



# Roman coins and other Iron Age and Medieval Period items discovered on the northern shore of Lake Võrtsjärv

Aivar Kriiska

Tartu Ülikool, ajaloo ja arheoloogia instituut, arheoloogia osakond, laboratoorse arheoloogia õppetool  
(University of Tartu, Institute of History and Archaeology, Chair of Laboratory Archaeology), Jakobi 2, 51014  
Tartu, Estonia; aivar.kriiska@ut.ee

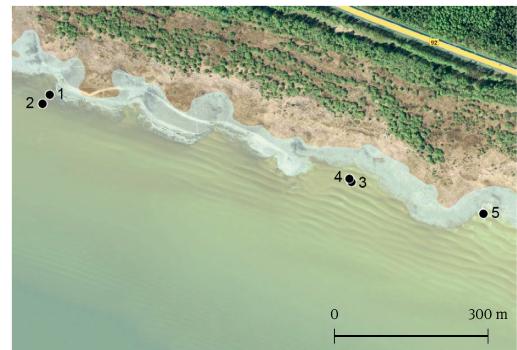
Ville Drevling

Meleski klaasimuuseum (Meleski Museum of Glass), 70304 Meleski, Viljandi County, Estonia

## INTRODUCTION

In November 2015 several artefacts dated to the Iron Age and the Middle Ages were found on the northern shore of Lake Võrtsjärv (Kriiska 2016). The items were collected from an 860 m long area (Fig. 1) from the sand of the lake floor from locations that are usually underwater. All items were found 10–20 cm beneath the lake floor in the grey sedimentary sand rich in organic matter that is beneath the light and clear sand. Most of the items were found individually, Roman coins being an exception.

Despite the fact that a Bronze Age stone axe and Iron Age weights have already been found a few hundred metres south-west from the aforementioned area during the low water periods (Kriiska 1998; Tvauri 2014, 206); based on current information, this location appears to be a separate area where items have been left during different times for some reason. Even though hypotheses and possible reasons for the items being at that location require a more extensive study, we feel that these findings need to be published and, in our opinion, at least the Roman coins add new information to Estonian prehistory and food for thought to conduct further studies concerning the communication networks from the Roman Iron Age.



**Fig. 1.** Location of finds on the Estonian Land Board map.

1 – Pedersen E-type spearhead, 2 – Roman coins, 3 – axe, 4 – Aspelini 1651 type spearhead, 5 – javelin heads with a knife-shaped blade.

**Jn 1.** Leidude asukoht Maa-ameti kaardil. 1 – Pederseni E-tüüpi odaots, 2 – rooma mündid, 3 – kirves, 4 – Aspelini 1651 tüüpi odaots, 5 – noakujulise lehega viskeodaots.

Map / Kaart: Estonian Land Board / Maa-amet, Aivar Kriiska & Kristel Roog



**Fig. 2.** Roman coins found from northern shore of Lake Võrtsjärv.

Jn 2. Võrtsjärve põhjakaldast leitud Rooma mündid.

Photo / Foto: Aivar Kriiska; technical implementation / tehniline teostus: Kristel Roog



**Fig. 3.** Spearheads found from northern shore of Lake Võrtsjärv.

Jn 3. Võrtsjärve põhjakaldast leitud odaotsad.

Photo / Foto: Aivar Kriiska; technical implementation / tehniline teostus: Kristel Roog

## FINDS

Leaving aside iron nails, ox and horse shoes, and several other items or fragments that are impossible to date more accurately or that date from the recent centuries, the findings include three iron spearheads, an iron axe, three iron knives, two coins, and two pottery fragments, dated to the Iron Age (*ca.* 500 BC – 1200/1250 AD) and the Medieval Period (*ca.* 1200/1250–1558 in Estonia).

