



NEW INTERESTING PREHISTORIC COIN FINDS IN 2013

MAURI KIUDSOO

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

INTRODUCTION

In 2013 several prehistoric coin finds were discovered in Estonia, considerably advancing our knowledge of Viking and Late Viking Age currency (germ. *Gewichtsgeldwirtschaft*) here on the eastern shore of the Baltic Sea. Notable information was also obtained about the Roman Iron Age. It was also possible to specify, on the basis of the dating of coin finds, the earliest dates of the manufacture and/or use of some ornament and artefact types spread in the archaeological material of Estonia. The prehistoric coin finds discovered last year can be divided into several subtypes.

HOARDS

Among the approximately dozen hoards handed over to the National Heritage Board in 2013 five different hoards belonged to the 11th century: the hoard of Laiuse, Kõue, Puru III, Mäetaguse II and Änküla. Since the archaeological investigations of the find spots of the two last-mentioned hoards, related to the large iron-production regions in North-East Estonia and northern Tartumaa have not been finished yet, and the silver hoard of exceptional composition, found from Kõue, southern Harjumaa, is discussed separately in another paper (see Tamla & Kiudsoo, this volume), I will focus here on the hoards of Laiuse and Puru III.

In May 2013 a late Viking Age sacrificial deposit¹ (*tpq* 1088; Fig. 1), singular in the Estonian context, was discovered in Central Estonia near **Laiuse** (Jõgevamaa county). The find site had already previously attracted attention due to fragments of horse bones found there after ploughing. Archaeological investigation brought to light various finds of the Late Iron Age (*ca.* 800–1200/1250) (bracelets and neck rings, details of chain arrangement (Fig. 2)², etc.) from an area more than 500 m long, including a coin hoard consisting of at least 21 coins and parts of scales. The finds were located in the peripheral part of one-time fen, the upper layer of which had mineralized because of drainage and ploughing. The excavation of the hoard revealed that the core of the coin find, located on a quite compact plot (about 3 × 3 m) had been disturbed by ploughing. This was also confirmed by single coins found at some distance from the original location of the hoard, as well as their varying depth. While the find situation of the loose coins was clearly related to the upper part of the topsoil, the finds marking the location of the core of the hoard came to light at a depth of 30–50 cm in the peat or upon the natural alluvial subsoil. The find situation of other objects discovered in the

¹ AI 7243.

² AI 7244.



Fig. 1. Late Viking Age sacrificial deposit from Laiuse, Central Estonia.

Jn 1. Hilisviikingiaegne ohvriaare Kesk-Eestist Laiuselt.

(AI 7243.)

Photo / Foto: Mauri Kiudsoo



Fig. 2. Some ornaments found from Laiuse sacrificial place.

Jn 2. Mõningaid Laiuse ohvrikohast leitud ehteid.

(AI 7244.)

Photo / Foto: Mauri Kiudsoo

discussed area was about the same. Considering the whole find context, it seems likely that the small hoard as well as other finds had been cast in the fen as votive offerings (Kiudsoo 2013a).

The coins can be divided in two clearly distinct parcels. All the Islamic and Byzantine coins, six in total, are provided with a silver loop, ring or rivet or are pierced, and have obviously formed part of a necklace. They were connected to each other from both opposite edges by small Scandinavian-type rings from silver wire with twisted ends. Three eastern coins connected in the same way have been discovered in another Estonian

hoard from Vao. Silver loops and rivets are also most probably of Scandinavian origin, whereas in Estonia they usually were manufactured in copper. None of the other coins, all of them western deniers from the 11th century, has a suspension loop, a rivet etc. Just one Scandinavian imitation has been pierced by knife. Instead, they are heavily bent, which proves that their silver quality has been tested several times. The general composition of the find corresponds to that of Estonian hoards from the late 11th century. Leaving aside the first parcel of coins, which consists of a broken necklace from around the end of the first millennium, most of the coins (9 ex.) are German, and just one – English. The high percentage of Aethelraed-imitations from Scandinavia (4 ex.) is remarkable, indeed, but it may be accidental and conditioned due to the small number of coins in the find (Kiudsoo & Leimus 2014, 28–31).

