

NEW INTERESTING COIN FINDS IN 2009

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In 2009 various museum collections in Estonia were complemented with several rare coins. Yet not a single hoard was obtained, although information about discovered find complexes appeared in different internet forums throughout the year.¹

For example, one website (<http://metaldetectingworld.com>) displays a wide selection of photos about an excavation of a hoard in the County of Ida-Virumaa in spring 2009. Checking the presumable find spot of a 16th century bronze ring near the parish church of Vaivara, destroyed during World War II, the people using metal detectors discovered a hoard consisting of 2700 coins and one Russian orthodox icon. A foreign citizen who illegally removed the hoard interpreted the 16th century relic as having a 'defence function' for the hoard. The coin hoard itself consisted invariably of Russian coins – wire kopeks², which the finders dated mainly to the reign of Ivan IV (1533–1584), with the exception of three specimens which had been minted earlier – two by Ivan III (1462–1505) and one by Vassili III (1505–1533) (see http://metaldetecting-world.com/cache_hunting_p27.shtml). The complex had been deposited in the ground during the Livonian War (1558–1583).

Although the earliest Russian coins – kopeks and dengas – appear in our hoards in the 1570s and they occur all over Estonia, they are found only in a few hoards from the period of the Livonian War (Kiudsoo 2003a, 160). And not a single hoard of that period, consisting only of wire kopeks, has been found in Estonia. Besides unusual composition, which would provide new and singular information for archaeology and history about the monetary circulation in Livonia of that time³, the hoard is one of the largest Estonian coin hoards of the period. Today the largest complex (by the total number of coins) handed over to museum collections is the hoard of Pärivere containing 2200 Old Livonian coins (*tpq* 1561).⁴

¹ The scope and nature of the problem may to some extent be perceived by reading the treasure-hunters' forums «Форум кладоискателей Эстонии» <http://ekorub.ru/forum/index.php> (see under the headings «поиск по старине» and «продажа») and the forum of Latvian detectorists 'ANTIK-WAR – Латвийский форум любителей металлодетекции' <http://www.kladoiskatel.care.lv/> (see under the headings 'Старина = Senlietas' and 'Монеты, деньги = Monetas, nauda').

² Wire kopeks (Ger. *Tropfkopeken*) have been named after their minting technology. Until the reforms of Peter I minting in Russia was performed in a completely different way than elsewhere. Wire of the required diameter was drawn from silver, then it was cut into pieces, flattened with a hammer and minted (Spaskij 1970, 99–101).

³ That would be, if the hoard found in the ground would reach the place where it should belong in accordance with the legislation. According to the Heritage Conservation Act the find of cultural value like this one belongs to the state from the moment of finding.

⁴ PāMu 4543/ N 1533.

In 2009 several interesting single coins were also presented in Estonian internet forums. Most of them, regrettably, are of no use from the aspect of investigating our history. On the one hand, we have no information about their further fate and present location. On the other hand these coins have lost their cultural value, since their find spot and circumstances cannot be established subsequently.

However, two Roman copper coins form an exception: contrary to the general trend they were handed over to the state, although without an accurate description of the find spot and find situation. The National Heritage Board received a *sestertius* through the agency of Estonian Detectorists Club on the 7th of November 2009 (Fig. 1), found somewhere in Koonga (former Mihkli parish). It was minted during the reign of the Emperor Macrinus (217–218 AD). Roman coins have been found from the mentioned region already earlier (e.g. AI 3987: 1–2). The other *sestertius* handed over to the museum collections in 2009 (Fig. 2) was discovered in a field near Kadrina, where ‘various antiquities from the Roman Iron Age to the Viking Age came to light’. The finder wished to remain anonymous. This coin is very difficult to read because of heavy wear, it can be only presumably dated to the reign of the Emperor Domitianus (81–96 AD).⁵

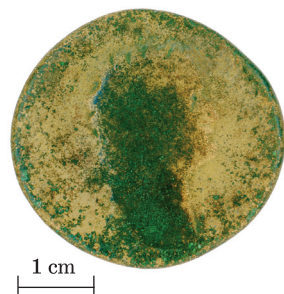
Since objects of Roman, resp. Provincial Roman import occur in Estonia only in small numbers (Jaanits *et al.* 1982, 232; Kriiska & Tvauri 2002, 135; Lang 2007a, 162), the analysis of find spots of Roman coins may confirm or disprove earlier hypotheses about the main communication routes between Estonia and the southern regions (see also Kiudsoo 2007, 258–259). It would also provide a considerable contribution to the study of our settlement pattern of the Roman Iron Age. Settlements of that period are relatively small, with a slim cultural layer and are poor in finds (Lang 2007a, 152; 2007b, 225), and therefore their recognition on the terrain is very problematic. Finds uncovered by metal detectors would be useful only if they reach museum collections together with the description of the site of discovery.