The coins are the oldest items among the finds and the most remarkable, since such coins are very rare. Both coins are bronze<sup>1</sup> and minted in Rome, with denomination of AE3 based on their size (Smith 2000). One of the coins (Fig. 2: 1) is 16.5–17.5 mm in diameter, weighs 2.3 g and has been better preserved. The portrait of caesar Constantine II facing right surrounded by a mostly readable text CONSTANTINUS IVNNOBC is pictured on the obverse. The reverse depicts GLORIA EXERCITVS and two soldiers holding spears and shields standing next to two standards. Additive IVN ('junior') indicates that this is a coin of Constantine II. Additives NOB ('noble') and C ('caesar') date the coin to the period when he was a caesar under his father Constantine the Great, i.e. to 317–337 AD (Swoveland 2003).

The second coin (Fig. 2: 2) measures 18.2–18.7 mm in diameter, weighs 1.5 g and is rather damaged. A human head with the radiate crown facing right is on the obverse. Reverse is almost entirely worn out, but a wreath is still distinguishable there. Most likely, this coin is also from the 4th century AD.

The second group of finds consists of iron spearheads dated to the end of the Iron Age. One of these is willow leaf shaped, has a diamond cross-section and a midrib on both sides of the blade, and a nail hole on the socket (Fig. 3: 2). It measures 37.7 cm in length, the length of the blade is 24 cm and

<sup>1</sup> The Constantine II coin contains 93% copper, 2.5% lead, 1.8% zinc and 1% tin, the other coin contains 84.5% copper and 8.5% tin, analysed by Ragnar Saage (TÜ).

the maximum width 2.2 cm, the socket is 13.7 cm in length, the diameter 2.5 cm, and it weighs 206.19 g. This is a Pedersen E-type spearhead from the 9th to 10th century AD (Selirand 1974, 110; Tvauri 2014, 163).

The second spearhead has a flat sharp oval head, notched transition to the tang, and the tang is twisted (Fig. 3: 1). The total length of the spearhead is 39.5 cm, the blade is 23 cm in length and 5 cm in maximum width, the length of the tang is 6.5 cm, and it weighs 218.06 g. This is a so-called Aspelin 1651 type spearhead from the 8th to 11th century AD (Jaanits *et al.* 1982, fig. 194; Tvauri 2014, 174–175).

The third is a knife-shaped javelin head with a hook and a twisted tang, which is knob-mounted (Fig. 3: 3). The total length of the javelin head is 24 cm and it weighs 64 g, the length of the blade is 10 cm. Javelin heads of this type were used in Estonia from the 11th to 13th century AD (Peets & Valt 2011).

An iron axe (Fig. 4: 1) with a part of the wooden handle inside the axe eye (Fig. 4: 2) was discovered not far from the Aspelin 1651 type spearhead. The bearded axe's cutting edge widens on both sides, the neck has slight edges, the axe eye differentiates in the lower part and slightly on the back as a socket, and is egg-shaped. The total length of the axe is 16 cm, the width of the head is 9.7 cm and the weight 960.15 g. The production of axes with a beard with a socketed eye began in Estonia at the end of the Iron Age and it lasted until the 18th century AD, in some cases even until the 19th century AD (Viires 1960, 28; Selirand 1974, 91, table IV: 2; Peets 2014, 251, table 1; Valk *et al.* 2014b, 100, 217). Based on the shape it is estimated that the axe from Lake Võrtsjärv dates back to the end of the Iron Age or the beginning of the Medieval Period.

Three iron knives were also found: one complete and two fragmented (Fig. 4: 3–5). One fragmented knife was found with a 8.8 cm long wooden handle. All the knives have a notch on both sides on the transition to the tang. The total length of the complete knife is 16.5 cm, the length of the blade is 9 cm, the length of the tang is 7.5 cm, and it weighs 34.34 g. Dating of the knives is difficult. Knives with a notch on both sides on the transition to the tang were produced and used in Estonia mainly in the end of the Iron Age, starting from the beginning of the 2nd millennium AD, and continued to be in use during historical times (Selirand 1974, 93, table VI: 11 and 12; Valk *et al.* 2012, fig. 5; Valk *et al.* 2014a, fig. 15; Valk *et al.* 2014b, 290).

In addition, two fragments of wheel-thrown pottery were discovered. The rim fragment has a clear template-formed profile and is covered with carbonized organic remains. It originates from the so-called northwest-Russian-style pottery, and was most likely produced during the second half of the 13th century or in the 14th century AD.<sup>2</sup>



**Fig. 4.** Other metal items found from northern shore of Lake Võrtsjärv. 1, 2 – axe, 3–5 – knives.

Jn 4. Teised metallsemed Võrtsjärve põhjakaldalt.

