



ORNAMENTS OF FINNISH ORIGIN FROM PARTSAARE

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INTRODUCTION

By request of the National Heritage Board from October 9, 2010 till April 17, 2011 the MTÜ Arheoloogiakeskus carried out research in the village of Partsaare, Harju County, where the members of the Partnership Revaldetekt had found fragments of artefacts. The archaeological site is situated on the middle course of the Jõelähtme-Jägala rivers in an erst-while settlement site (Fig. 1), which extended from Haljava to Parila and from Raasiku to Pirsu and forms a part of the settlement unit situated between Lake Ülemiste and the Jägala River.



Fig. 1. Plan of the Jõelähtme-Jägala middle course settlement area.

Jn 1. Jõelähtme-Jägala keskjooksu asustuspäirkonna asendiplaan.

Map / Kaart: Katrin Koch-Maasing

JÕELÄHTME-JÄGALA SETTLEMENT UNIT

The settlement area between Lake Ülemiste and the Jägala River is one of the biggest settlement units in the north-western Estonia. In the North it borders with the Gulf of Finland and in the East with the Jägala River dale with big forests and swamps, in the South with a vast area of woods, moors and swamps extending from the outback of Kehra and Vaida up to Kose. In the West it borders with Lake Ülemiste and the lowland extending to the South. The southern border of the settlement area coincides with the historical boundary between the Rävala and Harju counties, the western boundary with that of the ancient *Ocriela* and *Vomentaka* parishes; the eastern boundary lies where the later Jõelähtme and Kuusalu parishes met (Lang 1996, 378).

The settlement unit on the middle course of the Jõelähtme-Jägala rivers, located in the south-eastern corner of the above described settlement area, is considerably higher and clearly discernible by its landscape features from the swamps and moors (the Kostivere and Peningi swamps) that surround it (Allikvee & Ilomets 1995, fig. 145).



Fig. 2. Distribution of the settlements in the central and eastern parts of the ancient Rävalla County in 1219–1220 after Johansen 1933.

Jn 2. Asustuse levik Rävalla muinasmaakonna kesk- ja idaosas 1219–1220 Johansen 1933 järgi.

Although in earlier archaeological literature the Jõelähtme and Jägala middle course areas have been dealt as separate units (Lang 1996, 378) the authors of the present study prefer to consider these two as one settlement unit. This viewpoint is based on the following: 1) the data derived from the *Liber Census Daniae* (Fig. 2; Johansen 1933, 11–13); 2) the distribution map of archaeological sites; and 3) characteristic features of the landscape of this site including its natural borders. Taking into account the different parishes, the size of the villages of the first half of the 13th century counted in ploughland and the natural border (Lang 1996, 410), the areas situated from the west of the Jõelähtme River were apparently not connected with the Jõelähtme-Jägala middle course settlement area. At the same time, based on the *Liber Census Daniae* (Fig. 2) and on the distribution map of the archaeological sites, the extension of the settlement area onto the right bank of the Jägala River can be clearly observed.

Although the settlement area situated between Lake Ülemiste and the Jägala River is one of the best surveyed regions in the north-western Estonia (Lang 1996, 378) this does not apply to the Jõelähtme-Jägala middle course area. Until lately the information concerning the settlement of this area was derived only from stray finds and landscape surveys (Lang 1996, 406). Fieldwork carried out in August and September 2010 on Linnakse (I) burial site discovered near Raasiku and on the site where a Late Viking Age silver hoard was found can be considered as the first scientific research in that region (Tamla *et al.* 2011). Since 2010 the archaeologists together with the partnership of Revaldetekt have inspected the Jõelähtme-Jägala middle course area. Discovery of the burial sites near Partsaare may be considered the most extensive and productive of these works.

RESEARCH OBJECTIVES AND RESULTS

The aim of the archaeological fieldwork was to inspect the site, determine its borders and its nature. The stratigraphy of the layers was examined by test pits; metal detectors were used to examine the uppermost part of the ploughed layer that had been disturbed in the course of years of cultivation. The places of metal finds were documented with a GPS device and mapped accordingly (Fig. 3).

