

HOARDS DISCOVERED IN 2010

MAURI KIUDSOO and ERKI RUSSOW

Tallinna Ülikool, Ajaloo Instituut (Institute of History, Tallinn University), Rüütli 6, 10130 Tallinn, Estonia; mauri.kiudsoo@mail.ee

In 2010 a substantial breakthrough took place in the relations between archaeologists and metal detectorists. The formation of the Estonian Detectorist League certainly played an important part in it, since one of the aims of the League is to help archaeologists to bridle the so-called predatory detectorists who discredit metal detectorism as a hobby (see <http://www.detektorist.ee/liidust.html>). It was the objects discovered by honest and law-abiding detectorists which led, besides the discoveries of some hitherto unknown sites of the Late Iron Age (settlements, cremation cemeteries, harbour site, etc.), also to the discovery of three hoards of different periods. The finders were duly rewarded by the expert panel for archaeological monuments at the National Heritage Board.

On April 12th 2010 the adjudication of the Supreme Court of Estonia concluded a long proceeding concerning the robbery of the Ubina hoard (*tpq* 1106?) (see Tamla *et al.* 2006, 233–234; Kiudsoo 2007, 257). As a result, the archaeological collections of the Institute of History of Tallinn University were complemented by 42 silver coins belonging to this hoard (AI 6955). But a new claim was raised in 2010 concerning the unauthorized excavation and illegal export of a hoard of the second half of the 16th century (Kiudsoo & Leimus 2009). On the basis of the expert opinion (Kiudsoo 2010) the expert panel for archaeological monuments advised the National Heritage Board to raise one more analogous claim concerning the usurpation of a Viking Age coin hoard (*tpq* 1018).

On April 10th 2010 three coins were discovered with the help of a metal detector in a field in Lääne-Virumaa. According to the report of the head of the survey team which investigated the findspot (Kiudsoo 2011a; Fig. 1) all these coins belong to the same hoard. Relying upon the determination of the coins of the hoard known at the moment (AI 6956) the earliest possible date of depositing of the find is 1029. While the complementary archaeological investigations of the site have not been performed, the precise findspot will not be revealed.

On August 16th 2010 a remarkable silver hoard (AI 6962); for the details, see Tamla *et al.*, this volume) was discovered



Fig. 1. Archaeological investigations on the site of the Lääne-Virumaa hoard.

Jn 1. Arheoloogilised välitööd Lääne-Virumaa aarde asukohas.

Photo / Foto: Mauri Kiudsoo



Fig. 2. The latest coin of the Linnakse hoard: Germany, Jever, Duke Hermann (1059–1086), penny.

Jn 2. Linnakse aarde hiliseim münt: Saksamaa, Jever, hertsog Hermann (1059–1086), penn.

(AI 6962: 354.)

Photo / Foto: Erki Russow

(Sigtuna?) (11) and Hungarian (10) coins. Single specimens come from Ireland (3), Bohemia (2) and Italy (1) (Leimus & Kiudsoo 2010). Relying upon the determination of the coins known to be the latest in the composition of the hoard, we may assume that the find has been deposited approximately at the beginning of the 1060s: the latest coin in the hoard is a penny of Duke Hermann (1059–1086) coined in the mint of Jever (Fig. 2). The possible container in which the hoard was deposited is a local hand moulded clay vessel (Fig. 3).

In the mid-11th century the greatest period began in Balto-Finnic trade (Kiudsoo & Kallis 2008, 178–179), which is reflected, among others, also in the remarkable number of silver hoards discovered in Estonia. While in other Nordic countries the accumulation of coin hoards slowed down in the second half of the 11th century,

in the village of Linnakse (central part of Harjumaa, Anija commune in the former Harju-Jaani parish) with the help of a metal detector. The discoverer of the hoard also handed over bronze and iron artefacts from different periods (AI 6961).

The Linnakse hoard consists of nine silver ornaments, one silver bar and 1329 coins. The overwhelming majority of the coins (1072) come from a large variety of German mints, followed by Anglo-Saxon (161), Danish (55), Arabian (14), Swedish



Fig. 3. The clay vessel which contained the Linnakse hoard.

Jn 3. Linnakse aardenõu.

(AI 6962: 1.)

