - net ornament combined with small pits, 2 - zigzag decoration between horizontal lines. (AI 6386: 170, 171.)

Joon. 1. Ornamenditud keraamika Harmist. 1 - lobukestega kombineeritud võreornament, 2 - siksakmuster horisontaaljoonte vabel.

The thickness of the hand-moulded potsherds varies. The fragments of fine-grained pottery, with carefully finished surfaces and well-baked, slightly prevail. Most of such vessels were reddish-brown, with the diameter of the orifice about 15 cm and a strongly profiled shoulder. Many sherds of the fine-grained pottery display net ornament on the widest part of the vessel, in some cases combined with small pits (Fig. 1: 1). Some fragments have a decoration of a zigzag between horizontal lines, which was probably applied with a bracelet twisted of three wires (Fig. 1: 2). None of the potsherds bears traces of secondary burning.

Although the Harmi grave has been heavily damaged by centuries of tillage, the deepest burial layer was quite well preserved in about 1/3 of the excavated area in the N, NW and E part of the excavation. The first compact bone and artifact assemblage was discovered at the depth of 35 cm from the surface. Since three potsherds (two larger of them were of polished (Fig. 2: 6) and one of a coarse-grained vessel), two iron bridle plaques (Fig. 2: 1, 2), one plaque of bronze sheet with rivets (Fig. 2: 3), a fragment of a bracelet of three wires (Fig. 2: 4) and some fragments of a flat-ringed and mid-ribbed penannular brooch (Fig. 2: 5) were found in 5-7 cm deep and oval-shaped (10 x 15 cm) sooty hollow together with strongly calcinated bones, it suggests a burial complex. Another similar assemblage was discovered 1.7 m south of the first one. It consisted of a fragment of a collar-shaped neck-ring with wide middle part, deliberately broken and deformed (Fig. 3: 1), three twisted fragments of bronze wire (Fig. 3: 2), a small ringlet melted in fire (Fig. 3: 3) and a heavily worn straight-backed knife with tang in the middle (Fig. 3: 4). All these "killed" objects lay together in a small, about 8-10 cm deep pit with the diameter of 20 cm. On the bottom of the pit there were small frag-

ments of charcoal and a few bone fragments. The third burial complex was discovered ca. 2 m south-east of the second one at the depth of 30 cm. In the middle of a charcoal-rich area with a diameter of ca. 0.3 m a fragment of a small-sized spiral bracelet (Fig. 4: 1) and a scale-weight (Fig. 4: 2) laid together (weight in the

