

KAUPO DEEMANT

(Kõrgepalu in Võrumaa, 12.02.1936 – Tallinn, 14.06.2010)



*Kaupo Deemant visiting Muuksi Hundikangrud stone-cist graves (1996).
Photo: Gurly Vedru*

Kaupo Deemant started his career as professional archaeologist in 1962, when he defended his diploma thesis *'Kagu-Eesti asustuse kujunemisest arheoloogia andmeil'* ('Development of settlement in NE-Estonia on the basis of archaeological studies') at the University of Tartu. After graduation Deemant went to work to the Tallinn City Museum, which remained his employer for forty years. In the museum Deemant was charged with the collections of archaeology and weapons – his main responsibilities were maintaining the collections, organising and introducing exhibitions. Deemant also conducted rescue excavations in Tallinn – in Vanaturu Kael in the Old Town (Deemant 1979b) and also in the 18th century cemetery in Ravi street in the territory of a Tallinn suburb. In the 1960s Deemant also supervised excavations of several electricity and sewerage trenches in the Old Town area (unpublished materials in the archaeological archives of the Institute of History, Tallinn University).

Yet, Kaupo Deemant's main interest was in prehistory. His life's work became the scientific excavations at one of the most intriguing archaeological monuments in Estonia – the Proosa burial field and settlement site with their fascinating finds at the

north-eastern border of Tallinn. He conducted excavations during 1970–1984 at the Late Bronze Age – Late Iron Age cemetery (the total of 1500 m²) and during 1985–1995 at the Late Iron Age – Medieval settlement site (see Selected Bibliography). Although Deemant never managed to publish the results of his studies in a monograph, he nevertheless defended his Master's degree at the University of Tartu in 1993 about the research of Proosa burial field (Deemant 1993). The unique material discovered at the Proosa burial field – the largest number of Scandinavian origin items from the 5th–6th centuries discovered in Estonia – has also reached international scientific circles (e.g. Quast 2004, 259–263; Franzén 2009, 53–80).

In addition to archaeology Deemant took a keen interest in recent history, especially the times before and after the World War II in Estonia. During the Soviet time the formal approach to recent history had a strong political connotation and it was only possible to study it in disguise. One of the possibilities was the non-governmental society that researched local history, which was established at the Tallinn City Museum. Kaupo Deemant gave dozens of lectures and reports at the society. The most extensive written report on local history was the manuscript of more than 300 pages about the history of his native village (Deemant 1970–76). Although all KGB archives were closed to historians, Deemant succeeded to get important information concerning repressions of the statesmen and officers of the Republic of Estonia in 1940s, their deportations, life and resistance in hiding, especially about the events in the woods of Võrumaa. On many occasions Deemant visited people who returned from deportations and prison camps and interviewed the relatives of the victims of the repressions. He managed to get information from Taavet Poska, former director of the Estonian Military Museum, about the creation and destruction of the museum, and from Maria Laidoner, widow of Johan Laidoner, Commander in Chief of the Estonian Armed Forces, about the imprisonment of her husband. Deemant also found out where the official insignia of the President of Estonia was kept and he managed to get a written document to prove it – a letter from an employee of Armoire in Kremlin, Moscow. Publication of this letter (Deemant 1990b) became later the basis of the claim to return the insignia to Estonia.

Kaupo Deemant was the founding member of the Estonian Local History Society and the Estonian Academic Military History Society. During his last working years and time in retirement he studied the 1941 repressions. Deemant published several articles on this topic in the compendiums of the Tallinn City Museum. Sadly a number of his studies remained unfinished.