Right in the middle of the 11th century the trade of the Baltic Finns reached its prime, which presents itself also in the large number of silver hoards found in Estonia (Kiudsoo & Kallis 2008, 178–179). At the beginning of the Latest Iron Age, i.e. in the middle of the 11th century hoards first appear also in the eastern part of Central Estonia (including the neighbourhood of Laiuse), which was somewhat different in landscape and besides *Vaiga* also included the small ancient counties of *Sobolitze* and *Jogentagana* (Kiudsoo & Leimus 2014, 33). The location of the small counties / parishes of Central Estonia, which did not allow them to partake in the far trade crossing Estonia and the neighbouring areas, has been regarded as one of the reasons why they were not united (Kriiska & Tvauri 2002, 213). The distribution of hoards of the Latest Iron Age since the mid-11th century does not confirm that the unsuitable location of Central Estonia restricted foreign contacts and participation in far trade – quite the contrary. At the present stage of investigations we can already speak about at least ten hoards from the second half of the 11th century (see Kiudsoo & Leimus 2014, 33, fig. 1).

The distribution and composition of prehistoric silver hoards found in Estonia and the neighbouring countries suggest that an important far-trade route has run right along the Narva River, Lake Peipsi and Pihkva and the Velikaya River, having possessed during some periods even a greater significance than other branches of *Austrvegr*, which have been repeatedly mentioned in specialized literature (Kiudsoo 2013b, 81; Kiudsoo 2014, 1–13). Although the possible harbour sites along the shore of Lake Peipsi have not been archaeologically investigated until now, the existence of such site has been presumed in Sääritsa (Karro 2010, 20), which is located, so to say, at a right distance from the find spots of the Late Viking Age hoards of Jõgevamaa (Kiudsoo & Leimus 2014, 30).

The third hoard³ discovered in the **Puru** village, former Jõhvi parish, eastern Virumaa (*tpq* 1068) is notable because of its coin composition as well as the receptacle used for depositing. Consisting mostly of Frisian coins (Fig. 3) the find confirms the earlier presented hypothesis that the mercantile invasion of the Frisians, which headed to Northwest Russia from the 1060s to the 1080s mostly concerned the coastal areas of North Estonia (see Leimus & Molvõgin 2000, 42–43, 55, Abb. 2). Since already in 2012 a bronze bowl (the so-called Hanseatic bowl) found there was handed over to the National Heritage Board (Ots & Rammo 2013, fig. 5) together with some 11th-century coins, it seems likely that these belong to the same Late Viking Age find complex. Han-

³ AI 7176, 7178, 7180.



Fig. 3. The latest coin of the Puru III hoard, minted in Carrelswere by Earl Egbert II (1068–1090).

Jn 3. Puru kolmanda aarde hiliseim münt on valmistatud Carrelswere'is krahv Egbert II (1068–1090) valitsemisajal.

(AI 7176: 3.)

Photo / Foto: Mauri Kiudsoo



Fig. 4. Fragments of bracelets and a zoomorphic pendant found in Lehu village, near Pakamäe knoll.

Jn 4. Lehu "Pakamäe" lähedalt avastatud käevõrude ja zoomorfse ripatsi katkendid.

(AI 7257.)

Photo / Foto: Mauri Kiudsoo



Fig. 5. Coin material came to light from Lehu Pakamägi.

Jn 5. Mündimaterjal Lehu "Pakamäelt".

(AI 7257.)

