

ARHEOLOOGILISED  
VÄLITÖÖD  
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FIELDWORK  
IN ESTONIA

2004

Koostanud ja toimetanud  
*Ülle Tamla*

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*Esikaas: ebtenaast Viskla II asulast.*

*Tagakaas: ribmajagaja Kämbla II asulast.*

*Cover: decorative mount from Viskla II settlement site.*

*Back cover: strap-divider from Kämbla II settlement site.*

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# INVESTIGATIONS AT SIKSÄLÄ KIRIKUMÄGI: A CHAPEL SITE AND MESOLITHIC FINDS

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In 2004, excavations were continued on Siksälä Kirikumägi (Vastseliina parish) where in the course of trial investigations a chapel site from the Catholic period had been discovered (Valk 2004). The excavation plot of 35 m<sup>2</sup> was made in the area where trial trenches of the previous year had revealed the largest concentration of votive coins. The plot of triangular shape (Fig. 1) was located at the western edge of the hill plateau, immediately east of the area damaged by the construction of the Misso-Alüksne road in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

The top layer of forest soil with no finds was followed by brown sandy soil which contained some charcoal fragments and numerous coins from the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries (finds from the plot: TÜ 1317: 1–280). As the coins occurred at different depths and as the soil was of even consistency, the brown layer had evidently been disturbed by ploughing.

The ground beneath the sandy soil had a different character in the northern and southern parts of the excavation plot. In its southern end the brown soil was followed by a layer of fine yellow sand which contained numerous quartz finds. Their size ranged from almost invisible tiny flakes to pieces of up to 4–5 cm. The quartz finds came from an area of ca. 10 m<sup>2</sup> in the southern end of the plot (the diameter of their most intensive concentration area was 2–3 m) but they were absent in the central and northern part of the excavation area. The finds continued also to the south of the excavation plot. Quartz pieces occurred in the yellow sand at the thickness of ca. 20–30 cm. The bottom layer of the yellow sand contained no finds and was gradually replaced by intact sand of harder consistency.



*Fig. 1. Excavations at Siksälä Kirikumägi.  
Joon. 1. Kaevamised Siksälä Kirikumäel.*



The large concentration of quartz indicates Mesolithic activities. However, the lack of fireplaces, burnt stones, charcoal and other Mesolithic finds does not point to a long-term settlement site. Evidently, the human activities on the spot were limited to making quartz tools and were related to a camp-site somewhere nearby.

In the central and northern part of the excavation area the brown sandy soil was followed by a grey ash-like layer of uneven thickness, from 0.5–1 cm up to 4–5 cm. This layer, which lay on intact natural clayish sand, contained some very tiny charcoal fragments but no bigger pieces. The only find from it was a shilling from 1645. Locally there were also dark patches of ashes and charcoal under the brown soil. While the ash-like layer might also be of natural podzol origin<sup>1</sup>, the patches with larger concentration of charcoal, as well as charcoal fragments from the brown sandy soil, might originate from the chapel. As the same stratigraphy – the turf was followed by brown soil and grey ash-like layer – could be observed also on the upper, preserved part of the western slope of the hill, its plateau seems not to have been considerably damaged by the construction of the Misso-Alüksne road.

Under the brown soil there were several pits which extended into the intact natural ground. Five of them turned out to be grave-pits, with the burials all having their head towards south-west. Two graves of small infants (no. 16 and 17; 2 years and 5–6 months respectively)<sup>2</sup> were both furnished with 3 shillings from the 17<sup>th</sup> century and there were some granite stones with a diameter of 10–15 cm in the fill of both graves. As stones had been discovered in some graves at Kirikumägi and the neighbouring Kalmetemägi Hill in the course of former excavations<sup>3</sup>, their presence seems to be related to burial rites. Near the disturbed bones of grave 16 an iron knife was found. In the head end of grave 17 there were remains of a horizontal timber post – presumably of a cross. In grave 19 there was the skeleton of an adult person, probably a woman. Beside its left elbow at the coffin remains there was a Russian denga from 1764. Grave 20 contained the remains of a newborn baby, buried in a trapezoid trough coffin with dimensions 77 x 21–25 cm. In the fill of the grave there was a shilling from 1663. From grave 6 (infant of 6–7 years) a poorly preserved iron knife was found. The yellow disturbed sand contained also the hand and finger bones of an adult person (burial 18). As the bones were lying in their anatomical position, they seem to represent the remains of a separately buried human hand which had been cut off at the elbow. Being located in the area of the occurrence of quartz, also their Mesolithic origin cannot be precluded.

