



Additions to the coin deposit and other artefacts discovered in Saanika

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In autumn 2019, ploughing a field in the village of Saanika, Ridala municipality in the Lääne County, yielded 41 coins and their fragments and a number of archaeological artefacts. In the very same spot, a small prehistoric coin deposit (*tpq*¹ 1136) and a few artefacts covering the time span from the 3rd to the 19th century were found in 2017 (Leimus 2018).

The new coins form two separate groups. The first (Table 1) contains 16 coins from the 9th to the late 11th century, struck in the Islamic world (two coins), the Holy Roman Empire (12 coins), Hungary (one coin) and England (one coin). These coins (Fig. 1) undoubtedly belong to the deposit found earlier and thus supplement it. In total, 47 coins from the Saanika hoards are known so far: six Islamic, 32 from the Holy Roman Empire, one Bohemian, one Hungarian, six English and one Danish (?) coin.

Table 1. Prehistoric coins found in Saanika in 2019. The coins marked with an asterisk are illustrated in Fig. 1.

Tabel 1. 2019. aastal Saanikast leitud muinasaegsed mündid. Tärniga tähistatud münte vt jn 1.

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No / nr	Origin / päritolu	Ruler / valitseja	Years / aastad	Reference, remarks / viide, märkused	Weight / kaal
1*	Abbasids	al-Mutawakkil and Prince Abu-Abd-Allah	850–855	?	0.51 frg
2	Abbasids	al-Muqtadir	908–932	?	2.55 frg
3*	Aachen	King Henry III	1039–1046	Dbg. 1192; Ilisch 2014, 50.16	0.75
4*	Cologne	King Henry II	1002–1014	Häv. 137	1.61
5	Tiel	Conrad II - Henry III	1024–1056	Ilisch 2000, 3.11–12, 3.14–17	0.74 frg
6	Soest	Emp. Otto III	ca. 1000–1030/40	Häv. 73/850; Ilisch 1990	0.32 frg
7*	Corvey	Abbot Ruthard	1046–1050	Dbg. 735	1.05
8	Goslar and surrounds	Otto and Adelheid	ca. 985–1040	Hatz 1961, IV9	1.36
9	Goslar	Emp. Henry III	1046–1056	Dbg. 668a var., asterisk above	1.01
10*	Goslar	King Hermann of Salm	1081–1088	Dbg. 676 var., asterisk above	1.36
11	Würzburg	Anonymus		Dbg. 1845; Leimus 1979, 855–857	0.72 frg
12	Worms	‘Henry II’	ca. 1024–1046	Dbg. 845 var.; Leimus 1993	1.03
13	Strasbourg	K. Conrad II or Henry III	1027–1056	Dbg. 707/709; Kluge 1991, 149	0.31 frg
14*	Unknown mint (Quedlinburg?)	Unknown ruler	ca. 1080–1090	Dbg. 1962	1.16
15*	Hungary	Andreas I	1046–1061	Huszár 1979, 9	0.49 frg
16*	London	Edward III	Small flan, 1048–1050	Moneyer Wulfred	0.98

¹ Tpq – terminus post quem: the year after which the coins must have been buried.

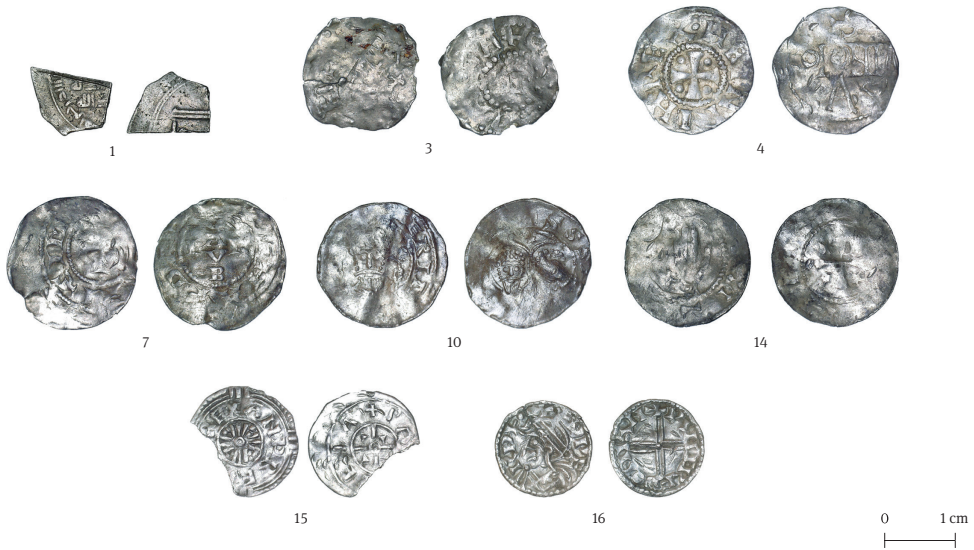


Fig. 1. A selection of coins from Saanika deposit. Numbers refer to Table 1.