1, 2 – kirves ja 3–5 – noad.

Photo / Foto: Aivar Kriiska

<sup>2</sup> Dated by Andres Tvauri (TÜ).

## DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

The Roman coins discovered from Lake Võrtsjärv are rare in the Estonian context. Until recently only a couple of Roman coins with an established find context were known and even the authenticity of the previous reports of finds has been questioned (Leimus 1996, 40). In the last decade, hobby detectorists have found a number of Roman coins in Estonia; both individual and also a hoard of coins. Most of the coins that are still preserved and have an authentic find context are bronze, some of them silver. The majority of the coins are minted in the 2nd and 3rd century AD, a couple of bronze coins from the 1st century AD and two gold coins from the 5th century AD have been found (Molvõgin 1976, 77–78; Kiudsoo 2007, 258, 131; 2010, 186; 2013; 2016; Kriiska & Koit 2013).

To the best of the authors' knowledge, there are no Roman coins from the first half of the 4th century AD in Estonian museums or research institutions (Kriiska & Koit 2013, table 2). On the other hand, there are a couple of reports of finds: one Constans (Emperor from 337 to 350 AD) and one Severus<sup>3</sup> (Emperor from 306 to 307 AD) coin have been found in Lasnamägi<sup>4</sup>, in north Estonia, one coin from the Constantine era (it is unclear whether it belongs to the period of Constantine I or II) has been found in Piila, Saaremaa, and two coins, one from the Constantine II<sup>5</sup> (Emperor from 337 to 340 AD) and the other either Constantine I (Emperor from 306 to 337 AD) or Constantine II period, have been found in Maarja-Magdaleena parish<sup>6</sup> in east Estonia (Frey 1908, 111–112; Tallgren 1922, 117). We also have reports of a couple of small copper coins from the Constantine (unclear whether it belongs to the period of Constantine I or II) and Julian (most likely Julian the Apostate, Emperor from 361–363 AD) periods that have either been found in Puhja or Tartu in southeast Estonia (Frey 1908, 113).<sup>7</sup>

The Roman coins found in Estonia have been explained similarly to the other discoveries from areas far from the Roman Empire (Bursche 2008) as not being currency but as luxury goods or unrefined metal (Tamla & Kiudsoo 2005, no. 5; Kiudsoo 2007, 259).<sup>8</sup> At the same time, we do not have enough evidence to support neither of the hypotheses in Estonia. The authors still feel that these opinions are accurate and it might be presumed that the trafficking of coins was not a direct operation between the inhabitants of Roman Empire and Estonian territory but rather through repeated exchange. If the arrival of 2nd and 3rd century AD coins to Eastern Baltic areas is connected to the amber trade between the Roman Empire and the Baltic tribes (Kiudsoo 2013, 290–291 and references) and their arrival to Estonia is connected to the connections locals had with the communities of the lower course of the River Vistula and/or river basin of the River Dniepr (Jaanits *et al.* 1982, 232), then at least at first glance, the 4th century coins do not fit in this context.

Outside of the Roman Empire, the 4th century AD coins are fairly common in Westphalia, Germany and south Poland (Bursche 2002, 73 and references). As expected, there are only a few 4th century AD bronze coins in Scandinavia (Bursche 2002, 73), as silver coins have always prevailed there (e.g. Lind 1993; Bursche 2002). In northwest Russia, only two Roman coins from the 4th century AD are known.<sup>9</sup> Although in lesser amounts, but still, this century is represented in the Baltic region. In 2001, a report of more than 1000 Roman coins discovered

<sup>3</sup> Unless it is not Septimius Severus (Emperor 193–211 AD) or Severus Alexander (Emperor 222–235 AD).

<sup>4</sup> Aarne Michaël Tallgren (1922, 117) has erroneously localized the Lasnamäe coins to Lagedi (Mauri Kiudsoo observation (TLU)).