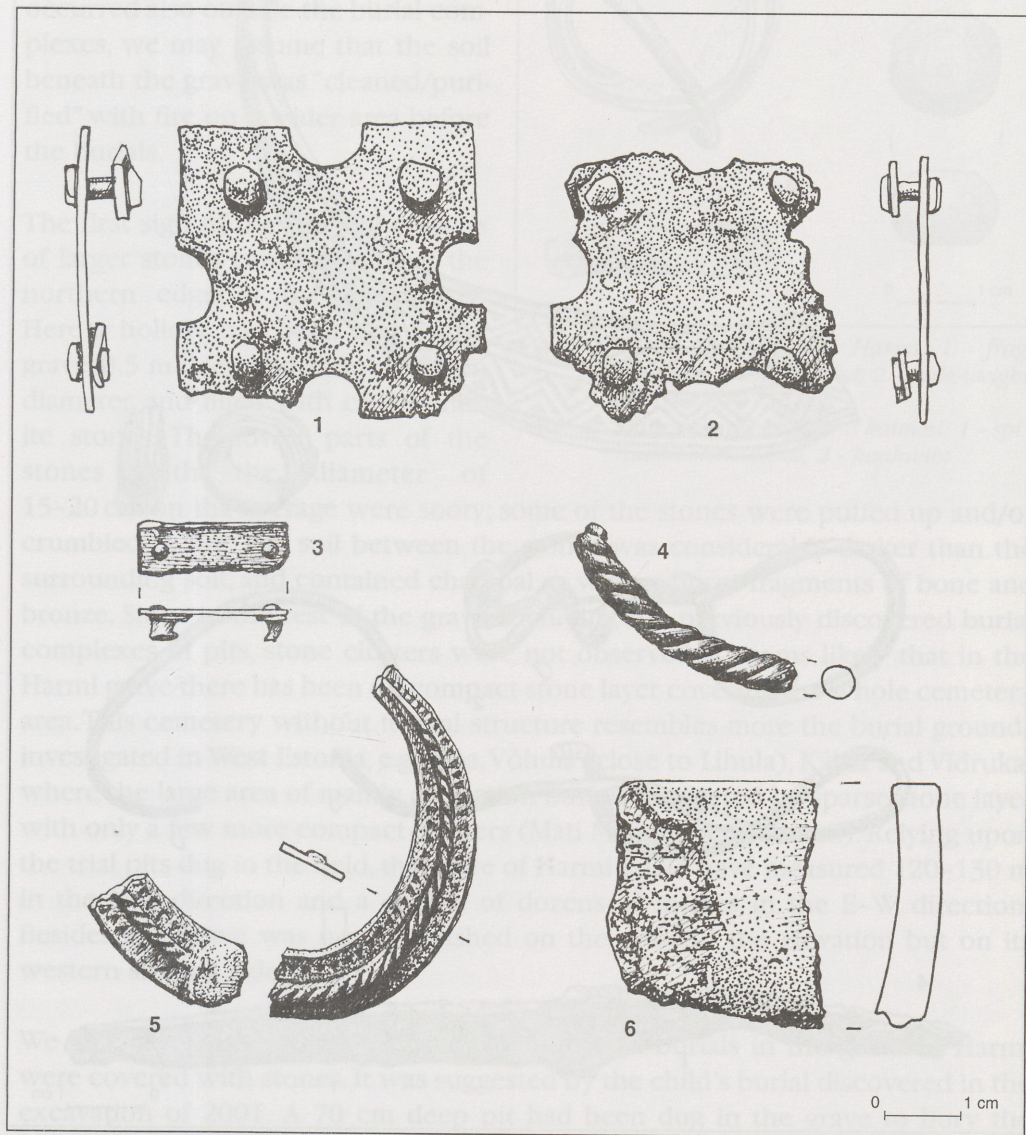


Fig. 2. Burial complex from Harmi. 1, 2 - iron bridle plaques, 3 - plaque of bronze sheet, 4 - fragment of bracelet, 5 - fragments of penannular brooch, 6 - potsherd. (AI 6386: 182.)
 Joon. 2. Matusekompleks Harmi kalmest. 1, 2 - rauast valjanaastud, 3 - pronksist ribmanaast, 4 - kolmest traadist keeratud käevõru katke, 5 - harikaarega hoburaudsõle katked, 6 - savinõukild.

