



THE MOST INTERESTING SEPARATE COIN FIND IN 2011

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In May 2011 a primitive copper imitation of a German denar (Fig. 1) was found by Rene Vinkler in a recently ploughed field in the village of Linnakse (central part of Harjumaa, Anja municipality, former parish of Harju-Jaani) using a metal detector. The discoverer also handed over pottery, firestone, some bronze and iron artefacts etc. (Fig. 2). The artefacts bear marks of intentional damage or fire deformation. Preliminary archaeological investigations confirmed the discovery of the remains of a Late Iron Age cemetery (Linnakse II), which had been disturbed by a historical period settlement (Fig. 3; Kiudsoo 2012). In August 2010 another cemetery (Linnakse I) and a Late Viking Age hoard (*tpq* 1059) was also brought to light in the village of Linnakse (Tamla *et al.* 2011; Kiudsoo & Russow 2011).

The coin imitation from the grave of Linnakse (II) may be described as follows: one side of this copper object depicts a cross, the other side bears a building or alike; the legend is absolutely inconsequential and illegible; it is neither pierced nor furnished with a loop.

Recently analogies to this coarse copper coin imitations were known only from Latvia, where 38 such specimens, which had been originally silver-coated, had been discovered by the year 1989. Coin imitations have been found from 13 Latvian sites: eight cemeteries and five settlement sites or hill forts. 35 specimens are the imitations of German and three of Anglo-Saxon coins (Berga 1990, 49, 51). Although absolutely identical specimens have not been discovered so far, an example from Latvia (Berga 1990, Abb. 13) resembles the Linnakse imitation. The Latvian finds mostly come from the Livs' sites on the lower reaches of Daugava and upper reaches of Gauja Rivers. Since 20 such coins (52.6%) have been found from the Daugmale hill fort and the Laukskola cemetery on the opposite bank, the Latvian numismatist Tatjana Berga suggests that the most likely place of their minting was Daugmale, which was also the most important trading and craft centre of the Livs in the 10th–12th centuries (Berga 1990, 50–52; 2006, 442–443).



Fig. 1. *Imitation of a German denar from the grave of Linnakse (II).*

Jn 1. *Saksa denaari jälgendus Linnakse (II) kalmest.*
Photo / Foto: Mauri Kiudsoo



Fig. 2. Artefacts from the village of Linnakse, Anija municipality.

Jn 2. Leiud Anija valla Linnakse küla maadelt.

(AI 7025: 1-13.)

