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**ARHEOLOOGILISED
VÄLITÖÖD
EESTIS**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL
FIELDWORK
IN ESTONIA**

2002

Koostanud ja toimetanud
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Toimetuskolleegium:

Ants Kraut
Valter Lang
Anneli Randla
Erki Russow
Toomas Tamla
Ülle Tamla
Heiki Valk

Uus 18, Tallinn 10111, Eesti
e-mail: info@muinas.ee

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NEW RESULTS FROM THE HILL-FORT OF KEAVA

Valter LANG, Andres TVAURI and Tanel SAIMRE

Tartu Ülikool (University of Tartu), Lossi 3, 51003 Tartu, Eesti (Estonia)

vlang@ut.ee, tvauri@ut.ee, saimre@ut.ee

INTRODUCTION

In 2002, the archaeological fieldwork at Keava and its surroundings were continued according to the research programme followed already in 2001 (Lang *et al.* 2002; Konsa *et al.* 2002): i.e. extensive landscape surveys for finding new prehistoric sites in Rapla County, and archaeological excavations on both the hill-fort of Keava and settlement site of Linnaaluste. As the result of landscape surveys there were 11 new sites discovered (Konsa & Ots, see this volume, p. 230) of which the most important are a new hill-fort (II) at Keava and a new settlement site (III) of Linnaaluste (Fig. 1). The latter was found ca 100 m north of the hill-fort I of Keava and is treated separately in this collection (Konsa *et al.*, see this volume, pp. 51–55). The new hill-fort was discovered in the forest ca 700 m north of the one under investigation, and ca 400–500 m north of settlement site III of Linnaaluste. This is a typical promontory hill-fort, separated from the rest of the promontory with a rampart. This rampart consists of big stones and earth, it is 54 m long, 6–8 m wide and ca 0.5–1.5 m high. The plateau is 95 m long and 54–60 m wide. No cultural layer was observed, however; the fort was possibly used for refuge. According to the defence structures, this fort should be older than the fort of Keava and will be excavated next summer.

EXCAVATIONS

On the hill-fort, the building remains that were discovered last year (two oven-floors and the house floor made of clay; Lang *et al.* 2002, Fig. 3) were removed. Under the clay floor there was a thin layer of dark-coloured soil and beneath that – a new layer of stones indicating the existence of an earlier habitation phase. One may suppose that there were at least two oven floors in this lowermost layer (Fig. 2) (No. IV, measuring ca 2 x 1.5–1.7 m, and No. V, measuring 1.4 x 1.1 m), which were destroyed during the burning of the earlier fort and levelled before the clay floor was built. Near the oven floors were discovered remains of several burnt timbers which probably were remains of buildings. It is important to mention that the ovens IV and V were located approximately at the same places where ovens I and II were built later on. When studying the location of the remains of burnt timbers, preserved rather well close to the rampart, it became

clear that both the wooden construction of the rampart and houses behind of it were built at the same time, *i.e.* during the same building phase. This relation was proved by one corner of that construction, the timbers of which run both along the rampart and crosswise; the latter timbers extended in two directions – into the rampart and onto the yard, dividing the space there into two houses. Each of those houses had one oven both in the earlier and later phase of habitation.

Thus, it has become clear that there were at least two habitation layers in the yard of the hill-fort. The date of the uppermost layer is rather certain due to a number of finds belonging to the late 12th and early 13th century (cross-bow arrow-heads found in the last season, and a silver coin (Fig. 5), all originating from the 1220's, as well as other artefacts and ceramics having a remarkable wider diapason in chronology. Several samples for radiocarbon analysis were taken from the lowermost layer; yet, due to the rather large calibration range they cannot be used for the estimation of a more exact date of this layer (see Table, dates Nos. 1, 2, 11, 17). As indicated by finds unearthed in this layer (see below), the hill-fort was taken into use not before the middle of the 11th century.