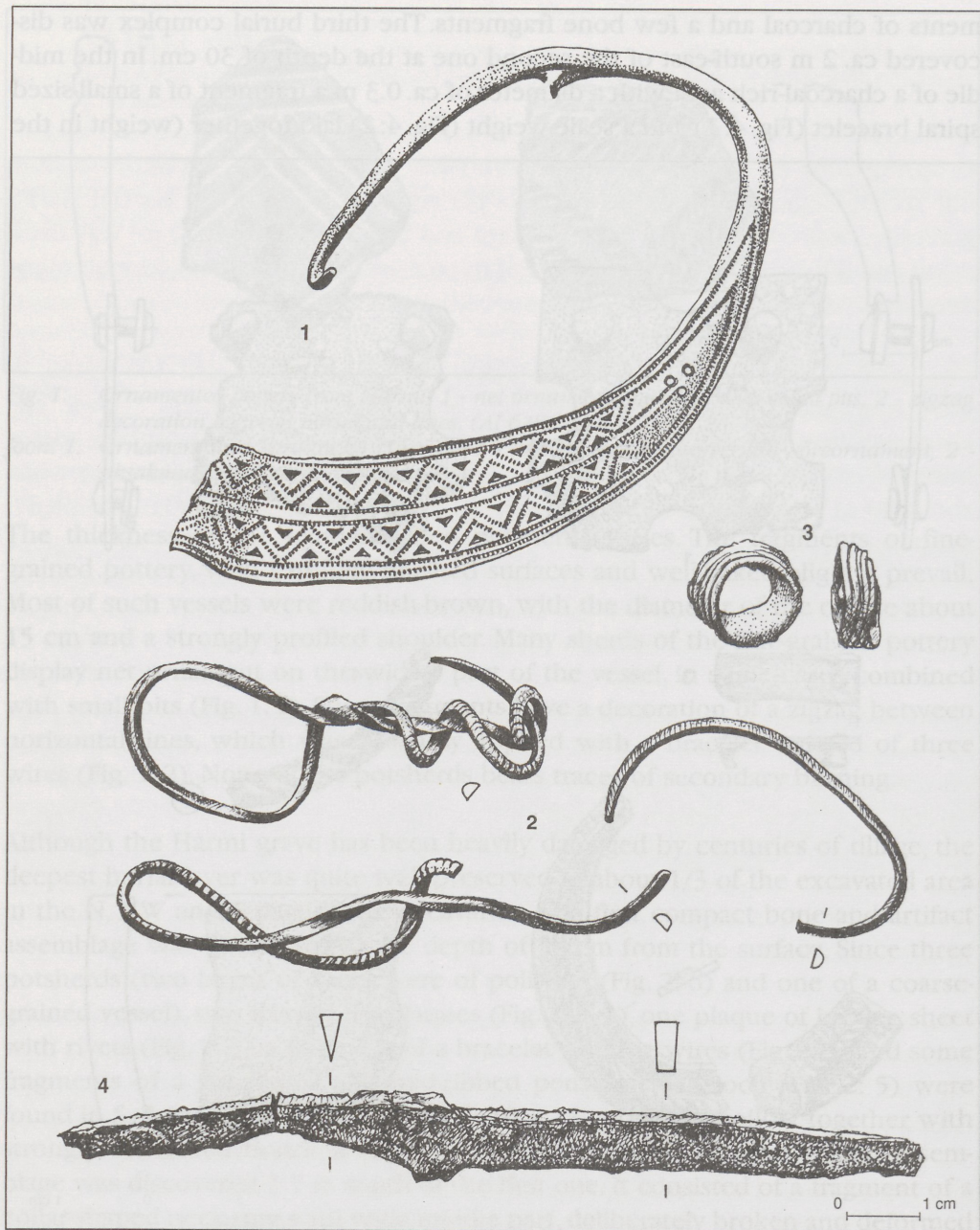


Fig. 3. Burial complex from Harmi.

1 - fragment of a neck-ring, 2 - fragments of bronze wire, 3 - ringlet of bronze, 4 - knife.
(AI 6386: 183.)

Joon. 3. Matusekompleks Harmi kalmest.

1 - kaelavõru katke, 2 - pronkstraadi jupid, 3 - pronksist rõngas, 4 - nuga.

centre of the rolled up bracelet) with some ten strongly calcinated bone fragments in a low, not more than 5 cm deep sooty hollow. Since charcoal occurred also outside the burial complexes, we may assume that the soil beneath the grave was "cleaned/purified" with fire on a wider area before the burials.

The first sign of the original clusters of larger stones came to light at the northern edge of the excavation. Here a hollow had been dug in the grave, 0.5 m deep and about 0.7 m in diameter, and filled with ca. 10 granite stones. The lower parts of the stones with the diameter of

15–20 cm on the average were sooty; some of the stones were puffed up and/or crumbled in fire. The soil between the stones was considerably darker than the surrounding soil, and contained charcoal as well as burnt fragments of bone and bronze. Since in the rest of the grave, including the previously discovered burial complexes in pits, stone clusters were not observed, it seems likely that in the Harmi grave there has been no compact stone layer covering the whole cemetery area. This cemetery without formal structure resembles more the burial grounds investigated in West Estonia, e.g. Sipa, Võhma (close to Lihula), Käbla and Vidruka, where the large area of mainly cremation burials is covered by sparse stone layer with only a few more compact clusters (Mati Mandel pers. comm.). Relying upon the trial pits dug in the field, the grave of Harmi could have measured 120–130 m in the N–S direction and a couple of dozens of metres in the E–W direction. Besides, the grave was not established on the crest of the elevation but on its western sloping side.

