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**ARHEOLOOGILISED
VÄLITÖÖD
EESTIS**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL
FIELDWORK
IN ESTONIA**

2001

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Muinsuskaitseamet
Tallinn 2002

Ülle TAMLA

Excavations of the destroyed grave at Harni

Kaevamised hävinud Harni kalmel

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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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ISSN 1406-3972

TARTU ÜLIKOOLI
RAAMATUKOGU
SUNDEKSEMPLAR

Trükitud AS Pakett trükikojas
Laki 17, Tallinn

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS IN THE CHURCHYARD OF PAISTU

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The small-scale archaeological monitoring and trial excavations carried out in the churchyard of Paistu, South Estonia, were connected with waterproofing work for the walls of the church. A 118-metre long and 1 m wide trench was excavated alongside the eastern, northern and southern walls of the church and in the western part of the churchyard for drainage purposes. At the northern and eastern sides of the church the trench was 90–100 cm deep, but it reached only 60 cm at the western and 30 cm at the southern sides. In order to get some information about the location of original ground level and the burial layer, a trial excavation (180 x 80 cm) was made behind the SE corner of the church choir. A pit for a septic tank (diameter 2 m and depth 1.3 m) was dug at the distance of 12.5 m from the SW corner of the church (Fig. 1).

At the eastern and northern sides of the church, the lowermost layer (15–25-cm thick) in the trench consisted of building remains thrown into the original trench of the church foundation. This layer of brown sandy loam contained pieces of

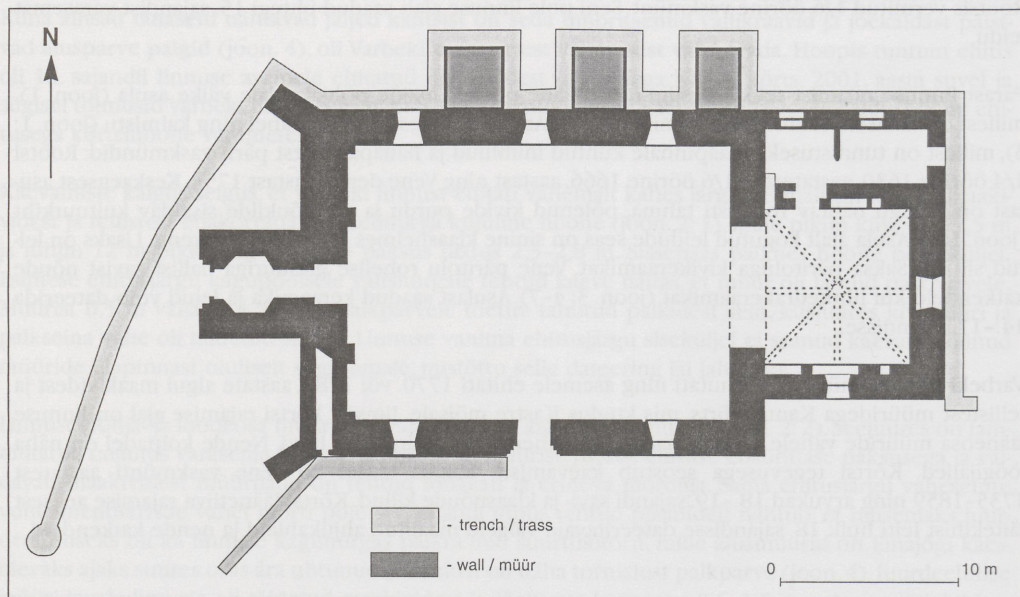


Fig. 1. General plan of the Paistu church.
Joon. 1. Paistu kiriku üldplaan.

mortar and bricks as well as human bone. The six potsherds found belong to a wheel-made pot of so-called Slavonic type decorated with wavy lines. A penannular brooch of bronze with knob-shaped terminals and grooved ring was also found (TÜ 999: 3). On the top of this layer there was a 70–75-cm thick layer of ruins originating from different building and destruction phases of the church. The original ground level around the church had been located 102 m above the seal level. The light-brown layer of ruins contained pieces of bricks, mortar, isolated human bones and veins of lime; a roof tile of the monk-nun type is also noteworthy. At the western side of the church there was a layer containing building remains of the tower and corner buttresses, erected in the 19th century; it also contained bricks and mortar and single human bones. A corner piece of a stove with a rectangular mouth was discovered in this layer. Three skulls were found by the NW buttress of the church – they originate perhaps from the burials destroyed during the erection of this buttress.

