



LIVONIAN WAR TIME HOARD FROM SARGVERE SETTLEMENT SITE, JÄRVA COUNTY

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INTRODUCTION

Sargvere settlement site is located in Järva county, Paide municipality in the territory of historical Peetri parish (Fig. 1). Real estate developer Raivo Vende found the site in the year 2007. In the same year archaeological rescue investigations were carried out under the supervision of Andres Tvauri. The scale and dating of the settlement site were determined and some of the most damaged spots were researched in excavation plots. It was found out that the Sargvere settlement site had been in use at least from the 12th century to the 17th century (Tvauri 2007; 2008). While unearthing a relatively well-preserved base of a building among other things ten coins were found probably belonging to a late medieval hoard (Sargvere I; *tpq* 1535) (Kiudsoo & Leimus 2008, 224–225). In 2007 A. Tvauri proposed the National Heritage Board to designate Sargvere settlement site as an archaeological monument. By the time of finding the hoard in 2011 the settlement site had not yet been designated as a monument.

In November 2011 a metal detectorist informed the National Heritage Board of finding a presumptive hoard that he did not dig out. The site was visited at the request of the Board on 12 November, 2011 and the entire Sargvere II hoard was lifted as a block at the presence of the finder of the hoard and Tiit Schvede, Senior Inspector of National Heritage for Järva county.

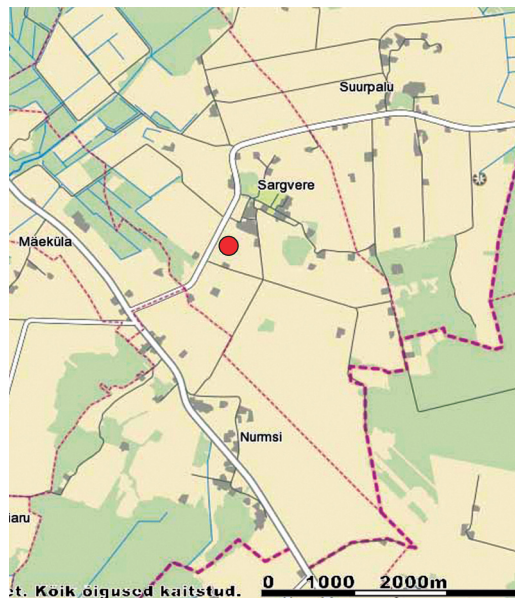


Fig. 1. Location plan of the find spot of Sargvere hoard.

Jn 1. Sargvere aarde leiukoht.

Map / Kaart: Andres Tvauri (on Estonian Land Board map)



Fig. 2. Block of Sargvere hoard before removing from the ground.

Jn 2. Sargvere aarde monoliit enne pinnasest eemaldamist.

Photo / Foto: Andres Tvauri



Fig. 3. Block of Sargvere hoard, partially exposed.

Jn 3. Sargvere aarde monoliit osaliselt väljapuhas-
tatuna.

Photo / Foto: Riina Rammo

found. Intact natural loam occurred in the depth of 50 cm. The hoard had probably been hidden inside a building or in close vicinity to it.

Artefact complex was packed into plastic foil along with the soil (Figs 2, 3) and brought to the Tartu University archaeology laboratory. The block was opened and artefacts conserved by Andres Vindi and Riina Rammo (Rammo *et al.* 2012). Artefacts¹ are preserved in the collections of the Institute of History and Archaeology of Tartu University.

COMPOSITION OF THE HOARD

When the block was opened it became clear that the hoard constituted mainly of metal pendants and glass beads. Although beads and pendants were placed tight together it was impossible to say how exactly they could have been placed in the adornment. In some sections it was possible to observe rows of beads or of beads and bronze rumbler bells. In the bottom of the hoard, underneath a large silver sheet (bracteate) pendant a thin layer of wood (in an area of approximately 9.5 × 9.5 cm) was preserved due to the

DIGGING OUT SARGVERE II HOARD AND CONTEXT OF THE FIND

The find spot was situated south from Alliksoone housing estate on a ploughed field. A rectangular 1 × 1 m excavation plot was made at the spot. After removing the ploughed layer a little hole (30 × 30 cm) dug by a metal detectorist was clearly distinguishable. Some particles of a hoard, removed from their original place, were discovered in it. Digging deeper layer-by-layer around the hole in the depth of 30 cm from the ground, a part of the hoard in its original location started to reveal. A metal detector was used to find out the reach of metal objects and a trench was dug around the find complex.