<sup>5</sup> The Roman coin collection of Dr. Kallas has been analysed by E. Frey (1908, 112) who ascribed it to Constantine I. The writing on the avers DNCONSTANT-IVNNO(S)C indicates that this is more likely a coin of Constantine II.

<sup>6</sup> Tallgren (1922, 117) has most likely made an error by confusing Maarja-Magdaleena parish with Koeru parish. The number and dating of the coins matches the coins discovered by Frey in the Maarja-Magdaleena parish and also Tallgren himself refers to the publication by Frey from 1908.

<sup>7</sup> Older reports of findings require a more extensive research and therefore the current data might not be complete.

<sup>8</sup> See also paper on the Varudi-Vanaküla wealth deposit by Koovit & Kiudsoo, this volume (remark of the editors).

<sup>9</sup> Personal comment by Elena Mikhaylova, 15 May 2016.

in Lithuania was published and 19 of these coins were dated to the 4th century AD, 13 of which were bronze coins (Michelbertas 2001). Among the numerous coin hoards, only one contains a couple of 4th century bronze coins along with coins from previous and following centuries (Oras 2015, appendix 1.3). In Latvia, three hoards have been discovered, one of which consists of Roman bronze coins minted in the end of the 3rd century and 4th century AD (together 13 coins), and two contain a couple of 4th century AD bronze coins (together four coins) in addition to older ones (Oras 2015, 122, appendix 1.2 and its references). So for the time being, it is safe to presume that the coins discovered in Lake Võrtsjärv derive from the areas of the Baltic tribes, but a further and more extensive analysis requires a feature article. None the less, these are remarkable finds that add small but new nuances to research into Estonian Roman Iron Age.

All three types of spearheads found in the northern shore of Lake Võrtsjärv are fairly common in Estonia. More than 60 specimens of the E-type spearheads have been discovered (Selirand 1974, table XI: 2; Kriiska *et al.* 1999; Tvauri 2014, 163, 175), also more than 70 javelin heads with a knife-shaped blade (Peets & Valt 2011), and a number of Aspelin 1651 type spearheads (Tvauri 2014, 174–175) are known.

The fact that wood has preserved inside the axe eye and also as a knife handle is remarkable, it allows to determine which species of wood was used for handles and to date the items in the future using <sup>14</sup>C methods.

The items discovered in Lake Võrtsjärv have been left there during a long period: from the 4th to the 13th or 14th century AD. The location of the coins indicates a single event but other finds are at least partially non-contemporaneous and therefore it is unlikely that they have been left there during one single event. The weights discovered nearby are thought to have been lost by a merchant using the waterway or ice road (Tvauri 2014, 221). This is also a possibility for the items described in this article. Still there is a tempting chance that these items can be connected to a sacrifice since more than half of the wealth depositing from the 1st to 9th century discovered in Estonia are located either in wetlands, marsh areas, or open waters (Oras 2015, 106). This tradition has been around since the Stone Age (Kriiska & Roio 2011, 63). However, it should be recognized that it is impossible to form certain hypotheses without extensive research into the matter and there is a possibility that the items have ended up in the lake for different reasons.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This paper has been supported by the research project of the Estonian Research Council ‘Estonia in Circum-Baltic space: archaeology of economic, social, and cultural processes’, a base-financed project of the Institute of History and Archaeology of the University of Tartu, ‘Visual culture of Estonia as carrier of Baltic and North-European continuity and identity. Long-term and interdisciplinary perspective’ and OÜ Arheograator. We would like to thank Ragnar Saage for the analysis of the material of coins, Andres Tvauri, Ester Oras, Heiki Valk and Valter Lang for useful comments and Kristel Roog for preparing the illustrations.