Photo / Foto: Mauri Kiudsoo

seatic bowls were manufactured since the beginning of the 11th century in Pomorje and Sambia; those found in eastern Virumaa have been previously, in the context of Northeast Estonia, connected only with the 13th century (Tamla 1998, 9–36). Still, it is extremely difficult to define the time of their deposition. Although a few finds of bronze bowls have included also jewellery/ornaments, the only accurately datable complex from Virumaa has been, up to now, the hoard of Mäetaguse (*tpq* 1232), which also included coins (Leimus 2009, 7; Leimus & Molvõgin 2001, no. 72). However, the Late Viking Age hoard of Puru has a clear parallel from West Estonia: in 1974 a silver hoard of the third quarter of the 11th century (*tpq* 1066) was found in Maidla, former Kullamaa parish. This hoard had been deposited in two Hanseatic bowls bound together, rim to rim (Leimus 1979, 47–78; Molvõgin 1994, no. 45).

CUMULATIVE FINDS

The fragments of ornaments and coins⁴ found near the remains/site of St. Anthony's (?) chapel beside the Pakamäe knoll of the Lehu village in Pärnumaa by Margo Puuram in 2013 led us to a probable sacrificial site, established in the Late Iron Age and, relying upon the finds, still used in the Middle Ages and the post-medieval period (Kiudsoo 2013c, 4–6).

The most interesting among the ornaments from Pakamägi of Lehu, besides two bracelets from the Late Iron Age, is a fragment of an artefact, dating from the end of the prehistoric period and rare in Estonia (Fig. 4). Such flat two-headed zoomorphic pendants are characteristic mainly to the Livs' territories (see Zariņa 1974, 242–256). In Estonia they have been previously found only in Kusma and Siksälä (Valk 2001, Fig. 4), and those

⁴ AI 7257.

specimens actually are later medieval forms of such pendants. In 2012/13, however, two more specimens resembling the pendant of Lehu have been handed over to the National Heritage Board, both of which came to light on the territory of ancient Rävala (see Kiudsoo 2013d, 14).

The coin material of the Lehu Pakamäe, consisting mainly of tiny deliberately fragmented pieces (Fig. 5) is very rare itself in Estonian context. Actually we know only one analogous (?) find⁵ from the village of Koopsi, former Rannu parish. While the latter may represent, if only theoretically, the so-called remains of a hoard, it cannot be the case in Lehu, since the composition of the Lehu find suggests prolonged accumulation (from the 9th until the 16th century), whereas even with the prehistoric coin fragments their simultaneous circulation and deposition are absolutely precluded (Kiudsoo 2013c, 5). In fact, it is quite unlikely that the Rannu-Koopsi coins belong to a hoard. Since the folding scales that were used around the Baltic in the last centuries of the prehistoric period did not allow precise weighing, our hoards of that period naturally do not contain coin fragments smaller than a half.

Among the coins found in the course of scientific archaeological investigations the most important are those⁶ discovered in Kose. Carrying out archaeological supervision on the site of the churchyard, two Gotlantic pennies (ca. 1140–1210/20) were also found there (see Malve *et al.*, this volume). From other churchyards in Estonia archaeologists have not found prehistoric coins yet.

STRAY FINDS

In 2013 several single prehistoric coins were also handed over to the state. At the very end of the year the National Heritage Board received from Avo Pluss a Roman sestertius, which was minted during the reign of the Emperor Marcus Julius Philippus (244–249 AD) (Fig. 6). The findspot of the coin discovered in the vicinity of Paunküla, southern Harjumaa, is exceptional in the context of the whole northern coast of Estonia, being located further inland than other Roman coins (see Kiudsoo 2013e, fig. 2). This location can be probably explained with the important traffic route of that period running along the Pirita River. On the basis of Estonian archaeological finds and the parallels of the neighbouring countries we may assert that Paunküla coin reached Estonia from the territory inhabited by West Balt tribes in the south-eastern coast of the Baltic Sea (*ibid.*, 291).



Fig. 6. Roman sestertius discovered in the vicinity of Paunküla.

Jn 6. Paunküla lähedalt avastatud Rooma sesterts. (AI 7216.)

Photo / Foto: Mauri Kiudsoo

⁵ AI 7118.

⁶ AI 7119.