MATI MANDEL

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Deemant, K. 1970–76.** Ülevaade Võrumaa Kõrgepalu asunduse minevikust asustuse tekkimisest kuni 1974. 3 volumes. (*Manuscript in TLULIB.*)
- Deemant, K. 1975.** Das Steingraberfeld von Proosa bei Tallinn. – TATÜ, 24: 1, 78–80.
- Deemant, K. 1976.** Zur Untersuchung des Steingraberfeldes von Proosa. – TATÜ, 25: 1, 55–56.
- Deemant, K. 1977.** Neue Funde aus dem Steingraberfeld von Proosa. – TATÜ, 26: 1, 62–63.
- Deemant, K. 1978.** Über die Ausgrabungen des Steingraberfeldes von Proosa. – TATÜ, 27: 1, 81–83.
- Deemant, K. 1978.** Funde der mittleren Eisenzeit aus Proosa. – TATÜ, 27: 4, 337–338.
- Deemant, K. 1979a.** Das eisenzeitliche Steingraberfeld von Proosa. – TATÜ, 28: 4, 368–369.
- Deemant, K. 1979b.** Archäologische Ausgrabungen auf dem Tallinner Alten Markt. – TATÜ, 28: 4, 390–392.
- Deemant, K. 1980.** Ausgrabungen des Steinkistengrabes von Proosa. – TATÜ, 29: 4, 360–361.
- Deemant, K. 1981.** Ausgrabungen in Proosa. – TATÜ, 30: 4, 394–397.
- Deemant, K. 1982.** Das Tarandgrab von Proosa. – TATÜ, 31: 4, 377–378.
- Deemant, K. 1983.** Jungeisenzeitliche Funde aus Proosa. – TATÜ, 32: 4, 329–330.
- Deemant, K. 1984.** Neue jungeisenzeitliche Funde aus Proosa. – TATÜ, 33: 4, 357–358.
- Deemant, K. 1985.** Die Randschüttung des Tarandgrabes von Proosa. – TATÜ, 34: 4, 350–352.
- Deemant, K. 1986.** Der Siedlungsplatz von Proosa. – TATÜ, 35: 5, 398–400.
- Deemant, K. 1987.** Über die Ausgrabungen auf dem Siedlungsplatz Proosa. – TATÜ, 36: 4, 375–376.
- Deemant, K. 1988.** Neue Funde vom Siedlungsplatz Proosa. – TATÜ, 37: 4, 384–385.
- Deemant, K. 1989.** Neue Materialien von dem spätmittelalterlichen Siedlungsplatz Proosa. – TATÜ, 38: 4, 348–349.
- Deemant, K. 1990a.** Neue Ausgrabungen vom mittelalterlichen Siedlungsplatz Proosa. – TATÜ, 39: 4, 436–438.
- Deemant, K. 1990b.** Kuhu jäi Eesti presidendi ametitunnus. – Kultuur ja Elu, 3, 25–27.
- Deemant, K. 1991.** Fortsetzung der Ausgrabungen auf dem Siedlungsplatz Proosa. – TATÜ, 40: 4, 396–397.
- Deemant, K. 1992.** Neue Angaben über den Siedlungsplatz Proosa. – TATÜ, 41: 4, 283–284.
- Deemant, K. 1993.** Proosa kalmeväli. Magistritöö. Tallinn. (*Manuscript in AI.*)
- Deemant, K. 1995.** Über die Ausgrabungen auf dem Siedlungsplatz Proosa 1992–1994. – TATÜ, 44: 4, 426–428.
- Deemant, K. 1996.** Über die Untersuchung in Proosa. – TATÜ, 45: 4, 448–450.
- Selirand, J. & Deemant, K. 1985.** Völkerwanderungszeitliche Gegenstände mit ostskandinavischen Ornamenten von Proosa (Nordestland). – Fornvännen, 80: 4, 243–253.

PROOSA SITE IN FOREIGN LITERATURE

- Franzén, R. 2009.** The Image of Loki from Proosa in Estonia: A Migration Period High Status Buckle with an Elevated Circular Fastening Plate in the Light of Similar Buckles Recovered in Scandinavia. – Fennoscandia Archaeologica, XXVI, 53–80.
- Quast, D. 2004.** Ein skandinavisches Spathascheidenmundblech der Völkerwanderungszeit aus Pikkjärve (Põlvamaa, Estland). – Jahrbuch des römisch-germanischen Zentralmuseums Mainz, 51. Jahrgang 2004, 243–279. (Pp 259–263; Figs 12–14.)