## REFERENCES

- Bursche, A. 2002.** Roman coins in Scandinavia. Some remarks from the Continental perspective. – Drik – og du vil leve skønt. Festschrift til Ulla Lund Hansen på 60-årsdagen 18. august 2002. Ed by J. Pin. *Studies in Archaeology & History*, 7. Copenhagen, 69–78.
- Bursche, A. 2008.** Function of Roman coins in *Barbaricum* of Later Antiquity. An anthropological essay. – Roman Coins Outside the Empire. Ways and Phases, Contexts and Functions. Proceedings of the ESF/SCH Exploratory Workshop Radziwiłł Palace, Nieborów (Poland) 3–6 September 2005. Ed. by A. Bursche, R. Cio & R. Wolters. *Collection Moneta*, 88. Wetteren, 395–416.
- Frey, E. 1908.** Funde römischer Münzen. – Sitzungsberichte der Gelehrten Estnischen Gesellschaft 1907. Jurjew / Dorpat, 111–113.
- Jaanits, L., Laul, S., Löugas, V. & Tõnisson, E. 1982.** Eesti esiajalugu. Tallinn.
- Kiudsoo, M. 2007.** Interesting coin finds of 2006. – AVE, 2006, 257–262.
- Kiudsoo, M. 2010.** New interesting coin finds in 2009. – AVE, 2009, 185–188.
- Kiudsoo, M. 2013.** New Roman coin find in Estonia. – AVE, 2012, 289–296.
- Kiudsoo, M. 2016.** Rooma münt Harjumaa Oru külast. Eksperthinnang. (*Manuscript in MA*)
- Kriiska, A. 1998.** Vaibla kivikirves. – EJA, 2, 1998, 154–157.
- Kriiska, A. 2016.** Aruanne Ville Drevingi poolt Võrtsjärve põhjarannalt Vaiblast leitud eriaegsetest esemetest ja leukohtade ülevaatusest 6. ja 17. novembril 2015. Ääsmäe. (*Manuscript in TÜAK*)
- Kriiska, A., Jonuks, T. & Kraas, P. 1999.** Eesti muinas-esemed. Tartu. <http://tutulus.ee/muinasesemed/> (7.03.2016)
- Kriiska, A. & Koit, R. 2013.** Rooma münt Humalast. – Arheoloogia kogumik. *Harjumaa uurimusi*, 9. Keila, 19–31.
- Kriiska, A. & Roio, M. 2011.** Prehistoric archaeology of wetlands in Estonia. – Wetland Settlements of the Baltic. A Prehistoric Perspective. Ed. by E. Pranckėnaitė. Vilnius, 55–73.
- Leimus, I. 1996.** Numismatika alused. Tartu.
- Lind, L. 1993.** The monetary reforms of the Romans and the finds of Roman denarii in Eastern and Northern Europe. – Current Swedish Archaeology, 1, 135–144.
- Oras, E. 2015.** Practices of Wealth Depositing in the 1st – 9th Century AD Eastern Baltic. Leiden.
- Michelbertas, M. 2001.** Corpus der römischen Funde im europäischen Barbaricum. Litauen. Vilnius.
- Molvögin 1976** = Молвыгин, А. 1976. Нумисматические находки. – ТАТУ, 25: 1, 77–78.
- Peets, J. 2014.** Relvad ja terariistad Siksälä kalmost: tüpoloogia ja tehnoloogia. – Valk, H. & Laul, S. Siksälä kalme, I. Muistis ja ajalugu. Tartu, 245–277.
- Peets, J. & Valt, J. 2011.** Ühest rauaaja lõpu relvast Saaremaal, mandri-Eestis ja naaberpiirkondades. – Saaremaa Muuseum. Kaheaastaraamat. Kuressaare, 3–29.
- Selirand, J. 1974.** Eestlaste matmiskombed varafeodaalsete suhete tärkamise perioodil (11.–13. sajand). Tallinn.
- Smith, D. 2000.** Size Scales for Ancient Coins. <http://www.forumancientcoins.com/dougsmith/acmsize.html> (7.03.2016).
- Swoverland, M. S. 2003.** Reading Ancient Roman Coins. <http://www.wnccoins.com/0022.htm> (1.12.2015).
- Tamla, Ü. & Kiudsoo, M. 2005.** Eesti muistset aarded. Tallinn.
- Tallgren, A. M. 1922.** Zur Archäologie Eestis, I. Vom Anfang der Besiedelung bis etwa 500 n. Chr. – Acta et Commentationes Universitatis Tartuensis (Dorpatensis), III: 6. Dorpat.
- Tvaauri, A. 2014.** Rahvasterännuaeg, eelviikingiaeg ja viikingiaeg Eestis. Tartu.
- Valk, H., Pluskowski, A., Brown, A. D., Rannamäe, E., Malve, M. & Varul, L. 2012.** The castle of the Teutonic Order in Karksi: preliminary excavation results. – AVE, 2011, 47–56.
- Valk et al. 2014a** = Valk, H., Kama, P., Olli, M. & Lillak, A. 2014. Archaeological excavations on the hill forts of south-east Estonia: Kauksi, Mörgi, Alt-Laari, Palovere and Uandimägi. – AVE, 2013, 67–86.
- Valk et al. 2014b** = Valk, H., Ratas, J. & Laul, S. 2014. Siksälä kalme, II. Matuste ja leidude kataloog. Tartu.
- Viires, A. 1960.** Eesti rahvapärande puutööndus. Ajalooline ülevaade. Tallinn.