In the find spot a 30 cm thick top layer was disturbed by ploughing. It contrasted with the thick, solid soil underneath. The metal detectorist had found artefacts from the ploughing layer around the location of the hoard that evidently belonged to it (see below).

In the depth of 30–50 cm from the ground the soil consisted of brown organics with abundant pieces of burnt granite, burnt clay and animal bones. No stone constructions or indication of a floor were

¹ TÜ 1957.

conserving qualities of metal. It was probably a remainder of a wooden vessel into which the artefacts were placed. Sargvere II hoard consisted of a silver sheet pendant and Anthony's cross pendant made of silver sheet, 7 coin pendants, 9 bronze rumbler bells and 25 larger glass beads.

Large silver sheet pendant

The largest artefact in the hoard that initially drew the metal detectorist's attention was a silver sheet pendant (Fig. 4). Its diameter was 9.8–9.9 cm and it was adorned with a punched and embossed cross-figure with embossed dome in the middle.

Silver sheet pendants with the same cross figure and similar refinement, probably made by the same craftsman, have been found in Estonia earlier. Two of the find spots are quite near to Sargvere. A hoard from the second half of the 16th century containing silver sheet pendants and other silver jewellery found from Paide parish, the village of Valgma had three of such silver sheet.² One similar pendant has been discovered in Paide (Kirme 2002, fig. 9). Another similar silver sheet³ has been obtained from Virumaa from the estates of Porkuni manor.

Silver sheet pendants made of thin, low silver content sheets with punched and embossed ornament are a typical compound of the hoards of the second half of the 16th century in Estonia. In most cases, there are several pendants found in one hoard. Sargvere hoard was not complete – the upper part of it had been wiped off by ploughing. It could originally have contained more silver sheets.

A pendant with a shape of Anthony's cross

The detectorist found a pendant with a shape of Anthony's cross from the ploughing layer near the site of the hoard. It was made of thin, low silver content sheet (Fig. 5) that was damaged by ploughing. The pendant is 6.8 cm long and 5.5 cm wide, adorned with a punched ornament.

At least 19 Anthony's cross pendants have been found earlier in Estonia (Kirme 2002, 29). Pendants of this type are characteristic to the hoards of the second half of the 16th century and therefore the pendant can be assumed to have been part of the Sargvere hoard.

² AI 2788: 11, 14, 15.

³ AI 2507: 2.



Fig. 4. Bracteate pendant.

Jn 4. Rinnaleht.

(TÜ 1957: 1.)

Photo / Foto: Kristel Külljastinen



Fig. 5. Anthony's cross shaped pendant.

Jn 5. Antoniuse risti kujuline ripats.

(TÜ 1957: 34.)

Photo / Foto: Kristel Külljastinen



Fig. 6. Coin pendants.

Jn 6. Ripatsmündid.

(TÜ 1957: 2, 3, 36, 35, 37, 38, 39.)

Photo / Foto: Mauri Kiudsoo

Coin pendants

The finds included seven coin pendants with holes and chains made of bronze rings. Two of the coins came to light when the block was opened in the laboratory. These were a schilling of the Livonian Order minted in Riga in the year 1539 during the reign of the Master of Livonian Order Hermann Brüggenei-Hasenkamp (Fig. 6: 1) and a farthing of the Bishopric of Ösel-Wiek, minted in Haapsalu in the year 1562 during the reign of Duke Magnus of Holstein (Fig. 6: 2). Five other coins were discovered by the metal detectorist from the ploughing layer. They were equipped with similar chains of