<sup>1</sup> Suggestion by Tanel Moora (Al), based on the studies of similar layers by A.-M. Rõuk (Рыук 1979).

<sup>2</sup> Graves 1–15 got their numbers in 2004. The age and gender of the skeletal remains were estimated by Ken Kalling (TÜ).

<sup>3</sup> Kalmetemägi Hill, a village cemetery from the 11<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> centuries, was extensively excavated in 1981–1993 (see Лайн 1981; 1983; Laul, S. & Valk, H. In print).



From the excavation plot on Kirikumägi the remains of two totally disturbed burials were also unearthed. From an adult grave, disturbed by grave 5, a rectangular brooch, probably from the 17<sup>th</sup> century (Fig. 2) was found. The other pit yielded a round brooch (Fig. 3) which was damaged by a spade-stroke probably already in Early Modern times. This artifact can be dated typologically to the late 15<sup>th</sup> or 16<sup>th</sup> century. Evidently, when burying ended at the neighbouring Siksälä Kalmetemägi in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of the 15<sup>th</sup> century, it continued on the adjacent Kirikumägi Hill.

In addition to the graves, some empty pits, some of oblong and some of irregular shape, were also discovered. An oblong pit, lying beside grave 5 and having the same orientation, contained timber remains, probably originating from a coffin.

From Kirikumägi a total of 138 coins (identified by Mauri Kiudsoo; see also Kiudsoo, M. In print) were obtained in 2004 – 107 from the brown soil, 7 from the graves as definite grave-gifts and 24 from the disturbed ground in the pits and grave-pits. Probably, most of the latter are also connected with the chapel site. The earliest coin was a penny of Visby from 1225–1288 (?) but its connection with the chapel remains still open. From the Medieval Period there was also a shilling of the Livonian Order, minted in Tallinn in 1542. The period of the Livonian War (1558–1583) was represented with 5 shillings of the Free Town of Riga from the 1570s, with 2 shillings of the Duchy of Curonia (from 1576 and 1577) and with two shillings, minted in Tallinn by the Swedish king Johan III in 1572–1585.

Coins from the time of the Polish rule (1582–1625) were 3 shillings of Sigismund III (1588–1621), one of them from 1609 and one from 1620, a Lithuanian 2-penny from 1621 and a Russian, probably Novgorodian, kopek of Boris Godunov from 1599–1605.



Fig. 2. Rectangular brooch from Kirikumägi.  
Joon. 2. Nurksõlg Kirikumäelt.  
(TÜ 1317: 222.)

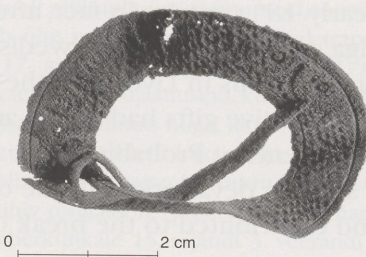


Fig. 3. Round brooch from Kirikumägi.  
Joon. 2. Rõngassõlg Kirikumäelt.  
(TÜ 1317: 214.)



Most of the coins, totaling 115 items, were Sweden's shillings minted in Riga during the period of Swedish rule in Livonia. Coins of Gustav II Adolf (1621–34) were represented with 16, those of Queen Kristina (1635–54) with 45, those of Karl X Gustav (1654–57) with 21 and those of Karl XI (1660–65) with 30 items. In addition, there were also 2 Suczsava imitations of Riga shillings from 1662–64 and a fragment of a shilling from the 17<sup>th</sup> century. Lithuanian coins from the period of Swedish rule in Livonia were 2 shillings of Jan Kasimir – from 1651 and 166(1?), the Brandenburgian ones – a shilling of Georg Wilhelm (1633) and a shilling of Friedrich Wilhelm (1640–88). The only Russian coin from that period was a kopek of Aleksei Mihailovich from 1654–63, probably minted in Moscow. The latest coin (from grave 19) was a Russian *denga* of Yekaterina II from 1767, minted in Yekaterinenburg. In addition to the coins, a signet ring with a broken arch, from the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the 16<sup>th</sup> or the 17<sup>th</sup> century (similar to signet ring found in 1984 from Mäletjärve; see: Valk 1985, Table XXIX: 13), was found from the brown soil. This artifact should probably also be interpreted as a votive gift.

