

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
FIELDWORK  
IN ESTONIA**

**2008**

**ARHEOLOOGILISED  
VÄLITÖÖD EESTIS**

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## NEW INTERESTING COIN FINDS IN 2008

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In 2008, several rare coins reached museum collections. Besides single coins recovered during archaeological fieldwork, an entire hoard was also acquired. At least three single coin finds and the hoard are worth to be introduced to a wider public.

The Napsu hoard (*tpq* 1707), which, alongside with a silver penannular brooch, also contained 58 coins hidden in a cattle horn (Fig. 1), came to light in a forest near the former Napsu village (former Saarde parish), from the bank of the brook flowing into the Reiu River. In addition to Swedish *öres* and *marks*, the horn contained also two local coins, which were struck in Tallinn. Due to the fact that the finder of the hoard acted extremely competently about their discovery, the archaeologists Aldur Vunk, Mirja Ots and Mauri Kiudsoo arriving on the spot on April 23rd, 2008 were able to establish the find context and situation in detail (see Vunk 2008). The Expert Council of Archaeology appointed a reward to the finder. After conservation the find was handed over to the Pärnumaa Museum.

On March 9th, 2008 a copper imitation of a German denar was found from the settlement site of Tammiku (former Kose parish) by Arne Kivistik. Unlike other pendants of such kind found in Estonia, clear traces of



Fig. 1. The cattle horn with coins  
from the Napsu hoard.

Jn 1. Napsu aardesse kuulunud  
lehma sarv koos  
müntidega.

Photo / Foto: Aive Viljus  
(PäMu 16114/A2631.)

<sup>1</sup> Aldur Vunk, Mirja Ots and Mauri Kiudsoo.

having originally been silver-coated have survived on the specimen from Tammiku. The pendant may be described as follows: one side of it bears a cross surrounded by a circle of dots, with different patterns (e.g. a ring) between its hands; on the other side only combinations of scratches can be observed (Fig. 2).

At least four specimens resembling pendants from the Livs' sites and being probably made in one of the most important trade and manufacturing centers of the last centuries of the prehistoric period on the eastern coast of the Baltic Sea, Daugmale, can be distinguished at a moment among the copper imitations of West-European denars found in Estonia. The coin imitation from the settlement of Tammiku suggests a wider distribution area of the pendants made by the Livs in the second half of the 11th century, than has been presumed so far (see Kiudsoo 2008, 91, 95).

During the archaeological fieldwork related to the Tartu Cathedral in 2008 I should mention a scherf, a so-called leaf bracteate, of the bishop of Tartu Helmich von Mallinkrodt (1459–1468) (Fig. 3).<sup>1</sup> Up to now, Estonian museum collections included only two coins of such design. One of them came to light during the excavations of the Pirita monastery in 1978/1979 (Tamm 1981, 420, pl. XXIII, 5); the other, from an unknown site of discovery, is registered in the coin collection of the former Learned Estonian Society.<sup>2</sup> Relying upon published information, a scherf with a leaf inscription was found in the 1990s (see Sarkkinen 2001, 230, fig. 19a–b), the location of which, unfortunately, we can only surmise.

In the archaeological excavation of Vabaduse väljak (Vabaduse Square), Tallinn, even a gold coin came to light – an anonymous West-Frisian ducat, struck in 1601. The finds of gold coins are rare in Estonia, but single specimens have still come to light in towns or castles or their immediate neighbourhood. Various gold coins mainly occurred among the currency of merchants and the nobility. Mercenaries, who constituted the main military force of the period, also preferred their pay in gold. Peasants never touched it. One of the reasons for that, undoubtedly, was the prohibition in medieval Livonia to pay in gold to peasants, since the diversity of circulating gold coins only too often led to cheating illiterate peasants (Leimus 1997, 41). Consequently we do not often find



Fig. 2. An imitation of a German pfennig from the settlement of Tammiku.

Jn 2. Saksa penni imitatsioon Tammiku asulast. (AI 6413: 33.)



Fig. 3. Scherf of the bishop of Tartu Helmich von Mallinkrodt from the excavation of Tartu Cathedral.