We may say quite definitely that the inhumation burials in the grave of Harmi were covered with stones. It was suggested by the child's burial discovered in the excavation of 2001. A 70 cm deep pit had been dug in the grave to bury the infant. The vertical limestone slab by the southern side of the pit was evidently meant to keep soil from dribbling into the grave (Fig. 5). The infant was buried with the head to NE. In spite of two layers of compact stone covering, ploughing damaged the foot end of the grave. The only artifact finds were four bronze spi-

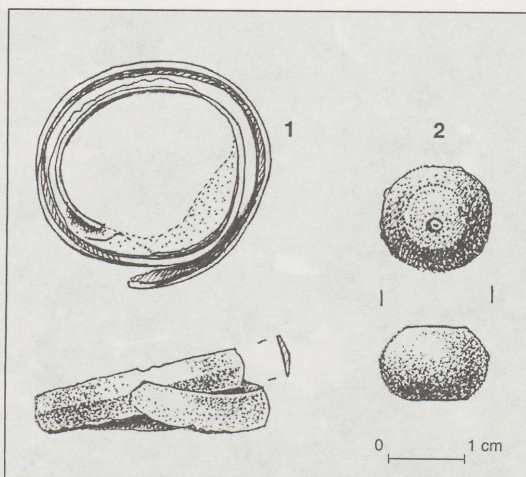


Fig. 4. Burial complex from Harmi. 1 - fragment of a spiral bracelet, 2 - scale-weight. (AI 6386: 197.)

Joon. 4. Matusekompleks Harmi kalmest. 1 - spiraalkäevõru katke, 2 - kaaluviht.



Fig. 5. Child's burial covered with stones in Harmi grave. View from N.
Joon. 5. Kividega kaetud lapsematus Harmi kalmes. Pildistatud põhjast.

rals found at the humerus and the bent (evidently folded across the chest) ulna. These spirals might suggest that the infant was wrapped in a plaid with spiral decorations, or covered with it. It is also possible that the infant's clothes were decorated

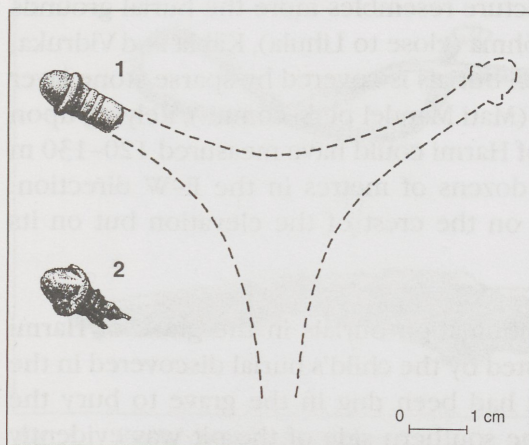


Fig. 6. End knobs of triangular-head pins from Harmi. (AI 6386: 281, 282.)

Joon. 6. Kolmnurkse ehtenõelte otsanupud Harmi kalmest.

ated with bronze spirals. Raili Allmäe, the anthropologist of the Institute of History, investigated the bones. Her estimation was based on the long bones and some better-preserved deciduous teeth. According to her opinion the infant was 9 ± 3 months old. The bones (cranium, 2 femurs, 2 radius, 2 tibiae, the right ulna and the left humerus) and especially the teeth were in a very poor state, which may indicate that the child's death was caused by malnutrition and some kind of infection.

Relying upon the finds we may date

the grave of Harmi to the 11th-13th centuries. Nevertheless the possibility exists that burying here started already in the end of 10th century. Besides the previously published narrow-bladed spearheads, broken strike-a-light, two scythes, several fragments of penannular brooches (Tamla & Kivistik 2000, 104, Figs. 2; 3; 4: 3), some of the new finds - end knobs of triangular-head pins (Fig. 6: 1, 2), the fragments of bracelets with thickening ends and spiral armrings of flat-convex section (AI 6386: 263, 268, 269) - might also belong to the earlier burials.

The majority of the finds from the Harmi grave are deliberately broken and/or deformed in fire. Among the few wholly preserved objects, leather belt fittings from bronze prevail: strap dividers, strap tags (Fig. 7: 1, 4) buckles and decorative mounts (Fig. 7: 2, 3, 5), which can mostly be dated to the 11th-13th centuries on the basis of analogies found from the both side of the Baltic Sea. The two silver coins found from the grave area (AI 6386: 88, 299) also date from the last quarter of the 11th century. These were both stamped in Germany: the first in Münster during the period 1075-1098, the other in Jever during the reign of either Count Hermann (died in 1086) or Duke Ordulf (1059-1071) (the coins were identified by Ivar Leimus from EAM).

Immediately below the burial layer, clear plough-marks, all running in the same (NO-SW) direction, could be observed in the light moraine soil. Similarly oriented plough-marks were discernible over the whole excavation area, the clearest were those in the northern and eastern parts. So we can firmly assert that the grave of Harmi was founded in the former field.