The continuous series of coins which started in the 1570s may indicate both the construction of the chapel and its destruction in the Livonian War: it cannot be precluded that at the time when the chapel existed, coins were not cast on the ground but were laid on the altar or in some vessel from where they were periodically removed. The upper dates of minting, *i.e.* the mid-1660s, however, do not show the end of the offering tradition. As Swedish shillings were minted in Riga in the 17<sup>th</sup> century in a very large quantity, they remained in circulation also in the early 18<sup>th</sup> century. In fact, after the 1660s no more small change was minted in Riga during the time of Swedish rule. The lack of Russian coins which become most numerous in Livonia in the 1730s enables to suggest, however, that the tradition of votive gifts had ended at the latest in the beginning of the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Probably, the reasons of discontinuity were the Great Northern War and the devastating plague of 1710–1711 which caused big population losses and contributed to the break of traditions.

With a trial plot of 1 x 2 m the settlement site at Hino village at Tuvi farmstead, located ca. 700 m southwest of Kirikumägi, was also studied. The pit (excavations were directed by Riina Rammo) was made in the sloping part of the site, close to the former southern bank of Lake Hino the water level of which had dropped ca. 2 m in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. The dark cultural layer, with a thickness of 1.2 m, turned out to consist merely of eroded soil and yielded pottery fragments from different periods (TÜ 1318). The earliest periods of habitation include the second half of the 1<sup>st</sup> millennium A.D. as well as the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> or early 13<sup>th</sup> centuries. Most of the pottery belongs, however, to the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries.



Some medieval and post-medieval pottery fragments (TÜ 1357) were also discovered in 2004 from the centre of Kimalase village, located at the former northern coast of Lake Hino.

## KAEVAMISED SIKSÄLÄ KIRIKUMÄEL: KABELIASE JA MESOLIITILINE LEIUKOHT

Heiki VALK

2004. a toimusid kaevamised (35 m<sup>2</sup>) Siksälä Kirikumäel, varasemate eeluuringutega lokaliseeritud kabeliaseme piirkonnas (joon. 1). Metsakõduse kamarakihi alusest 20–25 cm paksusest pruunist, nähtavasti läbiküntud ja väheleidis söetükikesi sisaldavast liivmullast leiti rohkesti ohvrimünt. Sügavamal paiknev pinnas oli kaevandi lõuna- ja põhjapoolses otsas erinev. Kaevandi lõunaosas järgnes pruunile mullale pehme kollane liiv, mille 20–30 cm paksune ülaosa sisaldas rohkesti mesoliitikutumist pärinevaid kvartsitõotlemisjääke. Kuna tuleasemeid ega muid püasialale viitavaid leide ei avastatud, võib kvartsileide seostada kusagil läheduses asunud ajutise laagripaigaga.

Kaevandi kesk- ja põhjaosas oli pruuni mulla all 0,5–5 cm paksune hall tuhalaadne leidudeta ladesus, oletatavasti looduslik leetekiht. Kohati leidis pruuni liivmulla all ka rohkesti söetükke sisaldavaid tumedaid laike, mis võiksid seostuda pärimusliku kabelikohaga. Et stratigraafia oli samasugune ka mäeplatoo Miso-Alüksne maantee suunas langeval serval – siingi järgnes pruunile mullale looduslikul mineraalpinnal paiknev hall tuhalaadne ollus – võiks mäe algne pealispind olla jäänud 19. sajandi tee-ehituse aegsest kruusavõtust enam-vähem puutumata.