Photo / Foto: Mauri Kiudsoo

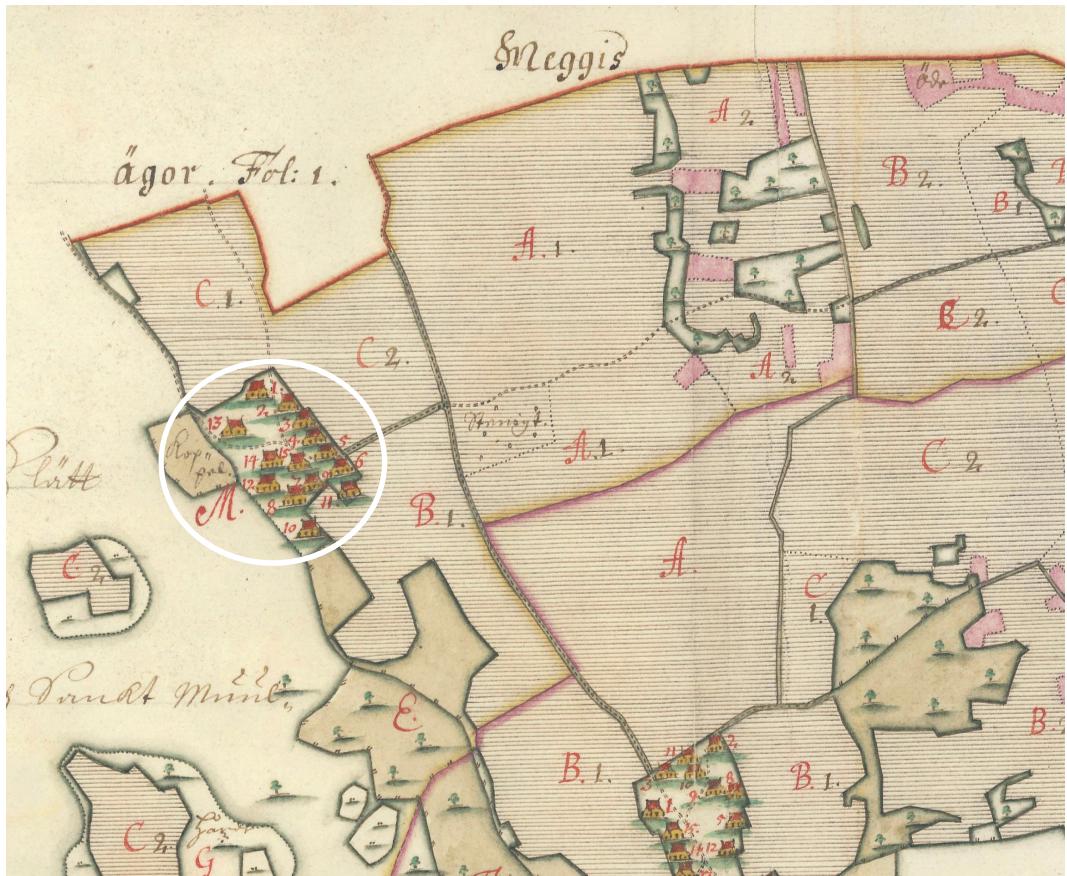


Fig. 3. Part of the map from 1691 compiled by J. Gedhardt with the find area.

Jn 3. Osa J. Gedhardt poolt 1691. a koostatud kaardist markeeritud leiupiirkonnaga.
(EAA 1-2-C-III-47.)

Daugmale proto-town settlement (2 ha) was located on the left bank of the River Daugava, 22 km from the Baltic Sea, and consisted of a hill fort, settlements, harbour and two flat cemeteries (Vasks 1999, 70). On the other bank of the river, just opposite the Daugmale hill fort, lies Salaspils Laukskola group of sites: two big settlements, and a pre-Christian flat cemetery of Livs, covering an area of about 5 ha between them (Zariņa 2006, 7–9). Besides three hoards (Ducmane & Ozolina 2009, nos 36–38), more than 250 separate coins, which is the largest number in the Eastern Baltic of that period, have been found from the Daugmale-Laukskola sites (Berga 1994; 2006). The large number of coin finds from these monuments testifies to the high level of economic development of the Daugava Livs (Berga 2006, 435).

Nowadays, at least five specimens resembling coin imitations from the Livs' sites (Daugmale?) can be distinguished among the numismatic material from Estonia. Besides the exceptional hoard of Savastvere in North Tartumaa, which includes

two such specimens (in necklace?) (Kiudsoo 2008, 92–93), three separate examples – Alansi (Kiudsoo 2004, 201), Tammiku (Kiudsoo 2009, 210–211) and Linnakse – have come to light in the territory of today's Harjumaa. These imitations suggest a wider distribution area of the coins made by the Livs' jewellers than has been presumed so far.

The dating of copper imitations has been particularly difficult because none of the Latvian specimens have been discovered in a hoard. Unfortunately the vague dating of the Savastvere find complex from North Tartumaa is of little help in specifying the dating of coin imitations. Since the artefact types in the hoard of Savastvere are dated to a very long period from the 11th–13th centuries, it is almost impossible to determine the exact date of the depositing of this hoard (Kiudsoo 2008, 92).