Three sections of walls (3.8 m long and 2.4–3.2 m wide) built of granite stones and bricks were unearthed at the northern side of the church nave. These walls were built against the nave foundation and were located between the windows. Probably these walls served as foundations for the buttresses.

In the area of trial excavation, two partly preserved burials were discovered. The graves were dug 45 cm into the original ground, i.e. the brown clayish soil. The skull of skeleton I, directed to the west, was resting against a foundation stone of the eastern corner of the church choir, with its right hand placed on the stomach. The only grave good – a penannular brooch of bronze with animal-head-shaped terminals and pseudotwisted ring (Fig. 2: 1) – was found by the left clavicle of the skeleton. This brooch belongs to the type that have simplified and strongly stylized terminals and are found in the contexts of the Latest Iron and Early Middle

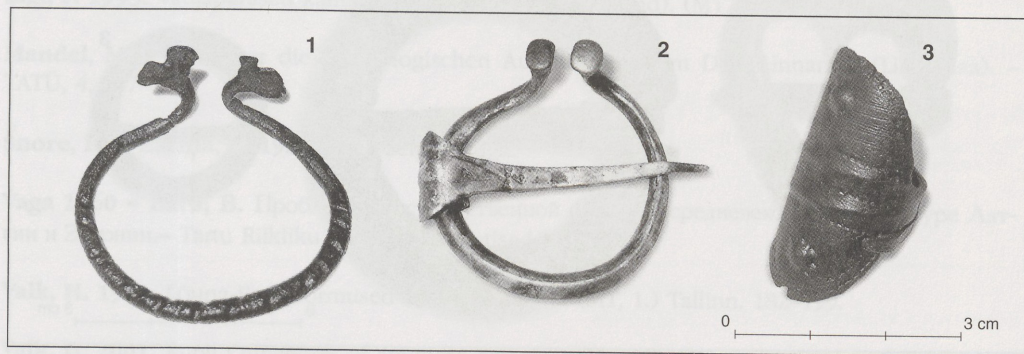


Fig. 2. Grave goods from Paistu churchyard. (TÜ 999: 7, 8, 9.)
Joon. 2. Haualeide Paistu kirikakaast.

Ages in Estonia and even in the 14th-15th century burials in Latvia (Mandel 1979, 379; Ligi 1993, 68; Šnore & Zariņa 1980, 208). As the skull was lying against the foundation stone, the burial I must be younger than the choir of the church. On the basis of both the ground plan and domical vault preserved in the choir, the Paistu church has been connected with the architectural influence of the Nõo church in Tartu County and dated either to the early 14th century (Vaga 1960, 77) or, according to recently corrected date of the erection of the Nõo church, to the last quarter of the 13th century (Alttoa 1995, 24). The area immediately east of the church choir has been regarded as one of the most precious places for burying and one may suppose, therefore, that this area was used for the burying in the first order. Burial I should belong to the earliest burials in the churchyard.

Burial I was partly destroyed by a subsequent burial (skeleton II) east of it. Burial II was disturbed as well. Only some fragments of the skull, a few ribs and bones of the left hand were preserved. On the breast or neck of the deceased there was a penannular brooch of silver with knob-shaped terminals (Fig. 2: 2), whereas a bronze finger-ring with a flat oval shield (Fig. 2: 3) was found by the ribs. Brooches of that kind were common in the 11th-12th centuries, but they were also worn in the Middle Ages until the 16th-17th centuries (Valk 2001, 45). Although silver brooches are numerous in hoards, they have been relatively rare in the cemeteries of the Middle Ages. The brooch itself is undecorated but on its pin there is an impression of the cross. As the finger-rings with twisted terminals and shields which are decorated with grooves and knobs were mainly worn in the 13th-14th centuries (Valk 1991, 187), the silver brooch in question is also likely to belong to the same time period.



Fig. 3. Brooches from Paistu churchyard. (TÜ 999: 24, 19, 22.)
Joon. 3. Paistu kirikaia sõled..

In the pit dug for the septic tank, the remains of four skeleton were unearthed. All these burials had an orientation to the west. Two of them which should be regarded as the oldest ones (skeletons V and VI) were lying 120 cm deeper from nowadays ground level, located 10 cm higher than the natural ground. The skeleton V was only partly preserved, no grave goods were found. On the breast of a 5–7 years old child (burial VI), whose skeleton was also partly destroyed, there was a heart-shaped brooch of bronze discovered (Fig. 3: 1). The latter belongs to the group of heart-shaped brooches without a crone and can be dated, according to the parallels in Latvia, to the 16th century (Apala 1974, 266). On the same level but separately from the skeletons, there was a spiral finger-ring of bronze and a sherd of a hand-made clay vessel found. Skeletons III and IV were situated 15 cm higher than the former ones, both of which were disturbed. On the breast of burial III was a small round brooch decorated with grooves (Fig. 3: 2). Skeleton IV belonged to a child and, as grave goods, a simple undecorated round brooch (Fig. 3: 3) and two coins (Russian denga from 1731 and polushka from 1734) were found there (TÜ 999: 21). A bronze closed finger-ring and a killing of Riga were obtained from the mixed layer above the burials.