REFERENCES

- Karro, K. 2010.** Kodavere – kihelkond Peipsi ääres. Kultuurmaastiku areng rauaajal. Magistritöö. Tallinn. (*Manuscript in AI.*)
- Kiudsoo, M. 2013a.** Laiuse ohvrikoht. Ekspert hinnang. Tallinn. (*Manuscript in MA.*)
- Kiudsoo, M. 2013b.** Veesidusast liiklusest muinasajal Peipsi-Pihkva järve valgala näite varal. – Eesti Maanteemuuseumi aastaraamat, 2012, 65–86.
- Kiudsoo, M. 2013c.** Uusi arheoloogiamälestisi Pärnumaalt (Lehu ja Viluvere kl.). Ekspert hinnang. Tallinn. (*Manuscript in MA.*)
- Kiudsoo, M. 2013d.** Rene Vinkleri leiud Harjumaalt Anija vallast (Parila, Linnakse, Kihmla, Kuusemäe, Aavere kl.). Ekspert hinnang. Tallinn. (*Manuscript in MA.*)
- Kiudsoo, M. 2013e.** New Roman coin find from Estonia. – AVE, 2012, 289–295.
- Kiudsoo, M. 2014.** Varjaagidest kreeklasteni. Narva-Peipsi-Velikaja-Dnepri veetee. – Setumaa kogumik, 6, 1–18.
- Kiudsoo, M. & Kallis, I. 2008.** Metallurgic complex in Tõdva village, Harjumaa. – AVE, 2007, 175–182.
- Kiudsoo, M. & Leimus, I. 2014.** The first Late Viking Age sacrificial deposit from Estonia. – Tutkimusta ja keräilyä. Suomen Numismaattinen Yhdistys 1914–2014. Ed. by T. Talvio. *Suomen Numismaattisen Yhdistyksen julkaisuja*, 7. Helsinki, 28–36.
- Kriiska, A. & Tvauri, A. 2002.** Eesti muinasaeg. Tallinn.
- Leimus, I. 1979.** Der Schatzfund von Maidla. – TATÜ, 28, 1, 47–80.
- Leimus, I. 2009.** Läänemere kristlikud paganad. – Tuna, 2009, 4, 5–22.
- Leimus, I. & Molvõgin, A. 2000.** Münzfund von Arkna (Arkna) und die friesischen Pfennige in den Münzschatzen des Ostseeraumes im dritten Viertel des 11. Jahrhunderts. – Eesti Ajaloomuuseum. Tõid ajaloo alalt 2. Tallinn, 41–87.
- Leimus, I. & Molvõgin, A. 2001.** Estonian collections: Anglo-Saxon, Anglo-Norman and later British Coins. *Sylloge of Coins of the British Isles*, 51. Oxford.
- Molvõgin, A. 1994.** Die Funde westeuropäischer Münzen des 10. bis 12. Jahrhunderts in Estland. *Numismatische Studien*, 10. Hamburg.
- Ots, M. & Rammo, R. 2013.** Landscape surveys and new monuments discovered in 2012. – AVE, 2012, 297–319.
- Tamla, T. 1998.** Bronzeschalen. Zeugnis der Christianisierung Estlands im 13. Jahrhundert? – Rom und Byzanz im Norden. Mission und Glaubenswechsel im Ostseeraum während des 8.–14. Jahrhunderts, II. Ed. by M. Müller-Wille. Stuttgart, 9–36.
- Valk, H. 2001.** About the early medieval and prehistoric contacts of the Votians and the Daugava Livonians. – Congressus Nonus Internationalis Fenno-Ugristarum. Pars VIII, Dissertationes sectionum: litteratura & archaeologia & anthropologia & genetica & acta congressus: 7.–13.8.2000 Tartu. Ed. by T. Seilenthal. Tartu, 365–374.
- Zariņa, A. 1974.** Dažu Mārtiņšalas kapsētas kapu senlietu kompleksi ar stilizētu dzīvnieku figūru piekariņiem. – AE, XI, 242–256.

