

2005. aasta arheoloogiliste välitööde tulemused

Results of archaeological fieldwork in 2005

Reinhard JONHANSON and Martin YULIN

Archaeological excavations at Jägala Hillfort

Arheoloogilised välitööd Jägala hüüdnägil

Andres THAURI and Kristina JONHANSON

Archaeological research on Käraste, Mätsküla and Karkla hillforts

Arheoloogilised välitööd Käraste, Mätsküla ja Karkla hüüdnägil

Julius LÄH and Margat LÄHEMAN

New investigations at Sassi Hillfort of 2005

Uus uurimusi Sassi hüüdnägil 2005

Margit KORSJA, Julius LÄH, Karin TÄRRE ja Ülle TAMLA

Ringwall enclosure of Laps in Pärnu linn Southern Harbours

Laps hüüdnägil ringseinaline kaitsealade

Det HANSEN

Über die Funktion der Neolithischen Hügelgräber

Neoliitiliste hüüdnägil funktsioonid

Marika AAS

Excavations on the coast of Pühjäärvi and Mätsküla

Arheoloogilised välitööd Pühjäärvi ja Mätsküla

Marika AAS

Archaeological investigations on the coast of Pühjäärvi

Arheoloogilised välitööd Pühjäärvi

Margit KORSJA and Martin YULIN

Archaeological investigations in the surroundings of Käraste

Arheoloogilised välitööd Käraste

Andres THAURI and Riina BERNDT

Archaeological investigations carried out by the University of Tartu

Arheoloogilised välitööd Tartu

Julius LÄH and Ülle TAMLA

Archaeological investigations at Lai Street in Tartu

Arheoloogilised välitööd Lai tänaval

Julius LÄH and Ülle TAMLA

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ARHEOLOOGILISED VÄLITÖÖD EESTIS

ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELDWORK IN ESTONIA

2005

Koostanud ja toimetanud
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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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EXCAVATIONS IN THE LATE IRON AGE AND MEDIEVAL CENTRES OF VÕRUMAA: TILLEORU, KIRUMPÄÄ AND VASTSELIINA

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The first precondition for reconstructing the territorial structures of Latest Iron Age (ca. 1050–1225 AD) is a survey on the network of power centres of that time. In order to get information about the Latest Iron Age hillforts of Võrumaa County, south-eastern Estonia, in 2005 the *Kabinet* of Archaeology of the University of Tartu carried out archaeological excavations on three sites that supposedly belonged into that period: the hillfort of Tilleoru and the castles of Kirumpää and Vastseliina.¹ In the last two cases the existence of a Late Iron Age power centre has repeatedly been suggested but there have been no archaeological excavations on those sites.



Fig. 1. Profile of the rampart of Tilleoru hillfort.
Joon. 1. Tilleoru linnusevalli profiilikraav.

TILLEORU HILLFORT

Tilleoru hillfort is located on the historical Tartu–Kirumpää–Vastseliina road, namely at its crossing with Ahja River. The site with the plateau of ca. 3300 sq. m lies on the high bank of a river valley and is protected by deep natural crossing valleys from two sides. From the land side the fort is protected by a 3–3.5 m high rampart (width at the top ca. 3 m) and a wide moat (original width ca. 15 m; present-day depth ca. 1 m). Although trial excavations of 1951 (Harri Moora) unearthed some sherds of hand-made pottery, the measures of the fortifications enabled to suggest the use of the site also in the Latest Iron Age.

To establish the chronology of the rampart, its profile was studied in both

¹ Research was supported by Estonian Science Foundation grant no. 6119.

ends in 2005. In the southern end where the rampart became lower due to the increasing depth of the moat and was only ca. 1.5 m high, it was cut by a 22.5 m long trench – 14 m within the rampart area and 8.5 m on the flat plateau (Fig. 1).²

Within the rampart, made of sand and soil, remains of charred brands could be observed both in its inner and outer part, at the same height (ca. 0.9 m upper the level of intact ground). Since the trench in the rampart was cut by an old pit which turned out to stretch into the natural soil, the connections between the brands found in the inner and outer part actually remained unclear. The ¹⁴C analyses enabled to date the higher brand as 1198±56 BP (752±56 AD)³; after calibration (with 95.4% probability) as from between 689–705 AD, 709–753 AD, 759–903 AD or 915–977 AD.

Under the inner side of the eroded rampart there was a dark brownish cultural layer which contained hand-made pottery. Brands found within this layer, ca. 10 cm above the intact ground level could be dated as 1415±57 BP (535±57 AD).⁴ After calibration the possible ranges (with 95.4% probability) were 535–693, 701–715 AD and 749–765 AD.

The cultural layer did not continue, however, on the hillfort plateau. There the soil consisted of dark, totally disturbed brownish soil where some sherds of hand-moulded pottery were found. The trench gave information also about the inner edge of the moat. The original distance between the moat and the rampart had been ca. 2–3 m and the moat had had an almost vertical edge. To avoid erosion damages, the bank had been revetted at the width of ca. 70 cm with 2–3 rows of stones.

The northern end of the rampart had been damaged before the excavations: here a big birch had been torn out by storm and the formed opening had been later extended to make free access to the hillfort plateau. During the excavations the profile of the new “gateway” was cleansed and drawn. It appeared that the rampart was of similar construction: here, too. It had been heaped up in two stages, the layers separated from each other by charred brands at the height of 0.6–0.7 m from the natural ground. The ¹⁴C analyses dated the latter to 1014±73 BP (936±73 AD), after calibration the possible ranges were (with 95.4% probability) 889–1191 AD and 1199–1209 AD.⁵ Since the two samples from the rampart come from a similar context – from its middle part between separate layers –, evidently, for the

² Finds from Tilleoru Kantsimägi: TÜ 1431: 1–690.