To sum up, one may note that in the course of the archaeological monitoring and trial excavations in the churchyard of Paistu, both the oldest and the latest layers of burials were discovered. The former can be dated to the 13th, and the latter to the 18th century. Some details of the church building were identified as well.

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ARHEOLOOGILISE UURINGUD PAISTU KIRIKAIAS

Marge KONSA

2001. aastal Viljandimaal Paistu kirikaia tehtud arheoloogiline järelevalve ning väikesemahulised kaevamised olid seotud kirikuseinade hüdroisolatsiooni töödega. Drenaaži rajamiseks kaevati kiriku ida-, põhja- ja lõunakülje välisseinaäärde ning kirikaia lääneossa kraav kogupikkusega 118 m. Keskmiselt 1 m laiuse trassi sügavus oli 30–100 cm. Kiriku koorihoone kagunurga juurde tehti 80 x 180 cm suurune proovikaevand, settekaevu tarbeks kaevati 130 cm sügavune auk kiriku edelanurgast 12,5 m kaugusele (joon. 1).

Kiriku ida- ja põhjaküljel moodustas trassis alumise, 15–25 cm paksuse kihi kiriku vundamendikraavi täitekiht. Kihist leiti kuus savinõukildu varakeskaegsest loodevenepärasest lainelise joonornamendiga kaunistatud nõust ning üks pronksist nuppotstega hoburaudsõlg. Pealmisest kihiks oli kiriku mitmete hävingute, põlengute ja ehitustegevuse käigus omaaegsele maapinnale kuhjunud 70–75 cm paksune rusukiht, kust leiti üks munk-nunn tüüpi katusekivi. Kirikust lääne poole jäävas trassiosas oli tegemist 19. sajandil torni ja kiriku nurga tugipiilarite ehitusel tekkinud kihiga, millest leiti üks nelinurkse avaga ahjupoti nurgatükk. Kiriku loodenurga tugipiilari lähedalt leiti kolm koljut, mis ilmselt pärinevad nurgapiilari vundamendi rajamisega lõhutud matustest. Pikihoone põhjaküljel puhastati välja kolm maakividest ja tellistest laotud ning mõrdiga seotud müürijäänust, mille näol on tõenäoliselt tegemist võlvide külgsurve tasakaalustamiseks ehitatud tugipiilarite alusmüüridega.

Proovikaevandist, kiriku kagunurga juures, leiti kaks luustikku. Surnud olid maetud omaaegsest kirikaia pinnast 45 cm sügavamale, osaliselt looduslikku aluspõhja süvendatud hauda. Üks surnutest (luustik I) toetus peaga vastu koorihoone idanurga vundamendikivi. Ainsa panusena leiti luustiku vasakult rangluult pronksist pseudotordeeringuga ja loomapeakujuliste otstega hoburaudsõlg (joon. 2:1). Otsustades luustiku asendi järgi, pidi see olema maetud peale koorihoone rajamist, tõenäoliselt 13. saj. viimasel veerandil. Luustiku asukoha järgi võib arvata, et see kuulub kirikaia varaseimate matuste hulka. II luustiku rinnal oli hõbedast nuppotstega hoburaudsõlg (joon. 2:2) ning ribide peal 13.–14. saj. iseloomulik pronksist kilpsõrmus (joon. 2:3).

Kirikaia lääneossa settekaevu tarbeks kaevatud augus puhastati välja nelja luustiku jäänused. Matused paiknesid kahes kihis ning nende juurest leiti ilma kroonita südäsõlg, kaks vitssõlge (joon.3) ning kaks 18. saj. vene münti. Lisaks leiti matustekihist pronksist spiraalsõrmus ning kild käsitsi vormitud nõust. Matustest kõrgemal, segatud kihtidest saadi pronksist vitssõrmus ja Riia killing.

Kokkuvõtteks võib märkida, et Paistu kirikaia toimunud arheoloogilise järelevalvega fikseeriti nii vanim, 13. sajandi, kui ka noorim, 18. sajandi matusekiht ning täpsustati kiriku ehituse iseärasusi.