The first inspection trip proved that the finds originated from a Late Iron Age (*ca.* 800–1200/1250) cremation burial place. The site is similar to those found elsewhere

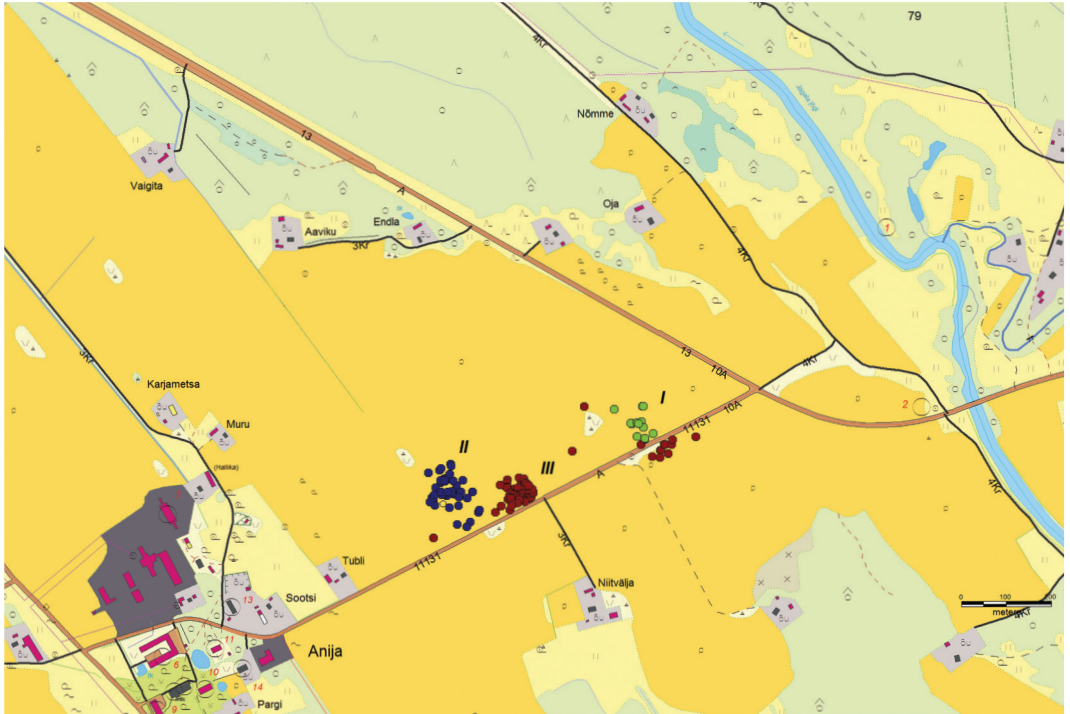


Fig. 3. Location of Partsaare burial sites based on the spread of metal finds on the map of the Land Board.
 Jn 3. Partsaare kalmete asukohad metallileidude leviku alusel Maa-ameti kaardil.
 GPS-mapping / GPS-kaardistamine: Mirja Ots



Fig. 4. Location of Partsaare burial sites (I – III) on the 1692 Swedish Era map.
 Jn 4. 1692. a. rootsiaegsele kaardile kantud Partsaare kalmete (I – III) asukohad.
 (EAA 1.2.C-III-50.)
 Scheme / Skeem: Katrin Koch-Maasing



Fig. 5. Partsaare burial site on the 1926 Harju County map (special sign: old burial sites).

Jn 5. Partsaare kalme 1926. aasta Harjumaa kaardil (leppemärk: vanad matusepaigad). (AI.)

in the Harju County and in the western Estonia. The burial site could have initially been covered with stones – this is proved by both, the stone heaps near the site that have formed in the course of cleaning the fields of stones as well as the oldest maps of the area dating back to 1692 where we can see non-cultivated parcels of land (EAA 1.2.C-III-50; Fig. 4). On the map of the Harju County printed in 1926 the burial place has been marked by a special sign (Fig. 5). The local people still remember the ancient story about the Partsaare burial site (Kiudsoo 2011a).