2013. AASTA HUVITAVAMAID MUINASAEGSEID MÜNDILEIDE

Mauri Kiudsoo

2013. aastal avastati Eesti maapõuest mitmeid muinasaegseid mündileide, mis täiendasid oluliselt meie teadmisi viikingi- ja hilisviikingiaegsest rahakasutusest (kaalurahandusest) Läänemere idakaldal. Tänuväärselt lisainformatsiooni saadi juurde ka Rooma rauaaja osas. Lisaks korrigeeriti mündileidude dateeringute abil oluliselt mõnede Eesti arheoloogilises leiumaterjalis levinud ehte- ja esemetüüpide valmistamis- ja/või kasutamisaaja alampiire. Eelmisel aastal päevavalgele tulnud muinasaegsed mündileid jagunevad omakorda mitmeks erinevaks alaliigiks.

Muinsuskaitseametile üle antud tosinkonna aarde seas oli 2013. aastal esindatud koguni viis erinevat 11. sajandi aardeleidu: Laiuse, Kõue, Puru III, Mäetaguse II ja Änkküla. Kuna kahe viimase, Kirde-Eesti ja Põhja-Tartumaa suurte rauasulatus-piirkondadega seonduvate mündiaarete leiukohtade teaduslikud uuringud pole veel lõppenud ning Lõuna-Harjumaalt Kõult päevavalgele tulnud erandliku kooslusega hõbeaart käsitletakse eraldi ühes teises artiklis (Tamla ja Kiudsoo, käesolev kogumik), keskendutakse siinkohal üksnes Laiuse ja Puru III leidudele.

2013. a mais avastati Kesk-Eestist Jõgevalt Eesti esimene hilisviikingiaegne ohvriaare (*tpq* 1088; jn 1), mis sisaldas lisaks 21 mündile veel ka kaupmehe kaalude osiseid. Leiukoht ise oli juba eelnevalt pälvunud tähelepanu seal künnijärgselt paljandunud hobuseluu fragmentide tõttu. Piirkonnas toimunud arheoloogilised eeluuringud viitasid kunagise madalasoo servaalale, mille pealmine osa oli mineraliseerunud kuivenduse ja künnitegevuse tagajärjel. Praeguse uurimisseisu juures saame rääkida tegelikult juba enam kui 500 m pikkusest noorema rauaaja leiumaterjali (kää- ja kaelavõrud, rinnakee detailid (jn 2) jms) sisaldavast ohvrikohast. Hõbeaarde arheoloogiliste päästekaevamiste käigus selgus, et leiu tuumik, mis paiknes koos võrdlemisi kompaktsel maa-alal (u. 3×3 m), oli segamini aetud soodraga kündes. Sellele viitasid ka üksikud aarde algstest asukohast eemale küntud mündid ja nende erinev leiusügavus. Kui aarde tuumiku asukohta markeriv leiumaterjal paljandus u. 30–50 cm sügavusel turbapinnases või loodusliku aluspinnase (uhteliiva) piiril, siis “lahtiste” müntide leiusituatsioon seostus selgelt künnikihi ülemise osaga.

Ida-Virumaalt end. Jõhvi kihelkonnas asuvast Puru külast avastatud III aardeleid (*tpq* 1068) on oluline nii oma mündikoosluse kui ka peitmiseks kasutatud anuma tõttu. Peamiselt friisi rahadest (jn 3) koosnev Puru aare kinnitab juba varemalt esitatud hüpoteesi, mille järgi puudutas 1060–1080. aastatel Looe-Venemaale suundunud friiside kaubanduslik invasioon eelkõige Eesti põhjaranniku alasid. Kuna juba 2012. aastal anti koos mõne 11. saj verminguga Muinsuskaitseametile üle ka sealt leitud pronkskauss (nn hansakauss), on tõenäoline selle kuulumine müntidega ühte ja samasse hilisviikingiaegsesse leiukompleksi. Ida-Virumaalt päevavalgele tulnud hansakausse, milliseid valmistati alates 11. saj algusest Pomorjes ja Sambias, on varemalt Kirde-Eesti kontekstis seostatud üksnes 13. sajandiga. Samas on nende maapõue jäämise täpset aega määratleda äärmiselt raske. Kuigi mõni üksik pronkskausse sisaldanud leid on saadud ka koos ehetega, oli tegelikult ainsaks täpsemini dateeritavaks Virumaa kompleksiks siiani münte sisaldanud Mäetaguse aare (*tpq* 1232). Puru hilisviikingiaegsele aardele on meil olemas siiski selge paralleel Lääne-Eestist. Nimelt avastati 1974. aastal Maidlast (end. Kullamaa kihelkond) 11. saj kolmanda veerandi hõbeaare (*tpq* 1066), mis asetsenud kahes servipidi kokkupandud ja kinniseotud hansakausis.