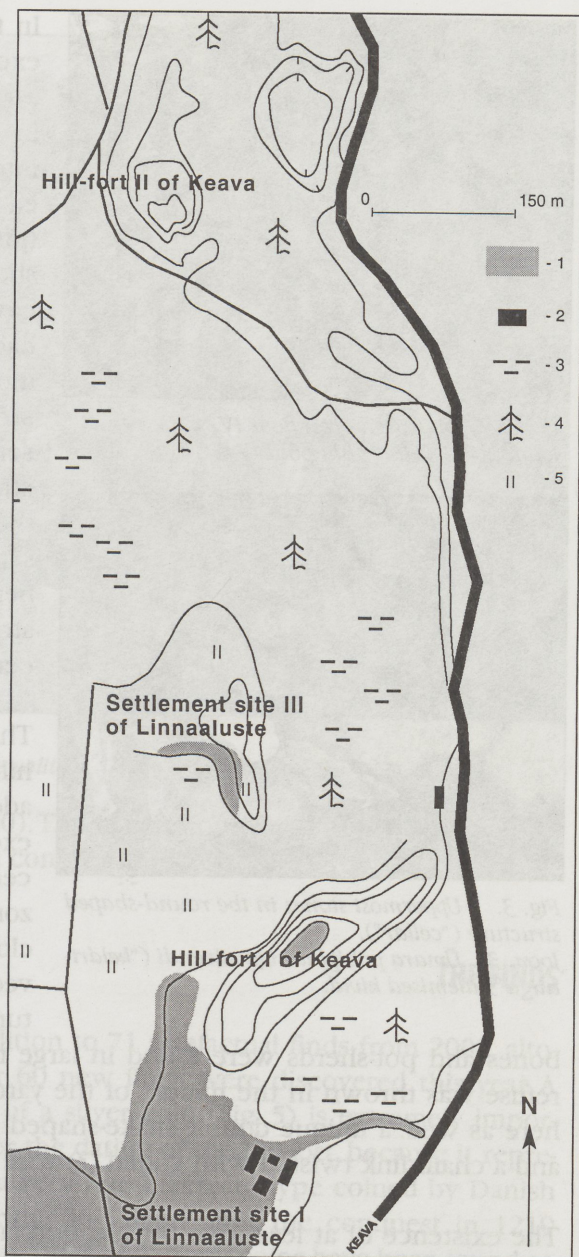


Fig. 1. Location plan of the Keava Settlement Sites and Hill-forts. 1 - cultural layer, 2 - modern building, 3 - wet area, 4 - forest, 5 - meadow.

Joon. 1. Keava asulate ja linnuste asendiplaan.

1 - kultuurkiht, 2 - tänapäeva boone, 3 - liigniiske ala, 4 - mets, 5 - heinamaa.



Fig. 2. Destroyed oven floor IV.
Joon. 2. Lõbutud ahju põhi IV.



Fig. 3. Uppermost stones in the round-shaped structure ("cellar").
Joon. 3. Ümara põhiplaaniga süvendi ("keldri-augu") ülemised kivid.

In the south-southeastern part of the excavation area there was discovered a round-shaped structure (one metre in diameter; Fig. 3). It was deepened into the natural ground and surrounded with big stones. During the excavations of this structure only a few potsherds, pieces of burnt clay and a small cowry-shell were found; they probably had fallen into this pit from the uppermost cultural layer. The function of this structure is not clear, perhaps it served as a cellar-pit. According to stratigraphy, this pit was dug during the later phase of the habitation. A sample of charcoal taken from between the lowermost stones of this structure was dated to the 11th–12th centuries (Table, No. 21).

The excavation area in the yard of the hill-fort was excavated completely. In addition, a new trench (6 x 1.5 m) was excavated in order to examine the central part of the yard. The two horizons identified in the cultural layer close to the rampart were not observed in this part of the hill. No structures were discovered here but animal

bones and potsherds were found in large numbers suggesting that household refuse was thrown in the middle of the yard. Some surprising finds were made here as well: a unique double-snake-shaped pendant of bronze, two glass beads and a chain link twisted with gilded (?) wire of bronze (see below).

The existence of at least two fortification layers was evident on the rampart of the hill-fort as well. The lattermost one consisted of both stone and wooden structures and was already excavated in the first season (Lang *et al.* 2002, Fig. 2). The earlier rampart was mostly built of wood and sand (with lesser use of stone, see Fig. 4). A number of radiocarbon samples taken from both layers cannot, again, help us in more exact dating of those layers; they belong to the 10th–13th centuries



Fig. 4. Burnt timbers on the rampart.

Joon. 4. Põlenud palgijäänuste kiht linnuse vallil.

if calibrated (Table, Nos. 9, 12–16, 20). The excavation of the lowermost layer in the area of the rampart was still not completed in 2002.

THE FINDS



Fig. 5. Fragment of silver bracteate (TÜ 1026: 719).

