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Esikaas: ehtenaast Viskla II asulast.
Tagakaas: rihmajagaja Kämbla II asulast.
Cover: decorative mount from Viskla II settlement site.
Back cover: strap-divider from Kämbla II settlement site.

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS OF THE VARETIMÄGI STONE GRAVE IN KABERLA

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In 2004, archaeological excavations took place in Kaberla village, Kuusalu parish, Harjumaa. A small excavation was made at the stone grave of Kaberla, discovered in 2003. Local people know the surroundings of the grave as *Varetimägi*. The fieldwork was financed by the Institute of History in Tallinn.

EXCAVATIONS

The stone grave of Kaberla is located in the northeastern part of the present Kaberla village, about 80 meters SSW from the Tammiku farm, on the transition zone of thin alvar and thicker moraine soils (Fig. 1). The grave was built close to the high klint edge, where an extensive view is provided to the lower areas on the NNW, NW, W, and on the SW side. Thus the grave was built at the most attractive place on the local landscape.

Both the present village and the cultural layer of an ancient settlement site are situated about 1 km SW of it, and fossil field remains are located some 250 meters to the east (previous field work in Kaberla c.f. Vedru 2003, 97–99). The pit grave cemetery, excavated in the 1960s, is situated farther SW (Selirand 1962; 1974). All these archaeological sites belong to the last centuries of Estonian prehistory and to the Middle Ages.

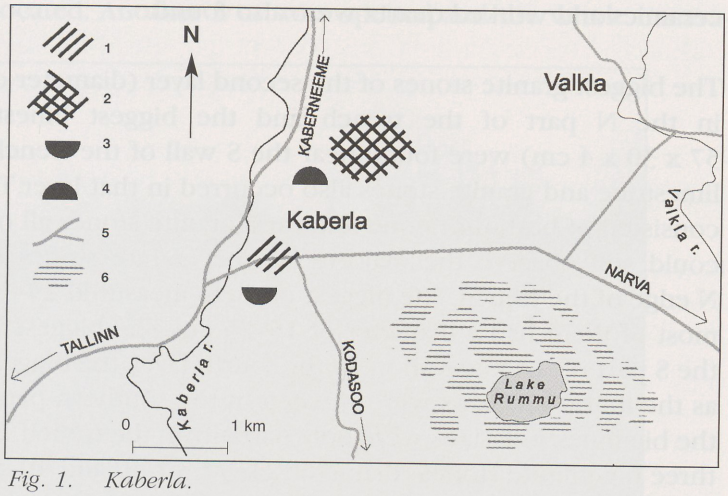

Fig. 1. Kaberla.
1 - settlement site, 2 - fossil fields, 3 - pit grave cemetery, 4 - stone grave, 5 - roads, 6 - swamp.
Joon. 1. Kaberla.
1 - asulakoht, 2 - fossiilsed põllujäänused, 3 - maa-alune kalmistu, 4 - kivikalme, 5 - teed, 6 - raba.

The grave has a diameter of 46 m in the N–S direction and about 49 m in E–W direction. Its surface is elevated above the surrounding ground, 1.2 m on the N side and 1.5 m on S side. The mound of the grave has a quite regular round shape and its edges slope gently to the surrounding ground.

When discovered in 2003, two test pits were dug into the mound of the site. Both of them contained a number of potsherds and lightly burned human bones between limestone slabs (AI 6657a). As it was not possible to date these finds, the main aim of the excavations was to obtain information about the structure and age of the grave. Also of interest was the relationship between the stone grave and the other archaeological sites of Kaberla.

The first trench was established in the NE sector of the grave. It was located 8 m from the E and 15 m from the N edge of the grave; it was oriented N–S and measured 5 m^2. One of the previous test pits was situated next to it. The soil under the turf layer was dark and contained some small fragments of human bones. The first layer of stones was compact, and consisted mostly of limestone slabs; the number of granite stones was small. Most of the limestone slabs measured 15–20 cm; there were no very small nor very big stones. The biggest limestone slabs were located in the S part of the trench, near the central part of the grave. Some of the smaller granite stones had been in fire. Finds were gathered all along the trench; consisting mainly of unburned bone fragments, but some animal bones, small pieces of ceramics and worked quartz were also found.