³ Tin-2937.

⁴ Tin-2938.

⁵ Tin-2939.

date of the brands the overlapping range of 915–977 (95.4% probability) should be considered. The soil below the inner side of the collapsed rampart was intensively black, contained no stones but several fragments of hand-made pottery. A big temporal gap between ^{14}C datings from the brands in the rampart and from below its southern end refer to discontinuity in the use of the hillfort.

A trial pit (7 × 1.4 m) was dug in the northern edge of the plateau where the cultural layer was the darkest. The soil was intensively black in colour and contained stones which appeared at the depth of 10–15 cm (Fig. 2). The thickness of the intensively black layer on the plateau was 20–30 cm, on the slope 50–60 cm. Under the dark layer there was a transition zone of ca. 10 cm and below it uneven surface of pure gravel started. The cultural layer contained many sherds of hand-made vessels with simple profile (Fig. 3: 1–4, 8–11), including 12 fragments with small holes at the rim. One sherd decorated with oblong impressions (Fig. 3: 5) and sherds of a large rimmed vessel (Fig. 3: 6) should especially be noted. Besides, also rare fragments of early wheel-made pottery with line ornamentation and a fragment of ornamented spinning whirl (Fig. 3: 7) were found.

In order to obtain information about the cultural layer and suggested traces of fortifications, a trench (14 × 0.4 m) was dug in the eastern part of the plateau where several low turf-covered irregular cairns (diameter 1–1.5 m) could be observed. The trench revealed no traces of cultural layer. The cairns turned out to consist of pure gravel and granite stones with the diameter of up to 10–12 cm – evidently, building material left unused for some reason. The plateau of the fort also appeared to have been somewhat extended towards the river valley.

The excavation results give evidence of a Viking Age hillfort with an uneven cultural



Fig. 2. Cultural layer in the northern part of Tilleoru hillfort.

Joon. 2. Kultuurkiht Tilleoru linnamäe platoo põhjaservas.

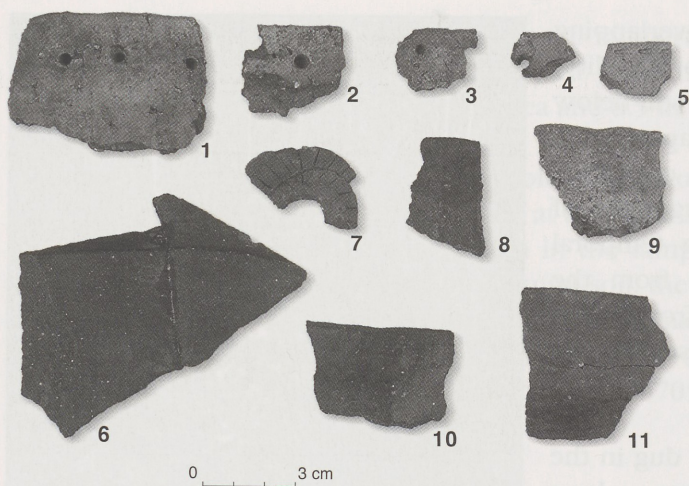


Fig. 3. Finds from Tilleoru hillfort. 1–4 - pottery with small holes at the edge; 5 - sherd with oval impressions, 6 - sherd with a rim, 7 - spinning-whirl, 8–11 - edges of vessels.

Joon. 3. Leide Tilleoru linnamäelt. 1–4 - servaaukudega killud; 5 - ovaalsete servalokkudega kild, 6 - randiga nõu katke, 7 - värtakedra katke, 8–11 - savinõude servatükid. (TÜ 1431: 275, 413, 428, 40, 616, 211/185, 291, 74, 199, 360, 486.)

layer (close to the rampart and in certain areas of the plateau). The earliest cultural layer dates, however, from the Middle Iron Age. The excavations enable to date the intensive use of the hillfort to the 10th and 11th centuries. Since the finds include no professionally made wheel pottery, the site seems to have been deserted in the first half of the 11th century, maybe in connection with Prince Yaroslav's raid to south-eastern Estonia in 1030.

The excavation results give evidence of an unfinished fortification on the site. It cannot be excluded that the last attempts to reconstruct the fort were made during the period of German conquest in the early 13th century.

KIRUMPÄÄ CASTLE

The castle of Kirumpää was first mentioned in the written sources in 1322 (Tuulse 1942, 909–100, 308–309). An intensively black cultural layer of a medieval and early modern times' settlement north and north-west of it covers ca. 8 ha. Likewise the hillfort of Tilleoru, the castle was located on medieval Vastse-liina-Tartu road.

A trial pit (2 × 2 m) was dug in the eastern part of yard of the main castle (Fig. 4).⁶ Just under the turf there was a cobblestone pavement from which a schilling of the Livonian Order, minted in Tallinn in the last decades of the 15th century or in the first quarter of the 16th century, was found.⁷ From the middle part of the cul-

⁶ Finds from Kirumpää Castle: TÜ 1433: 1–87.

⁷ All coins were dated by Mauri Kiudsoo (AI).

tural layer (total thickness 1.4 m) a crossbow bolt (Fig. 5: 1) and an oval strike-a-light were found, above them there were some pieces of stoneware (Fig. 5: 3, 6). The bottom layer was poor in finds but contained several pieces of strongly decayed timber. The ^{14}C analyses dated the latter to 826 ± 55 BP (i.e. 1124 ± 55 AD)⁸ but after calibration the possible ranges (with 95.4% probability) were 1041–1093 AD, 1117–1141 AD and 1153–1285 cal AD. Since from the same layer just above the undisturbed greyish natural soil a thin sherd of rimmed hard-fired greyware jug (possibly 2nd half of 13th century)⁹ was found, evidently the last, 13th century range (with 68.3% probability 1183–1273 AD) should be considered. Thus, the excavations gave no proof of inhabitation in the Late Iron Age on the territory of medieval Kirumpää castle.

