

2005. aasta arheoloogiliste välitööde tulemused

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**ARHEOLOOGILISED
VÄLITÖÖD
EESTIS**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL
FIELDWORK
IN ESTONIA**

2005

Koostanud ja toimetanud
Ülle Tamla

Muinsuskaitseamet
Tallinn 2006

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Uus 18, Tallinn 10111, Eesti
National Heritage Board
Uus 18, Tallinn 10111, Estonia

Esikaas: Hilisviikingiaegne kõrva- või oimurõngas.
Rekonstruktsioon 2005. a. avastatud Ubina hõbeaardes
sisalduva fragmendi põhjal. Joonistanud Kersti Siitan.
Cover: Earring or temple ornament from Late Viking Age.
Reconstruction based on the fragment from the silver board
of Ubina discovered in 2005. Drawing by Kersti Siitan.

Tagakaas: Tartust Tähtvere tänavalt 2005. a. leitud 15. saj.
haruldase savikannu kild.
Back cover: Fragment of stoneware goblet from the 15th century.
Stray find from Tartu, Tähtvere Street in 2005.

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Jaana Kool

ISSN 1406-3972

TARTU ÜLIKOOLI
RAAMATUKOGU
SUNDFASEMLAR

NEW DATA ABOUT THE BESIEGING CONSTRUCTIONS FROM 1223 IN VILJANDI

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In 2005 excavations were continued on the ski-jumping hill of Viljandi, ca. 160 m south of the ruins of the Order Castle, where remains of besieging constructions from 1223 and of timber houses, burnt at that time in course of the crusades, had been studied in 1999 and 2002 (Valk 2000a, b; Valk 2003a, b).

The excavation plot (20 sq. metres) the northern edge of which was located 4 m to the south of the formerly investigated area – continuity of plots was hindered by a big oak – was located on the southern part of the hill plateau. The aim of the excavation was to establish whether Late Iron Age buildings or defensive constructions had existed on the southern edge of the plateau.

TRACES OF BESIEGING ACTIVITIES

As in earlier years, the soil under the turf consisted of fill which had been carried to the hilltop during the besieging activities of 1223 (HCL XXVII: 2) to form a basis for the besieging machines or platforms for these. Differently from former excavation plots, however, the fill did not consist of an intensive cultural layer but it was taken from the periphery of adjacent Late Iron Age settlement. The fill layer – greyish or brownish soil was about 50–60 cm thick. Due to the low intensity of the cultural layer, the number of finds and animal bones found in it was less than during earlier excavations.

Differently from earlier years, already in the upper layers two clusters of granite stones (diameter between 10–15 cm and 30–45 cm) were discovered (Fig. 1). The first of them was located in the central and south-western part of the plot in an area with a diameter of 2–3 m,



*Fig. 1. View of stone clusters from the west.
Joon. 1. III korrise kivistik läänest.*



Fig. 2. Bottom of the excavation plot with postholes.
 Joon. 2. Kaevandi põhi postiaukudega.

continuing also towards the south and the west. The smaller cluster (ca. 1×2 m) was located in the eastern edge of the plot. The outer borders of both stone layers were indefinite and had different stretches in different layers. The highest stones of the stone clusters appeared at the depth of 10–15 cm but in some cases also higher, the lowest of them were located in the Late Iron Age layer. The upper layers of the big cluster contained also some fragments of medieval bricks and spring lime.

It appeared that the hill had been originally narrower and that during the besieging of 1223 its plateau had been widened towards the south for about 3 meters – evidently, to make space for the trebuchets. Probably the stones in the fill were meant to condense the soil, i.e. to compress the bushes and branches which were presumably added into the filling layer.

The only evidence of the besieging machines were 10 postholes with the diameter of 40–70 cm with irregular location (Fig. 2). The pits were of different depth stretched for 15–80 cm into the intact natural soil and their fill differed from the ordinary greyish-brownish soil. The postholes were filled with pink-reddish sand (6 cases; all with the depth over 40 cm) or light brown soil. Since the pink-reddish sand was the same soil which covered the remains of the houses, burnt in 1223, in the excavation plot of 2002, at least these posts (but probably also others) are related to during the besieging activities, probably, to the tre-



Fig. 3. Posthole wedged with stones.
Joon. 3. Kividega vooderdatud postiauk.

buckets. However, the possibility of a temporary watch tower, meant to direct the activities of the trebuchets, can neither be excluded.