As the result of the research, three separate burial sites were discovered in Partsaare (Fig. 3; Kiudsoo 2011a–c). Although partially destroyed in the course of cultivation and road-building, the archaeological research of the burial sites of Harmi (Tamla 2001; 2002), Keskvere III (Mandel 2003, 104–105, table LIV) and Linnakse I (Tamla *et al.* 2011, 77, 84–85) that have a similar form of the burial place, similar soil stratigraphy of the sites and the date of origin prove that even in Partsaare the lower non-ploughed layers may still contain burials preserved intact. In the course of the fieldwork it was discovered that in Partsaare, likewise in other Late Iron Age cremation burial places in Rävala and Harju (e.g. Kata, Alansi, Linnakse I, Harmi, Kadja), a moraine hill slope slightly higher from the surrounding ground had been chosen, wherefrom a view had opened on the village.

In Partsaare the three burial places are most likely prehistoric burial sites of the Soodla and Anija villages. Both villages were first mentioned in *Liber Census Daniae* under the names of *Socal* and *Hanægus* (Johansen 1933, 45v, 46r). Although according to the national register of cultural monuments the Soodla prehistoric settlement with a size of about 10 ploughland that is situated about half a kilometer from the Partsaare (Soodla) I burial place covers about 3 ha, the site can be observed on a much larger territory extending both to the North as well as to the South along the left bank of the

Jägala River. The Anija prehistoric settlement situated about half a kilometer to the South-West of the Partsaare III burial place was discovered parallel to the fixing of the information concerning the other sites.¹ Proceeding from the present state of research it cannot be proved whether the Partsaare II and III burials formed the two burial sites of the Anija village. This hypothesis, though, seems to be supported by the fact that according to the *Liber Census Daniae* the prehistoric settlement of Anija consisted of two separate parts (Johansen 1933, 347).

FINDS

The abundant finds from the Partsaare burial places and the surroundings² include weapons, tools, household objects and pieces of ornaments dating from the Late Iron Age. Characteristically to the cremation burials of that period a large proportion of the find material has been intentionally broken and/or deformed and bears clear marks of burning. Special attention should be paid on the brooches of Finnish origin (see below) that carry fresh and unknown information from the point of view of studying foreign contacts of Viking Age Rävala.

Equal-armed brooches

The equal-armed brooches originate from the Central Sweden and their spread clearly reflects the voyaging of the eastern Vikings along the Gulf of Finland towards Russia. Taking into account the numerous finds of equal-armed brooches in Scandinavia and Finland the nearly total lack of such ornaments in Estonia has been considered quite remarkable (Lang 1996, 96).

For a long time an Early Viking Age equal-armed brooch found on the Iru hill fort was the only specimen belonging to that kind of ornaments found in Estonia (Lang 1996, 96; Tvaauri 2012, 134, fig. 94). During the last two years the Estonian museums' collections have been supplemented with four such brooches, one of which was discovered in spring 2010 at Vihterpalu, near Padise³, the remaining three were found on the Partsaare I burial site and in its close neighborhood. Two of these three⁴ represent the Finnish Viking Age (10th–11th cc) brooch type (Fig. 6), of which in 1973 our northern neighbors had about 35 specimens (Kivikoski 1973, Abb. 679).



Fig. 6. Fragments of equal-armed brooches from the Partsaare I (Soodla) burial site.

Jn 6. Võrdõlgsete sõlgede katkendid Partsaare I (Soodla) kalmest.

(AI 6974: 3, 6992: 4.)

Photo / Foto: Krista Karro

Finnish penannular brooches

This type of brooch resembles penannular brooches specified by the four slightly higher pegs on the surface of the angular end knobs (Fig. 7). As there is no special Estonian term for such brooches, 'Finnish type penannular brooches' could be a possible alternative.

A vast number of brooches of this type have been discovered in Finland where more than 100 specimens are known (Kivikoski 1973, Abb. 696). Outside Finland such

¹ AI 7031.

² AI 6974, 6987, 6992, 7024.

³ AI 7048: 1.

⁴ AI 6974: 3, 6992: 4.



0 1 cm

Fig. 7. So-called Finnish penannular brooch from Klooga harbour site.