Two pits were made also on the slopes of the castle hill. The pit on the western slope (depth 0.7 m) contained disturbed soil which was followed by a layer of clay, probably heaped up to extend the plateau and make the slope steeper. The pit on the southern slope (depth 1.8 m) was filled with disturbed brownish soil and brick debris. Neither of the pits reached undisturbed natural ground.



Fig. 4. Trial pit in Kirumpää Castle.

Joon. 4. Proovikaevand Kirumpää linnuse õuel.

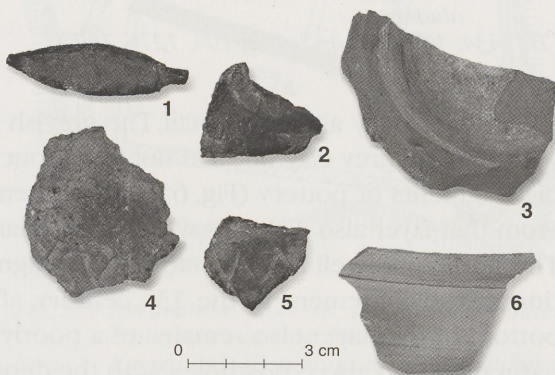


Fig. 5. Finds from Kirumpää castle (1, 3, 6) and settlement (2, 4, 5). 1 - crossbow bolt; 2, 4, 5 - pottery with wave ornamentation; 3, 6 - stoneware.

Joon. 5. Leide Kirumpää linnuselt (1, 3, 6) ja asulast (2, 4, 5). 1 - ammuoleots; 2, 4, 5 - laine-ornamendiga killud; 3, 6 - kivikeraamika.

(TÜ 1433: 31; TÜ 1434: 165; TÜ 1433: 24; TÜ 1434: 116, 193; TÜ 1433: 20.)

⁸ Tin-2935.

⁹ Estimation by Erki Russow (Al).

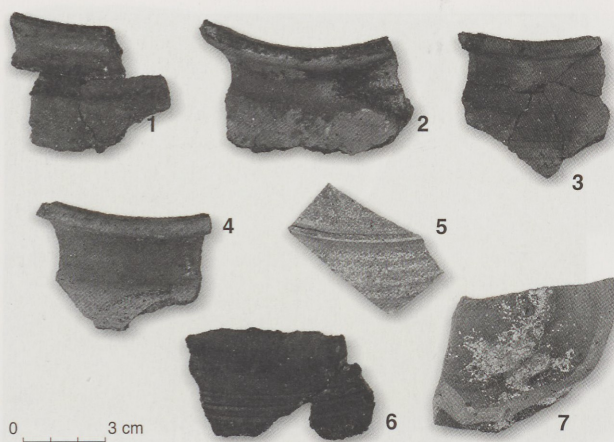


Fig. 6. Pottery from Kirumpää settlement, bottom of the cultural layer.

Joon. 6. Savinõukilde Kirumpää asulakoha kultuurikihi alaosast.

(TÜ 1434: 173, 175, 137, 192, 194, 127b, 147.)

medieval pottery and an ice-nail. The greyish bottom layer – disturbed natural soil which lay on grey clay but had not been touched by ploughing – contained rather big fragments of pottery (Fig. 6: 1–4, 6), often decorated with line ornamentation. From that layer also 3 sherds with wave ornamentation (Fig. 5: 2, 4, 5) were found. The pottery, as well as some stoneware fragments (Fig. 6: 5, 7) refer to the formation of the settlement in the 13th century, after the German conquest. From the bottom of that layer also remains of a poorly preserved sickle were found. In the natural ground also 6 postholes with the depth of 10–26 cm (diameter 18–36 cm) appeared.

VASTSELIINA CASTLE

The castle of Vastseliina, founded in 1342 (Tuulse 1942, 100–102, 306–307; Alttoa 1978) and built of local limestone and bricks, functioned as a “lock” on the historical land route from Pskov to Tartu up to the Great Northern War (activities in Estonia 1700–1710). Since the castle was blown up in the war, its area, especially the surroundings of the main tower, are covered by a thick layer of debris. The presence of the explosion debris determined also the location of the trial pits (Fig. 7).

The main plot (3 × 6 m) was excavated in the outer bailey, in front of the existing

¹⁰ Finds from Kirumpää settlement: TÜ 1434: 1–197.

southern wall (Fig. 8). The investigated intensive cultural layer with the thickness of 1.1–1.2 m dated from the 16th and 17th century and was rich in finds¹¹ and animal bones. Its upper part (ca. 0.5 m) consisted of intensively black and sooty soil, the lower layers were more heterogeneous in composition. In the medium strata of the cultural layer the remains of a clay floor that had been renewed for two times were unearthed. Judging by coin finds the building might date from the late 16th and early 17th century.

The lowest part of the cultural layer consisted of pure lime, 5–10 cm thick. The lime could evidently be connected with the construction of the existing southern wall of the outer bailey that has been dated on the basis of construction historical analysis to the turn of the 15th and 16th centuries or later – to the final stage of Medieval Livonia (Alttoa 1978, 301–301). This dating matches well with the archaeological material from the investigated cultural layer. The oldest coins from the bottom of the cultural layer above the lime (levelled debris) are a Livonian sherd from the 15th century, a schilling of Tallinn from the 1480s and a penny of Tallinn from the first half of the 16th century. These finds speak rather for the late 15th or early 16th century than for a later dating.