The biggest granite stones of the second layer (diameter ca. 20 cm) were located in the N part of the trench and the biggest limestone slabs (measuring 57 x 30 x 4 cm) were found near the S wall of the trench. Some small pieces of limestone and granite stones also occurred in that layer. The third layer of stones consisted of both limestone slabs and granite stones all over the trench, but one could still observe the majority of the granite stones to be located near the N edge of the trench. The biggest of them measured 25–35 cm in diameter while most of them had a diameter of 15–25 cm. The biggest limestone slabs were in the S part of the excavation. In the fourth layer, the biggest granite stones as well as the limestone slabs were situated in the southern part of the trench. Some of the big limestone slabs were only partially in the trench. Located near these were three big granite stones (diameter 25–30, 30–40 and 40–50 cm). Some unburned bones of a child were found by these granite stones. A charcoal sample, gathered from that layer was dated to 2167±85 BP (Tln-2854).

In the fifth layer of stones the relationships between the limestone slabs and gran-

ite stones was almost the same. The N part of the trench consisted mostly of medium sized or small granite stones, many burned; the limestone slabs of that area were also of medium size. A number of big granite stones and a few big limestone slabs occurred in the S part of the trench. The sixth layer of stones, the bottom layer, consisted mostly of small limestone slabs and shingle. Only in the S part of the trench were quite big limestone slabs on top of big granite stones. Between those big stones the soil was still dark but in the rest of the excavation area, there was a yellowish brown soil instead of the dark soil of the previous layers. A number of finds were gathered from that layer, most of them from the S part of the trench. The majority of human bones collected from the excavation area were unburned and occurred in small fragments; only some bones had been in fire. A large number of potsherds with striated and smoothed surfaces were found; additionally, one small worked quartz piece was found at the N end of the trench. From several layers, partially worked quartzite stones and a number of golden pyrite were found.

Beneath the sixth layer of stones was a natural base soil containing gravel. Another sample of charcoal, collected underneath the lowermost stones was dated to 2156±60 BP (Tln-2857). It was observed that towards the central part of the grave, the number of human bones and grave goods increases; also the natural base soil rose towards it. As it was not possible to detect any grave constructions, the excavation area was enlarged in the S and W directions, where the big limestone slabs were located. Another 5 m² was opened and the whole excava-

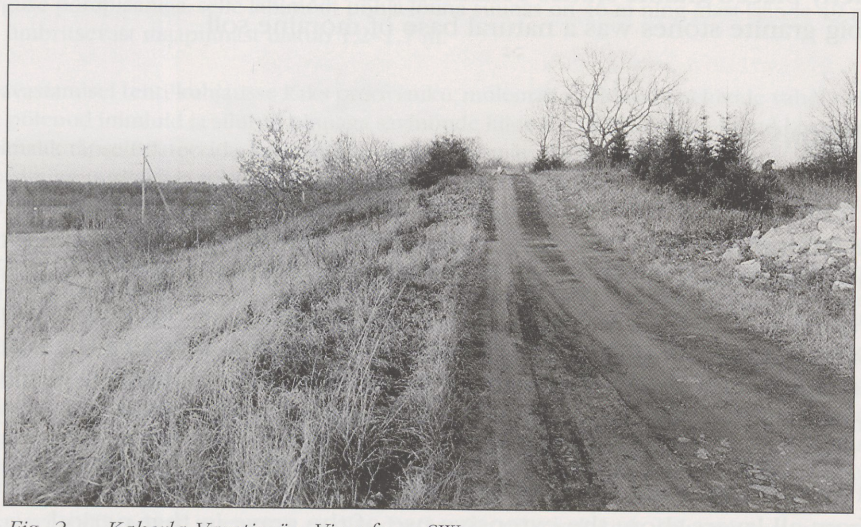

Fig. 2. Kaberla Varetimäe. View from SW.
Joon. 2. Vaade Kaberla Varetimäele edelast.