Almost all postholes were located on the upper, initially horizontal edge of the excavation plot, and not on its sloping part, filled with stones and soil. In the area of the postholes there were no stone clusters. Since many of the holes were carefully wedged with stones (Fig. 3), the posts had to bear a heavy weight. Evidently, they have supported or fastened the besieging machines – in order to avoid them from slipping down from the newly-filled slopes as a result of backstroke and vibration, caused by stone casting. Since the excavated area was small and most of the postholes were located in a narrow area in the upper part of the plot, from their location nothing more definite could be deduced about the machines.

TRACES OF THE LATE IRON AGE SETTLEMENT

Although it was first presumed that the plateau of the ski-jumping hill had been surrounded by buildings, the situation turned out to have been different. It appeared that the flat plateau was about 3 m narrower and that most of the plot was located on the Late Iron Age slope, unsuitable for construction. Only in the upper edge of the excavation plot there appeared two firebrands, surrounded by pink-reddish sand. Since similar soil had surrounded the house remains also in earlier excavation plots, the remains evidently came from the besieging of 1223. As the brands lay irregularly and were not related to the Late Iron Age cultural layer, they should be interpreted as debris which had fallen down from an adjacent burning building. Evidently, the brands originate from the same house, which lies in the yet unopened area and the northern edge of which was revealed in the excavation plot of 2002. In such case, the width of the building has been about 4 meters.

The cultural layer which had formed during living activities could be found mainly in the upper edge of the plot and even here it was extremely thin – less than 1 cm (in the earlier excavated areas the thickness of the layer had been 2–3 cm). The layer was of same consistence and colour as the previous ones, but it contained almost no finds. Since it was located not on the Late Iron Age hill plateau but on the slope, the relative thinness of the layer should be regarded as “normal”. The fact that the layer extends to the slopes may also prove that on the hilltop the zone of active life was not surrounded by a definite enclosure.

Some information about the original shape and size of the hill, strongly damaged by bulldozer works in the Soviet time, was gained also from a trial pit made in the south-eastern corner of the hill plateau. Here the soil also consisted of a similar fill, the thickness of which reached up to 80 cm. This enables to suggest that during the besieging of 1223 the hill plateau had been evenly broadened towards the south.

THE FINDS

Since the fill originated from the periphery of Late Iron Age settlement, the finds¹ were less numerous than in earlier years. The pottery fragments come both from hand-made and wheel-made vessels. More considerable among the finds are a fragment of an ornament woven of several thin bronze wires, 3 small trapezoid pendants and a pendant of beaver heel bone (Fig. 4 : 1–4). Similar finds, probably, related to the Viking Age beaver fur trade, are represented with four items unearthed from the disturbed cultural layer of the Viking Age from the adjacent Musumägi Hill (Rammo & Veldi 2005, 106). When the soil was being sieved, also some bronze spirals and small rings of bronze wire, probably fragments of chains came to light. Besides, a crossbow bolt and an arrowhead (Fig. 4 : 6, 7) meant to penetrate the chain armour were found. The household utensils were represented with an ice nail, an awl, and fragments of a drawknife and a knife.

Two Russian dengas from the 1730s, as well as a silver *kopeck* from 1682–1725 (determined by Mauri Kiudsoo, Institute of History) century and a simple bronze ring of that period indicate to a later disturbance of the soil by earthwork. Probably, these finds originate from the earthworks in course of which the hills made for the trebuchets in 1223 were levelled. Presumably, the levelling works were related to the finding or forming of the manor park.

¹ VM 11083:1–671.