Joon. 5. Tornbrakteaadi katke.

In addition to 71 artefactual finds from 2002, altogether 60 new finds were discovered this year. A piece of a silver coin (Fig. 5) is extremely important for the dating of the hill-fort, because it represents a very rare bracteate type coined by Danish authorities in Tallinn after the conquest in 1219 (Leimus 1994, 460). Such coins have been found so far only from three sites in North Estonia.

Among other finds, most common are the ornaments or their fragments. A pendant of bronze, moulded as two S-shaped snakes (Fig. 6), is quite

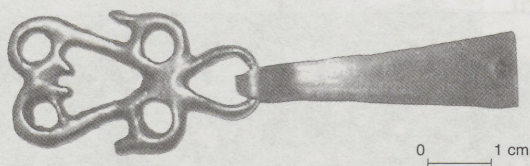


Fig. 6. Pendant of bronze (TÜ 1026: 775).
Joon. 6. Pronksist ažuurne ripats.



Fig. 7. Chain link twisted with gilded wire of bronze (TÜ 1026: 776).
Joon. 7. Kullatud pronkstraadiga mässitud varras-abelikulili.

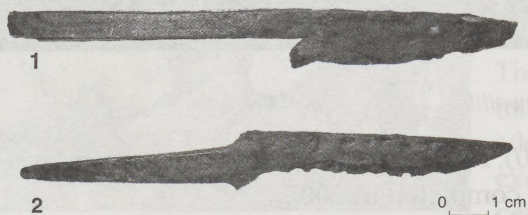


Fig. 8. Knife-shaped javelin-head (1) and a knife (2) (TÜ 1026: 534, 772).
Joon. 8. Rauast noakujuline viskeodaots (1) ja nuga (2).

unique in Estonia having only three parallels, all found from the hill-fort of Varbola (oral information from Ülle Tamla). The motive of an S-shaped snake used in pendants and trap-tags was mostly distributed in West and South-west Estonia as well as in the territories of the Livs and on Gotland (Luik 1999). Remarkable finds were also an iron chain link twisted with gilded wire of bronze (Fig. 7) and a finger-ring of silver the thicker forepart of which is decorated with traverse grooves (TÜ 1026: 828). Fragments of a penannular brooch, a decorative pin, a bronze mount of a knife-scabbard (TÜ 1026: 874, 510, 752) and several glass beads, cowry-shells, pieces of bronze chains and spirals were also found. A fragment of an unfinished spiral bracelet (TÜ 1026: 748) as well as a number of pieces of bronze ornaments can be taken as evidence on manufacturing of bronze items at the hill-fort of Keava.

Weapons were represented only by one additional find – a knife-shaped javelin-head of iron (Fig. 8). Several knives, pieces of whetstones, an iron hook of a metal pot (Fig. 9) and a bronze weight of a scale (TÜ 1026: 602) are also noteworthy.

Altogether 223 potsherds were unearthed in addition to the 460 in 2001. The majority of potsherds belong to the pots made by hand but imitating those made on potter's wheel (Figs. 10–12). The pots are mostly moulded of coarse-grained temper and undecorated. There are only few pieces of decorated fine ceramics. The closest parallels to the Keava pottery can be found from the other sites of West and Northwest Estonia (Varbola, Soontagana) but it differs remarkably from



Fig. 9. Iron book of a pot (TÜ 1026: 807).

Joon. 9. Rauast pajakõrv.

that found in South-Estonian forts and settlements. One can conclude that the pottery found in Keava was made locally by semi-professional potters. Only one sherd representing wheel-made pottery of Northwest-Russian origin (Fig. 10: 7) was found here in 2002; it can be dated to the late 12th or early 13th century (Tvauri 2000). Where horizontal stratigraphy is concerned the areas of the two different houses behind the rampart (see above) have yielded different kinds of ceramics.

CONCLUSIONS

The fieldwork in 2002 was very successful in Keava. The chrono-

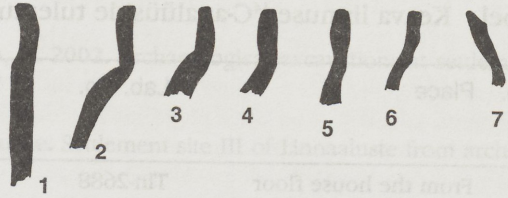


Fig. 10. Profiles of pottery (TÜ 1026: 815, 747, 830, 551, 717, 527, 525).