ted area expanded to 10 m^2. As in the trench, the soil beneath the turf layer was dark. Beneath the uppermost soil large limestone slabs and big granite stones, lying in disorder, were unearthed. Some of the slabs were upright, with some deeper holes containing dark soil and finds between them. Several finds were gathered during the cleaning of the uppermost stone layer; among them were a fragment of a shepherds crook pin (AI 6657: 92) and a fishhook (AI 6657: 91); a large number of potsherds and fragments of human bones were also found. The second layer resembled the first one. About 0.3 m from the W wall of the excavation area was a cavity containing two EW oriented long bones. Smaller limestone slabs surrounded them, probably marking the place of a burial made to the already existing grave. Part of the second layer was formed by the big granite stones, visible in the previous layer. As they reached to the lower layers, they were not removed. In the third layer a burial was unearthed in the same place where the long bones were found previously. The bones were buried in disorder within an area of approximately 0.5 x 1.0m, the scull was broken and mixed with potsherds. Judging by the scull, the burial was oriented to WNW. A large number of human bones occurred also in other parts of the excavation plot. Among them, a fragment of an iron shepherds crook pin (AI 6657: 131) and a large number of potsherds, both with striated and smoothed surfaces, were found. The burials were made between the stones; no cist-like formations were detected.

The third layer of stones consisted of some large limestone slabs; the granite stones beneath the latter were also big (measuring ca. 50 cm in diameter). Those compactly placed granite stones constituted the lower layer of the grave. Beneath these big granite stones was a natural base of moraine soil.

CONCLUSIONS

Based on the finds, it was established that the stone grave in Varetimäe was used during different periods. The grave was built in the Pre-Roman Iron Age on the moraine hillock near the klint edge. The central part of the grave was built of large granite stones that were covered with big limestone slabs; the granite stones in the upper layers were smaller. As the excavation area was very small, it is not possible to conclude whether there are any grave constructions. In that period, inhumation burials were made and bones were scattered in the grave. At least once, a burial was made in a limited area in a disordered manner. Fragments of uncremated human bones and the potsherds with striated and smoothed surfaces gathered from all layers show the extensive use of the grave in that period.

The grave was used to some extent again probably in the Viking Age and maybe also at the end of Estonian prehistory. This later reuse is indicated by some fragments of cremated bones and objects of that period (AI 6657: 5, 31, 137, 178 etc). Thus a site from a period previously not represented by archaeological materials was detected in Kaberla village. After some period it was used again at the same time as the other archaeological sites in Kaberla.

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ARHEOLOOGILISED KAEVAMISED KABERLA VARETIMÄE KIVIKALMEL

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2004. aastal toimusid arheoloogilised kaevamised Harjumaal Kaberla külas, kus uuriti Varetimäe nimelises kohas asuvat kivikalmet. 2003. aasta sügisel avastatud muistis paikneb küla kirdeosas Tammiku talu lähedal. Kalme on rajatud kõrgele klindiservale ning selle juurest avaneb avar vaade madalamatele aladele, sealhulgas praegusele Kaberla külale. Väliselt on kalme küllalt korrapärase ümmarguse põhiplaaniga, selle läbimõõt põhja-lõuna suunas on 46 m ning idast-läände 49 m, kalme kõrgus ümbritsevast maapinnast ulatub 1,2–1,7 m.

Kalme avastamisel tehti kuhjatisse kaks prooviauku; mõlemad sisaldasid paekivide vahel paiknenud nõrgalt põlenud inimluid ja silutud pinnaga savinõude kilde (AI 6657a). Kuna leitud keraamikat polnud võimalik täpselt dateerida, kujunes kaevamiste eesmärgiks nii kalme vanuse määramine kui ka seose otsimine uuritava ja teiste Kaberlast teadaolevate muististega.