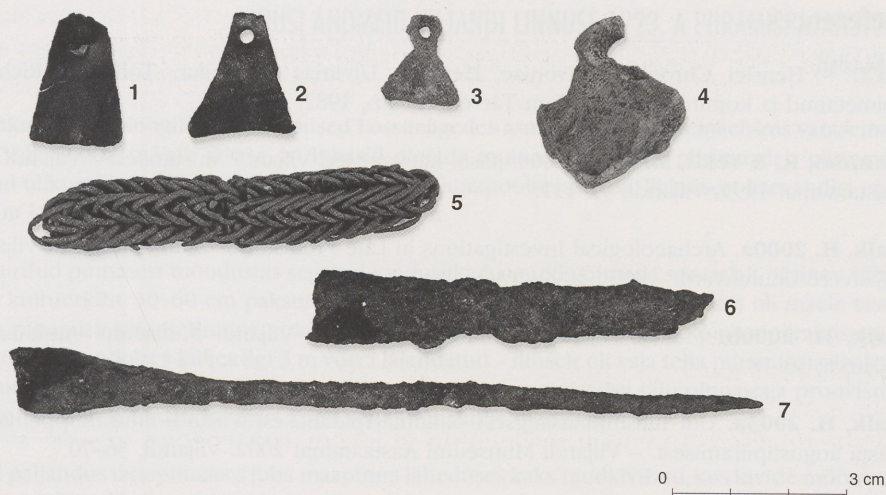


Fig. 4. Finds from Ski-jumping hill. 1–3 - trapezoid pendants, 4 - pendant of beaver heel bone, 5 - fragment of woven ornament, 6 - crossbow bolt, 7 - arrowhead.

Joon. 4. Leide Suusahüppemäelt. 1–3 - trapetsripatsid, 4 - kopra kannaluust ripats, 5 - traatidest ehtepunutis, 6 - ammunooleots, 7 - nooleots. (VM 11083.)

CONCLUSIONS

The excavations showed that during the besieging of 1223 the hill plateau had been widened for 3 meters towards the south. The earthworks indicate that the initial width of the hill was insufficient for the besiegers, and enable to make the hypothesis that the trebuchets had stood there in two rows, probably, following the pattern of chess-table.

The smaller width of the Late Iron Age hill plateau sets in a new light also the former suggestions about the functions and meaning of the site at that time. The earlier hypothesis about a small Late Iron Age manor with an open yard surrounded by buildings, similar to a miniature hillfort, becomes unlikely, since on the plateau with the width of ca. 10 m there is not enough space for a household of that type. However, it remains unsure how much wider the hilltop has been towards the Order castle (former hillfort), since during the excavations of 2002 the cultural layer ended with a dug-off edge. The decrease of measurements might not, however, be considerable. If the hill had been much broader before the besieging already, there would have been no need to widen the hill plateau for 3 meters.

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UUSI ANDMEID VILJANDI LINNUSE 1223. A PIIRAMISRAJATISTEST

Heiki VALK

Viljandis jätkusid arheoloogilised kaevamised Lossimägedes asuval Suusahüppemäel, kus varasemad uuringud (Valk 2000a, b; Valk 2003a, b) lubasid oletada muinas- ja keskaja piirimaadelt pärinevat kindlustatud ülikumõisat. Kaevand (20m²) tehti mäe lõunapoolsesse ossa. Eelmisest kaevandist eraldas seda 4 m laiune vaheriba, millel kasvas suur tamm.

Enamuse uuritud pinnasest moodustas segatud looduslik alusmuld või asula servaalalt pärinev väheintensiivne kultuurkiht: 50–60 cm paksune hallika või pruunika mulla ladestus, mis oli mäele tassitud 1223. a. piiramise käigus. Ilmnes, et kungas oli algselt kitsam ja et 1223. a. augustipiiramise ajal on selle lage Valuoja poolses küljes ligi 3 m võrra laiendatud – ilmselt oli vaja teha piiramismasinatele rohkem ruumi. Mäeplatoo kagunurka tehtud 80 cm paksuse samalaadse täitepinnasega proovišurf näitas, et tõenäoliselt laiendati kungast kogu selle lõunakülje ulatuses.