Finds from the cultural layer include numerous pottery fragments (both of wheel pottery and redware vessels), fragments of tiles and window glass and tin frames. To military activities refer the 4 cannon balls found – 3 made of stone and 1 of iron (Fig. 9: 1, 2, 4), 8 musket bullets of tin (Fig. 10: 5–7) and 2 of iron (Fig. 10: 3, 4), a cock and fragments of a musket barrel (Fig. 9: 3) and of an armour (Fig. 9: 5).

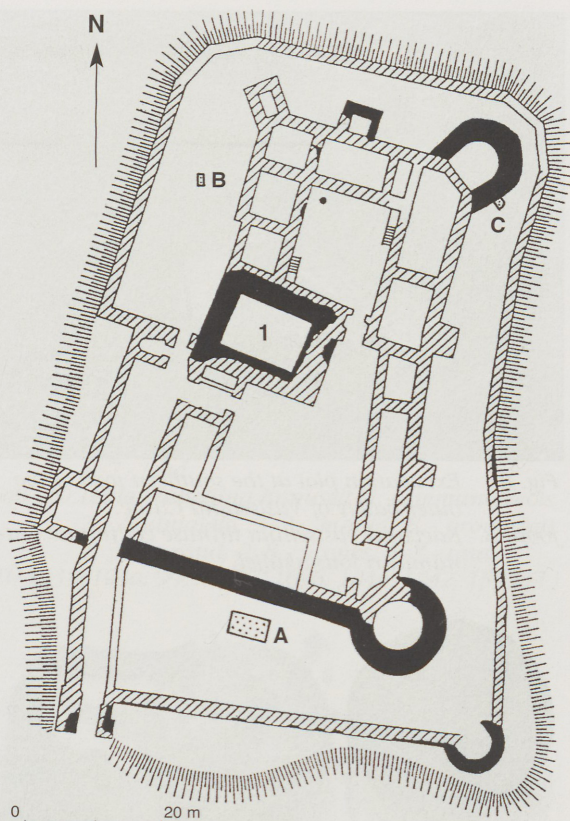


Fig. 7. Excavation plots in the external outer bailey of Vastseliina Castle.

Joon. 7. Kaevandid Vastseliina linnuse välises eeslinnuses.

¹¹ Finds from Vastseliina: TÜ 1435: 1–2457.

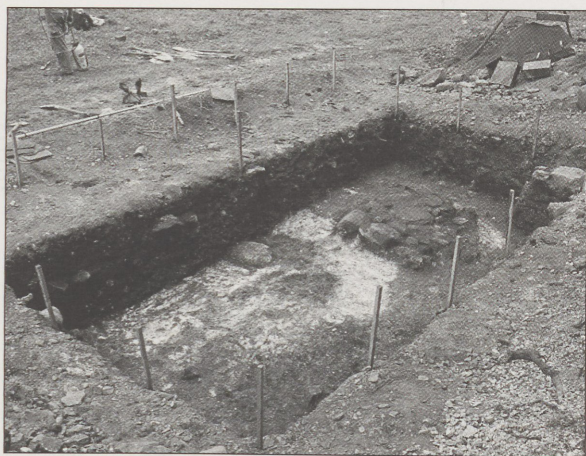


Fig. 8. Excavation plot at the southern wall of the outer bailey of Vastseliina Castle.

Joon. 8. Kaevand Vastseliina linnuse eeslinnuse lõunamüüri lõunaküljel.

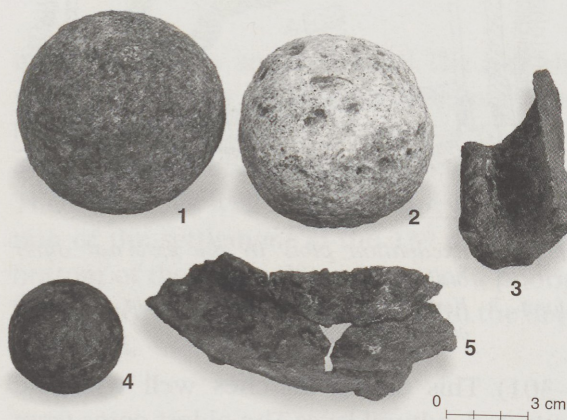


Fig. 9. Weapons from Vastseliina Castle.

1, 2, 4 - cannon balls, 3 - fragment of a musket barrel, 5 - fragment of an armour.
1, 2 - stone, 3-5 - iron.

Joon. 9. Relvadeid Vastseliina linnuselt.

1, 2, 4 - kahurikuulid, 3 - püssitoru katke,
5 - turvise katke.

1, 2 - kivi, 3-5 - raud.

(TÜ 1435: 708, 1906, 1064, 1928, 2253.)

A crossbow bolt (Fig. 10: 1) was found from the very top of the cultural layer.

Finds related to everyday life activities include some horse and oxen shoes (Fig. 12: 1-3), an ice nail, a supposed horse comb made of a piece of an old saw (Fig. 11: 4), the leg of a bronze grapen (Fig. 11: 1), fragments of horse harness, several heel irons, end of a strap (Fig. 13: 3), buckles (Fig. 14: 1, 2), a button (Fig. 13: 7), a book shutter (Fig. 13: 1), a dice (Fig. 13: 3), a stone gaming piece, used as a button (Fig. 14: 3), and some fragments of clay pipes. Tools and utensils, referring also to handicraft activities, include several knives or fragments of these, a spoon bit (Fig. 11: 6), a presumed file, 2 spinning whirles (Fig. 11: 7, 8), some needles of bronze and iron, a thimble (Fig. 13: 4), a tiny clasp casting mould (Fig. 13: 8) and a fragment of a clay sieve with remains of lead in it (Fig. 14: 4). To the 17th century belong 3 burnt fragments of a candlestick (Fig. 10: 2) and a bronze chain of S-shaped links (Fig. 10: 8). The layers included also fragments of knobbled and enamel-decorated glass beakers from the late 15th or first half of the 16th century. To female pres-

ence indicate some beads from the layers of the 17th century (including a dark yellow *biser* type bead).