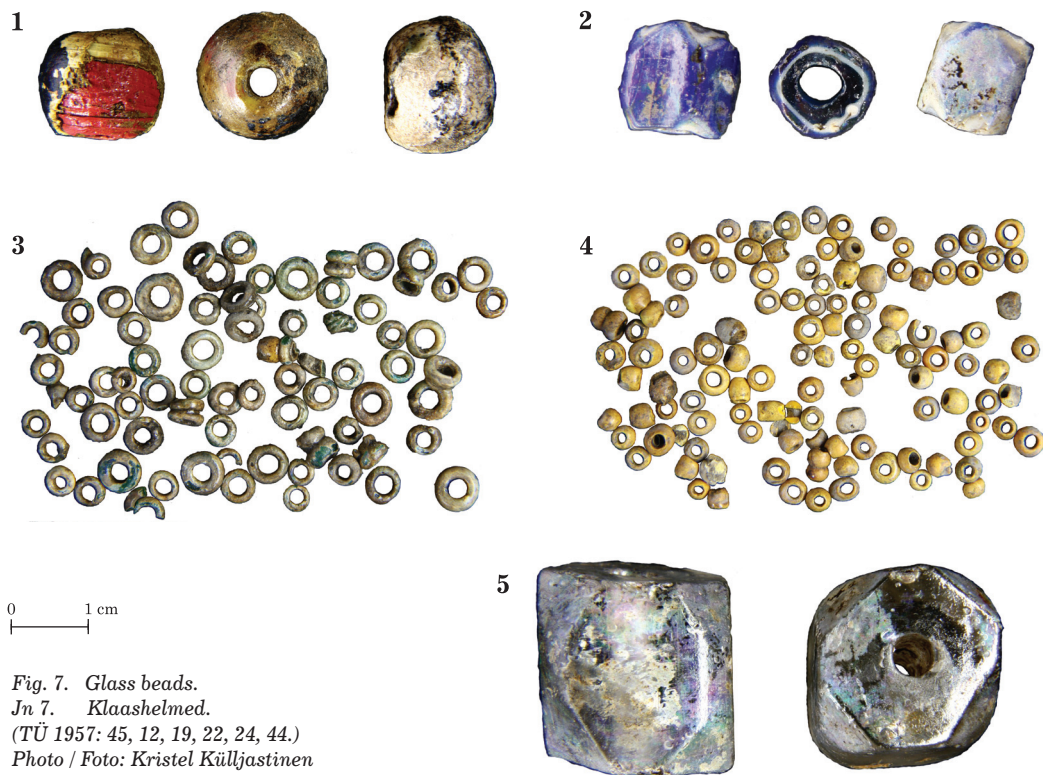


Fig. 7. Glass beads.

Jn 7. Klaashelmed.

(TÜ 1957: 45, 12, 19, 22, 24, 44.)

Photo / Foto: Kristel Külljastinen

3–5 bronze rings as the coin pendants discovered in the block and therefore it is plausible that they too originate from the hoard. All the coins found with the help of metal detector are Swedish: an *öre*, minted in Stockholm during the reign of Gustav Vasa in the year 1523 (Fig. 6: 3); two farthings from the years 1565 and 1567 minted in Tallinn during the reign of Erik XIV (Fig. 6: 4, 5) and two schillings from the years 1562 and 1566 (Fig. 6: 6, 7).

Coin pendants have been used in Estonia to adorn head decorations (Kiudsoo 2002; Kiudsoo & Ratas 2005), necklaces and breast chains (Kiudsoo 2008).

Beads

Beads were the most numerous in the hoard. From the block and on the ground around the hoard there were 1495 beads. They have probably been part of one or more necklaces or head decorations.

Four main types of beads were found: 1) round glass beads with a core of red glass covered with a thin layer of dark (black or dark blue) glass (Fig. 7: 1); 2) blue cubo-octahedral glass beads (Fig. 7: 2); 3) annular beads made of green forest glass (Fig. 7: 3); and 4) round and cylindrical beads made of yellow glass (Fig. 7: 4). The two latter types of beads are called *biser* bead. These are very small beads that were used in necklaces and embroidery.



Fig. 8. Bronze rumbler bells.

Jn 8. Pronksist kuljused.

(TÜ 1957: 4, 5, 6.)

Photo / Foto: Kristel Külljastinen

In addition, two fragments of beads with longitudinal ribs were obtained from the block. Two large, cubo-octahedral transparent beads made of soda glass (Fig. 7: 5) and found from the ground by metal detectorist have probably also been part of the hoard.