2013. aastal Pärnumaalt Lehu küla “Pakamäe” kõrval paiknenud Antoniuse(?) kabeli lähiümbrusest Mar-go Puurami poolt leitud ehte- ja mündikatked juhatasid aga meile kätte nooremal rauaajal alguse saanud võimaliku ohvrikoha, mida kasutati leiumaterjali järgi otsustades edasi ka kesk- ja varauusajal. Lehu “Pakamäe” ehetest on kahe hilisrauaaegse käevõrukatke kõrval huvipakkuvaim üks muinasaja lõppu dateeritav, Eesti leiumaterjalis harvaesineva zoomorfse ripatsi fragment (jn 4). Peamiselt liivlaste asualale iseloomulikke ehteid oli varemalt Eestist avastatud vaid Kusmast ja Siksäläst, millised eksemplarid kujutavad endast tegelikult ka juba taoliste ehte hiliseid keskaegseid edasiarendusi. 2012.–2013. aastal on Muinsuskaitseametile üle antud siiski veel kaks Lehu omaga sarnast esemekatket. Lehu “Pakamäe” mündimaterjal, mis koosneb peaaesjalikult imetillukestest, tahtlikult fragmenteeritud tükikestest (jn 5), on Eesti kontekstis väga haruldane. Õigupoolest on meil teada vaid üks analoogne(?) leid end. Rannu kihelkonna Koopsi küla maadelt. Kui viimase näol võib vähemasti teoreetiliselt tegemist olla ka nn. aarde jääkidega, siis Lehu puhul me seda kuidagi väita ei saa. Nimelt viitab Lehu “leiu” kooslus pikaajalisusele (9.–16. saj.), kusjuures isegi sealt saadud muinasaegsete mündikatket puhul on täielikult välistatud nende ringlemine ja mahamatmine ühel ja samal ajahetkel. Tegelikult on ka Rannu-Koopsi müntide pärinemine mingist aardest vähetõenäoline. Kuna muinasaja lõpusajanditel Läänemere ümbruses kasutusel olnud klappkaalud ei võimaldanud eriti täpset kaalumist, puuduvad meie aaretel tollal arusaadavalt poolitatud rahadest pisemad eksemplarid.

2013. aastal toimusid Kose kirikaia arheoloogilised uuringud (Malve jt., käesolev kogumik), mille käigus avastati ka muinasaega dateeritavaid verminguid. Nimelt on neljast sealt leitud Gotlandi pennist kaks valmistatud perioodil 1140–1210/20. Muudest Eesti kirikaedadest pole nii varast mündimaterjali veel siiani päevavalgele tulnud.

2013. a juhumüntidest tõstaksin siinkohal esile üht Harjumaalt Paunküla lähedalt leitud Rooma keisririigi pronksmünti – sesterti (jn 6). Keiser Marcus Julius Philippus'e valitsemisajal (244–249 pKr) löödud münti leiukoht on kogu Eesti põhjaranniku kontekstis erandlik, asetsedes kaugel sisemaal. Viimati mainitud asjaolu on seletatav Pirita jõe kui olulise sisemaise liiklussoonega.