Jn 7. Nn Soome tüüpi hoburaudsõlg Klooga sadamakohalt.

(AI 7036: 1.)

Photo / Foto: Krista Karro

Drawing / Joonis: Kersti Siitan



0 1 cm

Fig. 8. Round brooch of Finnish origin from Soodla.

Jn 8. Soome päritolu ümarsõlg Soodlast.

(AI 4405.)

Photo / Foto: Krista Karro



0 1 cm

Fig. 9. Bronze bear-tooth pendant from the vicinity of Partsaare I (Soodla) burial place.

Jn 9. Pronksist karuhammasripats Partsaare I (Soodla) kalme lähiümbrusest.

(AI 6992: 1.)

Photo / Foto: Krista Karro

brooches have been found in Sweden, Norway, near Lake Ladoga and elsewhere (Lehtosalo-Hilander 1982, fig. 31). Up to the very latest time not a single find of a 'Finnish type penannular brooch' was reported in Estonia but during the past two years three specimens have already been added to the collections of the Estonian museums. In addition to an intact brooch (Fig. 7) found in a probable Viking Age harbor on the lower course of the Keila River near Klooga (Kiudsoo & Russow 2011, 229), one fragment of such brooches was found at the Linnakse I (Tamla *et al.* 2011, Fig. 7: 3) one at Partsaare I⁵ burial place, whereas both belong to the antiquities of the Jõelähtme-Jägala middle course settlement area. The Finnish type penannular brooches are mostly dated to the 10th century (Salmo 1956, 41–43).

Round brooches of Finnish origin

In Estonia two round brooches of Finnish origin are known to be found so far, both in the neighborhood of Partsaare (Soodla). From the two brooches only one has reached the museum collections (Fig. 8). According to the Finnish archaeologist Pirkko-Liisa Lehtosalo-Hilander's classification it belongs to type D, and the manufacture of the broad-rimmed subtype falls into the first half of the 11th century (1982, 100). A photograph of another similar specimen, which probably is stored in some private collection, is preserved in the archaeology archives of the Tallinn University Institute of History. As the outward appearance of the latter differs from the first mentioned brooch apparently these two did not belong to one and the same set of a breast-chain. By the present day over 110 specimens of Finnish round brooches of type D have been found in Finland (Kivikoski 1973, no. 659).

⁵ AI 6974: 1.

Bear-tooth pendant

In addition to the brooches mentioned above a bronze bear-tooth pendant (Fig. 9) also indicates the contacts with south-western Finland. In Estonia, this pendant is so far the only exemplar with accurate documentation of the context of discovery. Another similar pendant was said to have been found a couple of years ago near Keila by using the metal detector, but reliability of this information has not been proved (Registry of archaeological collections, TLU Institute of History; Entry AI 6947). In Finland bronze pendants resembling bear tooth or fang have been found in 37 places and the total number of these is about 130. These ornaments that are typical of women's burials and often appear in groups are mostly found in Turku region. The oldest bear-tooth pendants found in Finland are dated to the 9th and the latest to the 11th century (Asplund 2005, 13 ff). Outside Finland one similar pendant was found on a Sami sacrificial site in Gråträsk, Sweden (Asplund 2005, 14, fig. 3) and about 10 specimens are known from a settlement of the Livonians in Latvia (Spirģis 2008, 205). In the latter they also appeared mostly in women's burials.

CONCLUSION

Landscape inspections in the mid-Harju County were carried out as a joint effort of the professional archaeologists and the partnership of Revaldetekt. They provide an example of mutual respect and trust. As a result of this joint work a number of burial and settlement sites on the middle course area of Jõelähtme and Jägala rivers have been found in the past couple of years and archaeological collections have been supplemented with interesting finds. In the future more detailed analyses of the artifacts of the Partsaare find material will show whether there are more ornaments typical of Finnish material.