Joon. 10. Savinõude servaprofiile.

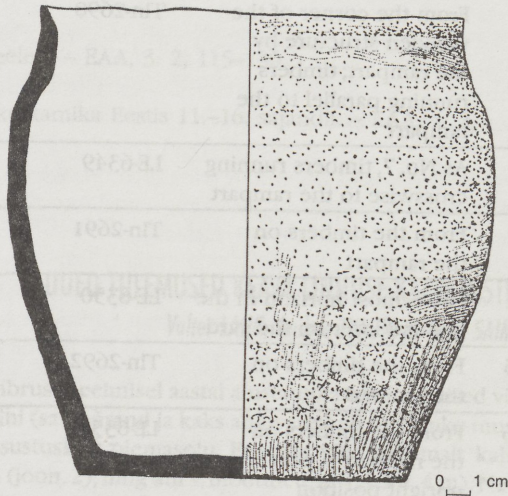


Fig. 11. Reconstructed pot (TÜ 1026: 581).

Joon. 11. Savinõu rekonstruktsioon.

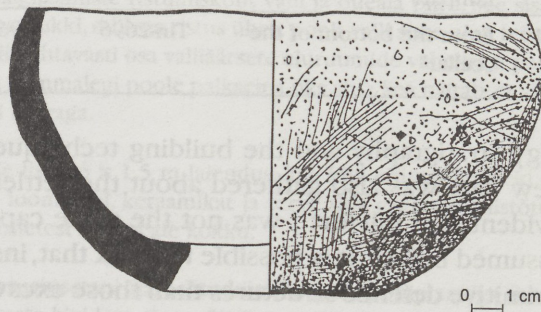


Fig. 12. Reconstructed pot (TÜ 1026: 498).

Joon. 12. Savinõu rekonstruktsioon.

Table. Radiocarbon dates from the hillfort of Keava.

Tabel. Keava linnuse ^{14}C -analüüside tulemused.

No.	Place	Lab. No.	^{14}C date	Calibration 1 sigma	Calibration 2 sigma
1	From the house floor of clay	Tln-2688	1045±73	890-1160	780-1170
2	Beneath the clay floor under oven I	LE-6348	930±50	1035-1159	1021-1213
5	From the NW-wall of the rampart	Tln-2689	899±45	1040-1210	1020-1220
7	From the corner of the wooden structure by the rampart; timbers running parallel to the rampart	Tln-2690	945±56	1020-1160	1000-1220
8	As No. 7, timbers running crosswise to the rampart	LE-6349	1010±25	1000-1030	980-1160
9	From the timbers on the rampart	Tln-2691	976±55	1000-1160	970-1210
11	Lowermost horizon in the cultural layer on the yard	LE-6350	885±30	1060-1220	1030-1220
15	From the timbers on the rampart	Tln-2692	1346±50	640-770	600-780
16	From the timbers on the rampart, a post in upright position	LE-6351	1040±20	990-1020	970-1030
17	Oven No. V	Tln-2694	878±60	1040-1220	1020-1260
20	From a timber running on the outer edge of the rampart	Tln-2695	944±50	1020-1160	1000-1220
21	From the bottom of the „cellar”	Tln-2696	968±50	1010-1160	980-1210

logy, stratigraphy and the building techniques of the hill-fort were clarified and new data was also gathered about the settlement in the surroundings. It is now evident that hill-fort I was not the place captured by prince Izyaslav in 1054, as assumed before. It is possible to think that, instead, hill-fort II demonstrating more primitive defence structures than those excavated up to now was the fortification of those times and destroyed by the Russians. This can be proved, of course, only by the excavations in this recently discovered hill-fort in 2003.

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UUED TULEMUSED KEAVA LINNUSE KAEVAMISTELT

Valter LANG, Andres TVAURI ja Tanel SAIMRE

2002. aastal jätkusid Keava linnamäel ja selle ümbruses eelmisel aastal alustatud arheoloogilised välitööd (joon. 1). Eelmisel aastal avastatud elamiskihi (savipõrand ja kaks ahjuvaret) all oli õhuke musta mulla kiht, mille all tehti kindlaks veel ühe asustuskhihi olemasolu. Eristada võis vähemalt kahte ahjupõhja (ahi IV, mõõtmetega 2 m x 1,5–1,7 m (joon. 2); ning ahi V, mõõtmetega 1,1 x 1,4 m). Need ahjud hävisid varasema linnuse tulekahjus ja jäänused tasandati enne mainitud savipõranda ehitamist. On tähelepanuväärne, et ahjud IV ning V asuvad umbkaudu samadel kohtadel, kuhu hiljem ehitati ahjud I ja II. Näib, et hoonestus on varasemas ja hilisemas linnuses püsinud sarnasena.