In Latvia the coin imitations have been found together with other coins only in a few cases. Since those coins mostly date from the first half of the 11th century, Berga has expressed an opinion that those copper objects were not minted before the second half of the 11th century (Berga 1977, 98). It is very difficult to define the maximum length of time of making these coin imitations, because even Estonian hoards from the third quarter of the 12th century mostly consist of West-European pennies of the 11th century, whereas the find complexes are dated by single later coins (see Molvõgin 1994, nos 78–81). As some imitations from Estonia and Latvia depicting characteristic elements of presumable Frisian coins, which appear at least in Estonian hoards after the 1060s (Leimus & Molvõgin 2000, 54–55; Leimus 2003, 45) and disappear very quickly, we may presume, that those pendants were struck only in 1060/1070s.

The fact that absolutely identical specimens have not been discovered, neither from Latvia nor from Estonia, seems remarkable (Berga 1988, 51; Kiudsoo 2008, 95). Therefore, I cannot agree with the opinion that the inhabitants of Daugmale tried to introduce their own currency in the second half of the 11th century (Berga 1993). The absence of such copper coin imitations in hoards is also quite comprehensible – they were not a currency of the Final Iron Age but just 'fashionable' ornaments made by the Livs' craftsmen.

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2011. AASTA HUVITAVAIM MÜNDILEID

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2011. aasta mais leiti Harjumaalt Anija vallast Linnakse küllast metallidetektori abil saksa denaari algeline imitatsioon, mille ühel küljal kujutatakse risti, teisel aga hoonet vms (jn 1). Mündijäljendiga koos avastatud esemed (jn 2) ning leiukoha (jn 3) esialgsed arheoloogilised uuringud osutasid muinasaja lõpusajanditest pärinevale põletusmatustega kalmele.

Robustses tehnikas valmistatud vasest imitatsioonile oli veel üsna hiljuti teada parallele üksnes Lätist, kus 1989. a seisuga oli avastatud 38 taolist eksemplari. Läti leiud pärinevad peamiselt Väina alam- ja Koiva ülemjooksu liivlaste muististelt ning nende tõenäoliseima valmistamiskohana on välja pakutud Daugmalet.

Hetke seisuga on ka Eesti leiumaterjalis registreeritud juba vähemalt viis nn liivi tüüpi mündiimitatsiooni. Jättes kõrvale erandliku Savastvere peitleiu Põhja-Tartumaalt, mis sisaldb kaht taolist vermingut, on ülejäänud kolm eksemplari tulnud päevavalgele tänapäeva Harjumaa territooriumilt. Nii Alansi, Tammiku kui ka Linnakse mündijäljendid lubavad oletada nende esemete laiemat levikuala kui varem arvati.

Vasest mündijäljendite dateerimine on olnud raskendatud peaasjalikult seetõttu, et mitte ükski Läti eksemplaridest pole avastatud aardeleidudest. Kuna aga Lätis on mündiimitatsioonidega koos leitud mõningat puhkudel ka 11. saj esimese poole üksikmünste, siis on arvatud, et neid jälgendeid ei valmistatud enne 11. saj teist poolt. Väga raske on määratleda vermingute valmistamisaja ülempiiri. Nimelt koosnevad Eesti 12. saj kolmanda veerandi aardeleiuksi veel valdavalt 11. saj Lääne-Euroopa pennidest ja leiu kompleksse dateerivad vaid üksikud uuemad mündid. Kuna osa Lätist ja Eestist avastatud eksemplaridest kujutavad endast Friisi müntide jälgendeid, siis võime oletada, et taolisi esmeid valmistatigi üksnes 1060/70. aastatel. Nimelt kaovad 1060. aastatel meie aaretesse ilmuvald friisi mündid siinsest raharinglusest väga ruttu.

Tähelepanuvääärne on aga fakt, et siiani pole ei Läti ega Eesti arheoloogilises leiuaineses üksteisega täiesti identseid verminguid. Seetõttu ei saa ka nõustuda seisukohaga, et Daugmales püüti valmistada 11. saj teisel pool oma raha. Taoliste vasest mündijäljendite puudumine aardeleidudes on täiesti arusaadav. Ei ole ju nende näol tegemist viikingiaegsete maksevahendiga, vaid eelkõige ikkagi läänemereresooome käsitööliste toodetud „moodsate“ ehetega.