Photo / Foto: Erki Russow

completely ending by the beginning of the 12th century, in Estonia a number of bulky coin hoards are known right from this period (Molvögin 1993, 287–288). More than fifty hoards from the last four decades of the 11th century and the beginning of the 12th century have been found here, which exceeds by several times the respective number in any other country in the Baltic at that time (Leimus 2003, 45). It is true that a considerable number of hoards of the same period have been found also from Gotland, but when we consider the immense quantities of silver¹ which flowed into the most important trade centre of the Viking Age during the earlier period, a couple of dozen hoards (see Jonsson 1986, 23–24) are not particularly noteworthy. In north-western and northern Estonia the catchment area of the Pirita River (the territory between the Pirita and Jägala Rivers) is particularly outstanding for the density of hoards of the late 11th/12th centuries (Kiudsoo, In print). Regrettably only a part of the coins of these finds have reached museum collections. The Linnakse hoard is the second largest coin hoard, after the Kose hoard (*tpq* 1121; Leimus 1986), preserved in Estonia



Fig. 4. Rescue excavation of the Öötla hoard.
 Jn 4. Öötla aarde päästekaevamised.
 Photo / Foto: Mauri Kiudsoo

from this period, whereas its importance lies primarily in its completeness. The find discovered together with the remains of an earthenware vessel (Fig. 3) actually provides the first opportunity to study an Estonian hoard of the second half of 11th-century as a whole, thus supplying momentous information about the weight economy² of that period. On the basis of the expert opinion (Leimus & Kiudsoo 2010; Tamla 2010) the expert panel for archaeological monuments at the National Heritage Board appointed the finder of the Linnakse hoard the largest reward of all the times in the history of the present heritage legislation, 196 880 EUR.

On October 25th 2010 Aivar Piirsalu, using a metal detector, discovered a hoard in a field in Öötla village, Kareeda commune, Järvamaa. The survey of the findspot (Fig. 4) ascertained that the discoverer of the hoard had been law-abiding to the utmost, following all regulations of the Heritage

¹ Nobody has ventured to propose the precise total of the coins of the 8th–11th centuries found in Scandinavia, but we can definitely speak about several hundreds of thousands of coins. Moreover, the number increases every year, primarily owing to the incessant flow of discoveries from Gotland (Leimus 2006, 17). The overwhelming majority of the Viking Age hoards known from Scandinavia is concentrated in Sweden, especially on the relatively small island of Gotland. The number of Viking Age coins found there exceeds the total of finds from mainland Sweden, Denmark and Norway taken together (Leimus 2006, 28 and references there).

² Before crusades in early 13th century Estonia belonged to the area of the so-called *Gewichtsgeldwirtschaft* (silver cost – economic system based on the intrinsic value of currency).

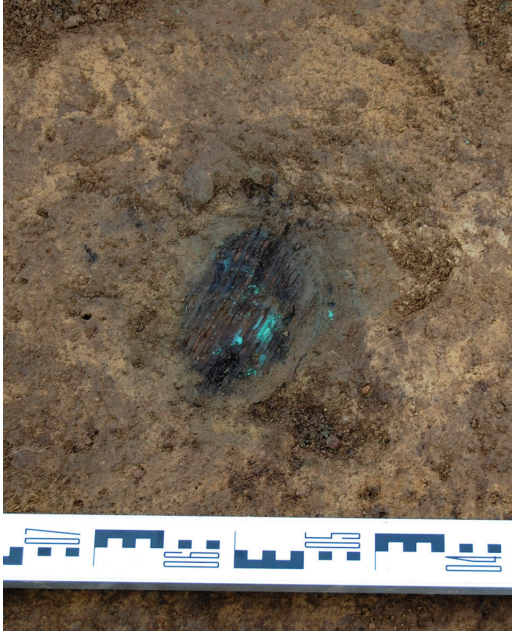


Fig. 5. The bottom of the wooden receptacle used for depositing the Ötla hoard.

Jn 5. Ötla aarde peitmiseks kasutatud puust anuma põhi.

Photo / Foto: Mauri Kiudsoo



Fig. 6. Denga minted in the free town of Pskov before 1510.

Jn 6. Pihkva vabalinnas enne 1510. aastat vermitud denga.