All the aforementioned beads are commonly found in Estonia from the hoards and also from rural cemeteries of the second half of the 16th century and beginning of the 17th century. Biser beads

made of yellow glass were used in the territory of south-western Estonia already from the 14th century to adorn shawls and head decorations (see Laul & Valk 2007, 56, figs 51, 69).

Rumbler bells

At least nine casted rumbler bells with four petals and a little stone inside were found (Fig. 8). Four rumbler bells were found in the block where they seemed to have been in a chain with round black beads. Five similar bells were found in the vicinity of the hoard.

Such rumbler bells are used in necklaces found in the medieval burials of rural cemeteries of Southern Estonia (Valk 2001, 52). They are also found in the burials of rural cemeteries of the second half of the 16th century and beginning of the 17th century.

Fragment of textile

In addition to metal and glass artefacts a small piece of folded textile was found. Little beads were found on top of the fragment, as well as beneath and underneath it. The preserved fragment measured 2.7 cm in warp direction and 4.5 cm in weft direction. It was a plain-woven linen fabric of a slightly ribbed tabby. The weft yarns were more densely placed (15 yarns/cm) than the warp yarns (6 yarns/cm). All threads are single and z-spun. Similar fragments of plain-woven linen are common in other hoards of that time (e.g. Kihme⁴) and fragments of tabby linen are also found in medieval and early modern rural cemeteries.

CONCLUSIONS

The hoard, consisting of various silver, bronze and glass ornaments, had been placed to a wooden chest or round box. Only a part of the hoard was preserved in the assumingly original position – the upper part of the hoard had been wiped off by ploughing.

Considering the fact that jewellery in the hoard was typical to second half of 16th century and the determination of the latest coin (Sweden, Tallinn, Erik XIV, *ferding*, 1567) we may assume that the find has been deposited some time during the Livonian War (1558–1583). Since a number of hoards of that period have been discovered in the nearest surroundings of Sargvere (see Kiudsoo & Russow 2011, 227–228), the fact seems to suggest some more specific and extensive perdition in the mentioned district. Perhaps it was the foray of Muscovites that led to the conquering of Paide in the first days of 1573 (Kiudsoo & Russow 2011, 229).

⁴ PM 2056.

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LIIVI SÕJA AEGNE AARE SARGVERE ASULAKOHALT JÄRVAMAALT*Andres Tvaari, Riina Rammo, Andres Vindi ja Mauri Kiudsoo*

Sargvere asulakoht paikneb Järva maakonnas Paide vallas, ajaloolise Järvamaa Peetri kihelkonna alal (jn 1). Aastal 2007 toimusid seal arheoloogilised uuringud, mille käigus selgitati asulakoha ulatus ja dateering. Selgus, et Sargvere asula on olnud kasutusel hiljemalt 12. saj kuni 17. saj. Muuhulgas leiti ühe hoonepõhja välja-puhastamisel kümme münti, mis kuuluvad arvatavalt hiliskeskaegse aarde (Sargvere I; *tpq* 1535) koosseisu.

2011. a novembris informeeris detektorist Muinsuskaitseametit, et ta on Sargvere asulakohal leidnud tõenäolise aarde, mida ta üles ei kaevanud. Muinsuskaitseameti soovil külastasid leiukohta 12. novembril 2011 arheoloogid.

Leiukohale tehti 1 × 1 m kaevand. Aarde ümbert kiht-kihilt sügavamale kaevates hakkas u 30 cm sügavusel maapinnast paistma leiu algsel asukohal paiknev osa. Leiukogum võeti üles monoliidina ja toodi Tartu Ülikooli arheoloogialaborisse (jn 2–3). Leiu puhastasid välja ja konserveerisid Andres Vindi ja Riina Rammo.

Juba varem oli detektorist leiukoha ümbruse künnikihist leidnud esemeid, mis suure tõenäosusega kuuluvad aarde juurde. Tõenäoliselt oli aare maetud hoonesse või selle vahetusse lähedusse.

Monoliidina üles võetud aaret välja puhastades selgus, et see koosneb peamiselt metallripatsitest ja klaashelmestest. Kuigi helmed ja ripatsid paiknesid kompaktselt koos, ei olnud siiski võimalik kindlaks teha, kuidas need kunagi ehtes või ehetes paiknesid.