Fig. 1. Roman Empire, sestertius of Macrinus (217–218 AD).
Jn 1. Rooma keisri Macrinuse (217–218 pKr) aegne sesterts.
(AI 6941.)
Photo / Foto: Irita Kallis

Fig. 2. Roman sestertius from the neighbourhood of Kadrina.

Jn 2. Rooma sesterts Kadrina ümbruskonnast.
(AM TR 37649.)
Photo / Foto: Irita Kallis



⁵ The author wishes to thank Ivar Leimus (AM) for the information concerning the coin from Kadrina.

The author of this article succeeded, however, to identify the find spot of one coin discovered with the aid of a metal detector. The wire coin, presented on internet in September 2009⁶ – a copper *pula* struck in the mint of Moscow during the reign of Russian czars Ivan III (1462–1505) or Vassili III (1505–1533) – was found somewhere in the fields of the village of Vara, County of Tartumaa. The coin is absolutely exceptional in the context of Old Livonia. As already mentioned, the earliest Russian coins appear in our hoards only in the 1570s and none of them is known from the Middle Ages. Theoretically the coin, still in private hands, may have fallen/remained in the ground e.g. in connection with the raid of the Russians in 1501, when ‘the whole Tartu *stift* was plundered in the most horrible way’ (Kelch 2004, 123), but also the possibility of peaceful economic relations cannot be precluded either. It must be mentioned that the Russian merchants were considerably more active in the diocese of Tartu than in other parts of Old Livonia in the Middle Ages (see Selart 1998, 84–85).

Among the coins found in the course of scientific archaeological investigations the most important are those discovered in Padise (former Harju-Madise parish). Carrying out archaeological supervision on the site of a former church, OÜ Agu EMS (director of the excavations was Villu Kadakas) found ten (sacrificial?) coins of the 14th–16th centuries (see Table 1). The oldest specimen among these coins was the *seestling* minted in Tallinn by the Livonian Order during the period 1367–1393 (Table 1: 1; Fig. 3), which is of the subtype (type B) represented by only 19 specimens (see Nemirovitš-Dantšenko 1995, 128; Kiudsoo 2004, 181–182; AI 6476: 580). But the rarest coins were the two *scherfs* minted in Tallinn during the reign of the Master of the Livonian Order Wolter von Plettenberg (1494–1535) (Table 1: 6–7; Fig. 4), which, besides the hoards of Üksnurme and Sargvere, have been only found from the Piritä monastery, St. Nicholas church (Tallinn) and the churchyard of Kuusalu (Leimus 1990, Nos 1331–1332; Kiudsoo & Leimus 2008, 224–225; Nemirowitsch-Dantschenko & Pärn 1980, 84–86; Kiudsoo 2003b, 221). The minting of both subtypes probably started after the monetary reform in 1515 (see Leimus 1990, 1331–1332).



Fig. 3. Livonian Order, Tallinn, seestling, ca. 1367–1393.

Jn 3. Liivimaa Ordu, Tallinn, seestling, u 1367–1393.

Photo / Foto: Irita Kallis

Fig. 4. Livonian Order, Tallinn, Plettenberg, scherfs, minted after 1515(?).

Jn 4. Liivimaa Ordu, Tallinn, Plettenberg, šerfid, münditud pärast 1515(?).

Photo / Foto: Irita Kallis



⁶ <http://detektorist.pro-forums.com/ftopic2448.php>; http://live.hot.ee/gallery/show_gallery_thumbs?id=1531267.

1	Livonian Order, Tallinn	<i>seestling</i>	ca. 1367–1393
2	Livonian Order, Tallinn	<i>pfennig</i>	ca. 1426–1470
3	Diocese of Tartu, Bartholomäus Sawijerwe (1441–1459)	<i>pfennig</i>	
4	do.		
5	Diocese of Tartu, Johannes II, Bertkow (1473–1485)	<i>pfennig</i>	
6	Livonian Order, Tallinn	<i>scherf</i>	minted after 1515(?)
7	Livonian Order, Tallinn	<i>scherf</i>	minted after 1515(?)
8	Free town of Riga (1561–1581)	<i>schilling</i>	1577
9	Sweden, Tallinn, Johan III (1568–1592)	<i>schilling</i>	ca. 1572–1585
10	Sweden, Stockholm, Johan III	<i>fyrk</i>	1586

Table 1. *Padise kiriku müntide nimistu.*Tabel 1. *List of coins from the Padise Church.*

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2009. AASTA HUVITAVAMAD MÜNDILEIUD

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2009. a täienesid Eesti muuseumikogud mitmete haruldaste müntidega. Samas ei omandatud mitte ainsatki aaret, kuigi nende leidmisest laekus aasta jooksul informatsiooni mitmest internetifoorumist.