Photo / Foto: Marika Pungas

made from silver sheet and gilded, glass beads (2) and silver coins (2). The earliest of the latter is a *denga* minted in the free town of Pskov before 1510 (Fig. 6), the type which does not occur in the hoards found in Estonia. In theory the appearance of this coin in Järvamaa could be connected, for instance, with the large-scale foray of Russians in 1501 (Kelch 2004, 123), but pacific economic relations should not be precluded either. Relying upon the determination of the latest coin (Livonian Order, Tallinn, Heinrich von Galen, *Schilling*, 1554) we may assume that the find has been deposited some time during the Livonian War (1558–1583). Since a number of hoards of that period have been discovered³ in the

Conservation Act. Besides immediately informing the National Heritage Board of the discovery of the first ornaments, he filled up the hole he had dug without removing a single object (see Kiudsoo 2011b). Although a large number of hoards of different periods have been found in Estonia, the archaeologists have been able to excavate a hoard in bulk only once before (see Kiudsoo 2009, 210–212). Thanks to the lawful behaviour of the discoverer the members of the archaeological expedition could profoundly study the findspot of the Ötla hoard and its vicinity, recording the precise circumstances and the context of the find. For instance the presence of the receptacle – presumably an oval case made of birch bark (of which only a thin wooden bottom piece was preserved) used for depositing the hoard could be established only by the use of archaeological methods (Fig. 5). Without the proficiency demonstrated by the discoverer any additional information concerning the constructional nuances of the necklaces of the 16th-century women of Järvamaa would have been lost for us, too.

The Ötla hoard contains typical peasant ornaments of the 16th-century Järvamaa. The sheet pendants (9) are large disc-shaped or quadrangular specimens, decorated with punched patterns, with a rather low silver content. The necklace consists of large silver beads (Est. *kröllid*) (5), punched pendants (7) of varying size and shape,

³ Viisu I (PM 427/E 147), Palu I (Hansen 1875, V:1-3; II: 13), Palu II (PM 426/E 146), Valgma (ERM A 457: 82–83), Otiku (AI 2816; Tamla & Kiudsoo 2005, no. 32), etc.

nearest surroundings of Öötna, the fact seems to suggest some more specific and extensive perdition in the mentioned district. Perhaps it was the foray of Russians that led to the conquering of Paide in the first days of 1573 (Kelch 2004, 228–231).

On May 13th 2010 Jüri Napp discovered with the help of a metal detector an assemblage of artefacts (AI 6995), which had probably been wrapped in textile.⁴ The find came to light in a forest near Klooga, Keila parish. This stray find, consisting of ornaments and commodities, can be dated on the basis of a single coin half, which has been minted in Germany during the reign



Fig. 7. Animal figurine (horse?) from the Klooga find.
Jn 7. Loomakujuke (hobune?) Klooga leiust.
(AI 6995: 1.)

Photo / Foto: Erki Russow

of Hermann the Archbishop of Cologne (1036–1056) before 1046. Besides the coin the find comprised bronze scales and weights, which can be related to the occupation of a prehistoric tradesman, a cylindrical iron padlock with a key, a spindle whorl of bone, two chainhangers, a penannular brooch, a spiral ring, a three-dimensional animal figurine (horse?) without a loop etc. (Fig. 7). The latter, which is not an ornament in a classic sense, deserves special accentuation in connection with the scales set included in the find. Namely, Finnish and Estonian archaeologists have already previously presumed that such objects were used as weights (see Kivikoski 1973, Abb. 1162; Mandel 2003, 88). This hypothesis seems to be indirectly supported also by the weight of the animal figurine from the Klooga find (about 8.26 g), which coincides with the weight of the Scandinavian Viking Age *örtug*⁶ (slightly exceeding 8 g). At the same time, the four figurines found from Western Estonian graves⁷ still include two specimens (Maidla II) with loops – one for hanging, the other for fastening (Jonuks 2006, 35–36). The use in pendant function of this artifact type, characteristic mainly of Balto-Finnic territories, is also confirmed by a figurine attached to a chain arrangement, found from the Daugava-Livs' cemetery of Salaspils-Laukskola (Zariņa 2006, 137, fig. 5 and 210, fig. 3; Spīrgis 2008, 173, 408).

However, the Klooga find cannot be classified as a typical hoard. If anything, the definition 'accidental losses' (Danish *Tilfældigt mistede skatte*) used by some researchers (see Grierson 1975, 131; Grinder-Hansen 1992, 30–32) could be applied. Observing the find situation and context of the Klooga 'hoard', previous finds from the neighbourhood and their nature (AI 7036) and onetime coastline⁸, one of the authors of the present paper (M. Kiudsoo) connects the find with the possible harbour-site of Keila of the 10th–11th centuries. The Klooga 'hoard' has most likely remained in the ground (read: fallen into the water) by accident.