Kaevamisel paljandus täitepinnases juba maapinna läheduses kaks raudkivilasu, kus kivide mõõtmed jäid 10–15 cm ja 30–45 cm vahemikku (joon. 1). Esimene neist paiknes kaevandi kesk- ja edelaosas 2–3 m läbimõõduga alal, jätkudes nii lääne kui ka lõuna suunas. Teine, väiksem lasu (u. 1 × 2 m) oli kaevandi keskosa idaservas. Lasud olid korratute ja korriste kaupa varieeruvate piiridega ning ulatusid kamaraalusest kihist kuni loodusliku alusmullani. Arvatavasti taheti kividega tugevdada ja kindlustada künkplatoo laiendamiseks algele mäenõlvale toodud täitepinnast. Võib arvata, et kivid fikseerisid mulla sidumiseks nõlvale eeldatavasti toodud oksti või võsa.

Ainsaks märgiks piiramismasinatest olid kümme 40–70 cm läbimõõduga korrapäratult paiknevat postiauku (joon. 2), mis ulatusid 40–80 cm sügavuselt looduslikku aluspinnasesse. Kuus neist olid täidetud sama roosakaspunase liivaga, mis kattis 1223. a. augustipiiramisel hävinud hoonete põlen-gurususid. Peaaegu kõik postiaugud asusid kaevandi ülemises servas, omaaegsel mäeplatool, mitte aga kivide ja mullaga täidetud mäenõlvale; nende kohal täitepinnases kive ei olnud. Kuna paljud augud olid sissekiilunud kivide abil korralikult tugevdatud (joon. 3), pidid postid kandma suurt koormust.

Et enamus kaevandit asetses hilismuinaaegsel mäenõlvale, oli selleaegne kultuurkiht õhuke: mäepoolses servas vaid u. 1 cm paksune, nõlvapoolses servas kadus aga kohati hoopis. Kiht oli sama koostisega nagu varasemates kaevandites, kollase-musta-pruuni kirju värvusega, ning peaaegu leitudeta. Kihi ulatumine mäenõlvale lubab arvata, et platool pole hilismuinaajal elutsooni ümber olnud kindlat piiret, s.t. et majapidamise ümber pole olnud kaitsetara. Siiski pole võimalik midagi lõplikku väita enne täiendavaid kaevamisi, mis avaksid seose intensiivse ning väheintensiivse kultuurkihi vahel. Ainsateks muinaaegseteks ehitusjäänusteks olid kaks kaevandi loodenurgast punase liiva seest leitud tukki, mis kujutavad endast ilmselt kõrvalolnud hoone põlemisel varisenud rususid. Nähtavasti jäävad selle hoone jäänused 2002. ja 2005. a. kaevandi vahealale, suure tamme alla.

Saadud leiud pärinevad mäele täitepinnaseks kuhjatud väheintensiivsest kultuurkihist. Enamuse neist moodustavad savinõukillud – nii kedra- kui käsikeraamika. Märkimist väärivad traatidest punutud peachte katke, 3 väikest trapetsikujulist ripatsit, kopra kannaluust ripats, putkega ammuoleots ja soomussärki läbistava noole ots (joon. 4). Veel leiti jäänael, naaskel, liimeistri ja noa katke ning mõned pronksrõngakesed ja spiraalid. Pinnase kohatisele segatusele hilisemate mulatöödega viitavad kaks 1730. aastate Vene *dengat*, 1682.–1725. a. Vene hõbekopikas ja nähtavasti 17.–18. sajandist pärinev pronksist vitssõrmus.

Mäeplatoo laiendamine ligi 3 m võrra Valuoja-poolses suunas näitab, et künka algne laius oli piirajate jaoks ebapiisav, ja lubab oletada kahes reas, võimalik, et maleruudustikuna paiknenud piiramismasinaid. Oletatust kitsam mäeplatoo seab kahtluse alla ka varasema hüpoteesi hilismuinasajal mäelae piiranud ringhoonestusest ja väikese siseõuega muinasmõisast või linnustalust.