Esmalt avati 5 m² suurune põhja-lõunasuunaline proovikraav kalme kirdesektoris, 15 m kaugusel kalme põhja- ning 8 m idaservast. Mättakihi all oli tume muld, mis sisaldas mõningaid inimluude fragmente ning savinõude kilde. Siin puhastati välja kuus kivikihti, milles esines korratult pae- ning raudkive, kusjuures enamik raudkividest jäid põhja- ning paekividest lõuna poole. Proovikraavi lõunaning lääneotsa jäid suured paeplaadid, mis ulatusid kaevatavast alast osaliselt väljapoole. Lisaks leidus enamikus kihtides väiksemaid, vaid osaliselt töödeldud kvartsitükke ning kuldset porfüriiti. Leitud inimluud paiknesid väikeste kogumitena ning olid valdavalt põletamata, ühtegi suuremat luupesa kaevatud alal ei esinenud. Leidudeks (AI 6657) olid valdavalt riibitud ning silutud pinnaga savinõude killud ning mõned kvartsesemed. Koguti kaks söeproovi, mis dateeriti eelrooma rauaaega.

Proovikraavi mõõtmetest tulenevalt ei olnud võimalik välja selgitada kalmeehitust ning seetõttu otsustati kaevatavat osa laiendada lõuna ning lääne suunas, kus avati veel 5 m² suurune ala. Siingi oli

mättakihi all must muld ning esimese kivikihi väljapuhastamisel koguti arvukalt inimluid ning mitmeid leide. Viimastest olid arvukaimaks riibitud või silutud pinnaga savinõude killud, lisaks saadi ka mõned pronksspiraalid ja karjasekeppnõela katke. Erinevalt põhjapoolsest alast koosnes selles kalme osas juba pealmine kiht suurtest paeplaatidest, millest mõned asetsesid serviti. Teise kivikihi väljapuhastamisel tuli lääneserva lähedal nähtavale kividevaheline kitsas tühemik, milles oli kaks pikka luud. Kolmanda kivikihi puhastamisel selgus, et selles kohas asetses matus: põletamata luud olid maetud korratult u. 0,5 x 1,0 m suurusele alale ning paiknesid savinõukildudega segamini. Kolju oli orienteeritud lääne-loodesse. Maetud oli ilmselt olemasoleva kalme kuhjatisse süvendatud lohku ning luud olid kaetud väiksemate kividega. Arvukalt inimluid koguti ka mujalt. Leidudeks olid karjasekeppnõela katke, õngekonks ja raudeseme katke ning kõikjal riibitud ja silutud pinnaga savinõude killud. Nagu tranšees, nii oli ka siin vaid vähesed luud põletusjälgedega, samuti leiti mõningaid muinasaja lõpusajandite savinõude kilde ning pronksspiraalide katkendeid. Matusekihi all olid suured paeplaadid, nende all omakorda suured tihedasti paigutatud raudkivid. Viimased olid laotud algsele maapinnale.

Keraamika ja ^{14}C dateeringute põhjal otsustades oli Varetimäe kivikalme rajatud eelrooma rauaajal. Et läbikaevatud ala oli väike, ei saadud kalme täpset ehitust välja selgitada. Siiski tõdeti, et kalme keskosa ehitamisel oli kõige alla paigutatud suured raudkivid, nende peale paigutatud suured paeplaadid. Kalme keskosas olid üsna suured paeplaadid ka pealmistes kihtides. Kuigi matmispaiga ääreala ehitus ei tulnud selgelt esile, näis, et serva pool on rohkem keskmise ja väiksema suurusega raudkive. Enamik luudest paiknes väikeste kogumitena, leiti ka üks terviklikum matus. Otsustades väikese koguse põletatud luude ning mõningate hiliste leidude (sh. savinõude kildude) põhjal, kasutati Varetimäe kivikalmet vähesel määral ka viikingiajal ja muinasaja lõpul.