The cultural layer was most rich in coins – 39 items in all. The upper 20 cm of the intensively black layer seemed, judging by coins, to lack major disturbances and date from the 2nd half of the 17th century. In lower strata the chronological sequence of coins could not be followed so clearly. In all, coins from the time of the Swedish rule (after 1625) were represented with 7 Swedish *schillings* minted in Riga and with 8 Russian *kopecks* of Alexei Mikhailovich (1654–1663). Most of the coins of that time were found in the eastern part of the plot whereby their concentration was highest in the south-eastern corner, indicating, probably, to some definite (open air?) shop. Coins from the period of Polish rule (1582–1625) were represented by 5 Polish *schillings*, a *dreipölder* minted in Riga by Sigismund III (1587–1632), a Swedish *schilling* minted in Riga (1611–1632) and a Nürnberg jeton of Hans (II) Krauwinckel (1586–1635). To the time of the Livonian War belong 2 *schillings* of Riga (1561–1581), a Swedish 2-öre coin from 1573, a Lithuanian 1/2 *grosch* from 1563 and probably also a *denga* of Ivan IV (1533–1584). From medieval coins, in addition to the above-

mentioned items, a *scherf* of Tallinn from the 2nd half of the 15th century, 2 pennies of Wolter von Plettenberg minted in Riga (1494–1535), a Lithuanian 1/2 *grosch*

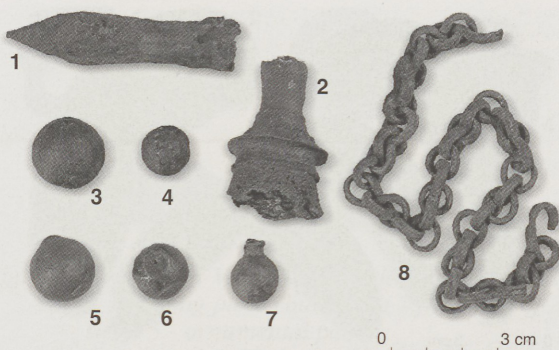


Fig. 10. Finds from Vastseliina Castle. 1 - crossbow bolt, 2 - fragment of candlestick, 3–7 - bullets, 8 - chain. 1, 3, 4 - iron, 2, 8 - bronze; 5–7 - lead.

Joon. 10. Leide Vastseliina linnuselt. 1 - ammuõoleots, 2 - küünlajalg, 3–7 - kuulid, 8 - pronkskett. 1, 3, 4 - raud, 2, 8 - pronks, 5–7 - tina. (TÜ 1435: 103a; 998a, 577, 1696, 1044, 1242, 1892, 7.)

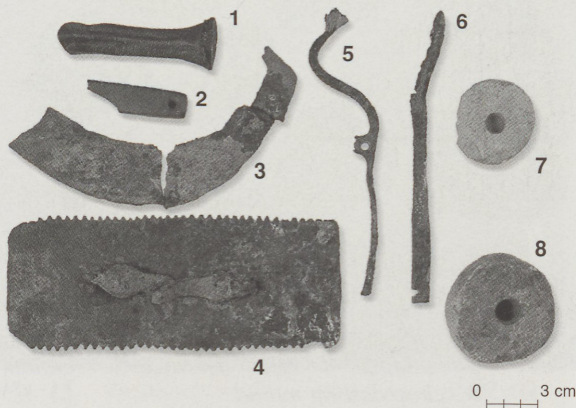


Fig. 11. Finds from Vastseliina Castle. 1 - leg of a rapier, 2 - whetstone, 3 - sickle, 4 - horse comb (?) made of a saw, 5 - cock, 6 - spoon bit, 7, 8 - spinning whirls.

Joon. 11. Leide Vastseliina linnuselt. 1 - rapieni jalg, 2 - luisk, 3 - sirp, 4 - saest hobusekaabits, 5 - püssikukk, 6 - lusikpuur, 7, 8 - värtnekedrad.

TÜ 1435: 774, 878, 2247, 1241, 773, 1195, 1591, 2097.

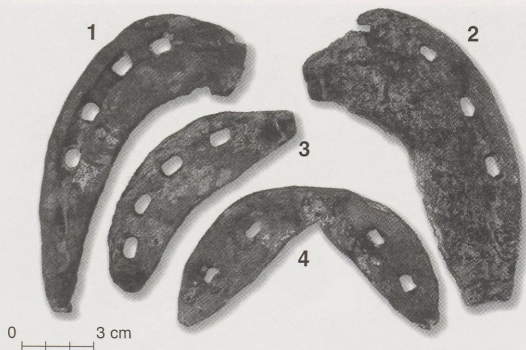


Fig. 12. Horse shoes and oxen shoes from Vastseliina Castle. 1–3 – excavation plot A; 4 – plot C.

Joon. 12. Hobuse- ja härjaraudu Vastseliina linnuselt. 1–3 – kaevand A; 4 – kaevand C. (TÜ 1435: 2135, 2246, 945, 2020.)



Fig. 13. Finds from Vastseliina Castle. 1 – a book shutter, 2 – plaque, 3 – end of a strap, 4 – thimble, 5 – seal, 6 – dice, 7 – button, 8 – clasp casting mould.