## ROOMA MÜNDID JA TEISED VÕRTSJÄRVE PÖHJAKALDALE AVASTATUD RAUA- JA KESKAEGSED ESEMED

Aivar Kriiska ja Ville Dreving

2015. aasta novembris leiti Võrtsjärve põhjaosast u 860 m pikkuselt alalt mitmeid raua- ja keskaegseid esemeid (jn 1). Leide koguti umbes 10–20 cm sügavuselt järve põhjaliivast paikadest, mis on tavalise veetaseme juures kaetud veega. Raudnaelte, härra- ja hobuseraudade jm esemete või nende katkete kõrval, mida ei ole võimalik täpsemalt dateerida või mis päritnevad paarist viimases sajandist, sisaldab leiukogum kolme rauast odaotsa, ühe raudkirvest, kolme raudnuga, kahte münti ja kahte savinöukildu raua- ja keskajast.

Mündid on leidude hulgas vanimad ja kahtlemata kõige haruldased. Mölemad AE3 vääringsus mündid on pronsist ja vermitud Roomas. Paremini säilinud mündi (jn 2: 1) aversil on kujutatud tsesesar Constantinus II portree, nägu suunatud paremale; ümber enam vähem loetav kiri *CONSTANTINUS IVNNOBC*. Reversil on *GLORIA EXERCITVS*, kaks oda ja kilpi hoidvat sõdurit seisavad kahe standarti kõrväl. *IVN* ("juunior") nime taga näitab, et tegemist on Constantinus II mündiga. *NOB* ("noble") ja *C* ("caesar") osutab, et münt on ajast, mil ta oli tsesesar oma isa Constantinus Suur alluvuses, st 317–337 pKr. Teine münt (jn 2: 2) on säilinud väga halvasti, kuid aversil on siiski eristatav paremale pööratud kirtepärjaga inimese pea kujutis ja reversil pärg. Töenäoliselt pärit neeb seogi münt 4. sajandist.

Kolmest rauaja läopust päritnevast rauast odaotsast üks on pajulehekujulise lehega (jn 3: 2) nn Pederseni E-tüüpi otsik, mis päritneb 9.–10. sajandist. Teise, teravovaalse lameda lehega nn "Aspelin 1651" tüüpi otsiku (jn 3: 1) saab dateerida 8.–11. sajandisse ja kolmanda, nn noakujulise lehega heiteoda otsiku (jn 3: 3) 11.–13. sajandisse.

Aspelin 1651 tüüpi odaotsa lähedalt leiti ka raudkirves (jn 4: 1), mille silmas oli säilinud puidust varre osa (jn 4: 2). Lõuaga kirve terik on mölemale poole laienev, kael kergelt nurgeline, silm eristub alumises osas ja kergelt ka seljal putkena, silmaauk on munakujuline. Putkelise silmaga lõuaga kirveid hakati Eesti alal valmistama rauaja lõpul ja see jätkus kuni 18. sajandini, üksikjuhtudel isegi 19. sajandini, kuid vorminüansside järgi võiks Võrtsjärve leid kuuluda siiski rauaja lõppu või keskaja algusesse.