Jn 1. Valik Saanika mündiaarde rahasid. Numbrid vastavad Tabelis 1 antuile.
(AM.)

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Among the newly found coins, a denier of uncertain origin (no 14) is worth highlighting. Numerous analogies regarding the design of its reverse – a cross with five-pointed stars at angles – hint at the late 11th century. On the obverse of the coin, God's hand (*dextera Dei*) is depicted, which in its appearance is quite close to the hand on the coins of abbess Adelheid from Quedlinburg (1061–95) (Dbg. 1253; Mehl 2006, no 13). It is likely that the denier under discussion was also minted in Quedlinburg or some other ecclesiastical centre in its vicinity. An identical coin was recorded in the substantial silver hoard of Otepää, buried after 1092 (Molvõgin 1994, 67B: 182).

The most recent denier in the newly discovered parcel of coins was struck in Goslar by the counter-king Hermann of Salm (1081–1088). As such, this addition does not change the previous *tpq* of the hoard (1136). However, its composition clearly demonstrates that the deposits of the 12th century with their very few recent coins may remain unnoticed or unknown. This could lead to false interpretations. Therefore, guided solely by the recently found parcel of coins, the hoard looks older than it in fact is.

The ancient coin deposits in Estonia and the neighbouring countries are, as a rule, located in the cultural layer of a settlement or nearby (e.g. Östergren 1989, 55–65). Such cases may refer to domestic savings that were buried in order to be recovered by the owner later on. Yet some hoards were hidden in graves and, in rare cases, they occur in wetlands, possibly interpreted as offerings or refuge deposits (Kiudsoo 2016, 114–147, 168–189). Since no archaeological investigations have been carried out in Saanika it is complicated to reveal its character for the moment. However, the terrain here does seem to exclude wetland offerings.

The second group of coins (25 pieces) covers the time span from the late 15th century to the early 19th century. These coins were struck in local mints and also in Sweden, Poland and even Saxony (Table 2) as means of payment, which over the time were randomly lost, giving us a good overview of the circulation of coins in the region over a long period of time.

Table 2. *Medieval, early modern and modern period coins found in Saanika.***Tabel 2.** *Keskaegsed, varauusaegsed ja uusaegsed mündid Saanikast.**Compiled by / Koostanud: Ivar Leimus*

No / nr	State / riik	Town / linn	Ruler / valitseja	Denomination / vääring	Year(s) / aasta(d)
1	Livonia	Tartu	Bishop Dietrich V Hake	Schilling	1485–98
2	Livonia	Tartu	Bishop Johannes VI Bey	Schilling	1528–43
3	Livonia	Tartu	Bishop Johannes VI Bey	Pfennig	1528–43
4	Livonia	Tallinn	Teutonic Order in Livonia	Schilling	1541
5	Livonia	Tallinn	Eric XIV	Ferding	[1567]
6	Livonia	Tallinn	Eric XIV	Schilling	1564–68
7	Livonia	Tallinn	John III	Schilling	1572–85
8	Livonia	Tallinn	Charles XI	Schilling	1665
9	Livonia	Koknese	Archbishop of Riga Wilhelm von Brandenburg	Schilling	1540–47
10	Livonia	Riga	Free city	Schilling	1572?
11	Livonia	Riga	Free city	Schilling	1578
12	Livonia	Riga	Sigismund III	Schilling	1619
13	Livonia	Riga	Sigismund III	Schilling	1620
14	Sweden	Stockholm	John III	½ öre	1588?
15	Sweden	Stockholm	John III	Örtug	1590
16	Sweden	Stockholm	John III	Fyrk	1576
17	Sweden	Stockholm	John III	Fyrk	1584
18	Sweden	Stockholm	John III	Fyrk	1585
19	Sweden	Stockholm	Gustavus Adolphus	1 öre	1618
20	Sweden	Stockholm	Gustavus Adolphus	1 öre	1615–19
21	Sweden	Stockholm	Charles XI	1 öre	1661–64
22	Sweden	Poznan	Sigismund III	3 groschen	1589
23	Poland	Bydgoszcz	Sigismund III	Dreipölker	1620s
24	Poland	Warsaw	Alexandre I	5 groschen	1825
25	Saxony	Dresden	Frederic August II	1/12 thaler	1763

The artefacts and their fragments unearthed in Saanika partially originate from the pre-historic period (10th–13th centuries) and partially also from the early modern or even modern era (Fig. 2). Overwhelmingly they are made from bronze. The oldest item among them may be an end button from a triangular-headed decorative pin (Fig. 2: 2), which dates from the 10th century. A similar pin (Fig. 2: 1), later used for other purposes, may be slightly newer, judging by its ornamentation (Selirand 1974, 145, pl. XXIX; Mägi 1997, 36; discussion on dating, see: Mandel 2017, 80). Also, a fragment of a bracelet (Fig. 2: 9) seems to date from the late 10th to the early 11th century (Mägi-Lõugas 1995, 296).