In some cases lost purses etc. have been also classified as 'accidental losses' (Grierson 1975, 131; Grinder-Hansen 1992, 30–32). A complex of this type also came to light during

⁴ According to Jaana Ratas's interpretation the spirals and ringlets discovered together with the Klooga find come from bronze decorations of different types, which belong to several different garments.

⁵ Tõnno Jonuks (2006) has interpreted objects of this type as dog figurines.

⁶ About the Viking Age weight system see more: Leimus 2002, 40 and references there.

⁷ Ehmja (AM 554: 777), Kõmsi (AM 510: 180), Maidla II (AM 580: 1190, 5865).

⁸ Fieldwork on the site and in the neighbourhood continues in cooperation with Reimo Rivis, researcher of the Institute of Ecology of Tallinn University.

the archaeological rescue excavations in the yard of Lai St. 2, Tallinn, in 2010 (OÜ Agu EMS, supervisor Guido Toos). The purse discovered in a latrine contained at least 68 copper *scherfs* minted during the period 1587–1593 by Pomeranian dukes. Most of the coins belong to the reign of duke Johann-Friedrich of Pommern-Stettin (1569–1600), minted mostly in 1591 (Fig. 8). *Scherfs* of duke Ernst Ludwig (1569–1592)

of Pommern-Wolgast are represented in smaller numbers, and two coins were minted probably by duke Bogislaw XIII in 1588.⁹ Apparently the clay marble may also be related to the purse – of which, unfortunately, no trace was found.

The composition of the find is completely untypical, considering the monetary circulation of Livonia of that period. At the present stage of investigations only two post-medieval hoards are known in Estonia¹⁰ containing single coins of the dukes of Pomerania. Most likely the purse found in Lai street has travelled to Livonia straight from Pomerania in a pocket of a merchant or a professional soldier.

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Fig. 8. Germany, Pommern-Stettin, Duke Johann Friedrich, scherf, 1591.

Jn 8. Saksamaa, Pommer-Stettin, hertsog Johann Friedrich, šerf, 1591.

(AI 7038.)

Photo / Foto: Erki Russow

⁹ Due to the poor state of preservation of some coins the detailed determination of all coins is impossible.

¹⁰ Kohtla (*tpq* 1587) (AI 5000/89) and Holdre (*tpq* 1655) (AI 5000/216).

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2010. AASTAL AVASTATUD AARDED

Mauri Kiudsoo ja Erki Russow

2010. aastal toimus oluline läbimurre suhetes arheoloogide ja metallidetektoristide vahel. Just ausate ja seadusekuulekate detektoristide poolt avastatud esemed juhatasid kätte kolme eriaegse aardeleiu peitmiskohad, millede eest määras Muinsuskaitseameti juures tegutsev arheoloogiamälestiste ekspertnõukogu väärikad leiutasud.

10.04.2010 leiti ühelt **Lääne-Virumaa** põllult kolm münti, mis juhatasid arheoloogidele kätte ühe seniteadmata aardeleiu asukoha (jn 1). Toetudes aardest praeguseks teadaolevate hõbeangutele, on leid maapõue jäänud 1029. a järgselt. Kuni leiukoha täiendavate arheoloogiliste uuringuteni ei avalikustata selle täpset asupaika.

16.08.2010 tuli Harjumaalt Anija vallast **Linnakse** külast (end. Harju-Jaani kihelkond) päevalgele üks Eesti suurimaid muinasaegseid hõbeaardeid, mis koosneb üheksast hõbeest ja ühest hõbedakangist ning 1329 mündist. Viimastest moodustavad valdava enamuse Saksamaa arvukate rahapajade vermingud (1072). Nendele järgnevad anglosaksi (161), Taani (55), araabia (14), Rootsi (Sigtuna?) (11) ja Ungari (10) mündid. Üksikesemplaridena on esindatud Iiri (3), Böömi (2) ja Itaalia (1) vermingud. Toetudes aarde noorimate müntide (jn 2) määrangutele, võib oletada, et leid sattus maapõue 1060. aastate alul.