Näiteks eksponeeritakse ühel kodulehel ulatuslikku fotomaterjali 2009. a kevadel Ida-Virumaaltoimunudaardeväljakaevamisest. Kontrollides üht 16. sajandi pronksist sõrmuse oletatavat leiukohta, avastasid detektoristid Teises maailmasõjas hävinud Vaivara kihelkonnakiriku lähedalt 2700 mündist ja ühest Vene ikoonist koosnenud aarde. Kultuuriväärtuse maapõuest ebaseaduslikult eemaldanud välisriigi kodaniku tõlgenduse järgi täitis varanduse peale asetatud 16. sajandi reliikvia varemalt nn aarde kaitsefunktsiooni. Mündiaare ise koosnes eranditult Vene rahadest – millalgi Liivi sõja (1558–1583) ajal maapõue varjule pandud traatkopikatest.

Kuigi esimesed Vene kopikad ja dengad ilmuvad meie aaretesse 1570. aastatel ja neid kohtab üle kogu Eesti, leidub taolisi verminguid vaid osades Liivi sõja aegsetes mündiaaretel. Samuti pole siiani teada ühtegi tolleaegset Eesti leidu, mis koosneks üksnes traatkopikatest.

2009. a näidati Eesti internetifoorumites ka mitmeid huvipakkuvaid üksikmünti. Paraku on enamik nendest meie ajaloo uurimise seisukohalt täiesti kasutud: puudub teave leidude edaspidise saatuse ja praeguse asukoha suhtes ning samuti leiukoha ja -suhte osas.

Erandiks on üksnes kaks Rooma vaskmünti, mis vastupidiselt üldisele suundumusele anti siiski lõpuks riigile, tõsi küll, ilma täpsema leiukoha ja -situatsiooni kirjelduseta. Eesti Detektoristide Klubi vahendusel jõudis Muinsuskaitseametini kusagilt Koongast (end. Mihkli kihelkond) päeavalgele tulnud sesterts (jn 1), mis on löödud keiser Macrinuse (217–218 pKr) valitsemisajal. Teine muuseumikogudesse üle antud sesterts (jn 2) avastati Kadrina ümbruskonna põllult, kust “olevat tulnud välja mitmesuguseid muinasesemeid, Rooma rauaajast viikingiajani”. Tingituna suurest kulumisest on münt paraku väga raskesti

loetav ning seega saab selle üksnes oletatavalt dateerida keiser Domitianuse (81–96 pKr) aega.

Kuna Roomast, *resp.* provintsiaalroomast imporditud kaupa esineb Eestis vaid vähesel määral, võib avastatud Rooma müntide leiukohtade analüüs täiendada seniseid hüpoteese Eesti ja lõunapoolsete piirkondade vahelistest suhtlusteedest. Konkreetsetest detektorileidudest on kasu üksnes juhul, kui need jõuaksid muuseumikogudesse koos leiukoha kirjeldusega.

Ühe metallidetektoriga avastatud mündi leiukoht õnnestus käesoleva artikli autoril siiski tuvastada. Nimelt pärineb üks internetis tutvustatud traatraha – Vene tsaaride, Ivan III (1462–1505) või Vassili III (1505–1533) valitsemisajal Moskva rahapajas valmistatud vasest *pula* – Tartumaalt Vara küla põldudel. Tegemist on Vana-Liivimaa kontekstis täiesti erandliku mündiga. Nagu mainitud ilmuvad esimesed Vene rahad meie aaretesse alles 1570. aastatel ning keskajast me neid ei tunne. Teoreetiliselt võib selle erakätes asuva mündi maapõue jäämine olla seotud näiteks venelaste 1501. a rüüsteretkega, mil laastati *jubedaimal kombel kogu Tartu stifti*, kuid teisalt ei tohiks siiski välistada ka rahu-meelsete majandussuhete võimalust.

2009. a toimunud teaduslike arheoloogiliste uuringute käigus saadud müntidest on olulisimaks Padiselt avastatud vermingud. Kunagise kiriku asukohal arheoloogilist järelevalvet teostanud OÜ Agu EMS (kaevamiste juhataja Villu Kadakas) leidis kümme 14.–16. sajandi ohvrimünti(?) (vt Tabel 1). Padise müntidest on vanimaks eksemplariks ajavahemikus 1367–1393 Liivi ordu poolt Tallinnas löödud seestling (Tabel 1: 1; jn 3), millist alatüüpi oli seni teada vaid 19 eksemplari. Kõige haruldasemateks verminguteks on aga kaks Tallinna rahapajas Liivi ordumeister Wolter von Plettenbergi valitsemisajal (1494–1535) valmistatud šerffi (Tabel 1: 6–7; jn 4), milliseid on päeavalgele tulnud siiani vaid üksikutelt mälestistelt.