Nevertheless, most of the artefacts belong to the Late Iron Age, and some may even have been in use in the 13th century. Two head fragments of cross-headed pins (Fig. 2: 3–4) deserve special attention (Selirand 1974, 147–149, pl. XXVIII–XXX; on dating, see: Mägi *et al.* 2019, 94, 99, fig. 3) as well as a broken piece from a similar ornament (Fig. 2: 5). A bird-shaped pendant (Fig. 2: 6; Kurisoo 2018, type C1.3), a strap-end (Fig. 2: 7; cf. Selirand 1974, 130, pl. XIX: 2), a hexagonal belt link (Fig. 2: 11; Selirand 1974, 133, pl. XIX: 12), a belt mount (Fig. 2: 12; Mandel 2017, 83, pl. XLII; cf. Selirand 1974, 132, pl. XXI: 6), a Gotlandic-Baltic type belt buckle (Fig. 2: 14; Selirand 1974, 130, pl. XX: 7, 8), and possibly two fragments from brooch rings (Fig. 2: 8, 10) belong to the same era. The degree of fragmentation of the artefacts and the fact



Fig. 2. Artefacts collected on the find spot. 1 – head of a triangular decorative pin, 2 – triangular-headed decorative pin, 3–4 – head fragments of cross-headed pins, 5 – pin of a cross-headed pin, 6 – bird-shaped pendant, 7 – strap-end, 8 – fragment of a brooch ring, 9 – fragment of a bracelet, 10 – fragment of a brooch ring, 11 – hexagonal belt link, 12 – belt mount, 13 – pin of a penannular brooch, 14 – Gotlandic-Baltic type belt buckle, 15 – strap distributor (?), 16 – bronze ring, 17–20 – bells, 21 – silver bead, 22 – silver button, 23–25 – hasps of book clasps.

Jn 2. Aarde leiukohalt kogutud esemeid. 1 – kolmnurkpeaga ehtenõela pea, 2 – kolmnurkpeaga ehtenõela otsanupp, 3–4 – ristpeaga ehtenõela katkendid, 5 – ristpeaga ehtenõela teravik, 6 – linnukujuline ripats, 7 – vöörihma otsik, 8 – sõlekaare katkend, 9 – käevõru katkend, 10 – sõlekaare katkend, 11 – kuudisekujuline vahelüli, 12 – vöönaast, 13 – hoburaudsõle nõel, 14 – Ojamaa-Balti tüüpi pannal, 15 – rihmajagaja(?), 16 – pronksrõngas, 17–20 – kuljused, 21 – hõbehelmes, 22 – hõbenööp, 23–25 – raamatusulguri kinnitushaagid.

(AM.)

Photo / Foto: Ivar Leimus

that one of the brooch rings has been in a fire and is slightly melted indicates that the items listed above may have originated from burials, as already earlier suggested on the basis of artefacts found in 2017 (Leimus 2018, 65).

The pin of a penannular brooch (Fig. 2: 13) and the bells (Fig. 2: 17–20; Tvauri 2019, 20–22) may be dated to prehistoric and medieval times. An unidentified cross-divided artefact (a strap distributor(?), Fig. 2: 15), a bronze ring (Fig. 2: 16), a silver bead and a silver button (Fig. 2: 21, 22) can only broadly be dated to the Middle Ages or early modern period. The hasps of the book clasps (Fig. 2: 23–25) are modern, dating from the 18th or 19th century. Thus, these finds, as well as the later coins discussed above, reflect the continuity of habitation in Saanika throughout the centuries.

In conclusion, the coins of the 9th–11th centuries found in Saanika in 2019 form a part of the mid-12th century small hoard unearthed in 2017. The rest of the coins are early modern and modern, and have been lost randomly. The prehistoric artefacts discovered at the find spot most probably come from burials of the 10th–13th centuries. The more recent ones cover the period up to the 18th–19th centuries, giving evidence of the continuing settlement activities in Saanika.

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LISANDUSI SAANIKA MÜNDILEIULE NING TEISTELE ESEMETELE

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Pärast sügisküüdi 2019. aastal leiti Läänemaalt Saanika külast 41 münti ja mündikatkendit ning rida arheoloogilisi esemeid. Mündid võib jagada kahte gruppi. Esimese moodustavad 16 vermingut ajavahemikust 9. sajandi keskelt kuni 11. sajandi lõpuni (jn 1). Need kuuluvad 2017. aastal avastatud väikese 12. sajandi keskpaika dateeritava aarde juurde. Teine grupp münte (25 eks.) katab ajavahemikku 15. sajandi

lõpust 19. sajandi alguseni ja on kaotatud juhuslikult pikema aja jooksul. Osa arheoloogilisi esemeid kuulub muinasaega (10.–13. sajand) ja pärineb tõenäoliselt matustest. Ülejäänud leiud on keskaegsed või varauusaegsed/uusaegsed ning kujutavad endast tõendit asustuse jätkumisest piirkonnas kuni kaasaajani (jn 2).