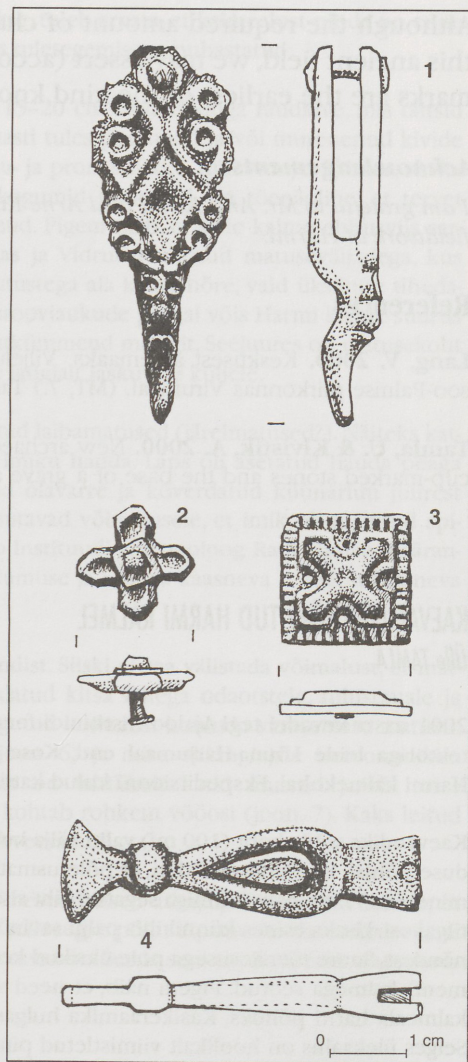


Fig. 7. Belt fittings from Harmi.
1, 4 - strap tags, 2, 3 - decorative mounts. (AI 6386: 254, 259, 262, 260, 288.)

Joon. 7. Ribmaosad Harmi kalmest.
1, 4 - ribmakeeled, 2, 3 - ilunaas-
tud.

Although the required amount of charcoal could not be found for the dating of this ancient field, we may assert (according to Lang 2000, 180) that these plough-marks are the earliest of the kind known in Estonia.

Acknowledgements

I am grateful to Mr. Ants Kraut and Arne Kivistik for their kindly help in the organisation of the fieldwork at Harmi.

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KAEVAMISED LÕHUTUD HARMI KALMEL

Ülle TAMLA

2001. aasta kevadel tegi Ajaloo Instituudi fondide sektor arheoloogilisi kaevamisi ja otsis metallde-
tektoriga leide Lõuna-Harjumaal end. Kose kihelkonnas maaparandus- ja põllutöödega lõhutud
Harmi kalmekohal. Ekspeditsiooni kulud kattis Muinsuskaitseinspeksioon.

Kaevandiks sobiv koht (100 m²) valiti välja kultuurikihi intensiivsuse ja pinnaleidude esinemise sage-
duse põhjal. Kaevamisel tõdeti, et põletusmatustega kalmekihi paksus ulatus 35–40 cm. Sellest üle-
mine, 30–35 cm paks künniga segatud kiht sisaldas põlenud luutükke ning rohkesti sulanud pronksi-
tilgakesi. Lisaks esines künnikihis palju savinõukilde, millest ligemale 90 % pärineb käsitsi vormitud
nõudest. Suure tõenäosusega pole üksikud kedranõukillud (sh. mõni glasuuritud kivikeraamika frag-
ment) kalmega seotud. Pigem näib, et need sattusid siia ajal, kui matmiskoht oli juba unustatud ja
kalmeala hariti põlluks. Käsikeraamika hulgas esineb nii paksema kui ka õhema seinaga anumaid.
Selges ülekaalus on hoolikalt viimistletud pindadega ja ühtlaselt põletatud peenkeramilised nõud.
Enamik anumatest on olnud punakas-pruuni värvi, kuni 15 cm läbimõõduga suuava ja tugevalt pro-
fileeritud õlaga kumerapõhjalised madalad kausid. Tihti kohtab peenkeramilistel nõudel siksak-
ornamenti ja võremustrit, mida mõnel juhul täiendavad väikesed lohud (joon. 1).