Looduslikku aluspinnasesse ulatuvatest sissekaevetest leiti kokku 5 luustikku, mis olid suunatud peaga edelasse. Kahe väikelapse (matused 16 ja 17) hauas leidis kummalgi juhul kolm 17. sajandi münti. Mõlema haua täitepinnases oli kive ning ühe peatsis oli säilinud püstise puuposti, tõenäoliselt ristijala jäänuseid. Hauatäitest leitud 1663. a. münt lubab ühe panusteta, hästisäilinud trapetsikujulises pakk-kirstus vastsündinu (matus 20) dateerida 17. sajandi teise poolde või 18. sajandi algusesse. Selle matusel kõrvalt leiti samasuunalisest sissekaevest kirstujäänuseid, kuid luustikku siin ei olnud. Neljanda lapseluustiku (matus 21) selja all oli halvastisäilinud nuga, ainsa täiskasvanuluustiku (matus 19) parema küünarnuki kõrval aga 1764. a. denaga. Veel leiti kaks sõlge, mis pärinesid pealematmisega täielikult segatud haudadest: tõenäoliselt 17. sajandil tehtud nurksõlg ja tüpoloogiliselt 15. sajandi lõpupoolde – 16. sajandisse kuuluv rõngassõlg (joon. 2 ja 3). Viimane leid lubab arvata, et kui matmine Kalmõtõmäe-nimelisele naaberkünkale 15. sajandi 3. veerandi paiku lõppes, kandus see üle Kirikumäele. Omaette väärivad märkimist mesoliitiliste kvartsikildude piirkonnast leitud käeluud (matus 18): anatoomilises asendis olevad küünar- ja kodarluu koos kämb- ja sõrmeluudega. Ilmselt on tegemist üksikult maetud käega. Kaevamistel leiti veel mitmeid väiksemaid ebakorrapärase kujuga sissekaeveid, mille otstarve jäi ebaselgeks.

Kirikumäelt leitud 138 mündist seostub valdav enamus kabeli juures toimunud ohverdamisega. Vanima mündi, 1225.–1288. a. Visby penni seos kabeliasemega jääb siiski lahtiseks: tegemist võib olla ka sel ajal kalmistuks olnud Kalmõtõmäe naabrusse kaotatud juhuleiuga. Teine keskaegne münt, 1542. a. Tallinna killing, pärineb perioodi lõppjärgust. Liivi sõja (1558–1583) aegsed mündid on esindatud peamiselt 1570. aastate rahadega: saadi 5 Riia vabalinna, 2 Kuramaa hertsogkonna ja 2 Johan III Tallinna killingit. Poola ajast (1582–1625) pärinevad 3 Sigismund III killingit (üks neist 1609. ja teine 1620. aastast), Leedu 1621. a. 2-pennine ja 1599.–1605. a. Vene kopikas.



Enamus münte (kokku 115) kujutab endast Rootsi võimu all olevas Riias 1621. ja 1665. a vahel vermitud killingeid. Kokku leiti 16 Gustav II Adolphi (1621–34), 45 kuninganna Kristina (1635–54), 21 Karl X Gustavi (1654–57) ja 30 Karl XI (1660–1665) münti, samuti 2 Suczava valemünti ja üks määramata killingi katke. Rootsi võimu perioodist pärinevad ka 2 Leedu (1651 ja 1661) ja 2 Brandenburgi killingit (1630, 1640–88) ning üks Vene kopikas (1654–63). 18. sajandisse kuulub vaid eelpool mainitud haualeid – 1764. a Jekaterinenburgi denga. Lisaks müntidele võidi ohverdada ka katkise kaarega 16. sajandi II poole – 17. sajandi pitsatsõrmus.

Järjepideva müntiderea algus 1570. aastatel võib osundada nii kabeli ehitamisele kui ka hävimisele Liivi sõja ajal: võimalik, et normaalselt funktsioneeriva kabeli ajal asetati ohvirahad altarile või kogumiskõusse, kust nad perioodiliselt ära võeti. Hilisemad vermimisaastad, so. 1660. aastate keskpaik, ei pruugi näidata ohverdamise lõppu, sest Rootsi võimu all olevas Riias vermitud killingid püsisid ringluses veel ka 18. sajandi alguses. 1730. aastatel arvukana ilmuvate dengade puudumine ohvirahade seas lubab arvata, et hiljemalt 18. sajandi teise veerandi alguseks oli mäele ohverdamine lõppenud.

Proovikaevand (2 m<sup>2</sup>) tehti ka Kirikumäest u. 700 m edelas Hino külas Tuvi talu juures olevasse asulakohta. Ilmnes, et uuritud 1,2 m paksune tume kultuurkiht kujutab endast erosiooni toimet Hino järve lõunapoolsest kaldanõlvakust alla kandunud pinnast. Leitud savinõukillud pärinevad kahest ajajärgust: 1) I at II poolest – II at algussajanditest ja 2) 16.–17. sajandist. Veidi keskaegseid ja varauusaegseid savinõukilde leiti ka Hino järve põhjakaldal Kimalase küla südames paiknevast asulakohast.

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