Väljapuhastatud aarde põhjas olnud rinnalehe all oli säilinud tänu vase konserveerivale toimele õhuke kiht puitu. Tõenäoliselt oli see jäänus puitanumast (vakast või kastist) milles esemed asetsesid.

Aarde suurimaks esemeks, oli hõbeplekist rinnaleht (jn 4). Selle läbimõõt on 9,8–9,9 cm ja seda kaunistab puntsitud ja kohrutatud risti motiiv, mille keskel on kupp. Sama motiivi ja teostusega, arvatavasti sama meistri tehtud, rinnalehti on Eestis leitud varemgi. Neist kahe leiukohad (Valgma, Paide) jäävad Sargverele üpris lähedale. Õhukesest madala hõbedasisaldusega plekist kohrutatud ja puntsitud ornamendiga rinnalehed on Eesti alalt leitud 16. saj teise poole aaretel tüüpiliseks koostisosaks. Kuna Sargvere aarde näol on tegemist tõenäoliselt enamuses laiali küntud aardega, ei saa välistada, et algselt on aardes olnud rohkemgi rinnalehti.

Aarde lähedalt künnikihist leiti madala hõbedasisaldusega plekist Antoniuse risti kujuline ripats (jn 5) suurusega 6,8 × 5,5 cm. Varem on Eestist teada paarkümmend Antoniuse risti kujulise ripatsi leidu.

Aardes oli ka seitse augu ja pronksrõngakestest keejuviga ripatsmünti. Neist kaks tulid välja aarde hulgast monoliidi avamise käigus: Liivimaa Ordu killing, löödud ordumeister Hermann Brüggenei-Hasenkampi valitsemisajal Riias 1539. a (jn 6: 1) ning Saare-Lääne piiskopkonna veering, löödud Haapsalus, hertsog Magnuse valitsemisajal 1562. a (jn 6: 2). Ülejäänud leidis detektorist künnikihist. Detektoriga leiti üks õör, löödud Stockholmis Gustav Vasa valitsemisajal 1523. a (jn 6: 3), Tallinnas Erik XIV valitsemisajal löödud kaks veeringut aastatest 1565 ja 1567 (jn 6: 4, 5) ning kaks killingit aastatest 1562 ja 1566 (jn 6: 6, 7). Ripatsmünt on Eesti alal 16. saj teisel poolel kasutatud peahetes ning kaela- ja rinnakeedes.

Kõige rohkem oli aardes klaashelmeid. Monoliidist saadi ja aarde ümbrusest maapinnalt koguti 1495 helmest (jn 7: 1–4). Lisaks saadi leiust kaks katket pikisoontega kaunistatud klaashelmestest. Tõenäoliselt pärinevad samast aardest ka kaks suurt läbipaistvast värvitust soodaklaasist oktakuubikujulist helmest (jn 7: 5), mis leiti aarde lähedusest maapinnalt.

Aardesse on kuulunud vähemalt üheksa valatud neljalehelist pronkskuljust, mille sees on väike kivike (jn 8). Neli kuljust puhastati välja monoliidist, kus need näisid olevat ühes kees koos mustade kerakujuliste helmestega. Selliseid kuljusteid on saadud ka külakalmistute 16. saj teise poole ja 17. saj alguse matustest.

Lisaks metall- ja klaasesemetele leiti monoliidi avamisel väike kokku murtud tekstiilikatke. Nii tekstiilikatke peal kui selle all ja vahel oli väikeseid helmeid. Tegemist on linase kangaga, mida oli säilinud 2,7 cm lõimesuunas ja 4,5 cm koesuunas.

Aare on olnud puidust vakas või kastis. Arvestades, et kõik aardesse kuulunud ehted on tüüpilised 16. saj teisele poolele ja tuginedes hiliseima münti määrangule (Rootsi, Tallinn, Erik XIV, veering, 1567), võib väita, et leid jäi maapõue Liivi sõja (1558–1583) ajal. Kuna just Sargvere lähiümbrusest on avastatud mitmeid samaaegseid aardeleide, osutab see piirkonna elanikke tabanud hävingule. Ehk oli selleks moskoviitide rüüsteretk, mis päadis Paide vallutamise 1573. a esimestel päevadel.