1–4, 7–8 – bronze, 5 – lead, 6 – antler.

Joon. 13. Leide Vastseliina linnuselt. 1 – raamatusulgur, 2 – ehisnaast, 3 – rihmaotsik, 4 – sõrmkübar, 5 – kaubaplomm, 6 – täring, 7 – nööp, 8 – liigendvalamisvorm.

1–4, 7–8 – pronks, 5 – plii, 6 – sarv.

(TÜ 1435: 1512a, 2244, 997, 254, 1692, 1421, 20, 681.)

(1495–1505) and a *schilling* of Riga archbishop Thomas Schöning (1528–1539) were found.

The cultural layer also contained 2 foundations of stoves. The first of them (opened partly) was located in the north-western corner of the plot and dated from the 17th century. The second stove foundation (1.3 × 1.6 m), made of granite stones packed with clay (Fig. 15), was located immediately above the lime layer and dates, consequently, from the turn of the 15th and 16th centuries.

Below the construction lime there began a layer of hard and sticky disturbed red clay. A trial pit showed that the layer was at least 3 m (!) thick (Fig. 16) and on its bottom there were large granite boulders which prevented from digging deeper. The clay contained almost no finds. Only in its central part there were 2 thin (1–2 cm) layers of darker soil with some fragments of wheel pottery (mostly from one broken vessel). The lowest 80 cm layer of the clay was more greyish in colour and seemed to include some disturbed soil and some remains of organic matter.

The clay originates, evidently, from the moat which can be observed to the south of the external outer bailey. Judging by the dating of the lower part of the cultural layer above the clay, the moat was dug in course of the fortification activities at the turn of the 15th and 16th centuries. The lime layer above the clay shows that construction of the southern wall of the castle was preceded by digging the moat.

The second trial pit (2.5 × 1 m) (Fig. 7: B) was made in the north-western part of the hill, also in the area of the external outer bailey. In the northern part of the pit remains of a carelessly constructed stone wall with the thickness of at least 60–70 cm appeared. The wall which appeared just under the turf was based on a layer of debris and was, evidently, of post-medieval origin. The southern part of the pit contained debris and disturbed soil with some fragments of the 17th century pottery. In the bottom of the pit, at the depth of ca. 1.5 m, there began loose granite boulders (diameter 30–40 cm) in dark brown clayish sand. The small size of the pit did not enable further digging.

The third trial pit (Fig. 7: C) was made on the southern side of the north-eastern tower which also has been architecturally dated to the end of the 15th or the beginning of the 16th century (Altoa 1978, 300). The cultural layers

came in sight after the upper 80 cm of debris and brown soil were removed. Two of the layers were related to intensive life activities and contained mostly pottery. On the basis of a Polish *shilling*, minted in Riga in 1590, the uppermost layer (1.2–1.3 m from the ground level) may be dated to the time of Polish rule. From that layer also a horse-shoe (Fig. 12: 4) and fragments of a sickle or a sense (Fig. 11: 3) were found. In the upper part of the lower, intensively black layer (1.6–1.8 m from the ground), rich in large, mainly redware pottery fragments (Fig. 17), a Stockholm 2-öre coin from 1573 and a lily shaped plaque (Fig. 13: 2) were found. Its lowest part contained a poorly preserved late crossbow bolt and a sherf of Tartu bishopric from 1485–1498.

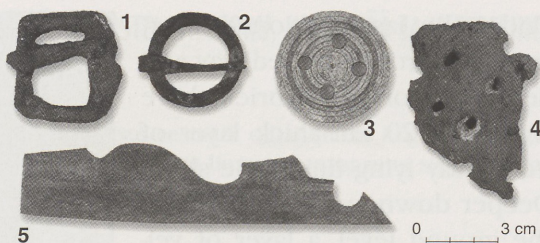


Fig. 14. Finds from Vastseliina Castle: 1, 2 - buckles, 3 - gaming piece (button), 4 - fragment of a sieve, 5 - ornamental plate.

1, 2, - iron; 3, 5 - bone, 4 - clay.

Joon. 14. Leide Vastseliina linnuselt. 1, 2 - pandlad, 3 - mängukivi (nööp), 4 - kurna katke, 5 - ehisplaat.

1, 2, - raud; 3, 5 - luu, 4 - savi.

(TÜ 1435: 527, 1043, 1901, 158, 1986.)



Fig. 15. Foundation of a stove from ca. 1500 AD.

Joon. 15. Ahjupõhi 15. ja 16. sajandi vahetusest.

Under the last-mentioned layer, separated from it by red clay and debris of mortar and brick, there was a 15–20 cm thick layer of irregularly lying limestone slabs. Deeper down, ca. 2.25 m below the ground level, a layer of yellowish-white loose grained mortar followed. The mortar layer which contained absolutely no finds and was more than 2 m thick (its bottom could not be reached even by boring) is evidently connected with the construction of the tower. Since none of the excavation plots in Vastseliina could reach the bottom layers, the question of a Late Iron Age centre located on that spot still remains.

Although the excavations of 2005 gave no positive information about the presence of Late Iron Age power centres in the investigated centres of Võrumaa, a more precise chronology and survey about the cultural layers of the investigated monuments was established.



Fig. 16. Layer of clay taken from the moat.
Joon. 16. Vallikraavi kaevamiselt pärinev savikiht.