25.10.2010. a avastati aare Järvamaalt Kareda vallast **Öötla** küla põllult. Tänu leidja, Aivar Piirsalu ülimalt seadusekuulekale käitumisele õnnestus töid teostanud arheoloogilise ekspeditsiooni liikmetel uurida Öötla aarde leiukohta (jn 4) ja selle lähiümbrust põhjalikult, fikseerides nii täpsed leiulodud kui ka -konteksti. Nii oli üksnes arheoloogilisi meetodeid kasutades võimalik välja selgitada aarde peitmiseks kasutatud nõu olemasolu, millest oli siis säilinud vaid õhukene puidust põhjatükk (jn 5).

Öötla aare sisaldab tüüpilisi Järvamaa 16. saj talurahvaehteid. Rinnalehtede (9) näol on tegemist suurte ümmarguste või nelinurksete kummitud muustritega (muhud ja neliksiirud) kaunistatud eksemplaridega, mille hõbedasisaldus on üsna väike. Kaelakee moodustub aga suurtest hõbehelmestest ehk krõllidest (5), mitmesuguse kuju ja suurusega hõbeplekist stantsitud ja üleküllatud ripatsitest (7), klaashelmestest (2) ja hõbemüntidest (2). Viimaste hulgas on varaseimaks verminguks enne 1510. aastat löödud Pihkva vabalinna denga (jn 6). Tuginedes hiliseima mündi määrangule (Liivimaa Ordu, Tallinn, Heinrich von Galen, killing, 1554),

võib väita, et leid on maapõue jäänud millalgi Liivi sõja (1558–1583) ajal.

13.05.2010 leidis Jüri Napp metallidetektorit kasutades Keila vallast **Klooga** lähedal metsast esemetekompleksi, mis oli arvatavasti algselt mähitud tekstiili sisse. Ehetest ja tarberiistadest koosnevat juhuleidu on võimalik dateerida ühe pooliku mündi abil, mis on löödud Saksamaal Kölni peapiiskopi Hermanni (1036–1056) valitsusajal enne 1046. aastat. Lisaks mündile kuulusid leiu koosseisu veel muinasaegse kaupmehe elukutsega seonduvad pronksist kaalud koos kaaluvihtidega, silindrikujulise korpusega rauast surulukk ühes võtmega, luust värtnakeder, kaks keekandjat, hoburaudsõlg, spiraalsõrmus, kolmemõõtmeline kinnitusaasata loomakujuke (hobune?) jne (jn 7). See loomakujuke väärrib eraldi esiletõstmist seoses leiu sisalduva kaalukomplektiga. Nimelt on juba varemalt Soome ja Eesti arheoloogide poolt oletatud taoliste esemete kasutamist kaaluvihtidena. Viimast hüpoteesi näib toetavat kaudselt ka Klooga leiu sisalduva loomakujukese kaal (u 8,26 g), mis ühtib Skandinaavia viikingiaegse õortugi omaga.

Klooga leidu pole siiski võimalik klassifitseerida tüüpilise aardena. Kõne alla võiks tulla üksnes mõnede uurijate poolt kasutatav “juhuslikult kaotatud aarde” definitsioon. Vaadeldes Klooga “aarde” leiusituatsiooni ja -konteksti, varasemal ajal ümbruskonnast leitud esemeid ja nende iseloomu ning omaaegset rannajoont võib leidu siduda 10.–11. saj Keila võimaliku sadamakohaga. Klooga “aare” on tõenäoliselt maapõue jäänud (loe: vette kukkunud) juhuslikult.

Juhuslikult kaotatud aarete hulka on liigitatud mõningatel puhkudel ka kaotatud rahakotte jms. Üks taoline kompleks tuli päevalgele ka **Tallinnas** Lai tn 2 hoovis toimunud arheoloogiliste päästekaevamiste käigus. Välikäimlast avastatud rahakott sisaldas vähemalt 68 vasest šerfi, mis olid löödud ajavahemikus 1587–1593 Pommeri hertsogite poolt. Enamik vermingutest kuulub Pommer-Stettini hertsogi Johann-Friedrichi valitsemisajaga, löödud peamiselt aastal 1591 (jn 8). Leiu koostis on Liivimaa tollast raharinglust arvestades täiesti ebatüüpiline. Praeguse uurimisseisu juures on teada üksnes kaks Eesti varausaegset aaret, mis sisaldavad üksikesemplaridena Pommeri hertsogite verminguid. Tõenäoliselt on Laialt tänavalt avastatud rahapung rännanud Liivimaale otse Pommerist pärit kaupmehe või palgasõduri taskus.