Kuigi Harmi muistne matmiskoht on maaharimisega tugevasti lõhutud, leiti künnikihi alt mitu põle-
tusmatuse kompleksi, millest kolm olid säilinud tervena. Põlenud luud, enamasti tahtlikult purus-
tatud ja deformeeritud esemed ning söetükid asetsesid pesana madalates, kuni 10 cm sügavustes
ümarates või ovaalsetes, 20–30 cm läbimõõduga lohudes. Tervena säilinud matuselohkudest oli
leiurikkam matus, mis sisaldas 3 savinõukildu, kaks rauast valjanaastu, pronksplekist neetidega vöö-
naastu, kolmest traadist punutud käevõru katke ja kaks fragmenti harikaarega hoburaudsõlest
(joon. 2). Teises oli murtud tipu ja tugevasti kulunud teraga nuga, kraekujulise laia keskosaga
kaelavõru fragment, 3 pronksstraadi juppi ja tules sulanud pronksstraadist rõngake (joon. 3). Kol-
manda sisuks oli rulli keeratud spiraalkäevõru katke ja selle keskel raudsüdamikuga kaaluviht (joon.

4). Kuna sõe-tükke esines ka väljapool matusekomplekse, tuleb arvata, et kalmealust pinda on enne matmist laiemas osas, võimalik, et kogu kalme ulatuses tuletegemisega puhastatud.

Vaid ühes kohas avastati tihedalt kobaras paiknevaid 15–20 cm läbimõõduga raudkive, mis täitsid 0,5 m sügavust ja ca. 0,7 m läbimõõduga lohku. Enamasti tules porsunud ja/või murenenud kivide vaheline muld oli söesegune ning sisaldas põlenud luu- ja pronksitükke. Kuna mujal kalmes, sh. ka lohkudesse asetatud matusekomplekside juures kivikogumid puudusid, on tõenäoline, et tervet kalmeala katvat kompakset kivikatet pole Harmis olnud. Pigem näib, et selle kalme ehitusviis sarnaneb läänepoolses Eestis, näit. Sipas, Võhmas, Käblas ja Vidrukal uuritud matuseväljadega, kus suurel territooriumil paiknevat ja enamasti põletusmatustega ala katab hõre, vaid üksikute tihedamate pesadega kivikate. Otsustades põllule kaevatud prooviaukude põhjal võis Harmi kalme suurus olla N-S suunas 120–130 m ja O-W sihis vähemalt paarkümmend meetrit. Seejuures on matusekoht rajatud mitte põndaku harjale, vaid selle läänepoolsele laugjalt laskuvale küljele.

Ilmselt kaeti kividega Harmi kalmesse sängitatud üksikud laibamatused (järeilmatused?). Näiteks kattis kaks kihti paeplaate 0,7 sügavusse lohku maetud imiku hauda. Laps oli asetatud hauda peaga kirde suunas (joon. 5). Ainsateks esemeleidudeks olid õlavarre ja kõverdatud küünarluu juurest saadud neli torukujulist tihedat pronksspiraali, mis osutavad võimalusele, et imik oli mähitud spiraalidega kaunistatud sõbasse. Luid analüüsinud Ajaloo Instituudi antropoloog Raili Allmäe määranngu järgi saabus 9 ± 3 kuu vanuse imiku surm halva toitumuse ja sellega kaasneva e. sellest tuleneva haiguse tõttu.

Leiumaterjali alusel pärineb Harmi kalme 11.–13. sajandist. Siiski ei saa välistada võimalust, et matmist alustati siin juba 10. sajandil. Lisaks varem avaldatud kitsa lehega odaotstele, tulusrauale ja mõnele hoburaudsõle katkele, võiksid 2001. aastal kogutud leidudest kuuluda varasemate matuste juurde veel kahe kolmnurkpeaga nõela otsnupud (joon. 6) ja mitu viikingiajale iseloomulikku käevõru fragmenti. Suur osa Harmi kalme leidudest on tahtlikult katki murtud ja/või tules deformeerunud. Vähemest tervena säilinud esemetest kohtab rohkem vööosi (joon. 7). Kaks leitud hõbemünti on vermitud Saksamaal 11. sajandi viimasel veerandil.

Kalmekihi all heledas moreenpinnases paljandunud ühesuunalised adrajäljed osutavad sellele, et Harmi kalme rajati varem kasutatud põllumaale. Kuigi tolleaegse põllu täpsemaks dateerimiseks ei õnnestunud sütt vajalikul määral koguda, võib väita, et need on Eestis seni teadaolevaist ühesuunalistest künnijälgedest varaseimad.