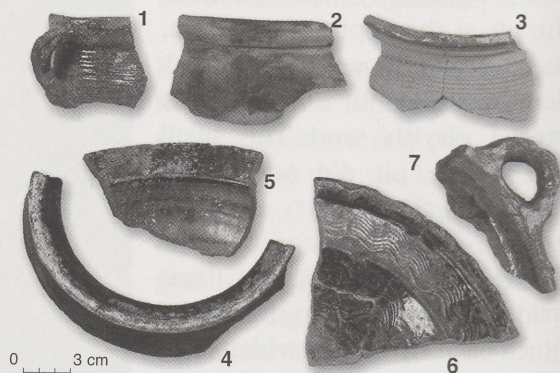


Fig. 17. Pottery from Vastseliina Castle: excavation pit at the north-eastern tower.

Joon. 17. Keraamikat Vastseliina linnuse kirdetorni juurest.

(TÜ 1435: 2412, 2394, 2407, 2406, 2408, 2413, 2416.)

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KAEVAMISTEST VÕRUMAA LINNUSTEL: TILLEORU, KIRUMPÄÄ JA VASTSELIINA

Heiki VALK

Tartu Ülikooli arheoloogia kabineti korraldatud kaevamiste eesmärk oli andmete kogumine Kagu-Eesti hilisrauaaja linnustevõrgu kohta. Sooviti täpsustada Tilleoru linnuse vanust ning selgitada, kas Kirumpää ja Vastseliina keskaegsele kililinnusele on eelnenud muinaslinnus.

TILLEORU KANTSIMÄGI

Tilleoru Kantsimäel tehti läbi valli lõunapoolse otsa proovitranšee, mis ulatus ka linnuseõue. Ilmnes, et liivast koosnev vall (joon. 1) on kuhjatud kahes järgus, mille vahel, algsest maapinnast u. 0.9 m kõrgusel, leidus nii kuhjatise sise- kui välisküljel sõestunud tukke. Viimastest tehtud ¹⁴C-dateering andis tulemuseks 1198±56 BP (752±56 AD); pärast kalibreerimist võib proovid paigutada (95.4% tõenäosusega) ajavahemikku 689–705 AD, 709–753 AD, 759–903 AD või 915–977 AD. Tukke oli ka valli sisekülje all olevas kultuurkihis, algsest maapinnast veidi kõrgemal. Sealt võetud ¹⁴C-proov andis tulemuseks 1415±57 BP (535±57 AD), kalibreerituna (95.4% tõenäosusega) kas 535–693 AD, 701–715 AD või 749–765 AD, mis viitab rahvasterändamis- või eelviikingiaegsele asustusele. Valli välimise osa all paiknes leetekiht, valli siseküljel oli nii vallipõhja kui ka servavaringu all u. 6 m laiuse ribana 20–30 cm paksust kivideta kultuurkihti, mille põhimassi moodustas segatud/läbisõtkutud looduslik alusmuld. Kultuurkiht sisaldas vaid käsikeraamikat. Linnuse õueplatool lõikas tranšee loodusliku aluspinnaseni läbisegatud mulda, mis sisaldas üksikuid käsitsi vormitud nõude kilde. Profiil puhastati ja joonistati ka valli põhjapoolsest otsast, kuhu tormimurru tagajärjel tekkinud läbikäiku oli autotee rajamisega hiljem veelgi suurendatud. Ka siin koosnes vall kahest järgust, mille piiril leidis tukke. ¹⁴C-dateeringu tulemuseks oli 1014±73 BP (936±73 AD), pärast kalibreerimist (95.4% tõenäosusega) 889–1191 AD või 1199–1209 AD. Kuna valli eri otstest võetud proovid pärinevad samast kontekstist – tukkidekihist erinevate pinnasekihtide vahel ligikaudu valli poolel kõrgusel –, võiks põlenu konstruktsiooni rajamisaja dateerimisel arvestada kahe 95.4%-lise tõenäosusega dateeringu ühisosaga, s.t. ajavahemikuga 915–977 AD. Nähtavasti pole linnas olnud keskmise rauaaja asustusjärgust kuni viikingiajani järjepidevalt kasutusel – selleks on kultuurkiht liiga õhuke. Valli all ja kõrval paiknes samuti tume, vähesel määral käsikeraamiliste nõude kilde sisaldav kivideta kultuurkiht.

Visuaalse vaatluse põhjal leidub kultuurkihti linnuseõuel vaid laiguti. 8 m² proovikaevand tehti platoo põhjaserva, kus kiht tundus kõige intensiivsem (joon. 2). Must kultuurkiht oli 20–30 cm (nõlval 50–60 cm) paksune ning sisaldas kive, samuti rohkelt käsitsi vormitud, s.h. rõuge tüüpi nõude kilde (joon. 3: 1–6, 8–11), samuti üksikuid varajaste kedranõude kilde. Leiti ka savist värtnakedra katke (joon. 3: 7). Linnuseõue idapoolses servas oli maapind silmapaistvalt ebatasane, rohkete kühmudega. Platoo serva tehtud, mäeservaga ristuvast 14 m pikkusest tranšeesst ilmnes, et kultuurkiht mäeplatoo selles osas puudub ja et kuhjatised kujutavad endast kruusa ja kivide ladestusi – ilmselt vankritelt maha aetud, kuid kasutamata/tasandamata jäetud ehitusmaterjali.