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SOOME PÄRITOLU EHTED PARTSAAREST

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2010. ja 2011. a tegi MTÜ Arheoloogiakeskus Muinsuskaitseameti tellimusel uuringuid Harjumaal Partsaare külas, kust seltsingu Revaldetekt liikmed olid avastanud esemekatkeid. Leiukoht paikneb omaaegse Jõelähtme-Jägala keskjooksu asustuspäikonnas (jn 1–2), mis on naaberaladest maastikuliselt eristuv kõrgem ala. Kuni viimase ajani põhines informatsioon päikonna asustusest juhuleidudel ja maastiku inspekteerimisel. Esimeseks teaduslikuks uuringuks võib pidada Raasiku lähedalt avastatud Linnakse (I) matmispaiga ja hilisviikingiaegse hõbeaarde leiukohaga seotud välitööd 2010. a. Alates sellest ajast on arheoloogid Jõelähtme-Jägala keskjooksu päikonda inspekteerinud koostöös seltsingu *Revaldetekti* liikmetega.

Arheoloogiliste välitööde eesmärk oli teha leiukoha ülevaatus, selgitada välja selle päiirid ja iseloom. Prooviaukudega uuriti pinnasekihtide stratigraafiat ja metallidetektoritega kontrolliti maaharimisega segamini pööratud künnikihi ülaosa. Avastatud metall-leidude asukohad fikseeriti GPS-seadmega ja kaardistati (jn 3). Juba esimese inspeksioonireisiga saadi kinnitust oletusele, et esemeleidu pärinevad noorema rauaaja põletusmatustega kalmeväljalt, nagu me neid tunneme mujalt Harjumaalt ja ka Lääne-Eestist. Kalme võis algselt olla vähemalt osaliselt kividega kaetud: sellele osutavad nii leiukoha läheduses asuvad kivikoristuse ja maaparandustöödega tekkinud kivihunnikud kui ka päikonna vanim 1692. a kaart, kus näeme põlluharimisest puutumata jäänud alasid (jn 4). Veel tänapäevalgi on kohalike elanike seas säilinud pärimus Partsaare vanast matmispaigast. 1926. a trükitud Harjumaal kaardil on kalme tähistatud eraldi leppemärgiga (jn 5).

Uuringutega selgus, et Partsaares on üksteise läheduses paiknenud kolm matmispaika (jn 3). Ilmnes, et sarnaselt teistele Rävala ja Harju noorema rauaaja põletusmatustega kalmetele, on ka Partsaares valitud matmispaigaks ümbritsevast kõrgem moreenpõndak. Partsaare kolme kalme näol on tõenäoliselt tegemist Soodla ja Anija küla muistsete matmispaikadega. Mõlemat küla on esmakordselt mainitud 13. saj esimesel veerandil koostatud Taani Hindamisraamatus nimedega *Socal ja Hanægus*. Seda, kas Partsaare II ja III kalme kujutavad endast 7 adramaa suuruse Anija küla kahte matmispaika, pole praeguse uurimis-seisu juures võimalik tõestada. Taolist hüpoteesi toetab asjaolu, et Anija muinasasula koosnes ka Taani Hindamisraamatu järgi kahest eraldi osast.

Partsaare kalmeväljalt ja selle lähiümbrusest on avastatud nooremast rauaajast pärit rikkalik materjal, kus leidub relvi, töö- ja tarberiistu ning ehteid. Suur osa leiumaterjalist on selle perioodi põletusmatustele omaselt tahtlikult purustatud ja/või deformeeritud ning põlemisjälgedega. Eraldi väärivad esile tõstmist Soome päritolu sõled (jn 6–8), mis kätkevad endas uut informatsiooni viikingiaegse Rävala väliskontaktide uurimise seisukohalt.

Lisaks nimetatud sõlgedele osutab kontaktidele Edela-Soomega veel pronksist valatud 9.–11. saj karuhammasripats (jn 9), mis on siiani ainus täpselt dokumenteeritud leiukohaga seda tüüpi Eestist avastatud ehe. Teine analoogne ripats leiti metallidetektori abil mõned aastad tagasi väidetavalt Keila lähistelt, kuid see teade pole kindel. Seda, kas Partsaare kalmematerjalis esineb veel muidki Soomele iseloomulikke ehteliike, näitab esemete edaspidine põhjalikum analüüs.