Jn 3. Tartu piiskop Helmich von Mallinkrodt'i šerf Tartu Toomkiriku kaevamistelt. (TM A 172: 314.)

<sup>1</sup> The coin was found by Martin Malve on 15.06.2008. The supervisor of the excavations was Heiki Valk (TÜ).

<sup>2</sup> AI 5000/862: 1a.

gold coins in Estonian hoards. Only some hoards from the 17th century are known, which contained gold coins (see e.g. Kiudsoo 2000, appendix I, no. 101 and 138).

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## 2008. AASTA HUVITAVAMAD MÜNDILEIUD

2008. a jooksul täienesid Eesti muuseumikogud nii mõnegi rariteetse mündiga. Lisaks arheoloogilistelt välitöödelt saadud üksikmüntidele, leiti ka üks aare. Aardeleid (*tpq* 1707), mis peale hõbedast hoburaudsõle sisaldas 58 lehma sarves peidetud münti (jn 1), tuli päevavalgele endise Napsu küla (end. Saarde khk) lähedalt metsast Reiu jõkke suubuva oja kaldalt. Lisaks Rootsist vermitud öör- ja markmüntidele, oli omal ajal sarve asetatud ka kaks Tallinnas löödud raha. Tänu sellele, et aarde leidja käitus selle avastamisel ülimalt asjatundlikult, õnnestus 23. aprillil 2008 kohale sõitnud arheoloogilisel ekspeditsioonil fikseerida aarde leiusituatsioon ja -kontekst väga täpselt. Muinsuskaitseameti arheoloogia ekspertnõukogu määras leidjale leiutasu. Pärast konserveerimist anti aare üle Pärnumaa Muuseumile.

9. märtsil 2008 avastati Tammiku asulakohalt (end. Kose khk) üks saksa denaari algeline imitatsioon (jn 2). Vastupidiselt teistele Eestist päevavalgele tulnud sarnastele ripatsitele olid sellel säilinud selged märgid algsest pinna hõbetamisest. Praeguse uurimisseisuga on Eestist leitud ühtekokku neli mündijäljendit, mille valmistamiskohaks on pakutud muinasaja lõpusajandite Läänemere idaranniku tähtsaimat käsitöö- ja kaubanduskeskust – Daugmalet. Tammiku asulakohast saadud imitatsioon osutab aga liivi ehtemeistrite 11. sajandi teisel poolel vermitud ripatsite veelgi laiemale levikualale kui siiani arvati.

2008. a Tartu Toomkiriku arheoloogilistel välitöödel avastatud müntidest tooksin eraldi välja Tartu piiskopi Helmich von Mallinkrodt'i (1459–1468) šerfi, nn lehtbrakteadi (jn 3). Kuni käesoleva ajani teati Eesti muuseumikogudes üksnes kaht taolise kujundusega münti. Üks neist pärineb Piritla kloostri 1978/1979. a kaevamistelt, teine, teadmata leiukohaga eksemplar on arvel end. ÕES mündikogus. Kirjanduses avaldatud andmetele toetudes olla ka 1990. aastatel leitud üks lehe kujutisega šerf, mille täpne asukoht pole paraku teada.

Tallinnas, Vabaduse väljakul toimunud arheoloogilistel kaevamistel tuli päevavalgele kuldmünt – 1601. a vermitud anonüümne Lääne-Friisi tukat. Kuigi kuldmüntide leiud on Eestis haruldased, on üksikuid eksemplare linnadest-linnustest või nende vahetust ümbrusest siiski avastatud. Kuldmünste kasutasid eelkõige kaupmees- ja aadelkond. Ka eelistasid kullas oma tasu saada sõjasulased, tolleaegne peamine relvajõud. Maarahva kätte see väärismetall aga ei jõudnud. Kahtlemata oli üheks põhjuseks keskaja Liivimaal kehtinud keeld talupoegadele kullas tasuda, sest käibinud kuldmüntide mitmekesisuse juures viis see pahatihti kirjaoskamatu lihtrahva petmisele. Sellest johtuvalt ei kohta me kullast verminguid ka Eesti aardeleidudes. Üksnes 17. sajandist on andmeid mõningate kuldmünste sisaldanud aarete kohta.