KIRUMPÄÄ LINNUS

Kirumpää linnusel (esmamainitud 1322) tehti 2 × 2 m proovikaevand (joon. 4) linnuseõue idaossa. Kamara all paiknenud munakivisillutiselt saadi 15. sajandi lõpukümnendite – 16. sajandi algusveerandi münt. Kokku 1,4 m paksune kultuurkiht koosnes peamiselt leiuväestest ladestustest. Kihi kesk- osast saadi ammunooleots (joon. 5: 1) ja ovaalne tuleraud, oli ka kivi- (joon. 5: 3, 6) ja kedrakeeraamikat. Kihi alaosas, loodusliku alusmulla peal leidis pehkinud puidujäänuseid, kust võetud ¹⁴C-analüüs andis tulemuseks 826±55 BP (s.t. 1124 ±55 AD). Pärast kalibreerimist osundas sama

proov 95,4% tõenäosusega ka ajavahemikule 1153–1285. Just selle vahemiku hilisemale perioodile, s.t linnuse vallutusjärgsele rajamisele viitab ka samast kihist saadud hall ribiline, tõenäoliselt 13. sajandi II poolest pärinev importkeraamika kild. Linnusekünka läänenõlvale tehtud šurfis algas rusude mulla all paks segatud savist täitekiht – arvatavasti nõlvakujundustöö tulemus. Mäe lõunanõlvale olevale platoole tehtud šurfis paljandus ligi 1,7 m paksune telliserusu kiht. Proovikaevand (2 × 5 m) tehti ka linnuse jalamil olevasse asulakohta – linnuse ja Võhandu jõe vahele, jõeoru kaldanõlvast 35 m kaugusele. Tume kultuurikiht oli 30–35 cm paksune. Kihi künnist puutumata hallikast alaost leitud savinõukildudest olid paljud kaunistatud joonornamendiga (joon. 6: 1–4, 6), üksikud ka laineornamendiga (joon. 5: 2, 4, 5). Samast kihist saadi kivitkeraamiliste nõude katkeid (joon. 6: 5, 7), samuti raudsirp. Kindlaid tõendeid rauaaegse asustuse kohta ei saadud ei Kirumpää asulast ega linnuselt.

VASTSELIINA LINNUS

Vastseliina linnuses, mis rajati 1342. aastal ja hävis Põhjasõjas, rajati kolm proovikaevandit aladele, kus võis eeldada õhemat rusukihti (joon. 7). Eeslinnuse säilinud lõunamüüri lõunaküljele tehtud, keskjoonega keskmise akna all paiknevas 3 × 6 m mõõtmetega peakaevandis (joon. 8) paljandus 1,1–1,2 m paksune ja hästisäilinud stratigraafiaga 16.–17. sajandi kultuurikiht, millest leiti rohkesti keraamikat, loomaluid, pottkahlite tükke, aknaklaasikilde ja mitmesuguseid sõja- ning elutegevusega seotud leide (joon. 9–14). Leiti ka kaks ahjualust – üks 17. sajandist, teine 15. ja 16. sajandi vahetusest (joon. 15) – ning tõenäoliselt Poola ajast pärineva, mitu korda parandatud savipõrandaga hoone põhi. Müntide suur kontsentratsioon – kokku 39 leidu – viitab sellele, et eeslinnuse alal on toimunud aktiivne kauplemine. Asjaolu, et rootsiaegsete müntide seas ületab Vene müntide arv Rootsi müntide oma, viitab tihedale suhtlusele Pihkvamaaga. Tõenäoliselt paiknesid välimises eeslinnuses poekesed ja kaubaletid. Kultuurikihi alumise ladestuse moodustas 5–10 cm paksune puhta lubja kiht, mis tõenäoliselt seostub sisemise eeslinnuse tänini säilinud lõunamüüri ehitusega. Kultuurikihist saadud leiud kinnitavad lõunamüüri ehitusloolistel andmetel rajanevat vanusemäärangut ning lubavad selle dateerida 15. ja 16. sajandi vahetusse. Alumise lubjakihi all algas ühtlane sitke ja leidudeta segatud roosaka savi kiht, mis sellesse tehtud šurfi põhjal osutus vähemalt 3 m paksuseks (joon. 16). Šurfi põhjal paljandusid suured raudkivid, mis takistasid sügavamale kaevamist. Ilmselt pärineb savi välimise eeslinnuse ees olevast vallikraavist ja võimaldab ka selle rajamisaja paigutada suure lõunamüüri ehitamisega samasse kindlustustööde perioodi. Savi sees leidis kaks tumedamat kultuurikihi viiru, kust saadi ka veidi kedranõude kilde. Kohapeal tekkinud kultuurikiht viitab teatud katkestustele vallikraavi kaevamisel. Linnuse kirdetorni lõunaküljele, alumise akna alla tehtud šurfis (u. 1,5 × 2 m) järgnes u. 1,2 m paksusele rusu- ja mullakihile 0,6–0,7 m 16.–17. sajandi kultuurikihti. 16. saj algupoole ladestustes leidis rohkelt suuri kedranõude ja pottkahlite tükke (joon. 17). Järgnenud savikihi ning mõrdi- ja tellisepurukihi all paiknes 10–15 cm paksune korratult lebavate paeplaatide lasu, mille all algas kollakasvalge teralise leidudeta puhta lubjamõrdi kiht. See ladestus, mis oli vähemalt 2 m paksune, on tekkinud kirdetorni ehitamisel.

Kolmas šurf (2,5 × 1 m) tehti linnuseplatoo loodeossa, samuti eeslinnuse alale. Šurfi põhjapoolses osas avastati linnuse plaanidel mitte kajastuv ida-lääne-suunaline, lohakalt ehitatud ja väga lagunenud kivimüür, mille taldmik tugines rusukihile. Ilmselt pärineb müür 16.–17. sajandist. Šurfi lõunaosas paljandus rusude all maapinnast ligi 1,5 m sügavusel liivaka mullaga pakitud raudkivide lasu, mis väheste keraamikaleidude põhjal pärineb 17. sajandist. Sügavamale kaevamist takistasid kivide suurus ja šurfi väiksed mõõtmed.

Seega ei leitud ühegi linnuse uurimisel märke hilisrauaaegsest kultuurikihist.