Rauast nuge leiti kolm, neist üks terve ja kaks katket (jn 4: 3–5). Ühel katkel on säilinud ka puidust käepide. Köikidel nugadel on üleminek rootsule nii selja kui ka tera poolt astmega. Selliseid nuge valmistati ja kasutati Eesti alal arvukamalt rauaja lõpul alates teisest aastatuhande algusest pKr ning ka ajaloolisel ajal, mistõttu ei ole Võrtsjärvest saadud eksemplare esialgu võimalik täpsemalt dateerida.

Mõnemeetrise vahega leiti kaks kdrakeraamika kilda. Tugevasti profileeritud ja kõrbekihiga kaetud servatükki päritneb nn loodevenepärasest nõust, mis valmistati töenäoliselt 13. sajandi teisel poolel või 14. sajandil.

Võrtsjärvest saadud Rooma mündid on Eesti kontekstis haruldased. Veel hiljuti tunti kindla leiukontekstiga Rooma münte vaid üksikuid ja kaheldi isegi varasemate leiuteadete töepäras. Viimasel kümnendil on seoses massilise detektorismiharrastusega Eestis leitud nii üksikmünte kui ka aardeid. Arvestades ainult tänini allesolevaid ja usaldusväärse leiukontekstiga münte, on enamik Eestist leitud Rooma münte pronsist, üksikjuhtudel ka hõbedast ja vermitud 2.–3. sajandil; leitud on ka mõned 1. sajandi pKr vask- ja pronsimündid ning kaks 5. sajandi kuldmünti. Meile teadaolevalt ei ole seni Eesti muuseumides või teadusasutustes tallel ühtegi 4. sajandi esimese poole Rooma münti. Mitu leiuteadet räägib siiski 19. sajandil ja 20. sajandi algul Eestist leitud Constantinus I (keiser 306–337), Severuse (306–307), Constantinus II (337–340), Constansi (337–350) ja Julianuse (361–363) vask- ja pronsimüntidest. 2. ja 3. sajandi müntide jõudmist Ida-Baltikumi on seostatud merevaigukaubandusega Rooma alade ja balti hõimude vahel ning selleaegsete müntide Eesti alale jõudmist siinsete elanike kontaktidega Visla jõe alamjoonksul või/ ja Dnepri jõgikonnas elanud inimestega. 4. sajandi mündid ei sobi vähemalt esmapilgul sellesse konteksti.

Väljaspool Rooma impeeriumi on 4. sajandi vask- ja pronsimünte suhteliselt rohkesti teada Saksamaalt Vestfaalist ja Lõuna-Poolast ja ootuspäraselt vähe Skandinaaviast, kuhu jõudsid ka juba varasemal ajal enamasti hõbemündid. Loode-Venemaalt on 4. sajandi Rooma münte arheoloogidele teada seni vaid kaks. Balti aladelt on selliseid münte kogutud nii üksikleidudena kui saadud ka aaretest. Nii võib vähemalt esialgu oletada Võrtsjärve müntide päritnemist balti alalt.

Muud leid on Eestis küllaltki tavalised. Märkimisväärne on puidu säilimine nii kirve silmas kui ka noapeana, mis võimaldab edaspidi määratada nii varretusmaterjaliks kasutatud puitu kui ka dateerida esemed radiosüsiniku meetodil.

2015. aasta sügisel leitud esemed on Võrtsjärve jäänud või jäetud pika aja jooksul alates 4. sajandist kuni 13./14. sajandini. Müntide paiknemine koos lubab neid seostada ühe sündmusega, samas kui muud leiud on vähemalt osaliselt eriaegsed ja eeldatavasti ka eri aegadel ladestunud. Loomulikult ei saa välistada, et esemed kaotasid vee- või jääteteed pidi liikunud inimesed, kuid arvestades, et enam kui pooled Eesti 1.–9. sajandi peit- leiud on paiknenud kas märgalal, soos või avavees ning vette ohverdamise komme näib ulatuvat juba kiviaega, tekib kiusatus leitud esemeid seostada hoopis ohverdamisega. Mingeid möistlikke pidepunkte tõlgenduste täpsustamiseks ilma lisauuringuteta aga ei ole.