Teiseks oluliseks avastuseks oli söestunud palgijäänuste ristumiskoht valli ja õueala piiril. See sisaldas endas valliga paralleelselt kulgevat pikemat tukki, millega ristus ühelt poolt valli sisse ning teiselt poolt linnuse õuele ulatuv palgijäänus, mis oli nähtavasti osa valliäärsete eluruumide vahelisest palkseinast (linnuse mõlemal asustusperioodil jäi kummalegi poole palkseina üks ahi). See näitab, et valli puitkonstruktsioonid ning eluhooned ehitati korraga.

Keava I linnuse kaevandi õuepoolsele küljele lisati 6 x 1,5 m laiendus, kus küll ehitusjäänuseid ei avastatud. Ometi leiti sealt suurtes kogustes loomaluid, keraamikat ja terve rida esemeid, mistõttu võib arvata, et majapidamisjäätmekogumised visati hoonetest õue peale kokku.

Kaevandi lõuna-kagunurgas avastati viimase asustusetapi ajal tehtud ümmarguse põhiplaani sissekaeve, mis oli vooderdatud ja täidetud suuremate kividega (joon. 3). Konstruktsiooni otstarbe kohta võib oletada, et tegu oli nähtavasti keldrilaadse süvendiga. Valli peal kaevates selgus, et ka seal võis

eristada vähemalt kahte kihistust: hilisema linnuse vall oli ehitatud puust ning sisetäidis koosnes mullast ja kividest, samas kui varasema linnuse valli (joon. 4) ehitamisel polnud kasutatud kuigi palju kive.

Leiumaterjal täienes 60 esemeleiu võrra lisaks varem saadud 71 esemele või esemekatkele. Linnuse dateerimise seisukohalt on kõige olulisemaks leiuks hõbedast nn tornbrakteaat (joon. 5), mis on vermitud Tallinnas pärast 1219. aastat. Arvukalt leiti ehteid või nende katkeid, neist üheks huvitavamaks oli ažuurne pronksripats koos pronksplekist kannaga, mis sarnaneb Varbola linnuselt leitud kolme leiuga (joon. 6). Tähelepanuväärne on ka kullatud pronkstraadiga kaunistatud varrasaheliku lüli (joon. 7) ning hõbedast pakseneva keskosaga põiki soonitud sõrmus. Kaubandustegevusele viitavad tünnikujuline kaaluviht, kaks kaurikarpi ning klaashelmed. Arvatav spiraalkäevõru tooriku katke võib olla tõendiks pronksehete valmistamise kohta Keavas. Relvadest leiti 2002. aastal vaid üks noakujulise teraga viskeodaots (joon. 8: 1). Majapidamisesemetest on märkimisväärsamad noad (joon. 8: 2), luisukatked ning rauast pajakõrv (joon. 8: 9).

2002. a. kaevamistel Keava linnusel leiti 223 alanumbrit savinõukilde lisaks 2001. aastal saadud 460 alanumbrile, millest enamik kujutab endast madalakvaliteetset tarbekeraamikat. Leitud keraamika sarnaneb üldjoontes muude Loo- ja Lääne-Eesti mandriosa hilisrauaaja linnuste (Varbola, Soontagana) omaga (joon. 10–12).

Keava linnuselt seni kogutud leiumaterjal on rikkalik, kuid samas tüüpiline Eesti ala hilisrauaaja linnustele. Kõik dateeritavad leiud pärinevad kas 12. sajandi teisest poolest – 13. sajandi esimesest veerandist või laiemalt 11.–13. sajandist.

2002. aasta välitööd Keava linnamäel ja selle ümbruses võib lugeda edukaks. Saadi uusi andmeid nii linnamäe kronoloogia kui ka ümbritseva piirkonna asutuse kohta. Võib kindlalt väita, et Keava I linnus ei ole vene kroonikates mainitud vürst Izjaslavi poolt vallutatud linnus. Kas selleks võib olla äsjaavastatud Keava II linnamägi, seda asutakse uurima 2003. aastal.