ABBREVIATIONS / ABKÜRZUNGEN / LÜHENDID

Institutions / Institutionen / Asutused

AI	Tallinna Ülikool, Ajaloo Instituut Institute of History, Tallinn University	PM	Järvamaa Muuseum Järvamaa Museum
AM	Eesti Ajaloomuuseum Estonian History Museum Estonisches Historisches Museum	PäMu	Pärnu Muuseum Pärnu Museum
Beta	Beta Analytic radiosüsinikudateeringud Beta Analytic Radiocarbon Dating Service	RGAVMF	Venemaa Riiklik Sõja-Merelaevastiku Keskarhiiv, Peterburi Russian Central State Naval Archives Российский государственный архив военно-морского флота (РГАВМФ)
E	M. J. Eiseni kogud, Eesti Rahvaluule Arhiiv, Eesti Kirjandusmuuseum M. J. Eisen's folklore collection, Estonian Folklore Archives, Estonian Literary Museum	RKA	Rootsi Riigiarhiivi Sõjaarhiiv The Military Archives of the National Archives of Sweden Riksarkivet Krigsarkivet
EAA	Eesti Ajalooarhiiv Estonian Historical Archives	SM	Saaremaa Muuseum Saaremaa Museum
EKIA	Eesti Kultuurilooline Arhiiv, Eesti Kirjandusmuuseum Estonian Culture Historical Archives, Estonian Literary Museum	TLA	Tallinna Linnaarhiiv Tallinn Town Archive
EMU	Eesti Maaülikool Estonian University of Life Sciences	TLM	Tallinna Linnamuuseum Tallinn City Museum
Hela	Helsinki Dateerimislabor Helsinki Dating Laboratory	TLULIB	Tallinna Ülikooli Akadeemiline Raamatukogu Academic Library of Tallinn University
HM	Läänemaa Muuseum Läänemaa Museum	Tln	Tallinna Tehnikaülikooli Geoloogia Instituut Tallinn University of Technology, Institute of Geology
HMK	Harjumaa Muuseum Harjumaa Museum	TM	Tartu Linnamuuseum Tartu City Museum
KVA	Tallinna Kultuuriväärtuste Amet Cultural Heritage Department of the Tallinn City Government	TÜ	Tartu Ülikool University of Tartu
MA	Muinsuskaitseamet National Heritage Board	TÜAK	Tartu Ülikooli arheoloogia kabineti arhiiv Archive of Archaeology at University of Tartu
Mss	Kirjad Jaan Jungile ja Eesti Kirjanduse Seltsile AI arhiivis Collection of letters sent to Jaan Jung and Estonian Literary Society in the archives of AI	TÜR	Tartu Ülikooli Raamatukogu Library of University of Tartu
NLM	Narva Muuseum Narva Museum	VM	Viljandi Muuseum Viljandi Museum

ABBREVIATIONS / ABKÜRZUNGEN / LÜHENDID

Publications / Veröffentlichungen / Väljaanded

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>AVE Arheoloogilised välitööd Eestis.
Archaeological Fieldwork in Estonia,
1997–.
Tallinn, 1998–.</p> <p>EJA Eesti Arheoloogia Ajakiri.
Journal of Estonian Archaeology, 1–7.
Tallinn, 1997–2003.
Estonian Journal of Archaeology.
Eesti Arheoloogiaajakiri, 8–.
Tallinn, 2004–.</p> | <p>TATÜ Eesti NSV Teaduste Akadeemia Toimetised,
1952–1955;
Ühiskonnateaduste seeria, 1956–1966;
Ühiskonnateadused, 1967–1989;
Eesti Teaduste Akadeemia Toimetised.
Ühiskonnateadused, 1990–1991 /
Proceedings of the Estonian Academy of
Sciences. Social Sciences; Humanitaar-
ja sotsiaalteadused /
Humanities and Social Sciences,
1992–1996. Tallinn.</p> |
|--|---|